

A BRIGHT

FUTURE

THROUGH
PHILANTHROPY

THE
2024
COMMUNITY
REPORT

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

How Success Liaisons make a difference

**LEE
SANDERS**

The Voice of the Scholarship Reception



HAMILTON
Community
Foundation



DEAR FRIENDS,

At the Hamilton Community Foundation, **“community” isn’t just our middle name**—it’s at the heart of everything we do. Over the last several years, we’ve had the joy of watching that community grow in new and meaningful ways.

Since welcoming the Ross and Fairfield Community Foundations as official affiliates two years ago, **we’ve been energized by the relationships, ideas, and opportunities that have taken root.** What began as a new chapter has blossomed into a deep connection with individuals, organizations, and local leaders who are shaping their communities and stepping forward to build something greater—together.

We’ve seen firsthand that expanding our community isn’t just about geography. It’s about unity. Through shared events, learning opportunities, and gatherings, we’ve fostered a sense of togetherness across the Hamilton, Fairfield, and Ross communities. Our Foundation has become more than a partner in philanthropy—we’ve become a hub for connection, a facilitator of conversation, and a launchpad for possibilities.

And we’re seeing results. **Whether it’s funding new programs, celebrating volunteers, sparking civic engagement, or supporting students and families, the impact is growing—**because our network of caring individuals continues to grow.

We’re proud to serve our communities in ways both visible and behind-the-scenes—helping donors bring their vision to life, convening community voices, and supporting the nonprofits that make our region stronger every day.

As you read this year’s report, we hope you’ll see the true power of community in action—built on generosity, shaped by relationships, and strengthened by shared purpose.

Thank you for being part of it. We look forward to continued growth – because of your support!

John Guidugli
President & CEO

Bob Long
Chair, Board of Trustees

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A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

**TOGETHER, WE GROW STRONGER.
TOGETHER, WE MAKE LASTING CHANGE.**

As board members, we're continually inspired by the generosity and dedication of this community. The impact of our work is only possible because of you—our donors, partners, and neighbors—who believe in the power of local giving. We look forward to continuing this momentum and helping develop the next generation of donors who will shape and support the future of community-driven progress.



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John Guidugli
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Director of Donor Services

Kasey Rouse
Director of Scholarships
& Youth Programs

Alex Johnson
Donor Services Officer

Tracy Eads
Community Investment Officer



IN 2024

16 **MILLION**
Total Gifts
Received

10.2
MILLION Granted

46 **New**
Funds

586
Orgs Supported

- Capital Support
- Education & Youth
- Human Needs
- Community Development
- Arts, Parks, & History
- Other





UNRESTRICTED GIVING

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY, TODAY, TOMORROW, AND FOREVER

For more than 70 years, donors have entrusted the Hamilton Community Foundation—and now our partners in Ross and Fairfield—with gifts that empower us to meet our communities' most pressing and evolving needs.

Unrestricted gifts are especially powerful. They allow us to grant over \$1 million annually to nonprofits doing vital work across our region—from youth programs and food security to neighborhood revitalization and more. Because these dollars aren't tied to a specific cause, they allow us to respond quickly, thoughtfully, and where the need is greatest.



These funds have been built through individual donations—many small or anonymous—and through named unrestricted funds created by individuals, families, and organizations who wanted their giving to have lasting, flexible impact.

Today, we are proud to steward more than 85 named unrestricted funds across Hamilton, Ross, and Fairfield. Each one represents a commitment to community and ensures that we can continue to meet evolving needs far into the future.

PHOTOS: 17 STRONG NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT

Unrestricted Funds Benefiting Hamilton

Adeline Zoller Memorial Fund

Agnes Burgess Fund

Alma Unzicker Fund

Amanda Pearson Fund

Arthur and Marie Hoerner Memorial Fund

Arthur G. & Dorothy G. Haid
Memorial Fund

Barbara Dayton & William J. Copeland Fund

Boehm Fund

Briede Family Trust

Camilla Frechtling Fund

Carl and Freda Jennewein Memorial Fund

Carl & Laura Halen Memorial Fund

Carrie Urmston Fund

Catherine Dare Memorial Fund

Clyde & Adela Beeler Fund

C. Randolph Lukens Memorial
Fund

Dennis McGonagle Fund

Donald & Millicent Schirmer
Memorial Fund

Donald W. Jr. & Claire J. Fitton Fund

Don W. & Nannie V. Fitton Fund

Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Lehmann Fund

Dr. Francis I. Wilks Unrestricted
Fund

Dr. Malcolm Bronson & Dr. Dan Skinner Fund

Edith Burkhardt Memorial Fund

Edward P. & Josephine D. Frechtling Fund

Eleanor L. Skyllingstad Fund

Emily Beckett Reed Memorial Fund

Emma Ritchie Fund

Frank R. & Cleora E. King Fund

Fred & Liz Harding Fund

Fred & Susan Cochran Thum Fund

Frederick J. Winkler Memorial
Fund

Gary Martin Memorial Fund

George & Constance O. Flenner
Fund

George C. & Freida B. McCandless Memorial Fund

George R. & Vanessa E. Turnbull
Memorial Fund

George R. Turnbull II & Carolyn Turnbull Jaeger Fund

Georgia Lukes Fund

Hamilton Community Impact Fund (all community donors)

Herbert Pabst Memorial Fund

Herbert T. & Olive S. Randall Memorial Fund

Huntington V. Parrish Memorial
Fund

Isabel Beardsley Memorial Fund

JD & Jill White Fund

Joan & Janet Fatika

Unrestricted Fund

John & Jane Benninghofen Fund



John K. Wilson Fund

Jon Follmer Memorial Fund

Joseph & Sarah Marcum Unrestricted Fund

Kenneth and Phyllis Snyder Arts
Endowment Fund

LaNelle Grosvenor Memorial Fund

Lawrence and Adela Wheeler Fund

Lillian Millikin Fund Marion Fitton Fund

Mary Colligan Fund

Mary Wys Fund

Mildred M. and George Seltzer
Fund

Morgenstern Fund

Next Generation Fund

Paul Benninghofen Fund

Priscilla Keely Memorial Fund

Reimer, Reimer & Bonar Fund

Rita and Walter Pond Fund

Robert M. Sohngen Fund

Robert P. Pabst Fund

Roy Pryor and Grayce Willis

Pryor Memorial Fund

Scott and Adeline Zoller Fund

Slocum Family Fund

Stanton & Dorothy Fitzgerald Fund

Stephenson Family Fund

T. Edward and Hannah Knapp
Fund

Thelma W. DeLaCroix Fund

Trustees Golden Opportunity Fund

Virgil & Myrna Schwarm Memorial Fund

Walton and Elaine Wuebbold Fund

William and Mary Frechtling Fund

William Huber Memorial Fund

William Murstein Fund

Unrestricted Funds Benefiting Ross

Ross Community Impact Fund
(all community donors)

Unrestricted Funds Benefiting Fairfield

Bonaminio Family Fund

Christine and Saul Hacker

Clemmons Family Fund

Dick and Marian Niehaus Charity
Fund

Don and Jean Keck Fund

Don and Norma Hassler Family
Fund

Esther Benzing Family Fund

Evelyn J. Jones Family Fund

Fairfield Community Impact Fund (all community donors)

Harold W. & Anna Huffman
Unrestricted Fund

J.G. Miller Family Fund

Jungle Jim's Market, Inc. Fund

Richard and Nancy White Fund

Sandy and Nancy Becker Fund

Schardine Family Fund

Wolterman Family Fund

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

SARA SILVA'S PATH TO A DEGREE WAS ANYTHING BUT TYPICAL—AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MAKES IT POWERFUL.

At 17, Sara became a single mom and made the difficult decision to pause her college journey to raise her daughter. Life moved forward quickly, and for more than a decade she served the Hamilton City School District with heart and commitment, all while balancing the demands of work and family.

When she stepped into a new role with the City of Hamilton's Department of Neighborhoods, Sara saw a chance to invest in herself—so she could continue showing up for her community in even deeper ways.

"As I progressed in my career, it became clear that while my dedication, work ethic, and life experience had taken me far, they weren't always enough to grant me access to the opportunities I was ready for."



With support from an adult scholarship from the Foundation and the City's continuing education incentives, Sara earned her degree online through Western Governors University—while working full-time and continuing to support her family. Today, she's taken on expanded responsibilities and continues to champion stronger neighborhoods. You just might spot her at a RiversEdge concert or local 17 Strong events, doing what she loves and staying connected.

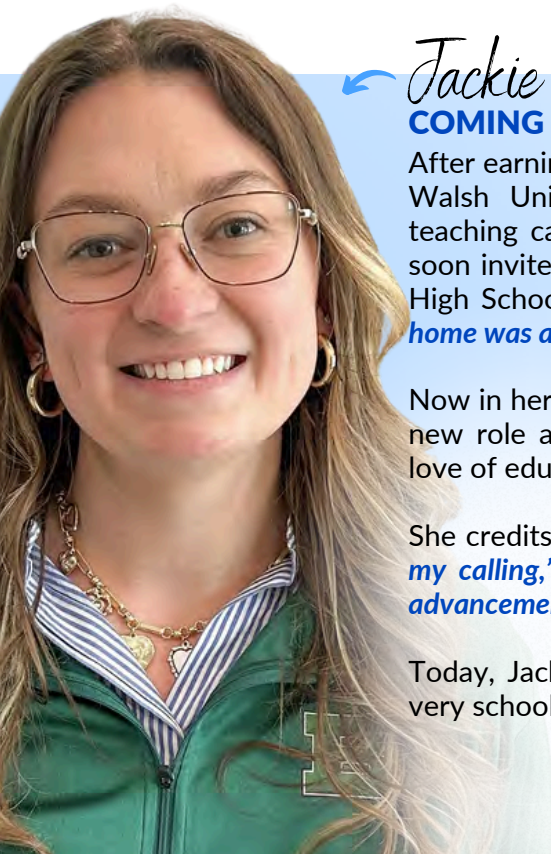
Jackie Noelker COMING HOME TO GIVE BACK

After earning her Special Education degree from Walsh University, Jackie Noelker began her teaching career during the pandemic—and was soon invited to return to her alma mater, Badin High School. *"Being offered the chance to come home was a dream come true,"* she shared.

Now in her fifth year of teaching and fourth at Badin, Jackie recently stepped into a new role as Student Engagement and Young Alumni Coordinator, combining her love of education with a deep connection to community.

She credits the Susan Thum Scholarship with helping make it possible. *"It validated my calling,"* she said. *"Without donor support, opportunities like mine—educational advancement, career growth, and life-changing experiences—wouldn't exist."*

Today, Jackie is not only shaping students' lives—she's building the future of the very school that shaped hers.



2024 NEW FUNDS

Be The Good Fund
Butler County Finance Authority
Agency Fund
Butler County Right to Life Support Fund
Catherine Dare Memorial Unrestricted Fund
Cincinnati Center for Autism Fund
Community Action Committee Fund
Dayton Lane Historic District Fund
Dr. Tom & Jennifer Nye Family Fund
Edith Burkhardt Memorial Unrestricted Fund
Edward L. Crowthers Family Scholarship
Ellen E. Weigel Memorial Scholarship
Fairfield 55 Plus Program Fund
Fairfield Helping Neighbors Fund
Fairfield Parks Rainbow Bridge
Fort Hamilton Hospital Foundation-Carruthers Fund
Fraternal Order of Eagles #3680 Scholarship
Fraternal Order of Police Associates
Hamilton Lodge 19 (FOPA) Fund
Freddie Hoover Therapeutic Recreation Fund
Hamilton Development Finance Authority
Hamilton Firefighter Honor Guard Fund

Hamilton Development Finance Authority
Hamilton Firefighter Honor Guard Fund
Hamilton Hispanic Heritage Festival Fund
Hamilton Juneteenth Fund
Harold W. and Anna Huffman Unrestricted Fund
Hollow Earth Fest Fund
James C. and Margaret S. Baker Fund
James Lippert Memorial Scholarship
James Winkle Unrestricted Fund
Jim & Laura Goodman Family Fund
Joel Fink Memorial Designated Fund
Karen and Ken Mueller Advised Fund
Kay Nemeth Estes Fund
Leadership Hamilton Class 32 Fund
Marty A. Wright Advised Fund
Melinda Hannah Advised Fund
Miami Conservancy District Flood Protection Support Fund
PROTOCOL Progress Fund for Lindenwald
QOP Food Insecurity Fund
Robert, Martha and Dorothy Rooke Memorial Scholarship Fund
Shared Harvest Foodbank Fund
St. Joseph School Mini Grants 4 Teachers
Stidham Family Fund
Vance Family Fund
William Wilks Memorial Fund
Wykoff Education Scholarship
YWCA Hamilton Operating Fund

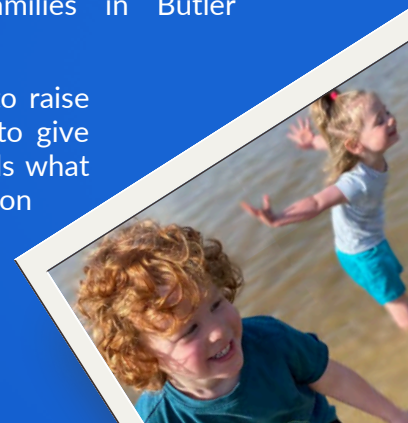
NEW FUND HIGHLIGHT

BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD

INSPIRED BY FAMILY & LIFE EXPERIENCE, ELISSA MILLER WANTS TO "BE THE GOOD" FOR OTHERS.

As a mom and foster mom, Elissa sees every day how much kindness and support can shape a child's future. That's why she created the Be the Good Fund—a charitable fund focused on supporting children and families in Butler County.

Whether she's baking treats to raise money or finding new ways to give back, Elissa is showing her kids what it means to lead with compassion and act with purpose.



Ross Foundation Update

JUMPSTART

BAND CAMP

BUILDING CONFIDENCE, ONE NOTE AT A TIME

For the third summer in a row, the Ross Community Foundation is proud to support Jump Start Band Camp—a hands-on, confidence-building experience for incoming 6th grade students preparing to join band at Ross Middle School.

This three-day camp helps students choose their instrument, learn the basics of reading music, and build connections with their peers and mentors. With support from the Foundation since its launch in 2023, the camp has grown in impact each year.

Students begin the school year not only better prepared, but more excited to be part of the band community. “Thanks to Jump Start Camp, we were able to bond as a group and take on more challenging pieces for the future,” shared JumpStart student Kendall Muckenfuhs.



Ross Foundation
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Dana H. Mehl
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Band Director Mr. Jeremy Morelock notes a noticeable jump in confidence and playing ability among first-year students who attended. That progress carries into the classroom, lifting all students—especially when campers return and share what they’ve learned.

Held just before the school year begins, the camp is designed to be accessible, low-pressure, and virtually cost-free to families. It also supports mentorship and leadership opportunities for high school musicians and future educators.

As one student put it, “JumpStart was an incredible experience for me and many others. It gave me a ‘JumpStart’ in learning notes, improving my instrument, and, most importantly, how to play it. I also enjoyed the small groups with professionals where I discover just how much we could learn.”

Thanks to continued investment from the Ross Community Foundation, this program is helping young musicians find their rhythm—and creating a strong foundation for a lifetime of music, learning, and belonging.



READING GAINS, REAL RESULTS



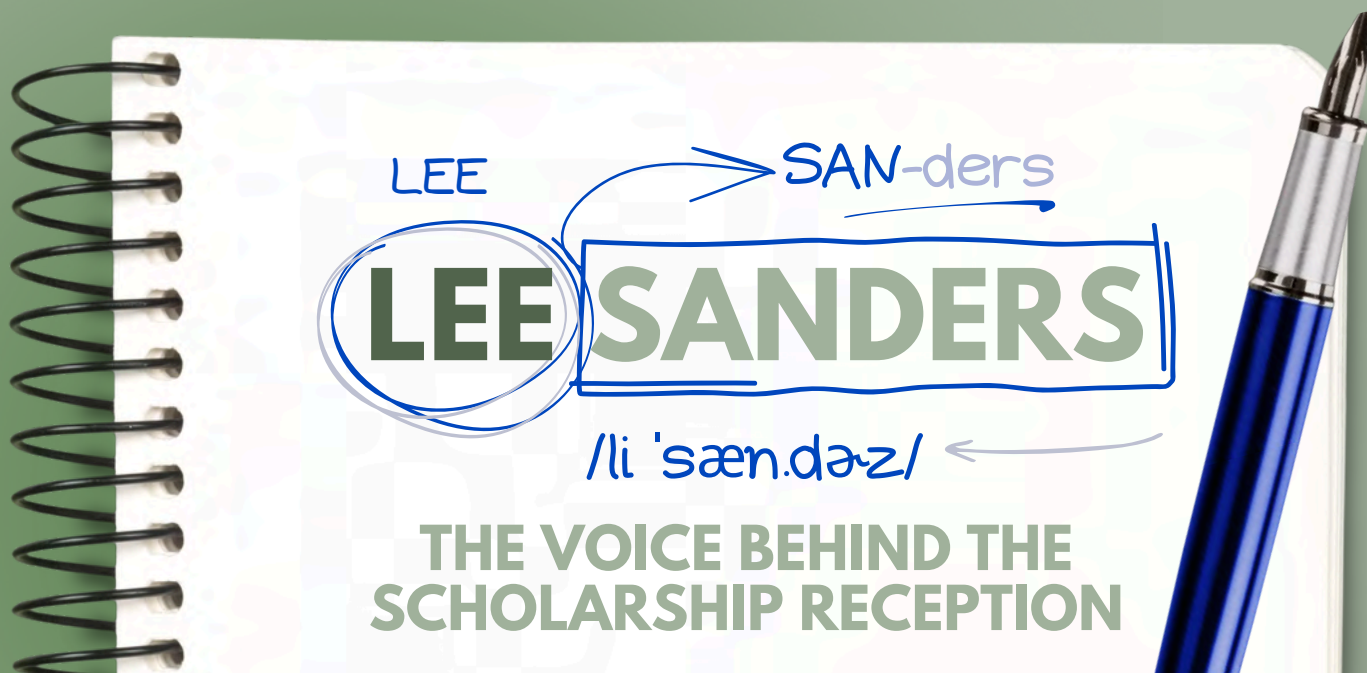
The Ross Community Foundation has proudly supported reading intervention efforts at Ross Intermediate School since its founding—and that commitment continues into the 2025–2026 school year. Through grant support, educators have been able to implement powerful tools like Amira and Writable, which are now integrated with the school’s newly adopted Reading curriculum.

These resources are more than just programs—they’re making a measurable difference. Amira helps track fluency and comprehension in real time, while Writable gives students differentiated writing practice and real-time feedback. According to teacher Catherine Wormus, “Writable helps ease the responsibility of differentiating instruction by creating multiple levels to help my students be successful. It also provides valuable feedback and helps me efficiently plan further instruction and interventions.”

That instruction is working. Ross Intermediate was recently named an Overall 5-Star Building—an honor awarded to only 10% of Ohio schools—thanks in part to gains in reading comprehension, fluency, and writing.

As students prepare for the coming year, the Foundation remains honored to play a small role in their success. Sustained investment in literacy continues to open doors for every learner, reinforcing that when we support our schools, we support the future.





When Lee Sanders stands at the podium each spring, reading the names of Butler County's scholarship recipients, she does so with deep care, years of experience—and the voice of a mentor in her heart.

Lee's connection to the Hamilton Community Foundation's scholarship program began over two decades ago, while working at Miami University Hamilton. She had long volunteered as a scholarship reviewer, but in 2011, something shifted. Jim Paulus—a beloved colleague and community leader who traditionally read names at the annual reception—asked Lee to step in while he was away. The following year, after Jim's unexpected passing, Lee was asked to return. She has been reading names ever since.

“To even try to fill his shoes felt humbling,” Lee said. “Jim was a mentor, and this became a way to honor his legacy.”

Lee brings her own sense of care and attention to the role. She believes that names carry power and that getting them right is a matter of dignity. A week before each event, she meets with Kasey Rouse at the Foundation to practice pronunciation, making handwritten notes and rehearsing multiple times to ensure each student hears their name spoken with care. “No one wants their name mispronounced,” she said. “It’s a simple act, but it’s a way to say, ‘we see you.’”

As she reads each name aloud, Lee is acutely aware of the promise in the room. “These young people—this is our future,” she said. “I often wonder where I’ll see their names again. Will they come back to Hamilton as a nurse, a teacher, a lawyer, an EMT?”

The ceremony, she notes, is a moment of pride—for students, certainly, but especially for their families. “You can see it in their faces. Even when students try to act cool, their families are beaming. These scholarships mean opportunity.” Lee has seen firsthand how transformative that opportunity can be. As a longtime Miami Hamilton faculty member, she has watched students—many of whom she’s mentored—balance academics with caregiving, jobs, and personal hardship.



KNOW THAT WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE. IT DOES.

"Some students had to choose between a textbook and a winter coat. Others were raising kids or caring for parents. And many were overcoming unthinkable personal challenges just to show up and keep going. These scholarships matter."

She's especially proud that the Foundation's scholarship program doesn't subscribe to a one-size-fits-all model. "It's not just about four-year degrees," she said. "There's support for students pursuing a wide range of paths—college, trades, certifications—and that's a real gift."

To Lee, the scholarship program is yet another example of Hamilton's character.

"This is a generous community. When there's a need, people step up. These scholarships are an investment—not just in these students, but in Hamilton's future."

For Lee, the names she reads are never just names. They are stories, legacies, and bright beginnings. And through her voice, each one is honored.



FAST FACTS

\$1 MILLION
in 2024
Scholarships

15 Different
Schools

325
Scholarships Awarded

274
Student Recipients

- Badin
- Fairfield
- Hamilton
- Ross
- Other Area Schools



Cynthia Koenig-Daggs A LEGACY of COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

Cynthia Koenig-Daggs has long been a pillar of the Fairfield community, dedicating her career to strengthening local organizations and uplifting those around her. After retiring as Executive Director of the Great Miami Valley YMCA, she continues her service as a valued member of the Fairfield Community Foundation Board of Trustees—and this year, she will step into the role of board chair.

“I believe in the community and the people, nonprofits and organizations that keep this community going.”

Colleagues admire her not only for her leadership, but for her humility and drive to lift others. As she looks ahead, Cynthia is focused on helping the board think bigger and bolder:

“Let’s do something that we couldn’t do before because when I’m off the board, the work still continues.”

Whether mentoring young professionals, advocating for local nonprofits, or simply lending a listening ear, Cynthia’s impact continues to ripple through the community she loves—and Fairfield is better for it.



Fairfield Foundation
BOARD

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Retired, Great Miami Valley YMCA

Kim Hauer, Vice-Chair
Fairfield City Schools

Chad Clemons
Edward Jones

Jared Dinnesen
First Financial Bank

Justin Krueger
Mercy Health Fairfield

Doug Robertson
Clippard Instruments

Krystal Tipton
Miami University

Steve Wolterman
Clemmons & Wolterman Law

HOME

AWAY FROM HOME

Pat Wheeler & Fairfield 55 Plus

A Fairfield native's love for their hometown has sparked a new opportunity to uplift local seniors. The Fairfield 55 Plus Program Fund, established by Fairfield High School graduate Pat Wheeler, supports a wide range of programs designed to enrich the lives of adults aged "55 and better."

Through the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Department, the 55 Plus Program offers everything from ice cream socials and game nights to group travel and educational workshops, all hosted at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. For Pat, the program is personal:

"This is my home away from home," she shares. "If there's anyone who believes wholeheartedly in this program, it's me."

With this new fund, Pat is ensuring that older adults in Fairfield can continue to find friendship, stay active, and enjoy affordable, high-quality programming for years to come. Every tax-deductible gift helps build a stronger, more connected community—one experience at a time.

**Pat
Wheeler**





MEETING YOUTH WHERE THEY ARE

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN EXPANSION AT LINDEN ELEMENTARY

For more than 70 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hamilton has stood beside families striving to give their children a brighter future. That legacy continues to evolve with the launch of a school-based Club at Linden Elementary—made possible in part by a \$96,000 unrestricted grant from the Hamilton Community Foundation.

This new site builds on the Club's growing footprint in Hamilton, offering a safe, free, and enriching space for students right where they already are: inside their own school. The model is designed to remove common barriers like transportation and cost while aligning closely with the school day to boost academic, social, and emotional outcomes.

"School-based programs are one of the most effective ways to reach kids and families," said Boys & Girls Clubs of Hamilton CEO Tommy John. "Being in the school allows us to partner directly with educators, stay connected to what students are learning, and give families a trusted support system right in their neighborhood."

The Lindenwald neighborhood, home to Linden Elementary, was a natural next step for expansion. A vibrant community where many families may face economic barriers but continue to show strong pride, connection, and commitment to their children's future, the area has seen steady population growth—and a growing need for afterschool opportunities.

"It's the kind of community where the Club belongs," said Tommy. "Families are doing their best and just need a little more support. We saw a real opportunity to be part of something already strong and to help fill in the gaps."

That vision aligned closely with the Foundation's priorities in education, youth development, and neighborhood vitality. By providing unrestricted support, the Foundation gave the Club room to act quickly—hiring skilled staff, setting up the space, and tailoring programming to the needs of Linden families without the delays that often come with more restrictive funding.



"The Foundation's trust meant everything," Tommy said. "We could focus on building relationships, creating stability, and responding to the needs of kids and caregivers without being tied up in red tape. That kind of flexibility is rare, and it's exactly what made this expansion possible."

But the Foundation hasn't been alone in supporting this work. Dozens of donors across the community—from individual residents to local businesses—have also stepped up over the years to sustain the Club's mission. Their combined support makes it possible for them to offer afterschool programs, meals, mentoring, academic support, and physical activities at no cost to families.

"This isn't just about keeping kids busy for a few hours," Tommy emphasized. "It's about opening doors, building confidence, and setting young people on a different path."

And it's not just youth who benefit. The Club takes a deeply family-focused approach, recognizing that children thrive when their caregivers are supported too. With extended hours, caring mentors, and consistent programming, families can breathe easier knowing their children are safe and engaged in meaningful activities after school.

"When we reduce stress for families and build trust in the community, we see better outcomes across the board," Tommy said. "It creates a ripple effect that goes beyond any single program."

The Club's vision doesn't end at Linden. As demand grows, Tommy and his team are committed to expanding access to more sites across Butler County—and strengthening teen programming to meet the evolving needs of older youth. The goal remains clear: ensuring that every child, regardless of their ZIP code, has access to meaningful opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.

"Every young person deserves a place to feel seen, safe, and supported," Tommy said. "Together with our partners and donors, we're building that—one school, one family, one neighborhood at a time."



"The Club Changed Our Lives"

For single mom Kristen Sturgill, Boys & Girls Club of Hamilton's programming at Highland Elementary has been life-changing. Her ten-year-old twins found more than just a place to go after school—they found community, connection, and confidence.

"They've made new friends, learned sign language and cursive, and joined activities like gymnastics and flag football—experiences all offered by the club," she shared.

Kristen, who also serves on the organization's board, said the program has made a huge difference academically, socially, and emotionally. "As a working parent, it gives me peace of mind knowing my kids are safe and cared for by people who truly see them."

Without the Club, Kristen says she would've had to rely on her elderly father or spend more than her mortgage on daycare. "It's not just a program. It's a lifeline."





A Legacy **MADE MATERIAL**

**HOW TWO LIVES SHAPED BY TRAVEL, LEARNING, AND LOVE
ARE HELPING BUILD A MORE ARTFUL HAMILTON.**

From serene limestone faces to towering abstract steel, Hamilton's landscape tells a story—one carved, cast, and welded in the City of Sculpture and made possible by a community that believes in public art. For more than 20 years, this entirely volunteer-run nonprofit has helped transform parks, sidewalks, and public spaces through the power of sculpture. Now, thanks to a generous legacy gift from the late Dr. Carole Kuhn and her lifelong friend and companion Clarence Huening, that story continues. Growing bolder, more ambitious, and more far-reaching.

Through their involvement with the Hamilton Community Foundation's Legacy Society, Carole and Clarence each established estate gifts to support public art in their hometown. Carole's vision is now being realized, and Clarence's future gift will further the impact on our community that they imagined together.

"We've always relied on the generosity of the community to accomplish our mission," said Tyler McCleary, board chair of the City of Sculpture. "This incredible gift will allow us to do even more—supporting installations we might not have otherwise pursued and helping to make future projects more attainable by combining direct fundraising with these endowed funds."

That kind of flexibility is exactly what Carole and Clarence valued. A longtime educator and world traveler, Carole spent decades teaching foreign languages at Fairfield High School and leading students abroad. Clarence often traveled with her. Their love of culture, exploration, and creativity helped inspire their desire to bring more art home—to the city they cherished most.



Over time, and through many conversations with Foundation President and CEO John Guidugli, their charitable vision evolved. **"That's one of the unique benefits of working through the Foundation,"** Guidugli said. "Donors can refine their intentions over time—and most importantly, we walk alongside them to ensure their wishes are honored, both now and well into the future."

Clarence agrees. "I'm grateful for the Foundation and how easy they've made it to carry out Carole's wishes," he shared. "We always talked about how we wanted to give back. The Foundation helped make that possible."

Whether it's the quiet strength of Daryl Johns' Keeper of the Garden or the bold movement of Embrace by Hunter Brown, each sculpture placed in the City of Sculpture reflects the vision of artists and the belief of a community. **With Carole and Clarence's legacy now woven into that vision, Hamilton's public spaces will continue to grow more inspiring, one installation at a time.**

**BECAUSE THEIR LOVE OF TRAVEL SHAPED THEIR
WORLDVIEW. AND NOW, THEIR GIFT HELPS
SHAPE OURS.**



THE CITY OF SCULPTURE: A COMMUNITY VISION IN BRONZE, STONE, AND STEEL

When then-Governor Bob Taft officially recognized Hamilton as "The City of Sculpture" in August 2000, it sparked more than a title. It launched a movement. Soon after, a dedicated group of residents, led by the organization's first chair, Gerry Hammond, formed Hamilton, Ohio City of Sculpture, Inc.—a nonprofit committed to placing world-class sculpture in public spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Entirely volunteer-run since its founding, the City of Sculpture has become a catalyst for civic pride and creative expression. Today, more than 60 sculptures transform Hamilton's parks, sidewalks, and gathering spaces. From quiet limestone tributes to sweeping stainless steel works, each piece reflects a shared vision that has helped energize businesses, inspire partnerships, and fuel the city's cultural and economic growth.

Since its inception, City of Sculpture has maintained an active fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation. This relationship allows the nonprofit to accept and grow charitable gifts—including online donations and gifts of stock—while focusing on its mission to expand access to public art.

At the heart of it all are the people—neighbors, artists, and donors—who have worked for decades to make sure that art is found throughout the community, enriching daily life in lasting ways.



foundations for the future

BTW COMMUNITY CENTER

The Great Miami Valley YMCA has begun work on major capital improvements at the Booker T. Washington Community Center and Fitton Family YMCA starting this year by modernizing the space, expanding programs, and deepening community impact. These upgrades reflect the Y's commitment to creating vibrant, inclusive spaces where opportunity thrives.

While these improvements are funded by the YMCA's capital campaign, they build on a shared commitment with partners like the Foundation and City to uplift neighborhoods, expand access, and bring people together. Learn more about the upcoming improvements below.



throughout the **BUILDING**



Facility-wide updates are making the YMCA more welcoming, safe, and accessible—from refreshed interiors to upgraded lighting, HVAC, and core building systems—ensuring a more comfortable experience for every member, visitor, and community partner who walks through the doors.



inside the

CLASSROOMS

The space will be refreshed with new flooring, ceilings, paint, and furnishings to support a welcoming and engaging learning environment.



in the

KITCHEN

Food brings people together. A full renovation with new equipment, lighting, and modern finishes will support shared meals, food education, and programs that address food insecurity. With this upgraded space, children, families, and neighbors can connect, build healthy relationships with food, and nourish both body and community.





a brand new

TEEN CENTER

This addition to the BTW Center offers a welcoming space for connection, creativity, and belonging. Designed with youth in mind, it also supports inclusive programming and community use—creating more opportunities for engagement across generations.



for the FUTURE

Plans for a future wellness center include a new fitness area with treadmills, bikes, ellipticals, and weights to support healthy living for all ages. These new amenities will also enable expanded programming—creating more inclusive opportunities for members to stay active, build healthy habits, and connect through movement.



LOBBY & BUILDING

The Fitton Family YMCA is also undergoing a major transformation, beginning with a fully redesigned lobby to create a bright, welcoming entry. Planned facility-wide upgrades—new doors, lighting, flooring, and ceilings—will enhance accessibility and comfort. Thanks to generous donor support, the renovated space will better serve members of all ages and continue the Y's mission of community, connection, and well-being.

Fitton Family UPGRADES





Unrestricted support from
THE FOUNDATION
HELPS PYRAMID HILL SHINE
from restored sculptures to record-breaking attendance and expanded education programs.”

Sarah Templeton Wilson
Executive Director of Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park



EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ARTS FOR ALL YOUTH



The Fitton Center continues to expand access to meaningful arts experiences that help build confidence, connection, and community in our youth. From live performances to hands-on programs, more young people are exploring their creativity—and seeing themselves reflected in the arts.

One standout moment: welcoming all third graders in the Hamilton City School District—nearly 800 students—for a live, interactive performance of The Children’s Theatre of Cincinnati’s A Pirate-y Peter Pan. Over two days, the building buzzed with excitement as students laughed, learned, and even joined actors onstage. The show wasn’t just entertainment—it was an imaginative journey that connected in-class learning with live performance. For many children, it was their first theater experience.

This is just one example of how the Fitton Center is deepening its impact. In the past year alone, more than 12,000 youth engaged in the arts—through classes, camps, performances, exhibitions, and free outreach programs across the community. Much of this growth has been made possible by a \$50,000 unrestricted grant from the Hamilton Community Foundation—support that helps ensure the arts remain accessible, inclusive, and inspiring for all.





FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCE

YOUR GIFTS, OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

Behind every gift is a promise to manage it with care, strategy, and heart.

TOTAL ASSETS

\$167.5M

DOLLARS RECEIVED

\$16.07M

DOLLARS GRANTED

\$10.23M

GRANTED SINCE 1951

\$173.10M

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER, 2024 & 2023

(Unaudited Statement,
Rounded for Presentation)

Assets	Hamilton CF	Fairfield CF	Ross CF	2024	2023
Cash & Equivalents	4,059,968	271,456	29,419	4,360,843	5,990,760
Prepaid Assets	157	-	-	157	868
Investments	133,671,874	7,006,353	1,303,537	141,981,764	117,962,804
Property and Equipment, net	2,933,779	-	-	2,933,779	3,144,220
Notes Receivable	17,963,714	1,500	-	17,965,214	18,897,947
Other Assets	98,846	-	-	98,846	98,846
Reserve for Uncollectable A/R	(286,126)	-	-	(286,126)	(425,000)
CSV-Life Insurance Policies	119,867	-	-	119,867	148,954
Accrued Interest	286,126	-	-	286,126	946,071
Total Assets	\$158,848,205	\$7,279,309	\$1,332,956	\$167,460,470	\$146,765,470

Liabilities	Hamilton CF	Fairfield CF	Ross CF	2024	2023
Accounts Payable	143,831	292	-	144,123	92,100
Grants Payable	340,00	-	-	340,00	385,175
Note Payable US Bank	10,653,048	-	-	10,653,048	10,500,000
Renewable Scholarships Payable	86,685	34,750	15,000	136,435	27,400
Renewable Scholarships Long Term	658,950	-	-	658,950	658,950
Accrued Expenses	122,980	387	-	123,367	119,550
Agency Liability	2,778,831	-	-	2,778,831	2,097,341
Total Liabilities	\$14,784,325	\$35,429	\$15,000	\$14,834,754	\$13,880,516

Net Assets

Assets W/O Restrictions	33,636,193	1,715,297	2,266	35,353,756	30,619,291
Assets w/ Restrictions	110,427,687	5,528,583	1,315,690	117,271,960	102,265,663
Total Net Assets	\$144,063,880	\$7,243,880	\$1,317,956	\$152,625,716	\$132,884,954

Total Liabilities & Net Assests	\$158,848,205	\$7,279,309	\$1,332,956	\$167,460,470	\$146,765,470
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Contributions Received	14,039,307	1,573,216	462,468	16,074,990	10,015,954
Grants Disbursed and Accrued	(9,857,813)	(251,602)	(120,226)	(10,229,640)	(9,250,191)
Investment Income Received	3,444,096	161,408	23,975	3,629,479	2,554,711
Market Adjustment (+) gain or (-) loss	11,570,022	607,076	80,033	12,257,130	11,327,350

MEET THE TUCKERS



REBUILDING TOGETHER

*how one family + a community
found strength after the fire.*

On the morning of September 20, 2023, Brittany Tucker sent her three children—Jordan, Carter, and Rylan—off to school, never imagining that within hours, everything they owned would be gone.

A house fire swept through their home that day, taking their belongings, their pets, and the sense of stability they had built together over nearly a decade of marriage. What followed could have been an unraveling. Instead, it became a story of resilience, relationship, and the kind of community support that turns crisis into connection.

Katie Griesser, a Success Liaison with the Butler County Educational Service Center, got the call while the fire trucks were still on site. A neighbor, already working with Katie, had reached out because Katie was the first person she thought of. By the time the Red Cross arrived, Katie had already been there, had enrolled Brittany's family in the program, and was making plans.

"The kids came home to nothing," Katie recalls. "But we were able to deliver backpacks, school supplies, hygiene items and fresh clothes."

That care stayed with Brittany. The fact that someone thought not only of what they needed to survive, but what could bring small comfort—like the kids' favorite soap brands and familiar items—was a turning point. "As a mom, you put all your energy into keeping everyone else afloat," Brittany reflects. "Katie made sure I was okay, and that meant everything."

Meet **Katie Griesser**

Success Liaison

- ★ *Mother to 5*
- ★ *Cancer Survivor*
- ★ *Huge "Swiftie"*



THE SUCCESS PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS:



3,484

Students Supported
in 2024



31

Full Time Success
Liaisons



76

Different Schools
Supported

Over the next several months, the Success Program continued to walk alongside the Tucker family. Katie helped them access rental assistance, transportation to ensure school attendance, and food support. The family had experienced work interruptions and significant expenses due to the fire, making community-based support essential. Despite the temporary financial strain, Brittany and her husband remained focused on maintaining stability and structure for their children, continuing to work and rebuild with strength and purpose.

These connections were possible because the Success Program is deeply embedded in a network of partners. Organizations like The Caring Closet, the Emergency Money Fund, and local rental and transportation assistance programs played key roles in delivering direct resources that supported the family's recovery.

These supports not only fueled the family's healing, but also helped keep the children in school and on track during a time when everything else felt uncertain.

This hands-on, collaborative support is central to how the Success Program operates. Success Liaisons do more than refer families. They accompany them, helping remove barriers and streamline access to the services that make a difference.



SUPPORT THAT SHOWS UP

When a grandmother caring for five grandchildren passed away, a family already facing challenges was suddenly thrown into crisis. With no legal custody in place, the children's aunt stepped in—but soon found herself managing legal, school, and support systems during a time when stability mattered most.

After hearing of the grandmother's passing, Katie, the family's Success Liaison, reached out. Her first priority was to ensure the children could stay in their home—a stability many families in similar situations aren't afforded. She connected the family with Kinship Navigator, another program through the Educational Service Center that helps caregivers secure legal custody so they can make educational and medical decisions and receive the necessary benefits to support the children's well-being.

She also helped coordinate school communication and supported the aunt in navigating the education system. Without this support, the children might have missed school or lost access to needed services. These efforts helped maintain a sense of routine and grounded the family through an uncertain time.

Many children face barriers to success like housing instability, caregiver changes, or hunger—challenges that often exist outside the classroom but impact learning every day. Success Liaisons help bridge those gaps, partnering with community agencies and donor-supported programs to make sure families don't have to navigate them alone.

Because when life shifts—or challenges persist—families deserve support that honors their dignity and builds on their strengths. Success Liaisons like Katie meet families where they are and connect them to what they need most. Today, the aunt is working, meeting most of the children's needs on her own, and the kids are all doing well in school—with strong attendance and renewed stability.

The Tucker children—Jordan, now entering 6th grade; Carter, headed into 5th; and Rylan, starting 2nd—each bring their own sparkle to the story. Jordan, an outdoors-loving honor roll student, was recognized at Riverview for his positivity. Carter, a budding writer and engineer, pours creativity into everything. And Rylan, an animal-loving Girl Scout, is already dreaming of being a veterinarian.

While the fire brought unimaginable loss, it also revealed something powerful: a network of people and programs committed to ensuring students don't fall behind when life takes a sudden turn. Brittany credits the Success Program with helping her focus on her family and move forward with confidence. She describes the support she received as life-changing, helping her meet her children's needs even in the hardest moments.

The work of the Success Program goes beyond crisis response. By addressing non-academic barriers like housing instability, transportation, hunger, access to hygiene items, and family stress, the program helps ensure that students can attend school consistently and engage fully. These supports are often the difference between falling behind and staying connected.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Success Program can extend beyond what public funding alone allows. For Brittany's family, this meant hygiene items provided through a Youth Philanthropy Committee grant—small details that made a big impact. Without this community-driven support, many of the program's most tangible tools simply wouldn't exist.

Today, the Tucker family is in a new home. They continue to work together to heal and thrive, grounded in the strength they've built and the support they received. Their journey is a powerful reminder of what's possible when families have what they need and someone to turn to when the unexpected happens.

This story is just one example of how the Success Program partners with families across Butler County to meet immediate needs, build trust, and help students and caregivers thrive.

Success—for students, for families, for communities—starts with connection and grows through collaboration. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. Success Liaisons like Katie are often the ones who help families find their way to that village, faster—connecting them to the people, programs, and partnerships that make healing and progress possible.



ABOUT THE BCESC

Established in 1914, the Butler County Educational Service Center (BCESC) serves as the central educational and service resource for schools, government agencies, families, children, and the community in Butler County, Ohio. BCESC offers a wide range of programs and services, including early childhood education, special education, family support, and professional development for educators. With a mission to improve learning so children can lead successful lives, BCESC collaborates with community partners to provide equitable access to quality education and support services, fostering positive outcomes for all students and families.



HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Front cover photo courtesy of Hillary Sullivan Photography



**“GIVING IS NOT
AN ACT OF
DEPLETION,
IT’S AN ACT OF
REPLETION.”**



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