



WCCF MOURNS THE LOSS OF ONE OF THE BEST

On February 3, 2024, the community lost one of the very best. Sara Lou Binau passed away after a long battle with cancer. She was 86 years old, but you wouldn't know it from her spunk and her drive. She had a passion for life, her family, her work and Wyandot County. She touched so many with her active involvement in numerous local organizations. Each one was so very dear to her heart and the Wyandot County Community Foundation was no exception. There are no words big enough to express the loss of our board member and our friend Sara Lou. Her wealth of knowledge, attention to detail and belief in the WCCF Mission will be missed.



Sara Lou was a founding member of WCCF Board of Directors and Executive Secretary/Treasurer. In so many ways, she was the foundation of the Foundation. We were truly blessed to have Sara Lou as the point person for so much of what the Foundation has done.

Thank you to everyone who gave a memorial gift to the Foundation in Sara Lou's memory.

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WYANDOT COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
PO Box 364
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351
419-294-3556

wyandotfoundation@gmail.com
www.wyandotcommunityfoundation.org

ERIN SMITH JOINS WCCF TEAM



I am excited to step into an administrative assistant role at WCCF! I have truly enjoyed learning the many ways WCCF gives back to our community, and it is a privilege to be part of these efforts. I have nearly 20 years of experience in technical and freelance writing as I have a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Findlay. My husband Mike and I are raising our family in Upper Sandusky. We have three children – Grayson (11), Easton (9) and Jovie (6). You may have seen me out and about riding my kids around in our Bunch cargo bike. We are hard to miss! I am looking forward to meeting our donors – and hearing and honoring their stories through the work of the Foundation.

FOUNDATION GRANT HELPS CAREY CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MEET EMERGENCY NEEDS OF CAREY RESIDENTS



“We are very grateful for the generous support of the Wyandot County Community Foundation,” said Linda Karcher of Carey Christian Assistance. A Foundation grant was able to purchase a Dell Laptop Computer, Wireless Mouse, Epson Eco-Tank Color Printer, high capacity refill ink and copy paper which were much needed for the day to day business of the organization.

“We did not have a computer or equipment to track client services,” said Karcher, “We relied on volunteers to use their personal computers and printers at home. Now, with the laptop and printer, we have the organization’s data and information in one place.”

Carey Christian Assistance is a faith based non-profit that offers monetary assistance for persons who need temporary emergency assistance and reside in the Carey Exempted Village School District.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT: CORRIE KNAPP

It is not unusual for college students to change their major. Corrie Knapp (Upper Sandusky Class of 2016, recipient of the Goodman Scholastic Award) didn't change her major but did change her mind. Working in the human health field is in Knapp's blood. Her mom is a pharmacist, her dad and grandfather are ophthalmologists, and her sister is a pediatrician. Knapp knew she wanted to have a career in the medical field. “I originally went to college to pursue a career in human medicine which is how I decided on my major. After a few internships in the hospital, I realized my passion was medicine, but not human medicine necessarily. I shadowed a local veterinarian and changed my career path from there. My major was based around human health, but I use many of those classes as a reference for vet med.”

A 2020 graduate of Wake Forest University, Knapp's undergraduate study was in health and exercise science with minors in chemistry and biology. She is currently at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and will graduate with her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in May 2024. She has accepted an associate veterinarian position at Cotswold Animal Hospital in Charlotte, NC.



She is looking forward to involving herself in the Charlotte community and establishing her career. Being involved in the campus community at Wake Forest helped Knapp develop skills outside of the classroom. She was a football and basketball cheerleader for her first two years of college. Additionally, she participated in an internship at Wake Baptist Hospital in infectious disease and orthopedic surgery during her freshman year. And serving as the community service chair for her sorority, Kappa Delta, she gained both communication and organizational skills.

Knapp is appreciative of the scholarship and where she is now. “The Wyandot County Community Foundation Scholarship helped me attend my dream undergraduate university where, through many trials and discovery, I am able to pursue my dream career in veterinary medicine. The scholarship played a role early in my higher education, and I am very grateful for that.”

TEAMWORK PROVES SUCCESSFUL

The Wyandot County Community Foundation, Buckeye Ridge Habitat for Humanity, Wyandot County Regional Planning and Trinity Evangelical Church teamed up to bring housing to a family in need. This multi-faceted group effort is the first Habitat Humanity project in Wyandot County. Executive Director of Buckeye Ridge Habitat for Humanity (Habitat) Lynn Zucker shares Habitat requested grant funding from the Wyandot County Community Foundation to provide funds for the needed site improvements to a lot on West Hicks Street that was donated by a private individual.

Habitat consulted with Upper Sandusky zoning and learned there were not any barriers to building a new house on the West Hicks Street lot. Habitat continues to keep in contact with Greg Moon at Wyandot County Regional Planning to stay informed on any regulatory changes. On the lot's premise was a substandard mobile home that did not have a title, which took Habitat and their legal representation nearly a year to resolve. After a new title was granted, it was finally time to demolish the mobile home and prepare the site for new construction.

Habitat was awarded a community grant for \$2,500 from The Wyandot County Community Foundation (WCCF) which was presented in the fall of 2022. "Demolishing this mobile home was why we requested the WCCF funding," says Zucker. "...the funding from WCCF covered nearly all of the costs to disassemble and scrap out the trailer." Meanwhile, Trinity Evangelical Church (Trinity) partnered with Help Build Hope, an affiliate of Habitat, to build the walls of the new house on West Hicks Street. Trinity has been working with Help Build Hope since 2012. Jenny-Lynne Pfeifer, Trinity's volunteer project coordinator says typically they have between 75 to 100 volunteers who work just a few hours to build the basic framing of the house.

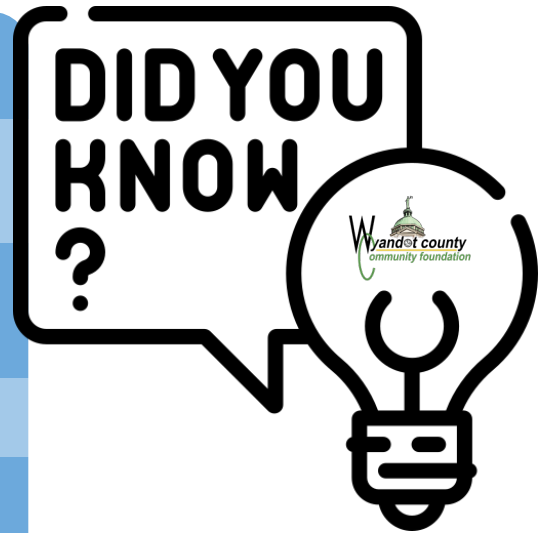
Having the opportunity to build a home for a family in their own community was exciting for the framing volunteers at Trinity. "Ever since the first build, people were hoping to donate the walls to their home county. It wasn't possible until Wyandot (County) had its own Habitat. The volunteers and church body were thrilled!" says Pfeifer.

Habitat added Wyandot County to their coverage area based on the relationship they had formed with Trinity over the years. "We embraced Wyandot County in 2016, but it has taken us several years to develop the relationships, funding streams, obtain and prepare the lots, and find and educate the first household for home purchase in Wyandot County," says Zucker. Construction of the house on West Hicks Street is slated to begin in the spring of 2024. Zucker looks forward to partnering with WCCF again as well as forming relationships with community partners and businesses in Wyandot County. "The best relationships are those we have already built, so we will continue to strengthen and maintain our relationship with WCCF!" she says. This perfectly sums up the unique collaborative nature of this project, and WCCF was thrilled to be involved.

***How can a WCCF community fund grant help with your project?
Contact us today at www.wyandotcommunityfoundation.org to learn more!***



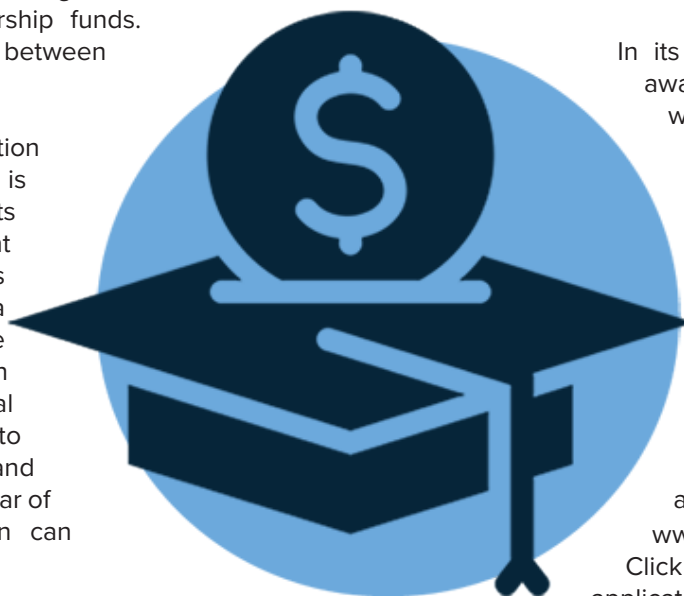
- In 2023/24 four new funds (one endowment and three scholarships) were established.
- The Development Committee has a new presentation “WCCF Doing Good. Forever.” to share with community groups. To schedule a speaker to learn about the Foundation’s Mission call WCCF at 419 294 3556.
- 13 Scholarship committees are evaluating scholarship applications from Upper Sandusky, Carey, Mohawk, Wynford, Ridgedale and Riverdale students.
- More than 25 volunteers work on scholarship selection committees to assure the selection process is fair for all students.
- A big THANK YOU goes to Tom Creger for volunteering many days to sort Foundation, Visitor’s Bureau, Rotary Club and Wyandot Improvement Network records that Sara Lou Binau handled for more than 20 years.
- In 2023 a record of \$187,580.49 was awarded through Donor Directed Grants as families determine what charitable causes they wished to support.
- 2023 WCCF Charitable Giving Totaled \$254,336.00
- Since 2001 the Foundation has given 2.9 million to college bound students, organizations that received community grants and others who were benefactors of donor advised funds.



SCHOLARSHIPS CHANGE LIVES

Scholarships can be life-changers. With help from community scholarship, students with limited resources may be able to attend college or a trade school without taking on a huge debt. In 2023 The Wyandot Community Foundation was able to award \$42,877 in scholarships to 25 graduating students from 13 different scholarship funds. Scholarships ranged between \$1000 to \$3000.

The value of education beyond high school is immeasurable. Benefits go well beyond student employment opportunities and higher earnings; a postsecondary degree can improve outcomes in everything from personal health and character to civic engagement and relationships. Even one year of post-secondary education can make a difference.



2023 WCCF COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Wyandot County Community Foundation provides financial assistance to groups that most significantly meets the educational, cultural, health, social service, heritage preservation and recreational needs of the people of Wyandot County. Since 2013 (11 years) the Wyandot County Community Foundation has given more than \$132,000 in grants to 52 different Wyandot County nonprofits or governmental units. Grants range from \$200 to \$3000.

In its first year (2013) the Grant Program awarded \$2,500. This year \$23,729.00 was awarded to eleven 501 C 3 organization or governmental units. Grants are made possible through distributions from the McCarthy Family Fund, Gottfried Community Fund and the WCCF Community Fund. Since 2001 the Foundation has given 2.9 million to college bound students, organizations that received community grants and others who were benefactors of donor advised funds. To learn more about WCCF community grants, visit www.wyandotcommunityfoundation.org. Click on the grants tab to download a grant application and guidelines.



New

SCHOLARSHIPS

GILES AND CAROL LOGSDON SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED

The Logsdon Scholarship Fund, created by the late Giles and Carol Logsdon, will begin taking applications March 15, 2024. Former attendees of St. Peter Elementary School in Upper Sandusky, who've successfully completed one year of post-secondary education, are eligible to apply for a scholarship, which will help cover the student's previous year's tuition. Natives of Wyandot County, the Logsdons lived down the road from where Giles was born and farmed both theirs and part of the original family farm while operating several businesses over the years. These included a wood burning stove store, first operated out of the former Harpster General Store and then from their home, an embroidery business, an orchard, and a Christmas tree farm. Carol likewise was a lifelong farmer who grew up in Eden Township. The scholarship provides scholarships annually to qualified students who have accomplished all of the following items:

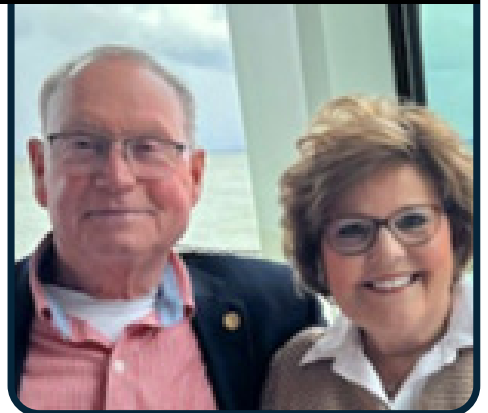


1. Have attended St Peter Catholic School in Upper Sandusky, Ohio;
2. Have graduated from High School; and
3. Have attended an accredited technical college, trade school, college, or university; completing at least one year of a two or more year course of study. Students who are in the process of completing the school year are encouraged to apply but may be required to show proof of successful completion if selected for a scholarship.

More information and a scholarship application can be found at www.wyandotcommunityfoundation.org

RANDY AND CHRIS BROWN SCHOLARSHIP

Randy and Chris Brown established a scholarship for students interested in technology or the trades, Randy said, "They wanted to provide a scholarship for students interested in a technical or trade school because we think there is great opportunity for a successful career without the accumulation of great debt that can come with a 4 year degree." Graduating seniors of Carey, Upper Sandusky, Wynford, Mohawk, Riverdale or Ridgedale School District who have been accepted at an accredited Technical School, Community College or Trade School may apply.



Randy and Chris have 2 married sons, a daughter and 4 grandchildren. Randy currently farms with his son Kyle while Chris is a retired dental hygienist. "We enjoy following the grandkids activities, any area sports and theatrical productions" said Chris. "We are also active members of Trinity Evangelical Church in Upper Sandusky." Randy concluded, "We love living in Wyandot County and are happy to give back to the Community."



Wyandot County Community Foundation
PO Box 364
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

419.294.3556
 wyandotfoundation@gmail.com
 www.wyandotcommunityfoundation.com

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

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