

Union County Foundation



2023 Annual Report

Governance & Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cathy Conlon Blackford, Chair
John Hanby, Vice-Chair
Matt Milholland, CFP®, Secretary-Treasurer
Adam J. Hodnichak, CFP®, Executive Director

2023 TRUSTEES

Cathy Conlon Blackford Pam Connolly Tim Emrick Greg Gerten Judi Green John Hanby Chad Hoffman Chip Hubbs Gary Lee

Meg Michel Matt Milholland, CFP® Jennifer Morrison, M.D. FACS Roger C. Nicol R. Mark Stover, DO Andrea Weaver, AAS MBA



Pictured: (seated from left) the late Gary Lee, Andrea Weaver, Past Chair Roger C. Nicol, Chair Cathy Conlon Blackford, Vice Chair John Hanby, Judi Green and (standing) Dr. Jennifer Morrison, Chad Hoffman, Executive Director Adam Hodnichak, Greg Gerten, Secretary-Treasurer Matt Milholland and Pam Connolly. Not pictured: Tim Emrick, Chip Hubbs, Meg Michel and Dr. Mark Stover.

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Composed of the UCF Board of
Directors, the chairs of the
other committees, and the
Executive Director
Cathy Blackford, Chair

Program/Distribution Committee

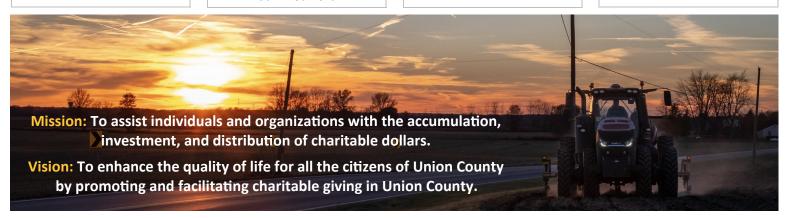
Chip Hubbs, Chair
Pam Connolly
Greg Gerten
Dr. Jennifer Morrison
Dr. Mark Stover
Andrea Weaver
Adam Hodnichak

Asset/Development Committee

John Hanby, Chair
Cathy Blackford
Tim Emrick
Judi Green
Meg Michel
Adam Hodnichak

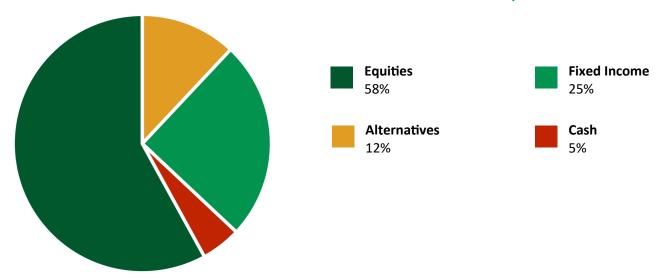
Investment Committee

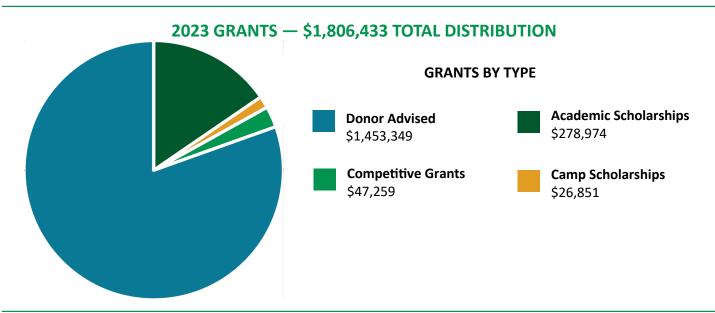
Matt Milholland, Chair
Chad Hoffman
Gary Lee
Roger C. Nicol
Christie Snider
Adam Hodnichak



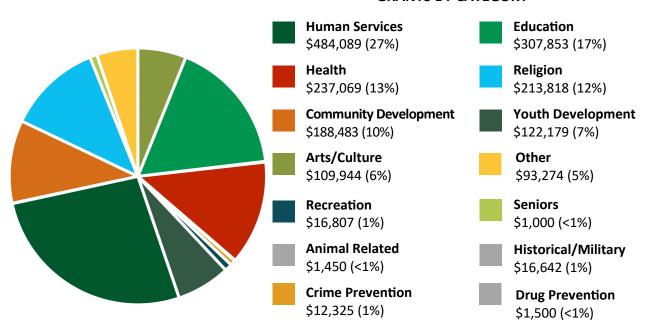
Financial Snapshot

ASSET ALLOCATION MODEL AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023









UCF Quarterly Grants Making a Difference in the Community

The UCF Quarterly Grant Program is overseen by the Program Distribution Committee, a group that has been integral to the Foundation since its inception in 1993 — with its inclusion in our bylaws underscoring grantmaking as a core principle of the Foundation. The Program Distribution Committee reviews grant applications and makes selections based on impact in the community. They ask questions like: "How many people in Union County will benefit from this initiative? What will be the overall impact of the project on the community?"

As the Program Distribution Committee carefully selects grants based on their potential to benefit Union County, the process becomes a powerful way for the Foundation to connect with and respond to the community's evolving needs. By actively listening to local organizations and residents through these applications, the grant program serves as a vital community service and a feedback loop, helping us refine our strategies and ensure that our resources are directed to projects that truly resonate with Union County.

Continue reading to learn more about a few of the Grants made in 2023.

HELPING PROVIDE DECENT SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS



In 2023, a grant of \$1,000 was awarded to The Hope Center to purchase refurbished mattress sets for the Center's Furniture Bank. For health reasons, beds are the only items purchased — not donated — to The Furniture Bank.

The Center has seen an increase in the need for beds due to a host of economic issues leading to displacement of families as well as an influx in foreign families moving into the community.

PROVIDING PEER SUPPORT TO SENIORS

In 2023, a Union County Foundation Grant provided \$1,500 to Wings Support & Recovery to continue to expand their current services to the county's seniors. The senior population does not meet the clinical criteria for assistance through standard mental health agencies, but could be helped with peer support and counseling to alleviate symptoms of social isolation and depression. Wings peer supporters are certified through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Wings collaborates with Union County Senior Services to identify highest need/most isolated seniors who would benefit from this additional support.



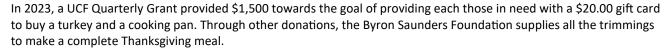
PERSONAL NEEDS

HELPING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS MEET BASIC NEEDS

In 2023, the Foundation provided a grant of \$2,000 to assist the Union County Personal Need Pantry in their mission of serving members of the community by helping to meet basic needs. Put succinctly, the Pantry provides toilet paper, toothpaste, and many other personal hygiene and cleaning products to low-income individuals. Inflation impacted this population particularly hard, and these services allow clients to stretch their grocery dollars by providing some of the basics at no cost.

HELPING TO ENSURE NO FAMILY GOES WITHOUT A THANKSGIVING MEAL

The Byron Saunders Foundation of Union County is a non-profit organization created with the mission of providing Thanksgiving meals to families and individuals in need within Union County. The BSF's goal is to let no family go without a Thanksgiving meal.





Dolly Particle VI MAGINATION LIBRARY

HELPING TO FOSTER EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY

In 2023, a \$3,000 grant from UCF to United Way of Union County (UWUC) helped with the shipping costs for books for Union County's youngest residents. Since 2008, UWUC has partnered with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) to provide free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, regardless of family income. During the last year, enrollment has increased significantly and now includes 2,326 children, or 64% of the County's eligible population.

Early Literacy is essential in providing the early learning experiences that research shows are linked with higher academic achievement, reduced grade retention, higher graduation rates, and increased productivity in adult life.

HELPING STUDENTS BUILD TECHNICAL SKILLS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

A \$2,000 grant from UCF enabled the nine teams from the North Union Robotics Club who qualified at state level competition to travel to Dallas, Texas to compete in the VEX Robotics World Championship on April 25-May 4, 2023. The skills the students gained from this experience will positively impact their future career paths and will consequently benefit this entire community for many years to come.



More than 100 students in grades 4-12 currently participate in the North Union Robotics Club.

Foundation Funds Making a Difference in the Community

HELPING TO INSTILL APPRECIATION FOR ARTS & CULTURE IN UNION COUNTY YOUTH

In 2023, a UCF Grant of \$2,500 helped fund the Avalon Theatre's Summer Youth Camps June 12-16. One camp is designed to educate youth ages 6-13 about theatre and performing arts. A second, day-long camp for ages 9-13 who learned how to audition, create set pieces, rehearse scenes and songs.



By inspiring interest in the theatre and performing arts among our county youth, these camps help to create a place in which to entertain, educate, and enrich the lives of Union County residents through quality arts and cultural activities. About one hundred young people from all over Union County took part in these camps in 2023.



OFFERING HOSPITALITY AND HOPE TO CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Hope Hollow's mission is to offer welcome, hospitality and hope by providing lodging, meals, transportation assistance and emotional support...at no cost...to cancer patients and their loved ones, who are financially in need, while receiving medical treatment in Columbus, Ohio. In 2023, a UCF Grant provided \$4,000 to Hope Hollow to continue to serve Union County cancer patients.

SPONSORSHIPS

In 2023, UCF provided thousands of dollars in sponsorships to a wide-ranging variety of community organizations, including: the Farmers Markets in Marysville, Plain City, and Richwood; Pink Ribbon Good's annual Witches Night Out; the Union County Community Concerts Association; Fairbanks FCCLA; the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation; the Rotary Club of Marysville Ohio; Union County Humane Society; and Union County Guardianship Services.



The Foundation has empowered a variety of initiatives over the years: education, health, arts, human services, etc. And sometimes there are more requests than funds available. When that happens, we reach out to fund advisors of various Donor Advised Funds that have similar goals to see if they can help, maximizing the impact of DAFs as well. Win-win!

New UCF Funds Established in 2023

Seven new funds were established in 2023: Coleman & Eufinger Family Charitable Fund; The Fairbanks Education Foundation Fund; The Josh Huffman Memorial Scholarship Fund; Union County Leathernecks; The Triplett Family Charity Fund; The Harold Lewis Center Education Fund; and Life Story Portraits Fund. More information about the purpose of these last two is provided below.

THE HAROLD LEWIS CENTER EDUCATION FUND

The Harold Lewis Center (HLC) Preschool was established by the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities (UCBDD) to deliver individualized education programming to area preschool students with developmental disabilities. Ohio law prohibits HLC from forming a Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) that would typically help with fundraising efforts. To overcome this, the center partnered with the Union County Foundation to create a fund for extracurricular activities and other needs beyond traditional budgeting — like field trips, which are crucial for holistic child development, parent involvement, and parent educational opportunities. In spring of 2024, donor contributions enabled the center to take students on a field trip to Integrity Athletics, a gymnastics studio, providing valuable experiences outside the classroom as well as enhancing the day-to-day classroom experience.

LIFE STORY PORTRAITS FUND

The Life Story Portraits Fund was established to create art as a unique bridge between women serving extended sentences in the Ohio Reformatory for Women and the outside community. Storytelling through art conveys the complexity and dimensionality of the women, restoring a sense of their own value and humanity. This is achieved through video interviews, painted portraits of each woman by artist Kirsta Niemie Benedetti, and an interactive installation that invites viewers to participate in activities that build an empathetic perspective of life inside the prison. Kirsta also works alongside volunteer Carrie Fletemeyer to conduct sessions of mindfulness art creation with the inmates, in which the women can make beautiful things out of the complexities of their life experiences. To see Kirsta's work, visit kbenedetti.com.

Scholarships

Scholarship Funds housed at the Union County Foundation provide financial assistance towards post-secondary education costs to graduating seniors from all of the county's high schools and help with the costs of camps for younger county residents with disabilities; and other specialized scholarship programs.

KATHRYN I. MARSH-COLEMAN AND JAMES H. COLEMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARHIPS

This scholarship is established in loving memory of Kathryn I. Marsh Coleman and her beloved son James H. Coleman. Scholarships from this fund benefit children with disabilities, ages 18 and under, by providing support for camp experiences.

In 2023, \$38,011 helped 51 young people experience summer camp.

SPECIALIZED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Some scholarship funds have been set up by donors with very specific goals in mind.

The Lucy Ellen Haywood Scholarship is available to applicants from Union County who are enrolled in an accredited theological seminary or comparable institution. In 2023, \$2,000 was awarded to an MHS graduate enrolled at Cedarville University.

The Roy A. Wallace B.I.F. Memorial Scholarship perpetuates Roy's desire to foster improvement in the beef cattle industry. In 2023, two scholarships totaling \$2,500 were awarded to two college students chosen by the Beef Improvement Federation.

The Laverne & Juanita Yoder WLUMC Scholarship assists graduation high school seniors who are members of the West Liberty United Methodist Church.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

In 2023, the Union County Foundation housed more than 60 scholarship funds dedicated to supporting graduating seniors in their pursuit of higher education. Through the generosity of our community, we were able to award scholarships totaling \$146,000 to outstanding students from Fairbanks, Jonathan Alder, Marysville, Marysville Early College, and North Union High Schools. These scholarships reflect our community's commitment to fostering academic excellence and providing the necessary resources for students to achieve their educational and career aspirations.

Keep reading to see a full list of recipients, and to learn more about just a few of the scholarships managed by the Union County Foundation. It might even inspire you to start your own scholarship for a cause close to your heart. (Call us if you do!)

Burnside/Imbody/Fish Scholarship

Liam Adams; Richard Bolander; Kaylee Brestle; Marlette Mitchell; Kendal Walczak Music

Charles E. Bynner & Carole Wendy Bynner Scholarship

Adaline Thrush; Hannah Yates

Ben & Mary Coleman Scholarship

Anna Beard; Elaina Lahmers; Macie Powers

Pat Conlon Scholarship

Gabe Tangeman

Andrew Daum Memorial Soccer Scholarship
Leah Brown; Daniel Dougherty

Bob & Eula Jean Davis Memorial Scholarship

Morgan Evans; Ellie Keever

Robert & Joan Deaton Memorial Scholarship

Melany More Flores

Lila Dodd and Nancy Esthus ScholarshipCannon Moser

Larry & Jan Dunn Scholarship

Jacob Shafer; Kendal Walczak Music



Liam Adams
North Union
Dennison University



Bailee AmstutzNorth Union
Butler Community
College



Sarah Arend Fairbanks Belmont University



Anna Beard North Union The Ohio State University



Garland Bix MHS The Ohio State University



Richard Bolander

North Union

The Ohio State

University



Tareyn Born

MHS

Muskingum University



Cole Breneman
MECHS
Columbus State
Community College



Kaylee Brestle
North Union
Ohio Northern
University



Leah Brown
MHS
The Ohio State
University



Abigail Christian MHS Ohio Dominican University



Daniel Dougherty

MHS

The Ohio State

University



Rylee Dundon MHS Ohio Northern University



Morgan Evans North Union Wilmington College

Susan Finch Simpson Memorial Scholarship Camri Lee

David Fisher Memorial Scholarship Evan Blumenschein; Sarah Writesel

Robert M. Fox Memorial Scholarship Anna Beard

Charles & Marjorie Green Scholarship Isabella Fox; Shelby Langhirt

Jeffrey "Griff" Griffith Memorial Scholarship

Liam Adams; Richard Bolander; Kaylee Brestle; Ellie Keever; Jayla Kelley; Cayden Lassiter; Griffin Salyer

Darla Hall-Barrett Memorial Scholarship for the Arts

Sarah Arend; Reese McCain; Leah Nicol

John & Janet Hanby Scholarship Mack Hamilton

Lucy Ellen Haywood Scholarship

Trey Storr; Andrew Watkins

Hearts of Gold and Courage: Devon Burke Scholarship

Tareyn Born

Hearts of Gold and Courage: Collin Tanner Scholarship

Reagan Traucht

Robert L. Henderson Memorial Scholarship

Avery Murphy

Walter & Doris Herd Scholarship Macie Powers; Emerson Trapp

Corey Hoehn Memorial Scholarship

Leah Brown; Joseph Rausch; Reagan Traucht

Donald Jolliff Family Scholarship

Kaylee Brestle

G.L. Kingsmore Hall of Fame Scholarship

Leah Brown; Abigail Christian; Emma Pzedpelski; Brooke Williams



Chailyn Fishbaugh North Union Marion Technical College



Isabella Fox MHS of Cosmetology



Maria Sofia Franco MHS Mason Anthony School Mariano Marcos State University



Alexandra Green **MECHS** Ohio University



Mylie Green **Fairbanks** Wright State University



Tyler Gross Triad Otterbein University



Grey Hackett MECHS The Ohio State University



Haezel Hamilton North Union Kent State University



Mack Hamilton MHS Appalachian State University



Harmonie Helmuth MHS Cedarville University



Larissa Hemker MECHS University of Cincinnati



Kenzi Jackson **MFCHS** Arkansas State University



Ellie Keever North Union Marion Technical College



Jayla Kelley North Union Mt. Vernon Nazarene University

The Pat Conlon Scholarship Fund: Honoring a Mother's Legacy

Awarding nearly \$90,000 in scholarships over two decades



Pat Conlon, Mother and Educator

After losing their mother at the age of 72 to brain cancer, Pat Conlon's children knew exactly how they wanted to honor her: by setting up a perpetual college scholarship for a graduating senior from Marysville High School to recognize Pat's love of education and her beloved adopted hometown of Marysville, Ohio. Since 2004, this scholarship, housed at the Union County Foundation, has awarded nearly \$90,000 to make sure students from the town she loved could pursue their college education.

Pat and her husband Bill were the first of their blue-collar families to go to college and they were determined to see their children graduate from college, too. In 1961, Scotts relocated several families from around the U.S. to the Scotts headquarters in Marysville. When the Conlon family joined the Marysville community in 1961 there were fewer than 5,000 residents and they loved the small-town

Sadly, Bill died of a heart attack less than 10 years later, and Pat found herself widowed at just 39 with four young children to raise. After being a stay-at-home mom for several years, Pat returned to the classroom as a third grade teacher at East Elementary where she worked with a wonderful team.

"She was determined to see her children get their college educations — and she knew Marysville was the perfect place for us to grow up. It really does "take a village" and this village took such good care of our family!" said Pat's daughter, Cathy Blackford.

Pat did get to see all four of her children graduate college, and now her legacy helps send even more Marysville residents to college.

Sargent Chamberlain Kiwanis Scholarship Mylie Green

Dr. C.B. Mills Memorial Kiwanis Scholarship Leah Brown

William Logan Kebehenne Memorial **Scholarship**

Bailee Amstutz; Morgan Evans

Dan B. Kyle Scholarship Darian Miller; Griffin Salyer

Dr. Malcolm & Barbara MacIvor Scholarship Leah Brown; Daniel Dougherty; Maria Sofia Danielle Franco; Larissa Hemker; Paige Krueger; Francheska Libiran; Alyssa Rodman; Reagan Traucht

Jason K. Mathewson Memorial Scholarship MHS - Class of 1964 Scholarship Meghan Morey

Memorial Hospital Medical Staff Scholarship

Chailyn Fishbaugh; Alexandra Green; Francheska Libiran; Alyssa Rodman; Caleb Wenger

MHS - Class of 1964 Scholarship Grey Hackett; Gabrey Lee; Emma Miller

MHS - DeGroot Family Scholarship Rylee Dundon

MHS Alumni Foundation Scholarship Logan Brunswick; Kenzi Jackson; Andrew Watkins; Emily Williams

Grey Hackett; Gabrey Lee; Emma Miller

MHS - DeGroot Family Scholarship Rylee Dundon

MHS Alumni Foundation Scholarship Logan Brunswick; Kenzi Jackson; Andrew Watkins; Emily Williams

Conner Ann Miller Scholarship Ellie Keever

Mintier Veteran's Scholarship Cole Breneman

Northwest Neighborhood Alliance Scholarship Ellie Keever; Brady Seger



Paige Krueger MFCHS University of Kentucky



Elaina Lahmers Fairbanks University of Kentucky



Shelby Langhirt MHS Columbus State Community College



Cayden Lassiter North Union Otterbein University



Camri Lee MHS The Ohio State University



Gabrey Lee MHS The Ohio State University



Francheska Libiran **MFCHS** The Ohio State University



Mitchell Marlette North Union **Bowling Green State** University



Reese McCain Fairbanks Ohio Wesleyan University



Darian Miller North Union The Ohio StateUniversity



MHS University of Cincinnati



Melany More Flores MHS The Ohio State University



Meghan Morey MHS Murray State University



Cannon Mosei **MFCHS** University of Toledo

Cultivating Futures: The Charles and Marjorie Green Scholarship Fund

Since 1999, the Charles and Marjorie Green Scholarship Fund has been providing financial assistance to a Marysville High School senior active in what was dear to Charles: technical fields, vocational studies, and agriculture. Awarding a total of \$92,750 since its inception, the awards have been presented for a variety of careers: landscape management, welding, motorcycle mechanics, cosmetology, radiology, and more.

Marjorie and their children initiated this scholarship in July of 1999 after Charles' passing. With Marjorie's passing in 2014, their loving children, Marcia Welch (deceased), Melissa Lamb, and David Green changed the title of the fund to the Charles W. and Marjorie P. Green Scholarship Fund.

As a dairy, livestock, grain farmer, and machinist for more than 50 years in the Route 4 Blues Creek area of Marysville, Charles could repair most mechanical items and fabricate tools to accomplish quality work efficiently. Since Charles used his skills to solve many problems — as well as to help others solve their challenges — it was an obvious choice for the family to focus on technical fields, vocational studies, and agriculture for the award. They felt that Mr. Green's character and work ethic were traits worthy of our youth modeling.

Complementing Charles' farming skills was Marjorie's dedication to home economics. Marjorie, a graduate of the Lasell Seminary for Young Women in Auburndale, Massachusetts, volunteered for many years as a 4-H advisor to further nurture the lives of young rural teens. Together Marge and Chuck dedicated their lives to enriching the farming heritage of Union County and life-long learning, and their legacy lives on through this scholarship.

Awarding \$92,750 in scholarships since 1999



Pat & Tom Nuckles Scholarship

Tyler Gross; Melany More Flores

Rita Rubeck Parker Scholarship

Morgan Evans; Haezel Hamilton; Ellie Keever **Richwood Area Business Association**

Scholarship

Richard Bolander; Kaylee Brestle

The Seiter Family Memorial Scholarship Kaylee Brestle

Marilyn Shearer Memorial Scholarship

Garland Bix; Elaina Lahmers

Lya Snider Music Scholarship

Lila Anontvechrucks

Summer Theater Workshop Scholarship

Harmonie Helmuth

David Vollrath Scholarship

Garland Bix

David & Elizabeth Ward Eagle Scout Scholarship Bryson Tillman

David & Elizabeth Ward Music Scholarship Harmonie Helmuth



Avery Murphy **MECHS** The Ohio State University



Leah Nicol Fairbanks OSU ATI



Macie Powers MHS Western Governors University



Emma Pzedpelski MHS Ohio Wesleyan University



Joseph Rausch **MECHS** The Ohio State University



Alyssa Rodman MHS University of Chicago



Griffin Salyer North Union **Bowling Green State** University



Brady Seger MHS The Ohio State University



Jacob Shafer MHS The Ohio State University



Gabe Tangeman **MECHS** The Ohio State University



Adeline Thrush **Fairbanks** Ohio University



Bryson Tillman Fairbanks Hocking College



Emerson Trapp MHS **OSU ATI**



Reagan Traucht MHS The Ohio State University



Kendal Walczak Music North Union Ohio Northern University



Andrew Watkins MECHS Cedarville University



Caleb Wenger Fairbanks The Ohio State University



Brooke Williams MHS University of Kentucky



Emily Williams MHS The Ohio State University



Sarah Writesel Fairbanks Columbus State Community College



Hannah Yates Jonathan Alder The Ohio State University

NOT PICTURED

Lilia Anontvechrucks, MHS University of Cincinnati

Evan Blumenschein, Fairbanks University of Northwestern Ohio

Logan Brunswick, MECHS University of Cincinnati

Dr. Malcolm & Barbara MacIvor Scholarship Fund: Supporting Aspiring Medical Professionals



Dr. Malcolm during his Navy service

The Dr. Malcolm & Barbara MacIvor Scholarship Fund, established by the MacIvor family in 2003, continues to support students pursuing careers in the medical field. This enduring legacy is a testament to Dr. MacIvor, a pillar of the community well known for his love and commitment to Union County and its residents, including a 53-year career in Family Medicine. The scholarship fund aims to ease the financial burden for students committed to medical-related vocations, thus perpetuating his contributions to the community.

Each year, the fund awards multiple scholarships to graduating students from Marysville High School, and is currently the largest scholarship fund at UCF, awarding \$220,250 since 2003.

The Dr. Malcolm & Barbara MacIvor Scholarship Fund highlights the profound impact one individual's dedication can have on their community, inspiring and enabling future generations to pursue careers in healthcare.

Awarding \$220,250 in scholarships since 2003

Annual Foundation Events

COVERED BRIDGES CYCLING TOUR September 2, 2023



Some number of cyclists joined us for our Eighth Annual Tour. Thanks to our generous sponsors, \$3,653 was raised for the Foundation Operating Fund.

This annual event traverses routes that include sections of the Big Darby Plains Scenic Byway which features historic covered bridges, century farms, cemeteries, homes of interest, and access to the National and State designated "Scenic Waterway," The Big Darby Creek.

Thank you to our sponsors, to the volunteers who kept things rolling, and to the cyclists who turned out for this great event!





Dr. Rebecca
TORISKY

SILVER SPONSORS

David & Jane VOLLRATH







PATRON SPONSORS



FOUNDATION CELEBRATION September 14, 2023

The Foundation's tenth annual Celebration, *Celebrating 30 Years*, attracted more than 200 guests. The keynote speaker was Dr. Mary Applegate, a long-time local physician and UCF board chair in 2012 and 2013. She is the Medical Director for the Ohio Department of Medicaid. The UCF 2023 honoree was Rita Rubeck Parker, a Richwood resident and retired educator. Parker's community involvement includes the Richwood Area Business Association, North Union school sports and music programs, the VFW Auxiliary and the Richwood Independent Fair.



 Keynote speaker Dr. Mary Applegate (center), attending the event with her family.

Honored for her → community service was Rita Rubeck Parker (standing, center).























SILVER SPONSORS







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Gerten Farms



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Marysville, Ohio 43040

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