

Upperclass and Adult Learner Scholarships - Fall 2022

Scholarships are awarded utilizing a rubric that takes into account academic rigor, cumulative GPA, extra-curricular activities, work history, and in the case of Upper classman and Adult scholarships, extenuating circumstances and number of semesters left to complete course of study.

Lynn Christy Memorial Scholarship for Upperclassman

Hannah Manuel - \$1,500
Holly Thornton - \$2,000
Madalyn Thomas - \$1,500

Elworth Adult Learner Scholarship

Robert Lipps - \$2,000
Oliver Hall - \$2,000

Kathryn Lee Witt Memorial Scholarship

Colton Wolf - \$1,000

Harold O. Sebald Scholarship

Brianna Holman-Garr - \$2,000
Melissa Tilton - \$4,000
Darrin Cook - \$2,000

Margaret Leichthy Ivins Watkins Memorial Scholarship

Carrie Langendorf - \$2,000

Robert and Sue Butcher Memorial Scholarship

Theo Cox - \$1,400

Veteran's Memorial Scholarship

Brooke Frazier - \$1,500
Ahriana Mumford - \$1,500
Johrdon Mumford - \$2,500
Andrew Reardon - \$2,500
Erin Dyke - \$2,000

Charles and Marian Hattery Scholarship

Olivia Kraft - \$1,000
Corbin Craft - \$1,000

Dorenbusch Upperclassman Scholarship

Amanda Fierman - \$1,000
Bayleigh Walker - \$1,500
Adam Ploeger - \$2,000
Michael Langendorf - \$1,500
Anthony Lococo - \$1,500
Kyla Williams - \$1,500
Emma Jordan - \$1,500
Vivienne Hall - \$2,000
Martin Zumbiel - \$2,000
Luke Lococo - \$1,500
Austin Rilling - \$2,000
Deniz Misirlioglu - \$1,500



MIDDLETOWN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

We Connect People Who Care

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MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We Connect People Who Care



Connections

A Quarterly Newsletter for Our Donors, Members & Friends

President's Message

It has been my privilege to serve the past six years on the Middletown Community Foundation's Board of Trustees. That experience has enriched my life and given me the opportunity to review grants from all five of the communities we serve and participate in some capacity in each of the four pillars that support our mission.

Over the last 2 years serving as President of the Board and Chair of the Economic Development Committee the pillar I've spent the most time on is Resources, specifically the economic development area of that pillar. This was a novel area for our foundation and was modeled after the impact and success the Hamilton Community Foundation was having on economic development in Hamilton.

When I met with Hamilton's city leaders, including John Guidugli (Hamilton Community Foundation's Executive Director), they attributed a large part of their collective success to a recurring monthly meeting where they discussed each other's goals and initiatives. But more importantly, they discussed ways to collaborate among the various groups.

For the past two years, MCF's economic development committee has been working diligently to implement a similar "synergy" with our city's leaders. In fact, we have helped to bring some great initiatives to Middletown, those have or will include:



John Kiser

**BOARD
PRESIDENT**

the historic redevelopment of the Goetz Tower into 14 upscale apartments, Primo Restaurant, the Holiday Whopla Winter Festival, and we helped the City of Middletown earn a starring role in the movie "A Bachelor's Valentine" which will be available to all via streaming channels by early January.

It is clear to me the first three initiatives will work in "synergy" to support each other and other businesses and events, by recruiting people into our community to experience all the great things we have to offer. At our annual meeting I shared my belief that we need to add more attractions and amenities like those above in order to make our community an irresistible place to live. The more residents we attract the more folks we have to support our local businesses as well as our community foundation (i.e., synergy).

As I depart the Board at the end of December, I plan to continue my work with the foundation's economic development committee and the City's leaders in order to carry on this initiative. But please remember, this is a community effort so please get involved, we need all the help we can get in the form of your time, talents, and treasure.

I wish you a happy and safe holiday season to you and your families!!!

I'll see you around in our Great Community!!

John Kiser

Staff Update



Cassie Brown joins the team as Program Officer! Cassie is a Middletown native with extensive nonprofit fundraising experience. Before joining MCF, Cassie served as the Assistant Executive Director at Envision Children in Cincinnati. Previously, she been a fundraiser at Boys & Girls Clubs of Hamilton, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and St. Rita School for the Deaf. Cassie is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), African American Development Officers Network, YWCA of Cincinnati Racial Justice Committee, and a founding member of the Hamilton Regional Coalition Against Hate. She is also an alumnus of Leadership Hamilton Class 29 and YWCA of Greater Cincinnati Rising Star Leadership Program Class of 2022.

Cassie has a deep passion for community and volunteerism, so we are especially excited to have her leading our Youth Philanthropy Council and helping us enhance our marketing efforts. Help us welcome Cassie "back home" to Middletown.

Sarah Watson has stepped into an expanded role and serves alongside Cassie as a co-Program Officer. Sarah now manages our scholarship and competitive grantmaking programs. She has been a quick study at MCF in her three years here, making her ideal for this work. Next time you see Sarah, please congratulate her!



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Make your year-end gift today

'Tis the season of reflection and gratitude. As we reflect, we're reminded how fortunate MCF is to have friends like you. Your generosity of spirit and support makes so much possible in this community: brighter young minds, safe places to learn and play, a vibrant arts scene, and thriving neighborhoods. That's why we're inviting you to make your year-end gift to MCF today. You can be certain: a gift of any size will be a big difference in our community.

You can use the enclosed reply form or visit www.mcfoundation.org to make your gift online.

Thank you for your contributions to our collective work.



MIDDLETOWN
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We Connect People Who Care

3rd Cycle Grantees – October 2022

Big Brothers/Big Sisters - \$5,000 for community-based mentoring

SELF - \$10,000 for local home improvement project

People Working Cooperatively - \$10,000 for local home improvement projects

St. Vincent dePaul - \$5,000 for food, utility assistance program

Christ United Methodist Church - \$8,000 for Smile Closets in Middletown elementary schools that provide immediate needs related to hygiene, clothes

Last Mile Food Rescue - \$5,000 to rescue perishable food from local grocers, clubs, restaurants for delivery to local organizations with food ministries

New Era Baptist Church - \$5,000 for health and wellness workshops

Mercy Health Foundation - \$2,000 for a doula service for pregnant, at-risk women

Planned Parenthood SW Ohio - \$10,000 for reproductive services for Middletown residents

Hope House - \$8,000 – for emergency shelter for women and children

American Red Cross Miami Valley Chapter - \$7,500 for home fire relief campaign

Community Building Institute - \$10,000 Parent Resource Center

Feed the Hungry Project - \$20,000 for the after school learning center (Funded by the Morgan Family)

Atrium Medical - \$7,500 for Giraffe Omnibed CareStation for severely ill infants

Abilities First - \$5,000 for roof replacement project

Talbert House Franklin - \$20,000 for new building upgrades/improvements

Hannah's Treasure Chest - \$1,500 to provide care packages to families living in poverty

Middletown Division of Fire - \$3000 for a school bus stabilization kit

Parachute: Butler Co. CASA - \$2,000 for "be a child's voice" program

Women Walking West - \$1,000 for scholarships and guitar workshop

Safe Haven Farms - \$2,000 to therapeutic riding program

Hospice of Butler County - \$2,000 for charity care

Madison Township Fire Dept. - 3,000 for EMS equipment

Trenton Fire Department - \$3,000 firefighting nozzle replacement

MANY - \$5,000 for school clothing for needy students

2022

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Executive Director

Cassie Brown
Program Officer

Sarah Watson
Program Officer

New fund highlight:

The Shirley A. Miller Johnson Fund



The Shirley A. Miller Johnson Fund was established by Jim Johnson to honor the life of his late wife. Shirley was a long-time and much-loved teacher at Middletown High School. Colleagues, former students, friends, and family members are invited to contribute to Shirley's memory through a gift to her fund. The Shirley A. Miller Johnson Fund is an endowed fund that supports MCF's annual community grantmaking.

Let Imagination Bloom

The Middletown Women Enriching Lives group hosted a fundraising lunch on October 1st to raise money for the local Dolly Parton Imagination Library. MCF serves as the group's fund holder. Nearly \$30,000 was raised at this year's event thanks to the generosity of corporate and book sponsorships, attendees, and silent auction and basket raffle donations.

The Women Enriching Lives (WEL) committee started their work with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library 15 years ago. In that time, this group of dedicated women have raised close to \$450,000 to provide the program to the Middletown, Monroe, Trenton, Madison and Franklin communities. In 2020, the First Lady of Ohio, Fran DeWine chose the Imagination Library as her state-wide project with a goal of all 88 counties providing the program. She reached her goal and on August 9, 2022 announced that Ohio is now a State Chapter, joining 12 other states who have reached that status. Mrs. DeWine was joined by Dolly Parton herself at the First Ladies Luncheon in Columbus to make the announcement.



WEL Committee pictured l-r front row: Sarah Watson, Rita Kolp, cochair; John Lomax, emcee; Frances Sack cochair; and Madison Gilly; 2nd row l-r: Ginger Bruggeman, Louise Hayes, Cathy Howell, Libby Abele, Pam Sora, Robin Becker, Brenda Gehm, Jacky Banks and Dr. Sarah Nathan; 3rd row l-r: Jan Price, Kathryn Wood, Lynnette Schluter, Maria Langendorf, Beth Brockman and Jo Ashworth; 4th row l-r: Cari Hillman, Gayle Martz, Amy Vitori, Ally Doliboa, Elaine Garver and Susan Parrish. Not pictured: Patti Gage, Denise Keegan and Peggy McClusky.



• The new Middletown Cronin Ford North dealership, just up the road from the MCF office, choose MCF as a recipient for its Cronin Cares program.

As one of two local recipients, a contribution from the company is made to MCF every time a vehicle is purchased. What a generous business in our community! Thanks to General Manager Bob Richard (above left) for making this partnership a reality!

• Kudos to the enthusiastic volunteers and community members who have planned for and made possible the 2nd Annual Holiday Whopla in downtown Middletown! Don't miss out on all the festivities this holiday season. You might get lucky and see our incoming board chair, Dustin Hurley, driving the Zamboni!



• Education is an important pillar of our work and we are proud to support local students pursuing their dreams at Miami University Regionals. Together with Hamilton Community Foundation, MCF was honored for its decades of support with the Miami University Regionals Philanthropy Award. Dr. Sarah Nathan, Executive Director, and Mr. John Guidugli of the Hamilton Community Foundation, were presented the award on the football field by Miami University President Gregory Crawford and Vice President for the regional campuses, Dr. Ande Durojaiye.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



• Behind the scenes: Lana Read and her local filmmaking team capture the essence of MCF and our five communities in a beautiful promotional video now playing on YouTube.

• A grant from MCF helped the Trenton Fire Department upgrade the equipment on Engine #52 including new nozzles and warning lights.



Middletown Community Foundation 2022 Awardees



The Mary C. Maurer Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes the extraordinary generosity of time and spirit given to community service by someone between the ages of 30 and 50. This year we recognize Joe Mulligan. Joe, in his own words, is a community servant. When Joe joins a board or committee, he becomes deeply involved with the organization. Many local organizations have benefited from Joe's volunteer leadership including Downtown Middletown, Inc., Hospice, the Performing Arts Academy, and Middletown Area Neediest Youth. Recently, Joe led the Middletown Rotary Club out of the pandemic and set it on course to thrive. His passion for service shines through all that he does personally and professionally. Joe is a person of strong character who exhibits kindness and insight. His commitment to the community is inspiring and worthy of recognition.



The Mary Jane Palmer-Nunlist "I Love Middletown" Award honors the community's "unsung heroes" who make significant contributions to Middletown's quality of life without receiving much recognition for their efforts. This year we honor Roger Smith. A life-long resident of Middletown, Roger has served as a volunteer and board member for numerous organizations including Central Connections, Junior Achievement, the Community Forum for Race Relations, Miami University's Community Engagement Council, and many others. He is a community faith leader as Senior Pastor of Bethlehem Temple First Pentecostal Church. And, for over 25 years, has held almost every position at Abilities First, serving children with disabilities and special needs. Recently, he has gracefully guided the organization through an unexpected transition as interim executive director. Never one to seek recognition, Roger prefers to support and lift up others. We are pleased to shine a bright light on Roger's enduring commitment to Middletown.



The Roland P. Ely Jr. President's Award thanks an individual whose long-term impact on the foundation has been meaningful. This year we recognize Richard Isroff, who exemplifies honor, commitment, and dedication to our mission. A past president of the board of trustees, Richard was instrumental in launching the foundation's ready! Campaign for early childhood education. He continues to serve on other committees as well, including marketing and finance. We benefit from his wisdom at every meeting he attends. But his impact extends well beyond mcf. When his children were young, he was an active youth baseball coach. He was a founding member of the arts festival and continues to mentor a new generation of civic volunteers in this effort. He continues to be actively involved with rotary and leads its annual fundraising event. And he brings his lighthearted spirit to each of these activities. We are grateful for all that he has done for mcf and our community!