



**SUMMER 2024**



# GIFTS OF GRAIN

The Wyandot County Community Foundation (WCCF) is working with area farmers to better reach the agricultural community. Together we are in the beginning stages of a “Gifts of Grain” program, where farmers can donate bushels of grain to WCCF with the intention that it will ultimately benefit the agricultural community, keeping Wyandot County money in Wyandot County. This program will be expanded to fund agriculture scholarships, rural community grants, local FFA/4-H education programs and assist WCCF with operating expenses.

Through “Gifts of Grain” farmers can donate to WCCF through selling bushels of grain at the elevator. It is a simple way to make a lasting difference. We are still working out all the details, and more information will be forthcoming. If you would like to be included in this very exciting collaborative effort or would like more details, please contact us at wyandotfoundation@gmail.com! It is a privilege to work with our local farmers to benefit Wyandot County!



## MELISSA CUNNINGHAM: NEWEST WCCF BOARD MEMBER

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Wyandot County Community Foundation Board of Directors and am looking forward to contributing to our wonderful community,” said Melissa Cunningham at the July WCCF Board of Directors meeting. She grew up in Wyandot County on a small grain and livestock farm and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Communications from The Ohio State University. Currently she is the Guidance Department Administrative Assistant at Upper Sandusky High School and works with children through the IMPACT After School Program.

Spending time with her family is Melissa’s greatest joy. She is married to Chad Cunningham and together they have two children Keaton (22) and Kenzie (19). Keaton graduated from Miami University this past Spring and is currently attending Marietta College Physician Assistant Program. Kenzie is in the Nursing program at the University of Cincinnati and has completed her first year.



### BOARD MEMBERS

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## STORY WALK AT STEPPING STONES PARK

The Wyandot County Community Foundation awarded a grant to the Upper Sandusky Library for the construction of a StoryWalk at Stepping Stones Park. The grant covered 16 frames and corresponding acrylic sheets, while the Elks, Rall Supply and the Parks department contributed additional materials and installation. As you meander through the park, read one page at a time until you have reached the end of the half-mile loop and the book! This project is especially unique as the book can be changed out, always providing fresh reading material and encouraging exercise in young and old alike. Feel free to stop by the park and check out the StoryWalk!



## WCCF PROVIDES GRANTS FOR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS



Pitt Township Volunteer Fire Department was awarded a grant from WCCF to provide all department personnel with their own fire-compliant light for their turnout gear. Chief Josh Morral reported that all 20 firefighters now have the lighting that they need. Sycamore Volunteer Fire Department was awarded a grant by WCCF to replace the batteries in their automatic CPR devices. These batteries are costly and only last for 2-3 years before needing replacement. Assistant Chief Josh Riedel says, "(With the grant)... we have replaced the batteries in service on our first out ambulance. The machine has been used multiple times since in cardiac incidents and has been vital in the success of bringing better care to our community."

WCCF is proud to partner with both fire departments to support their missions to protect and serve our community.



## WCCF SCHOLARSHIP: A MEMORIAL TO A LIFE OF PURPOSE

The Tammy K. Clifford Memorial Scholarship was recently transferred from John Stewart Methodist Church to the Wyandot County Community Foundation. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide educational assistance for Upper Sandusky High School graduates who have financial need, average or above academic achievement and involvement in extra-curricular and/or community activities.

The saying in Tammy's photo "The purpose of life is a life of purpose." speaks volumes of the person Tammy Clifford was. Throughout her short life, her purpose as a mother, community leader and friend shined brightly. Her energy, enthusiasm for life and strong work ethic made a difference in the lives of everyone she met.

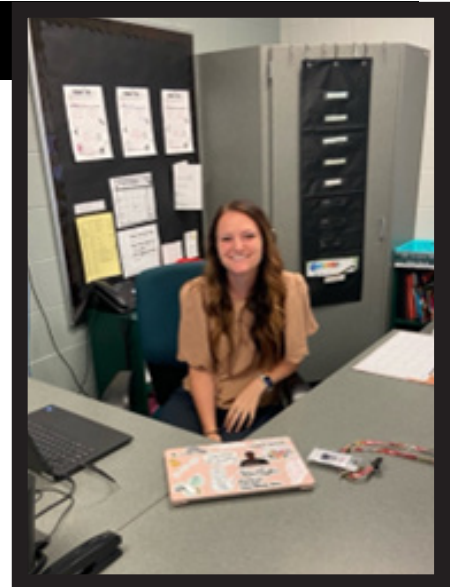
She was a wonderful mother to her sons Cody and Trevor and became active in all their school and sports activities. She served as President of Upper Sandusky High School Academic Boosters, President of Upper Sandusky Youth Baseball and a member of the Upper Sandusky High School Athletic Boosters, where she organized the annual Ram Rumble. With the creation of the Memorial Scholarship, her life of purpose will continue to shape the lives of Upper Sandusky students.



## JORDAN FRANZ: FULFILLING A LIFE-LONG PASSION

Jordan Franz knew she was destined to be a teacher. "I learned very early that I enjoyed spending time with kids and teaching them how to do new things. Finding this passion through baby-sitting early on pushed me towards the direction of being a teacher, but my fifth-grade teacher sealed the deal when she showed me how much fun you can truly have with learning."

Franz is a 2019 graduate of Upper Sandusky High and was the recipient of the Robbie Lee Memorial Scholarship. She earned a bachelor's degree in middle childhood education with concentrations in math and language arts and a generalist licensure for science and social studies in grades 4-6 from Kent State University in 2023. With the guidance of her cheering coach, Franz decided which grade level she wanted to teach and had the opportunity to shadow her mentor during her last two years of high school. Franz's ultimate motivator for this career path was wanting to create a welcoming and safe space for all kids regardless of their background. She believes all children deserve a safe space with an ear to listen.



While a student at Kent State, she was involved in the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honors Society and the Kent Student Education Association, and worked for the organization, Career and Community Studies, a program for students with learning disabilities. "I had the opportunity to take students to classes, jobs, and go to events with them in the evenings. The organization is all about building independence for students with learning disabilities."

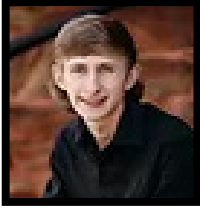
"The scholarships I received my senior year of high school gave me the privilege of focusing on school during my first semester of college," Franz said. "I was able to fully dive into the experience at Kent State and the activities happening on campus." In addition to her courses, she had the opportunity to study abroad one summer in Italy. "During this trip, I traveled to Florence and Rome. My class had the opportunity to visit Italian schools and observe the structure of their education. Through this class, I dove into research on the Italian grading system and the differences compared to the U.S. grading system. I was extremely grateful to have this opportunity as it opened my eyes to things I had never thought about in education. Without the scholarships given to me in high school, I would not have had the opportunity to save money for this trip."

Franz is currently a fifth-grade math teacher at Crestwood Intermediate School in Mantua, Ohio. Additionally, she assists with coaching high school football and basketball cheerleading and helps direct a summer camp in Hudson, Ohio. She hopes to continue to grow her understanding of education and find new ways to teach the mathematical concepts and eventually earn her master's degree. Her ultimate goal, "I hope I make an impact on the lives of my students along the way."

# 2024 WCCF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Ethan Hill**



**Caleb Briggs**



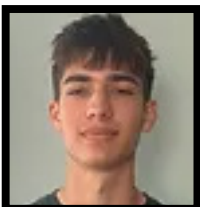
**Eli Kidwell**



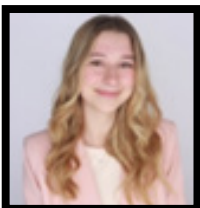
**Kenzie Cunningham**



**Emily Ruhlen**



**Delano Conigy**



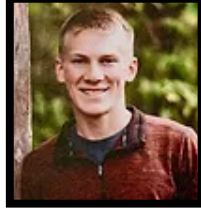
**Maya Collins**



**Sam Smith**



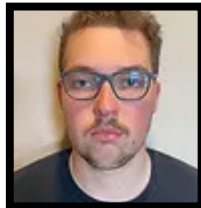
**Alex Putnam**



**Evan Hinesman**



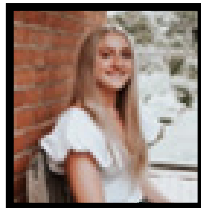
**Lauren Schoenberger**



**Gavin Carey**



**Savannah Kinley**



**Jenna Wenger**

## **ANDY KOEHLER MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP**

\$1000 - Emily Ruhlen (Kent State University)

\$ 500 - Jenna Wenger (Mt Carmel College of Nursing)

## **ROBERT P. LEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

\$1200 - Ethan Hill (Bowling Green State University)

\$1200 - Kendall Van Horn (Bluffton University)

## **AGNES LUTZ SCHOLARSHIP**

\$1408.72 - Madison Breidenbach (University of Findlay)

\$1408.72 - Gage Neville (University of Findlay)

## **T. DWAIN SAYRE AGRICULTURAL HONOR SCHOLARSHIP**

\$2000 - Cassidy Frankart/Renewal (The Ohio State University)

## **MARTHA STEPHAN WEAVER & RITA STEPHAN STANGBY NURSING SCHOLARSHIP**

\$1500 - Emily Ruhlen (Kent State University)

## **CHARLES & JEAN GOTTFRIED SCHOLARSHIP**

\$2500 - Caymen Crim (Otterbein University)

\$2500 - Holden Daris (Miami University)

\$2500 - Nora Estes (OSU)

\$2500 - Evan Hinesman (The Ohio State University)

\$2500 - Kenzie Cunningham/Renewal (University of Cincinnati)

\$2500 - Olivia Gier/Renewal (Miami University)

\$2500 - Meghan Littlejohn/Renewal (Bowling Green State University)

## **MCCARTHY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

\$1500 - Caleb Briggs (Owens Community College)

\$1500 - Maleilani Lumpkins (Malone University)

## **REVEREND CHARLES C. STEWARD SCHOLARSHIP**

\$900 - Eli Kidwell (University of Northwestern Ohio)

## **JOE SHEAFFER SCHOLARSHIP**

\$1000 - Evan Hinesman (The Ohio State University)

## **RANDY AND CHRIS BROWN SCHOLARSHIP**

\$500 - Caleb Briggs (Owens Community College)

## **DR. PRASAD C. KAKARALA SCHOLARSHIP**

\$1000 - Alex Putnam (University of Findlay)

\$1000 - Chayce Thiel (Owens Community College)

## **TAMMY K. CLIFFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

\$1000 - Jacob Halter (The Ohio State University)

\$1000 - Adeline Hoffbauer (University of Findlay)

## **LOGSDON SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

\$1000 - Maya Collins (University of Cincinnati)

\$1000 - Delano Conigy (Miami University)

\$1000 - Gavin Carey (The Ohio State University)

\$1000 - Samuel Smith (The Ohio State University)

\$3000 - Lauren Schoenberger (Franciscan University of Steubenville)

\$3000 - Kenzie Cunningham (University of Cincinnati)

\$5000 - Savannah Kinley (The Ohio State University)

## **GOODMAN SCHOLASTIC AWARD**

\$1000 - MacKenzie Ruth (Marion Technical College)

## **CHRISTINA L. MINEHART SCHOLARSHIP**

\$2431.53 - Jenna Wenger (Mt Carmel College of Nursing)

# CREATING A LEGACY FOR YOUR LOVED ONE

*The death of a close friend or family member is a deeply personal experience. Please know the thoughts and prayers of your community are with you. We invite you to consider the creation of a charitable fund at Wyandot County Community Foundation as a means to permanently memorialize your loved one.*

## **EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE REMEMBERED**

Deciding how to best preserve the legacy of your loved one is an important decision. Wyandot County Community Foundation is uniquely qualified to help you coordinate and establish charitable gifts in memory of your loved one through memorial contributions which benefit the causes, organizations, and programs you hold most dear. You can establish a charitable fund in the name of your loved one at no charge through Wyandot County Community Foundation. Select a local charity that is meaningful to you or your loved one, invite friends and family to make memorial contributions to the fund, and your loved one's name will be permanently acknowledged for this generosity.

Wyandot County Community Foundation is the trusted steward of numerous charitable funds and scholarships, created by families, like yours, to ensure that loved ones are remembered for supporting the causes and organizations, such as churches, schools, and nonprofit organizations, that matter to them.

## **SIMPLE STEPS**

Through memorial contributions, it is easy to establish a charitable fund through the Wyandot County Community Foundation that will be named in honor of your loved one. The process is simple and your funeral director and the staff of Wyandot County Community Foundation can help you.

1. Decide that you want to honor the memory of your loved one by creating a permanent fund in the name of your loved one at the Wyandot County Community Foundation.
2. Select a charity or cause for the fund to benefit. This can be a church, school, or charitable non-profit organization; or, you may decide to create a scholarship fund for the benefit of students pursuing higher education.
3. Contact Wyandot County Community Foundation. We have years of experience in helping families like yours create the legacy you desire. We were created by the Wyandot community for the Wyandot community and will counsel you on your options in a courteous way that respects your wishes.
4. Wyandot County Community Foundation can provide you and your funeral director with the appropriate language for the obituary so friends and family will know how to make memorial contributions.
5. When the time is right, meet with the staff of Wyandot County Community Foundation to establish the memorial fund that matches your wishes and creates your loved one's legacy.

*We do all the rest.*

## **OPTIONS TO GIVE**

Your loved one left an indelible mark in this world. You can help perpetuate that legacy forever through Wyandot County Community Foundation. Here are some basic options when considering memorial contributions:

- A **permanent endowment gift** named in honor and memory of your loved one that will provide annual gifts to local charities or scholarships. This requires a minimum contribution and we can work with you on ways to ensure you reach the minimum in a time frame that works best for you.
- A **limited time gift** named in honor and memory of your loved one that will provide gifts to local charities or scholarships based on the amount of the gift and the time frame you establish.
- A **one-time memorial gift** to any of our existing 500+ funds that currently benefit student scholarships or dozens of local charities.
- A **one-time memorial gift** to either our Forever Remembered Fund or our Community's Memorial Scholarship Fund that will honor your loved one in the year of your gift.





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## GRANT AWARDED

Armadillo Solar a division of Geenex Solar LLC awarded an operations grant to the Wyandot County Community Foundation recently. The grant will offer financial support for management of the foundation's scholarship and grant programs, finance marketing activities and provide recognition for our volunteers.



## LEGACY CONTRIBUTION



Sara Lou Binau left a generous gift to WCCF in her will. The Board of Directors agreed only earnings from her bequest be used for WCCF programming. Sara's legacy will continue the Foundation's mission "Doing Good. Forever".

## THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS BROADENS OUTREACH WITH WCCF GRANT

The Compassionate Friends assists families toward the positive resolution of their grief following the death of a child of any age. Their motto is "We need not walk alone; we are The Compassionate Friends." This group applied for a WCCF grant in 2023 with hopes of using the grant money to extend their outreach to schools, churches, first responders and counselors. Patrick Below, The Compassionate Friends Co-Chapter Leader, says "We were awarded WCCF grant money so that we may continue to offer families the HOPE that they can get through each day, each week and each year to find ways to reach forward and move through the grief journey."