

Latest Grants

26 Community Grants totaling **\$245,221** were awarded to support programs and projects benefiting Ashland County residents.

17 Fall semester Teacher Mini-Grants totaling **\$18,093** were awarded to educators serving Ashland County schools.

4 Strategic Grants totaling **\$25,000** were awarded in the first half of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

82 Donor Advised Fund Grants totaling **\$308,181** were awarded in the first half of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Find complete lists of recent grant and scholarship recipients at www.ashlandforgood.org.



Ashland County Community Foundation

300 College Ave.
Ashland, OH 44805

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Here for Good

Spring 2023

Placemaking in Ashland's downtown

What makes strolling through Downtown Ashland different than walking up to a strip mall? Certainly, the one-of-a-kind businesses and helpful proprietors are a main draw.

But also, there's the allure of downtown as a "third place" – a space that is neither home nor work, but somewhere that people can go to enjoy each other's company and relax.

Third places can serve as hubs for social interaction and community activity, fostering a sense of connection and belonging.

We're pleased to report that we recently received statewide recognition as catalysts for encouraging that "third place" feeling downtown. ACCF was Heritage Ohio's 2022 Placemaking Award recipient for our work to envision and fund construction of Foundation Plaza.

Heritage Ohio is the parent organization of Ashland Main Street, whose executive director Sandra Tunnell nominated us for the honor.

Since the new park was created in 2021 with inspiration from the ACCF-funded Targeted Action Plan and a boost from our \$125,000 grant to the city, Foundation Plaza has hosted everything from rock concerts to retirement parties. Families have gathered there for a big-screen movie night and posed for selfies there at Christmas time.

We're energized to see that leaders in the southern part of Ashland County are embarking on a community improvement plan. We've met with them and look forward to coming alongside them in any way we can as they envision and implement projects in that part of the county.



In addition to supplying significant funding for the plaza itself, we provided grant funding to Rotary Club of Ashland to install and maintain its attractive new clock outside the plaza.

Another of our recent grants will fund an attractive and welcoming new mural on the side of a building at Union and Third Streets.

Several years ago, we provided six grants for improvements to downtown business façades, inspiring building owners to invest in the exterior appearance of their properties.

We also provided funding for the brick alleyway outside Uniontown Brewing Company, literally paving the way for downtown Ashland's first outdoor dining venue. Notably, three more outdoor dining areas have been created downtown since then.

The ongoing revitalization we all enjoy downtown is the result of efforts and investments from many organizations, government entities, businesses and individuals. We're proud to play a role on that team, and we look forward to what we will continue to accomplish as we come together downtown.



Inside this Issue



Placemaking - Statewide recognition for our work to make downtown Ashland a community gathering place.



Workforce Development - Our latest grants reflect an investment in bridging the skills gap.



Donor Feature - Local family remembers a life well-lived by creating a meaningful fund.



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300 College Ave, Ashland, OH 44805 | Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 5:00pm

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Yes, I/we believe in the work of the Foundation. I/We subscribe the sum of \$ _____ for the following:

	Ambassador (\$10,000+)	Supporter+ (\$1000-9999)	Friend+ (\$1-999)	Total Gift \$ _____	Paid Herewith \$ _____
ACCF General Endowment	_____	_____	_____	Pledge Term year _____	Balance \$ _____
ACCF Ford Operations Endowment	_____	_____	_____	To Be Paid: ___ Annually ___ Other _____	
ACCF Community Grants Endowment	_____	_____	_____	Name* _____	
ACCF Unrestricted	_____	_____	_____	Address _____	
ACCF Women's Fund	_____	_____	_____	Signature _____	Date _____
ACCF Cutty Fund/Youth Empowerment	_____	_____	_____	Memorial Name _____	
Women's Fund Childcare Initiative	_____	_____	_____	Honoree Name _____	
Individual Fund*	_____	_____	_____		

*List charity/charities for approved distribution(s)
+Limited to funds held by ACCF

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please make gifts payable to Ashland County Community Foundation and mail to 300 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805

The names of donors will be printed in our Annual Report as written above unless otherwise noted by you.

_____ I have included ACCF in my will/estate plans.

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Website
ashlandforgood.org

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Address
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Cutty's Corner



'WARM' GREETINGS, ACCF FRIENDS AND FAMILY...

Hopefully Old Man Winter will have loosened his grip on you a bit by the time you're reading this newsletter!

From our little corner of the world, we marvel at the impact of philanthropy in our Ashland County community. While some of that impact is highly visible, like the downtown revitalization you read about in the cover story of this issue, much of it happens quietly through endowment gifts aimed at sustaining what is built.

We recently accepted the largest estate gift we have received to-date. This amazing gift to our community will establish permanent endowment funds for eleven local nonprofit organizations, including our own community foundation.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude that this donor couple, who chose to remain anonymous, entrusted us with management of these eleven new funds and designated our organization as the recipient of one of the funds' annual distributions.

Investing in the local workforce

When workers have the resources to secure good-paying jobs and businesses have access to a skilled workforce, everyone wins.

ACCF is helping to bridge the gap between employers and prospective employees with three of our recent Community Grants:

- We provided North Central State College Foundation a grant to offer workforce training in Ashland.
- We gave North Central Workforce Alliance of Ohio a grant to produce videos about in-demand jobs.

Because the donors had such faith in the missions of the agencies they chose to support, they placed no restrictions on how the nonprofits may use the annual distributions generated from these endowments.

We can only imagine how lives will be improved as these agencies are empowered with a greater capacity for good.

Our community will forever be changed by the foresight of this amazing family, who looked beyond their lives on this earth to provide for those who remain.

While we can't all give at that level, the beauty of a community foundation is the pooling of resources from people of all walks of life. We are honored to work with many caring members of our community, and their estate-planning professionals, to structure lasting legacy gifts.

As always, thanks for your continued support, because *together* we are "Here for Good!"

Let's *make* it a great day!

Jim Cutright
President/CEO

Empowering nonprofits

In February, we hosted "Jumpstart Your Grant Writing," a first-of-its-kind workshop geared toward representatives of local nonprofit organizations who may be new to our grants process or to grant writing in general.

Our message to these nonprofit leaders was simple: We know you're doing great work, and we want to help you with funding.

The informal session gave participants a chance to visit our office, meet our staff and ask questions in a format that may be less intimidating than a cold call or a grant interview.

We covered the basics of our four annual grant cycles and shared some additional ways we can help connect nonprofits with resources to fulfill their missions through important community programs and projects.

In addition to offering value for our guests, this event provided valuable feedback for us as we grow our grant programs and refine our communications with the nonprofits we serve.



Board Member Spotlight



Dustin Beattie joined the ACCF board of Trustees in 2022 and serves on our Community Grants Committee.

A lifelong Ashland County resident, Beattie grew up on his family's farm near Ruggles. Following graduation from

Mapleton High School, he attended the University of Cincinnati, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management.

Dustin currently puts those skills to work serving as a vice president of Simonson Construction Services, Inc. and enjoys how rewarding it is to play a role in the construction of local

building projects that support and enhance our Ashland County community.

Some of his favorite projects include various Ashland University facilities, the new Hillsdale Local Schools, the original Salvation Army Kroc Center and Ashland City Schools Fieldhouse, to name a few.

In addition to serving as a trustee on the Ashland County Community Foundation board, Dustin participates in various volunteer board positions for The Salvation Army Kroc Center and Design-Build Institute of America – Ohio Valley Region.

Dustin and his wife Missy have been married for seventeen years and their three children, Dalton, Paige and Evelyn keep them busy with various basketball, volleyball, golf and other activities. The Beatties recently created a donor advised fund at ACCF.

Donor Feature

A devoted ambassador of vocational education, Jim Fish was passionate about helping students gain skills that would benefit their own lives and offer vital contributions in the workforce.



Fish dedicated over 30 years to teaching a range of skills, from woodworking, to driving, to small engine mechanics. He shared knowledge from his degree in agricultural engineering as an educator at Ashland High School and Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center.

After he died, his family created the Jim Fish Vocational Education Fund to support students getting started in a new field at the Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center.

The costs of toolkits and graphic design supplies can present serious barriers to students in need. This fund will cover these costs for designated students, while promoting the value of the vocational arts in Fish's memory.

"This fund is a great example of how our foundation works with families to create memorial funds that make an impact in the areas that are most meaningful to them," said Jim Cutright, ACCF President/CEO. "Sometimes, that's creating a traditional college scholarship, but often it's not."

Memorial funds can be set up to benefit any nonprofit organization or to support a particular program or cause close to the heart of the person being remembered. To explore memorial gift options, call Jim Cutright at (419) 281-4733.

Given Back

In **28 years**, ACCF has given back **\$24,921,798** to our community.

Noteworthy



- Kristin Aspin, our Chief Program Officer, received the 2022 Philanthropy Innovation Award from Philanthropy Ohio for leading the Women's Fund Childcare Initiative.

The award recognizes a funder who has moved philanthropy forward through an implemented idea or innovation that led to positive change in how the sector operates, thinks or impacts communities.



- Brittney Reep, our Chief Financial Officer, received one of Ashland Young Professionals' inaugural "4 under 40" awards.

This new award recognizes highly motivated, emerging young leaders who live and/or work in Ashland County.



- Our Women's Fund Steering Committee named Norma Wygant the 2022 recipient of the "Dr. Lucille G. Ford 'Freedom from Selfishness' Award" for her community service and generous giving.

Named for Ashland County Community Foundation's founding president, Dr. Lucille G. Ford, this annual award recognizes women who have shown a long-standing commitment to philanthropy in Ashland County.