

MARCH 2025



RANDY BROWN APPOINTED NEW PRESIDENT

At the Annual Board meeting, Randy Brown was appointed Board President of Wyandot County Community Foundation after Jean Gottfried stepped down. Randy has served on the Board since 2023. "I'm looking forward to serving as President," says Randy. "I am grateful for Jean's leadership. Her commitment and foresight - along with the dedication of the Board - has set up the Foundation for long-term success."

A Wyandot County native, Randy is an Ashland University graduate. After working for Wyandot, Inc., he returned to work for the family farm. He has served on the Wyandot Popcorn Museum Board, the US Pork Center of Excellence Board and the Ohio Consumer Council Governing Board. Randy and his wife Chris attend Trinity Evangelical Church. They enjoy spending time with their family as they have three children and four grandchildren. With the changing of the guard, Randy will work with newly appointed Executive Director Erin Smith to expand the reach of WCCF.



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ERIN SMITH

Upper Sandusky

TUNES BY THE TRACKS

On Saturday, June 7, WCCF is hosting a new event called Tunes by the Tracks. This musical event will feature The 3rd Floor Band. They play a variety of genres including classic rock, folk, and country. Band members, Dave Harris and Mary (Harris) Fry, are brother and sister who grew up in Wyandot county. Tunes by the Tracks will also include food trucks, beverages by Traum Brewing and a chance to tour the Shawshank Museum. Tickets are just \$10! Watch our Facebook page and website for more information. Other band members include Toby Colbert, John Coleman, Larry Webb, and Bob Fry. The band has been performing together for over 25 years, playing in such venues as schools, churches, public parks, and prisons, to name a few. WCCF is especially excited about our partnership with local Traum Brewing to bring premium beer and wine for this event.



Traum Brewing

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A CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Jean Gottfried, stepped down as President of the Wyandot County Community Foundation (WCCF) at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. Although she will remain on the board and serve as an active member of several committees, the role of President will be taken over by Randy Brown who joined the board in 2023. Gottfried said, "I have enjoyed working with a great Board of Directors and serving as President. I am pleased with WCCF's accomplishments since joining the group and will continue the Foundation's Mission of "Doing Good Forever". Gottfried is most proud of the following achievements:



Jean Gottfried

• BUILDING A COMMITTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gottfried joined the WCCF Board of Directors in 2011. At that time, active board members were John Mizick, Molly Synder and Sara Lou Brown. They were struggling to maintain an engaged group. It was clear; dedicated board members were needed. Gottfried worked with the board to recruit members that represented various locations of the county and were willing to devote time and talents to WCCF. Today eleven enthusiastic members serve on the board and a group of volunteers assist with events, mailings, and more.

• ESTABLISHING AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE AND NEWSLETTER.

These important marketing tools were created over time. Email and website-2012, Facebook-2016 and Newsletter-2018

• OUTREACH EFFORTS

Sponsoring "College Send-Off" events, Outreach Lunch and Learn programs for nonprofits and helping with the Wyandot County Courthouse Restoration Campaign.

• GROWING THE WYANDOT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT FUND

Through a 2013 "Plant the Seed Campaign" \$20,000 was raised so WCCF could award grants to local 501(c)3 organizations and governmental units based on their applications. The fund's current balance is \$123,085.00. Since 2013, 109 grants have been awarded.

• ADDING 19 FUNDS ESTABLISHED BY FAMILIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

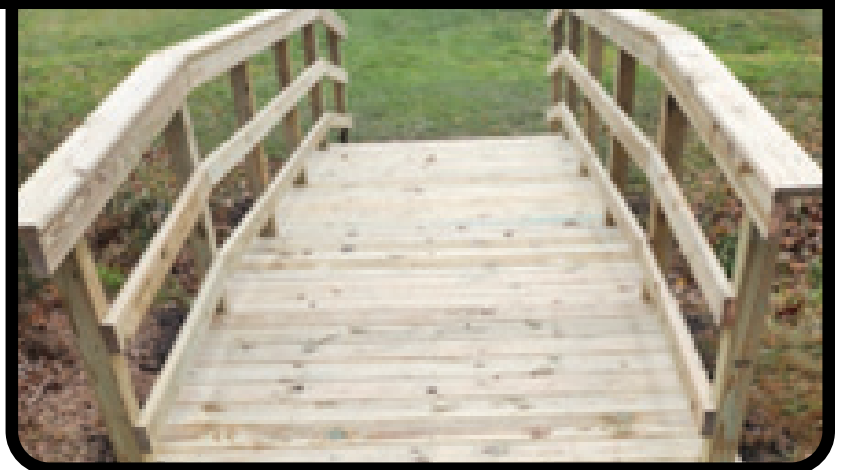
They include 13 scholarships, 3 community need funds, 1 field of interest fund, 1 organization endowment and 1 donor advised growth fund.

• LOOKING TO THE FUTURE THROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING - 2023

WCCF evaluated its programs and set goals to be accomplished in the future. In recent months, the Board of Directors achieved two of its goals by securing an office facility and hiring Erin Smith as Executive Director.

NEW BRIDGE AT ENTRANCE OF STORY STROLL TRAIL :SWCD GOTTFRIED NATURE CENTER

A WCCF grant paid for 80% of the cost of a new bridge at the Gottfried Nature Center. Donations helped pay the rest. The new wider bridge will accommodate large strollers. This will be helpful for younger families who wish to visit the center from Township Hwy. 111. The Story Stroll Trail will start at the bridge. Excerpts from Evelyn Long's (Grandma Tellmie) Nature Booklets will be posted along the trail. Signs funded by sponsors have been printed and will be installed in the spring. Watch for the Dedication of the Story Stroll Trail in the Spring.



SHARE YOUR STORY

If you know me, you may know I share online about my life as a mother raising three children. My oldest and middle sons both have autism, and it is a passion of mine to share my experience as a special needs mom. It is so important to me I even wrote a book about my family's life with autism. I will be the first to say that sometimes what I write is not for everybody, but I do it to let parents raising children with disabilities know they are not alone in the journey. I also do it to spread awareness about families like mine. Mostly importantly though, my main goal is to encourage special needs families to also share their stories.

I think everyone has a story to share. Each of us is living a different experience, and I think we would all benefit from sharing a little bit about our lives with each other. Is philanthropy woven into your story somehow? Did you benefit from a scholarship fund or a grant and wish to pay it forward? Is there something you are passionate about that you wish to lay the groundwork for through an endowment? Maybe a community needs fund or a donor-advised fund would be a good fit for you.

Whatever your story is, I want to hear it. (I can't promise that I won't urge you to write a book though!) How can we at WCCF help create the legacy you wish to leave behind? We are here for you, and we look forward to working with you to honor your story through the work of the Foundation.

Erin Smith



LIFE AFTER THE DASH BY ELLEN SHEAFFER

In recent years, the time between college and what comes next has been referred to as the “dash.” The time that separates being students and becoming alumni, between learning and doing, the now and the future. 2021 Upper Sandusky graduate, Gavin Carey, is currently in the process of navigating the “dash.” Carey is on track to graduate in May with a degree in business administration, specializing in economics, from the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University. He recently was a recipient of the Wyandot County Foundation's newest scholarship, the Logsdon Scholarship Fund.

Carey had a good idea of how he saw his future. “I always knew I wanted to be involved in the business world but wasn't quite sure what specialization I wanted to pursue. I finally realized that I was very interested in economics after taking a microeconomics class through Marion Technical College.” He has been able to gain hands on experience through a summer internship with an electrical contracting company, Cupertino Electric Inc. He had the opportunity to visit the company headquarters in San Jose, California to meet other employees and learn the history of the company. Additionally, he had the chance to experience Europe and traveled across France, Spain, and Italy during the summer of 2024. “These experiences helped broaden my horizon and helped me step out of my comfort zone by trying new things,” Carey explained. Finishing college can be a stressful time and figuring out financial matters compounds that stress. Carey appreciates the contribution the Logsdon Family made to the Foundation. “I am very thankful for the Logsdon Scholarship as it has allowed me to focus on my senior year of college without having to worry about making ends meet financially. I am also very thankful for all the previous scholarships that I have received in the past, as I would not be in the position I am in today without them.”



So, what are his plans for after the “dash?” Carey has accepted a position with Cupertino Electric, where he completed his summer internship, at a new job site in Bowling Green, Ohio. He hopes to have a long career with the company and give back to his home community of Upper Sandusky.

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CAREY EVS GRANT: OSMOS SETS FOR INDEPENDENT WORK STATIONS

“Thank you so much for selecting my class to receive a WCCF grant to purchase OSMOS SETS for my middle school multiple disability students at Carey EVS,” said Jacquelyn Lininger. “My students love using Osmos during their work station time.”

Classroom favorites so far have been:

- Pizza Co., which works on following directions and giving change
- Monster, which gives students a prompt of what to draw, then animates it in a scene
- Tangrams, which works on problem solving and direction following
- Costume Party, which allows the students to pretend it is Halloween every day!

The kids also really love how they each have their own account, where their progress is saved from day-to-day, so it is no big deal when their turn at Osmo is up!



DOG PARK SIDEWALK INSTALLED WITH GRANT MONEY!

The City of Upper Sandusky successfully secured a grant from the Wyandot County Community Foundation to enhance accessibility at the Dog Park. This grant funded the installation of a new sidewalk that connects the parking lot to the fenced-in area. Thanks to the uncommonly mild weather this fall, the Upper Sandusky Parks Department was able to complete the project swiftly, and it's now open for use. Mayor Kyle McColly expressed his satisfaction, stating, “The residents who utilize the dog park now have a clean path to get back and forth from the parking lot over to the restrooms and the fenced-in area. These funds have significantly improved the functionality of the entire park.” The city extends its heartfelt gratitude for the support that made this improvement possible!





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WCCF MAKING THE SEASON MERRY & BRIGHT!



On December 7 and 8, the Wyandot County Community Foundation in conjunction with the Wyandot County Visitors Bureau hosted a Christmas Open House to show off their new location at 228 S Eighth Street. Activities included cookie decorating, vendor booths, a photo booth, a silent auction and free popcorn from Santa Dan.

Community members could also participate in a gingerbread house contest where attendees voted on their favorite creation. Cash prizes were given by First National Bank of Sycamore. Thank you to the Wyandot County businesses who donated items for the silent auction and to all the volunteers who donated supplies, their time and their talents to the event. Mark your calendars, as WCCF plans to host this event again next year during the Home for the Holidays event in Upper Sandusky on Saturday, December 6th.

