Funds Honor, Support, Succeed

Two O’Shea Funds Created

Following her passing in March of this year, Kathy O’Shea has been memorialized by the creation of the Kathleen E. O’Shea Fund, established by her husband, John D. O’Shea, and friends. This field of interest fund will eventually generate grants in support of live theater and dance performances in Marion County.

A planned bequest will be added to the memorial gifts from friends and family. The fund is open to additional contributions.

John and Kathy, as a part of their estate plan, have prepared for the creation of the John D. O’Shea and Kathleen O’Shea Scholarship Fund. This will make scholarship awards for Marion County high school seniors and graduates to attend Ohio Dominican University or Xavier University of Ohio, John and Kathy’s alma maters. This fund is also open to additional contributions.

Boys & Girls Club Endowment Fund

The newest organizational endowment fund at Marion Community Foundation is the Boys & Girls Club Endowment Fund. Began with an initial gift of $5,000, this fund will issue annual grants in support of the local Boys & Girls Club.

The Boys & Girls Club of Marion County recently joined forces with Heart of Ohio Mentoring (formerly Big Brothers/Big Sisters) and is growing in its support of young people in the Marion area. Organizational growth has necessitated increased working space. The Boys & Girls Club, along with MCF and other community partners, are exploring the acquisition of the former Lincoln Center on Oak Street from the Marion City Schools. The building would serve as the Club’s new home and allow it to expand services.

S.O.S. Reduces Teen Suicide

The Signs of Suicide (S.O.S.) program, funded in part by a grant from Marion Community Foundation, is showing demonstrable success in reducing the teen suicide rate in Marion. The grant, first awarded to the Marion Area Counseling Center in 2009, has enabled staff to take the program into all junior high and high schools in Marion County. The program includes a suicide screening of students.

MCF and United Way provided grant funding for the S.O.S. program following the release of the 2006 Marion County Community Assessment — which showed 16 percent of 7th-graders and 22 percent of 10th-graders had thought about suicide.

Nearly 14 percent of 7th-graders and 16 percent of 10th-graders had either made a plan or thought about making a plan to commit suicide. When asked if they had taken some action to commit suicide at least once, 8.1 percent of 7th-graders and 8.5 percent of 10th-graders said they had.

The 2010-11 needs assessment indicated dramatic improvement, following the introduction of the S.O.S. program — only 9.6 percent of 8th-graders and 10.6 percent of 11th-graders indicated having thoughts about suicide. Nearly 9 percent of students in both classes had thought about making a plan. When asked how many had taken action to commit suicide, 6.6 percent of 8th-graders and 5.1 percent of 11th-graders said they had.

There have been no middle or high school suicides since the program started in 2009.

In partners in the project, in addition to MCF, include the Crawford-Marion Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board, Marion Area Counseling Center and United Way of Marion County. They worked together in 2008 to launch S.O.S. and work with middle and high schools to screen students.

2012 Scholarship Winners Announced

Marion Community Foundation is proud to announce its 2012 Scholarship Program awards — more than $120,000 in 94 scholarships — given to 83 local high school graduates and college students.

The biggest addition to MCF’s Scholarship Program is the launch of the Wopat Scholars. After the completion of the main scholarship program, the Scholarship Committee conducted personal interviews with five finalists who had been identified for the Wopat Scholars. The committee selected Lauren Thomas of Marion Harding High School and Aron Gibson of River Valley High School as the program’s first recipients. Both Thomas and Gibson will receive $10,000 per year for four years to attend the college or university of their choosing.

The 2012 MCF Scholarship Program concluded in late April with the awards being recommended by the Scholarship Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees. This year’s Scholarship Committee members included: Tom Johnston, Larry Geissler, Sue Jacob, and Doug Ford.

The 2012 scholarship funds and their award recipients are as follows:

Adam Johnston Memorial Scholarship — for Ridgedale High School seniors — awarded to Shae Sutton (Hendel ($500));
Alex Scholarship — for Marion Harding High School seniors — awarded to Bethany James ($1,275);
Andrew Wigton Memorial Scholarship — for Pleasant High School seniors — awarded to Adam Chidester and Eric Reed ($1,000 each);
Aris Kasotis Memorial Scholarship — for Marion Harding High School seniors — awarded to Rachel Hardgrove and Morgan Fields ($460 each);
Bergmann Family Scholarship — for Marion County seniors and graduates pursuing degrees in electrical engineering or computer science — awarded to Joshua Alexander ($1,275);
Carol S. Geissler Memorial Scholarship — for Marion Harding High School seniors and graduates pursuing degrees in education — awarded to Lauren Thomas ($1,000);
Catherine Amelia Thew Brown Memorial Scholarship — for Marion County seniors and graduates — awarded to Mary Yeoman, Ashley Neal, Ashley Ray and Ceslie Elblin ($1,000 each);
Christopher B. Ream Scholarship — for Marion County students pursuing degrees in special education or obstetrics — awarded to Jessica Swope ($1,000);

Cornell/Goodman Scholarship — for Marion County seniors and graduates — awarded to Tori Sparks ($2,000);
Danny C. Siges Memorial Scholarship — for Marion Harding High School seniors and baseball team members — awarded to Britton O’Neil ($1,800);
David K. Rogers Memorial Scholarship — for Marion Catholic seniors — awarded to Casey Getha ($500);

Continued on page 6

Wopat Scholars

The opportunity to attend the scholars’ dream universities — that’s how Brad Bebout, president of Marion Community Foundation, describes the intention behind two new impact scholarships awarded by the Foundation this spring.

The two recipients of Marion Community Foundation’s Robert M. and Dorothy C. Wopat Scholarship are Lauren Thomas, a senior at Marion Harding High School, and Aron Gibson, a senior at River Valley High School. Each will be named a Wopat Scholar and receive an academic scholarship of $10,000 per year for four years.

The Wopat Scholars program is the biggest addition to MCF’s 2012 Scholarship Program. Made possible by the substantial gift of the late Robert and Dorothy Wopat, the scholarship fund they created will, initially, award two 4-year scholars. Bebout foresees the program expanding in future years.

“The recipients will not have to reapply each year, but they must meet certain standards to continue to receive the scholarship,” explains Bebout. “These are ‘impact’ scholarships.”

Continued on page 7
Founders’ Fund

A. Merle Hamilton Fund – created from the estate of the late Merle Hamilton, a lifelong citizen of Marion, noted businessman and philanthropist.

Wapot Scholars

Several funds award grants for specific purposes or causes, as designated by their donors. Applicants are required to address transportation needs, promote the general welfare and recreation of persons with disabilities and provide meals for the poor and homeless in Marion County. The fund was created by a gift from Dr. Henry Heinzmann, a former member of MCF’s board and past chairman.

Francis & Thelma Wise Fund – Grants are available for projects, programs, organizations that treat or prevent arthritis, Parkinson’s disease, and blindness or other vision impairment. This fund was created from the estate of Francis Wise.

Health Care Fund – MCF’s first fund, this funds awards grants for projects, programs, and organizations that address the health-related needs of the community.

Sidney & Lillian Zinn Fund – Grants are available to support community food pantries and organizations which provide meals for the poor and homeless in Marion County. The fund was created as a result of the merger of the Sidney & Lillian Zinn Fund (established in 1980) and the Sidney & Lillian Zinn-Allen Fund (established in 1980).

Ruth & John S. Coopey Fund – Grants are available for projects, programs, and organizations that support organizations that provide meals for the poor and homeless in Marion County. The fund was created by John S. Coopey (died 1967) and his widow, Ruth Coopey, to support the Marion County Historical Society (now Marion History Museum). The fund was established to honor them for their contributions to the Marion County Historical Society.

Scholarship Program

The Foundation’s Scholarship Committee identified five outstanding candidates from among this year’s scholarship program applicants who demonstrated both superior academic merit and financial need – Thomas and Gibson among them. The recipients were selected after being personally interviewed by MCF’s Scholarship Committee. The interviews, held in the scholar- ship season, enabled the committee members to consider each candidate’s full financial aid package and options in light of the scholarship award.

Thomas will attend Muskingum University to study Spanish education. Gibson will attend Bluffton University to study physical therapy.

Thomas, who was also selected as one of the Marion Star’s Teens of the Year, is incredibly well rounded. Her activities include being heavily involved with her church, mission trips, 4-H, community volunteer work at soup kitchens and nursing homes, as well as an abundance of extracurricular activities such as band, choir, and show choir. She is an athlete, having participated in track and field, basketball, and as a student leader with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

“Throughout my high school career,” says Thomas, “I have worked to prepare myself for the future. After four years of completing coursework in numerous accelerated and AP classes, as well as balancing a slew of extra-curricular activities, I am more than ready to take on the challenges that college has to offer, while combining my passions of teaching, learning about the world, and helping others.”

Muskingum University, where she plans to attend, is located in New Concord, Ohio. It is the alma matter of some notables as astronaut John Glenn.

An Eagle Scout, Gibson is active in his school and the community. His talents include music; he participated in school musicals, band and orchestra. He attended Buckeye Boys State and is a member of Future Farmers of America, Teen Institute, and his church youth group. He has been recognized for his athletic abilities in basketball, track, and field, and was a member of the state champion football team.

He was noticeable on the River Valley gridiron by the bright yellow cleats he wore in honor of his mother.

After his mother suffered a major stroke, Gibson says, “I decided I wanted to ‘pay it forward,’ become a physical therapist, and give the help to someone else in appreciation for what physical therapists did for my mother.”

Marion Community Foundation is the recipient of the 2012 Award for Outstanding Community Contributions. This is the 12th annual award given by the Marion League of Women Voters. According to Joan Radwinski-Zimmerman of LWV, the award is given in recognition of a group or individual who contributes greatly to the Marion community.

“Marion Community Foundation was selected this year because it has funded so many and such a variety of things in the community – from scholarships to grants for health care, education and economic development. We wish to recognize Brad Bebout for his excellent leadership. He has helped the Foundation grow and, thereby, assist even more people in our community.”
Stewie Family Scholarship Names First Recipient

The first recipient of the Stewie Family Scholarship has been named. Miranda Pitts has been selected to receive this unique scholarship—in two years. The Stewie Family Scholarship Fund, created by former Marion Harding High School principal John Steward and his wife, Joan, is designed to encourage high school graduation and college attendance. The award is given to a second semester senior upon his or her graduation and will be paid when the student enrolls in college.

The Stewie Scholarship is earmarked for “at-risk” students in the top 25 percent of their sophomore class. This year, in this case Pitts, must complete her high school education as well as enroll in college, in order to receive the award. The scholarship seeks to identify and reward students with the academic potential necessary to succeed in college, as well as those considered “at-risk.” Risk factors may include the student’s home environment, attitudes, behavior, and other uncontrolled attributes. Special consideration is given to students interested in a career in law enforcement, nursing, education, or hospitality management. According to Foundation president Brad Bebout, the Stewie Scholarship is “a unique scholarship” said Bebout. “So, we (MCF) suggested one in which the awards would act as an incentive for underclassmen who might not otherwise graduate from high school and go on to college.”

An alternate is also selected for the Stewie Scholarship, should the winner not enroll in college. The identity of the alternate will be revealed only if the primary recipient chooses not to attend college.

“The selection of an alternate means someone could be in for a nice surprise just after graduation, in the form of a college scholarship,” said Bebout.

MCF supported the recent Ohio Supreme Court decision that allowed the Marion County Common Pleas Court to borrow the $1,150,000 from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marion County’s Dependency Treatment Court, and a $900 grant in support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marion County’s Summer Program.


Legacy, Page 6

2012 Scholarship Awards

Continued from page 1

Douglas & Elaine Waring Memorial Scholarship— for Marion County high school seniors—awarded to Nicholas Brewer and Kathryn Poorman ($1,000 each);

Eddie Shelton Agricultural Scholarship— for Marion County seniors or graduates pursuing a degree in agriculture—awarded to Larissa Stover ($875);

Eugene & Cecilia Reszynski Scholarship— for Marion County students—awarded to Bryan McKiniss, Kathryn Westbrook, Rebekah Gilmert and Victoria Meadows ($1,000 each);

Gary W. Tolm Memorial Scholarship— in 2012, for seniors attending Marion County high schools—awarded to Ashley Irvin ($750);

Gene Jerew Memorial Scholarship— for Marion County students—awarded to Wesly Blankenship ($875);

Gregory A. Rees Memorial Scholarship— in 2012, for seniors attending Marion Harding High School—awarded Megan Nedds ($775);

Hazel B. & A.B. Augusten Scholarship— for River Valley High School seniors—awarded to Tyler Fields ($350);

Judge Thomas K. Jenkins Scholarship— for Marion County—awarded to Trestan Arner, Dylan Richards and Sarah Shelton ($500 each);

Marion Area Auxiliary Scholarship— for Marion County students pursuing education in health care or medical sciences—awarded to Kendra Crabtree, Aonu Gibson, Amy Kinelley, Jason Knottx and Paxton Wengler ($1,000 each);

Marion Elks Lodge #32 Scholarship— for high school seniors residing in Marion and contiguous counties—awarded to Dylan Richards and Sarah Shelton ($500 each);

Pleasant Local Schools Board of Education Scholarship— for Pleasant High School seniors—awarded to Drew Miller and Allison Wentz ($1,212.50 each);

Ridgemont Scholarships— for seniors of Ridgemont High School (Ridgeway, Ohio)—awarded to Logan Brown, Brett Connolly, Gabriel Gaio, Jena Jordan, Malana Ledley, Kirtina McClure, Reese Overly, Amber Pemberton, Jordan Piper, Grace Poepelmann, Miranda Koehler, Robin Shuler, Stephen Smith, Shavon Smith, Elizabeth Weyant, Courtney Wilson and Heather Winegardner ($1,000 each);

Rocco Nicolosi Memorial Scholarship— for Marion County high school seniors—awarded to Ralyn Richards ($750);

Rogger & Donna Holbrook Memorial Scholarship— for Pleasant High School seniors—awarded to Elijah Burris ($1,350); Wis Family Scholarship— for Pleasant High School seniors—awarded to Sarah Endley and Jenna Kelly ($1,000 each);

Kathryn Poorman ($1,000 each)

The Board of Trustees of the Marion Community Foundation voted to fund a number of grants recently. Ranked in size from a mere $166 to a much larger $23,000, the grants address community needs in many ways.

A grant of $23,100 from the Marion Palace Theatre Professional Care Fund was awarded to the Palace Cultural Arts Association for new sound equipment and microphones. MCF’s Board of Trustees also voted to increase the Palace Membership Matching Grant from $10,000 to $15,000 due to the success of the membership drive, which exceeded expectations. The Mid-Ohio Fine Arts Society received $1,500 from the R&C Fund to help purchase display boards used for public events like the Marion County Fair and its annual art sale.

A small but meaningful grant of $166 was awarded from the R&C Fund to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marion County’s Summer Program.

The Boys & Girls Club of Marion County at Marion Day Clup.

Columbus Clippers. “We just felt that something small, like hot dogs at the game, would help complete the day for the kids,” he said. The trip itself was funded by Marion Noon Kiwanis. A grant of $1,500 from the Spencer C. Stephens Flamingo Fund was approved for the ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) Association’s Children’s Backpack Program.

MCF supported the recent Ohio Supreme Court decision that allowed the Marion County Common Pleas Court to borrow $1,150,000 from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marion County’s Dependency Treatment Court, and a $900 grant in support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marion County’s Summer Program.

Evelvet Scholarship Migrates

The Evelvet Family Agricultural Scholarship, created in memory of Robert and Gertrude Evelvet and their son, John Evelvet, at Elgin High School was established in 2008 and this year has been moved to the stewardship of Marion Community Foundation.

Robert, a namesake of the scholarship, was a third-generation family farmer in the Elgin district whose grand- parents, looking for a better life, immigrated from England and settled here in 1844. He proudly served on the New Bloomington and Elgin Boards of Education from 1938-1972 and was the first board president of the newly consolidated Elgin Local School district. His passions were farming, raising award-winning purebred hogs, and mentoring youth interested in agriculture. He was also well known throughout the area for his beautiful tenor voice and sang often at churches and community events.

John was an Evelvet graduate, a local vocational agricultural teacher who was recognized and honored throughout the state and nationally for his achievements in FFA education and service. He had served his community through not only FFA, but also 4-H, county fair and county council.

The scholarship was previously managed by John and Gertrude’s daughter via Elgin High School. They moved the scholarship to the Foundation, which will protect and administer the fund in perpetuity. The Evelvet Scholarship will make annual awards to a senior at Elgin High School pursuing a degree in agriculture.

All Grants Big and Small

Boys & Girls Clubs of Marion County at Marion Day Clup.

John Evelvet