Foundation Celebrates 20 Years!

For a community foundation run entirely by volunteers, the Ottawa County Community Foundation (OCCF) has more than exceeded its own expectations.

“The Foundation was established in 1999 and during our first 20 years, we have created 89 funds and granted over $5 million,” says Joy Roth, Board President. Last year, the OCCF awarded more than $148,000 in scholarships to local students as well as to adult students seeking to expand their education.

The OCCF is affiliated with the Toledo Community Foundation (TCF) so we may take advantage of TCF’s administrative structures and oversight. “The assistance of TCF over the years has been phenomenal,” said Roth.

2019 COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED

The Ottawa County Community Foundation awarded over $49,000 to twenty-nine local non-profit organizations at the annual Grant Awards Breakfast on June 20. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate the work of a variety of charitable organizations whose projects and programs address current and emerging needs throughout Ottawa County in the fields of education, social services, physical and mental health, safe and positive living environment, natural resources and the arts. Congratulations to the 2019 grant recipients! Thank you to each organization that identified a need and submitted a request. Find a list of grant recipients and purpose of each grant on page 3.

Funding for these grants is made possible from several unrestricted community needs funds held by the Ottawa County Community Foundation including the Kenneth and Naomi Akins Family Fund, Bob and Grace Armbruster Fund, Lenore Peterson Blackburn Fund, Earl J. Johnson Fund, OCCF Fund, Lenore Peterson -Blackburn Fund, Dr. James I. and Priscella Rhiel Fund, Paul H. Rofkar Community Needs Fund, Harry Stensen Memorial Fund, Dave and Jeanne Thierwechter Fund, and one Donor Advised Fund.

Since our first grant was awarded in 2003, the total amount given to charitable organizations through our annual community grant process now totals over $472,000. In addition, we are able to award grants from several other specific use funds including Jack and Judy Schiller Dyslexia Fund, Special Initiatives Support Fund for Schools, and Burton D Morgan, bringing our total community giving to over $625,000.

Special Thanks to Brian Snyder for use of the conference room at the Sutton Center for our Grant Awards Breakfast.
OTTAWA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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OCCF FACTS
Doing Good. Forever.

TOTAL GIVING
Over $5.2 million
As grants for charitable projects, scholarships and donor directed giving since 1999.

CURRENT ASSETS
$8.7 million
The combined market value of our 89 established funds as of 7/1/19

COMMUNITY GRANTS
Over $140,000
Local non-profit organizations received grants to address current and emerging needs in 2019.

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Follow us on Facebook
We welcome Arlyn Bensch as the newest member of the OCCF Board. Arlyn is a retired CPA with a career in healthcare finance whose experience as an auditor, actuary, business analyst and CFO will certainly be beneficial on the Board. Other than his college years and early career, Arlyn has been a lifelong resident of the Oak Harbor area. He is an active member of the Oak Harbor Lions Club and the Board Finance Committee for BCS Schools. He serves on the Luther Home of Mercy Foundation Board and the Oakwood Manor Board. Participation as a mentor through the TNT program with BCS Schools provides both him and his mentee a rich and rewarding experience. In his spare time, Arlyn enjoys biking, serving as Council treasurer and singing in the choir at St. John Lutheran Church in Rocky Ridge, and traveling. He is an avid fan of The Ohio State Buckeyes, Cleveland sports teams and the Oak Harbor Rockets. Arlyn and his wife Candy have two adult sons and two grandchildren. They are anxiously awaiting twin grandchildren this fall and another grandchild in February.
Grant Dollars at Work

Maker’s Space at Bataan Elementary School is a unique learning area for students. It supports the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) concept and provides a safe environment to create, experiment, explore and learn through trial, error and play.

Since 2016, more than 1,000 students from 6 different Ottawa County schools have enjoyed an educational field trip to Stone Lab, the Ohio State University freshwater field station on Gibraltar Island. A new fund has now made these yearly field trips a permanent opportunity for Ottawa County schools.

• “Follow” Ottawa County Community Foundation on Facebook.
• Visit us on the web at www.ottawaccf.org. You’ll find important information about upcoming grants, available scholarships, making an online donation, and more.