

Community Connections

A publication of Wayne County Community Foundation

Winter / Spring 2023



A Year of Milestones

2023 Marks 45th Anniversary of WCCF

“It will never work in Wayne County.” That was the general consensus of a six-month feasibility study in 1978. At that time, community foundations were in cities with much larger population centers; but the small group of citizens charged with exploring the idea of community philanthropy knew the study was underestimating the generosity and community spirit of Wayne County residents. Thus, they pushed forward – and on December 6, 1978, what is known today as Wayne County Community Foundation was officially incorporated. Starting with an initial gift of \$1,000, the Foundation now manages over \$112 Million in assets and has awarded over \$106 Million in grants and scholarships back into the community.

In addition to marking the 45th anniversary of the Foundation, **2023 also brings the 10-year anniversaries of two of our affiliate programs**, Wayne County Community Youth Foundation and The Women’s Fund.

The **Youth Foundation** provides a unique opportunity for high school juniors throughout Wayne County to experience the impact and importance of community-based philanthropy. Participants engage with area nonprofits through grantmaking activities and community service projects, while also participating in team-building and leadership activities. Since being established in 2013, over 300 area students have completed the program – and over \$50,000 grants have been provided for projects benefiting Wayne County youth.

Also established in 2013, **The Women’s Fund** works to improve the lives of women of all ages by supporting programs that empower change and self-sufficiency. This permanent endowment fund is operated by women, for women. Today, the Fund has grown to nearly \$850,000 and has provided \$166,650 in grants to nonprofits that focus on addressing education, economic empowerment, or health and wellness issues for women.

Since our founding 45 years ago, the Foundation has partnered with individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofits in Wayne County to address the community’s most pressing needs. Together, we can direct our efforts where we can have the most positive impact – today, tomorrow, and forever.



Members of the Youth Foundation participate in community service activities throughout Wayne County.



The Women’s Fund is able to support a wide array of programs affecting the lives of women in Wayne County. One such project is the Electronic Fetal Monitoring (EFM) Certification Initiative at Wooster Community Hospital. EFM allows the baby to “communicate” while in the womb and is an effective tool in determining the health of the baby and mother during the labor and delivery process.

Seeking Nominations

Friend of Philanthropy Award

Do you know someone who has made a difference in Wayne County? WCCF is currently accepting nominations for the **2023 Ruth M. Tieche Friend of Philanthropy Award**. The Award was created to honor those who make a difference in our communities through their philanthropic activities – the giving of treasure, time, and talent – for the betterment of the Wayne County area.

Nominations should be submitted no later than noon on May 1st. The recipient(s) will be honored at the Foundation’s Annual Meeting in October. They will also be presented with an engraved plaque and a \$1,000 grant will be made on their behalf to the charity of the recipient’s choice.

For more information or to complete a nomination form, visit us online at www.wccfoh.org or email Lacie Neal at lacie@wccfoh.org.



Richard and Judy Seaman receive the Ruth M. Tieche Friend of Philanthropy Award from Mark Auble, WCCF Board Chair, at the 2022 annual dinner.

Previous Recipients:

- 2013 Stanley C. & Flo K. Gault
- 2014 The J.M. Smucker Family
- 2015 The Donald & Alice Noble Family
- 2016 Greg & Kathy Long
- 2017 Barry Romich
- 2018 Steve & Cheryl Shapiro
- 2019 Michael and Stephanie Reardon
- 2022 Richard & Judy Seaman

** No award made in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID-19*

Celebrate the *Wonderful Women* in your life!

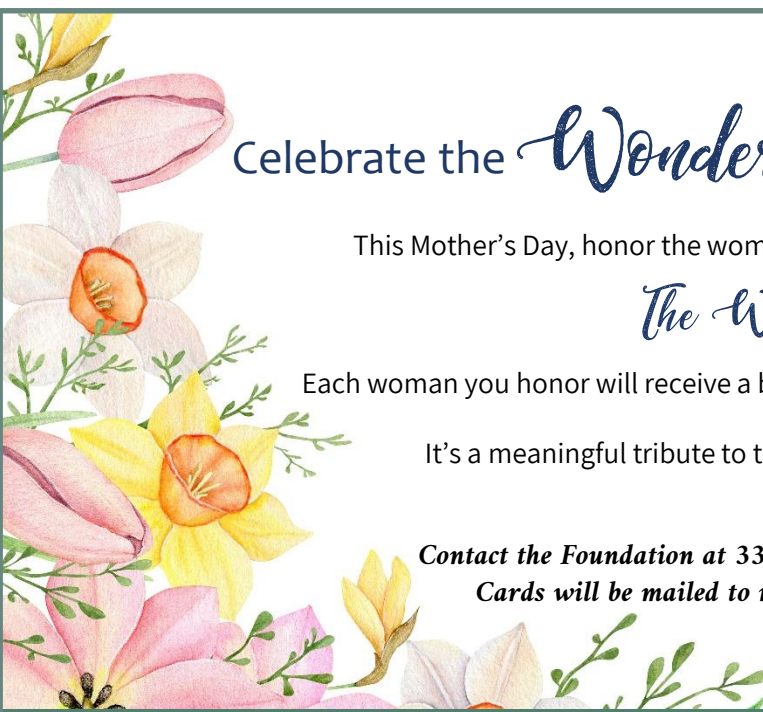
This Mother’s Day, honor the women in your life with a gift in their names to

The Women’s Fund

Each woman you honor will receive a beautiful card telling her of your generous gift.

It’s a meaningful tribute to the women who matter most to you!

**Contact the Foundation at 330.262.3877 or visit www.wccfoh.org.
Cards will be mailed to recipients prior to Mother’s Day.**



Planned Gifts are the Lifeblood of Our Community

One of the most effective ways to give back to your community or the causes you care about – and to provide for their well-being over time – is with planned giving. A planned gift offers you a way to give to Wayne County Community Foundation during or after your lifetime as part of your overall financial and estate planning. It's also an easy way for you to make a much larger charitable gift than you could make from your ordinary income.

These planned gifts are the lifeblood of our community. You don't need to be a millionaire to make a difference. Even modest gifts can grow over time, enabling people of all means to leave a lasting, positive impact on the community they love. Your planned gift helps to ensure healthy, vibrant and equitable communities for the people of Wayne County – today, tomorrow and always.

From simple to very complex, there is a planned giving option for every situation, and Wayne County Community Foundation can help. As your philanthropic partner, the Foundation is committed to working with you and your trusted advisors to help you create a legacy that will live in perpetuity.

Ready to Create Your Lasting Legacy?

For more information about giving back to the community through Wayne County Community Foundation or to discuss ideas with one of our staff members, contact us at 330.262.3877 or contact@wccfoh.org.

How to leave a planned gift to the Community Foundation:

- **Leave a Bequest** – Include the Foundation in your will as the beneficiary of assets you wish to donate. Committing a portion of your bequest this way removes the assets from your taxable estate. You can use cash, stocks, bonds, or tangible property to make these gifts.
- **Retirement Funds and IRAs** – Naming the Foundation as the beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or 403(b) may help to avoid income and estate taxes upon your death. You can benefit your favorite causes and continue to withdraw from your plan during your lifetime.
- **Life Insurance** – Pay an annual premium for a new or existing life insurance policy and designate the Foundation as the primary or contingent beneficiary. You can also gift a life insurance policy you own and no longer need.

What will *your* legacy be?





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Invest in Your Community

MAKE A GIFT THAT WILL FIT YOUR
 PHILANTHROPIC GOALS AND BENEFIT THE
 COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME.

How to give:



ONLINE
www.wccfoh.org



MAIL
 517 N. Market St.
 Wooster, OH 44691

Ways to give:



MAKE A GIFT
 Cash
 Stocks & Securities



CREATE A FUND
 Community
 Scholarship
 Field of Interest
 Designated
 Donor or Corporate Advised



PLAN YOUR LEGACY
 Bequests
 Life Insurance
 Future Fund

Let's connect.

Contact us to learn more about the ways we can help you have a positive impact on the community and causes you care about most.

Email: contact@wccfoh.org
 Phone: 330.262.3877

www.WayneCountyCommunityFoundation.org



CHARITY NAVIGATOR
 ★★★★★ Four Star Charity



Confirmed in Compliance
 with National Standards for
 U.S. Community Foundations.