Grant Awards Top $368,000

The Marion Community Foundation announced the recipients of its 2010 grants—12 major and five mini-grants, totaling more than $368,000, awarded to Marion area organizations—during the Foundation's fourth annual Grants Announcement Breakfast, held September 7 in Marion.

"We are pleased to, once again, be the vehicle for so much good in the Marion community," said MCF president Brad Bebout. "The grant awards are truly the Marion community helping its own."

The grant recipients were recognized by MCF's grants committee members, who include: Anne Davy (chair), Dr. Scott Yancey, Ron Cramer, Susie Brown, Dr. James Barney, Nicole Brooks, and non-board member Dr. Henry Heinzemann.

The 2010 major grants include:

- Heart of Ohio Mentoring, $9,500, supporting operations and their charitable programs;
- Boys and Girls Club of Marion County, $25,000, supporting the Triple Play program, which promotes health and wellness for club members by teaching new ways to handle stress, maintain a healthy body and form positive relationships;
- Center Street Community Health Center, $120,000, for ongoing operations, providing primary health care and dental care for low income families; and, $50,000, to build a new dental clinic;
- James H. Johnson-Charles Rudd Community Complex, $20,000, to help reduce the organization's financial burden and support current and future program activities;
- MAPP (Marion Adolescent Pregnancy Program, Inc.), $30,455, continued funding for the Changes & Choices education program in Marion area middle and high schools;
- Marion Area Counseling Center, Inc., $30,000, to fund the Prime for Life Intervention Program, a 16-hour intervention program for first-time underage alcohol consumption offenders in Marion Municipal Court;
- Marion Area Counseling Center, Inc., $18,600, to support SOS (Signs of Suicide), an education program and depression screening for grades 7 and 9, called "Friends for Life," to help prevent teen suicide;
- Marion Harding C-Tag Program, $5,000, to support "Closing the Achievement Gap," a program for mentoring and monitoring at-risk freshmen at Marion Harding High School, with the goal of improving the graduation rate;
- Marion Public Health, $9,500, to support the 2011 countywide needs assessment to determine the health and social needs of the Marion County community;

Ohio Heartland Community Action, $32,400, providing continued operating support for the United Community Rx Program for 2011;
- Prairie Parks Foundation, Inc., $3,978.33, to expand the paved trail area on the Marion Tallgrass Trail; and,
- The Salvation Army, $10,000, for ongoing crisis intervention and rapid re-housing programs.

The 2010 mini grants ($2,500 and under) include:

- Eye-to-Eye Low Vision Support Group, $2,761.50, funding a collaboration with the Marion Evening Lions Club to assist persons in obtaining eye exams and/or eyeglasses;
- Love in the Name of Christ (LOVE, Inc.), $2,500, for the purchase of two desktop computers, software applications, a laptop computer, external hard drive and a network switch;
- Marion Area Humane Society, $2,500, for the purchase of an isolation kennel with a seamless individualized drain unit in order to prevent the spread of parvo;
- Marion Public Library, $1,000, to add wireless internet access to the Caledonia and Prospect libraries and purchase a new computer projector for public computer classes; and,
- Marion Technical College (manager of the Harding Home) $2,500, to cover transportation costs for elementary students to visit multiple historical sites throughout Marion County as part of the Hometown History on Wheels program.

MCF's Grants Committee reviewed 43 applications and more than $800,000 in requests in this year's grant cycle. "The committee reviewed applications, conducted applicant interviews, and, after careful deliberation, made recommendations to the full board of trustees, which made the final decisions," explains Bebout.

The grants will be paid over the course of 2011 from 11 separate funds within MCF, including the C Fund, Founders' Fund, Chester C. & Mildred Roberts Fund, Conway Family Charitable Fund, Kenny Martin Charitable Fund, Health Care Fund, Francis & Thelma Wise Fund, Helen Cunningham Handicapped Fund, Robert M. & Dorothy C. Wopat Community Fund, Marion Historical Site Visit Fund, and Mary H. Holloway Non-Endowed Fund.

Additional information on Marion Community Foundation and its grants program is available by calling (740) 387-9704, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, or by visiting the offices at 504 S. State St., inside the Stengel-True Museum, or on the web at www.marioncommunityfoundation.org.
Thew Honors Family with Funds

Dorothy Ellen Thew, a lifelong member of the Marion community, passed away last year at the age of 91, leaving as part of her legacy, a gift to create three scholarship funds at Marion Community Foundation. Thew, a noteworthy person in her own right, designated that three scholarship funds be created from her estate to honor beloved members of her family. The three new scholarship funds at Marion Community Foundation will help to support the college careers of local scholars.

The funds, each created with an initial gift of $50,000, include: the Jeannette Turner Memorial Scholarship, honoring her aunt’s work as a teacher at the former Silver Street Elementary School; the Catherine Amelia Thew Brown Memorial Scholarship, honoring her sister’s work at the same school; and, the Helen M. Thew Memorial Scholarship, honoring her sister’s love of music and dedication to education.

Well educated, Thew was a 1936 graduate of Marion Harding High School and attended Hunter College, as well as Indiana, East Carolina, and Toledo universities.

She enlisted in the U.S. Navy Waves in 1943 and was the first Marion County Wave recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict. Her naval career spanned 30 years.

Besides her military service, Thew worked at the selective service board from 1943-1955 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Marion Depot until its closing in 1961. She retired from the Columbus Defense Supply Center in 1979.

Her civic involvements mirrored her military career. She was a lifetime member of the American Legion and Plank-Owner of Navy Memorial Lone Sailor Memorial Association and Fleet Reserve Association. She was a lifetime member of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, American Association for Retired Persons, the American and Marion County Historical societies, Marion Senior Citizens and Central Christian Church.

Roger & Donna Holbrook Memorial Scholarship Fund

This new scholarship fund for Pleasant High School students has been started by Linda Holbrook, Jana VonDach, and Douglas Holbrook to honor their parents, Roger and Donna Holbrook.

Recipients of the Holbrook scholarship must be a senior or graduate of Pleasant High School, have attended Pleasant High School throughout their entire high school experience, be in the top 10 percent of their graduating class, and have participated in at least one school-sponsored sports or music extra-curricular activity. Preference will be given to applicants demonstrating diverse involvement in both athletics and music.

In choosing recipients, the selection committee will consider the applicants’ academic standing -- class ranking, grade point average, etc. -- future academic potential, community service record and demonstration of school citizenship. The committee will include: Linda Holbrook and Jana VonDach, as well as the principal, a guidance counselor and either a music faculty member or a coach from Pleasant High School. Recommendations will be sent to MCF’s Scholarship Committee, who will make the final selection(s).

The Holbrook Scholarship will begin providing up to $1,000 in annual awards during MCF’s 2011 scholarship program.

Coach Chris Kubbs Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund

This new scholarship fund for Pleasant High School students honors the contributions of former coach and current Pleasant Local Schools’ teacher Chris Kubbs. The fundraising effort for this scholarship is being spearheaded by the Class of 2010 Pleasant Football Parents -- Cheryl and Kevin Nielsen, Mike and Debbie Phillips, Tim and Paula Garner, and Julie Kubbs.

To be eligible for the Coach Chris Kubbs Student-Athlete Scholarship, applicants must be a graduating senior of Pleasant High School, have attended Pleasant throughout their entire high school experience, and have been awarded a high school varsity letter in at least one interscholastic sport. Academically, applicants must be in the upper 25th percentile of their high school senior class.

As with most scholarships at MCF, the Kubbs selection committee will consider academic achievement and potential, financial need, community service and school citizenship, as well as special skills, when choosing recipients. Special consideration will be given to applicants who intend to participate in intercollegiate athletics or who will be pursuing an education in a math-related field. The selection committee will include a representative of the 2010 Pleasant Football Parents, the Pleasant High School athletic director and the school’s head guidance counselor.

The Kubbs Scholarship will begin making awards during the 2012 scholarship program.

Ridgmont Scholarship Fund

Last year, anonymous donors created a non-endowed fund at Marion Community Foundation that awarded scholarships to every eligible senior at Ridgmont High School. Nine seniors received a total of $10,000. The generous donors were pleased with the success; recently, they donated $20,000 to MCF to award scholarships in the coming year.

This time, not only Ridgmont High School seniors, but also 2010 graduates of Ridgmont, non-traditional students (those age 25+) and veterans who have graduated from Ridgmont will also be eligible. Applicants must have attended Ridgmont for a minimum of two years and have ranked in the upper 30 percent of their graduating class or hold a minimum 2.3 college GPA.

The Ridgmont Scholarship Fund joins the more than 40 scholarship funds under the stewardship of Marion Community Foundation. Ridgmont High School is located in Ridgeway, Ohio.
Community Memorial Scholarship Fund

Memorial scholarships are one of the top categories of funds created at Marion Community Foundation, but not all donors who wish to memorialize a loved one in this distinctive and perpetual way are able to start their own fund with the minimum $10,000 contribution. To address this, Marion Community Foundation has created The Community’s Memorial Scholarship Fund.

At the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee, MCF’s Board of Trustees has created this scholarship fund to which anyone can contribute to memorialize a loved one. It is available in those situations where a family does not have the $10,000 needed to create a named scholarship fund. All of the persons memorialized are mentioned and honored when the scholarship applications are announced and awarded each spring during the Marion Community Foundation Scholarship Program.

The Mary H. Hollaway Trust provided a gift of $10,000 as seed money for this special purpose. Memorial contributions can be made to this fund by any interested donors to honor deceased loved ones and all contributions to The Community’s Memorial Scholarship Fund will be endowed and invested.

Families wishing to create their own named fund may do so with a minimum $10,000 gift. For additional options on creating endowed funds at MCF, interested individuals should contact Brad Bebout at MCF. He may be reached by calling 387-9704 during standard business hours.

Our apologies...

In the previous issue of Legacy, we announced new funds created from the estate of Mary H. Hollaway. We regret the misspelling of Mrs. Hollaway’s name and cherish the funds she created for the benefit of the Humane Society of Marion County, the Marion Palace Theatre and the Marion Family YMCA, as well as a donor advised fund.

Holiday Greetings

The Marion Community Foundation’s annual open house maintained its status as a now-traditional event marking the beginning of the holiday season in the Marion area. This year’s open house was held December 2 at the Foundation’s offices, inside the beautifully decorated Stengel-True Museum, and attended by several hundred donors and friends of Marion Community Foundation.

The Board and staff of MCF wish the Marion community a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year in 2011.
The Marion Community Foundation Board of Trustees has elected new officers for the coming year, as follows:

Rex Parrott, Chairman — Previously Vice Chair, Parrott now assumes the lead role after six years on MCF’s Board. He also serves on the Executive and Governance & Policies committees. Parrott is Executive Vice President of Operations at Wyandot, Inc.

Larry Geissler, Vice Chairman — Geissler has served MCF since 2007, previously as board secretary. He also serves on the Executive, Investment, Scholarship, and Governance & Policies committees. Larry is retired from Fulfillment Corporation of America, where he worked in operations management, finance, and budget.

Sue Jacob, Secretary — A sixth grade teacher at River Valley Middle School, Jacob just completed a term as MCF’s board treasurer and has served the Foundation since 2007. She is on the Executive, Scholarship and Governance & Policies committees.

James Barney, Treasurer — Barney has served MCF’s Board since 2008, providing input to the Marketing & Development, Audit and Grants committees. He is in his fourth year as the superintendent of Marion City Schools.

Scott Yancey, Immediate Past Chairman — Yancey has been a member of MCF’s Board since 2006, serving on the Executive, Grants and Governance & Policies committees. Yancey is a veterinarian and owner of Yancey Clinic of Veterinary Medicine.

In addition to the new officers, three-year terms of service were renewed for five existing board members, including: Jacob, Geissler, Ted Graham, Ron Cramer and Tom Jenkins.

MCF will soon elect a trustee to fill the unexpired term of Phyllis Butterworth, who resigned to serve as Interim Director of the Marion General Hospital Foundation. Phyllis had served on MCF’s board for eight years and her final term would have ended on October 31, 2011. MCF thanks Phyllis for her service to MCF and to the community.

Youth Engaged in Philanthropy

Youth Engaged in Philanthropy, more commonly know as YEP, has also selected new officers for the academic year. Heading the organization will be student Dominic Piacentini of Pleasant High School.

YEP membership includes students from all six high schools in Marion County, as follows: Bailey Higgins, Abigail Hooper and Maddie Layton, River Valley High School; Piacentini, Emily Stephens and Jennica Wilson, Pleasant High School; Haley Blevins, Sandy Adams and Hayden Hunt, Elgin High School; Mary Murphy, Ashley Ware and Paul Baker, Marion Catholic High School; Patrick Weston, Galysa Ratterman and Jenna Crabtree, Ridgedale High School; Jada Williams, Clare Hardgrove and Rachel Hardgrove, Marion Harding High School.