Marion Community Foundation’s 2014 Scholarship Program is now underway with more than $250,000 available for area scholars. Scholarship funds available at MCF now number 68.

New scholarship funds added in the past year include: the Rubcich Family Scholarship (for Elgin High School students); the Dr. James S. & Mary Gray Greetham Memorial Scholarship, Dr. Sarah Kulkofsky Memorial Scholarship, Kory Kirkpatrick Memorial Scholarship and Philip Leedom Memorial Scholarship (for Marion Harding High School students); the Alex Masters Memorial Scholarship and Brenda Dye Music Boosters Scholarship (for River Valley High School students); and, Charles L. Hastings Memorial Scholarship and Marguerite Marcelin Hastings Memorial Scholarship (for Marion County high school seniors & graduates).

Four scholarship funds have undergone changes since the 2013 Scholarship Program; these include: David K. Rogers Memorial Scholarship — now open to all Marion County High School seniors; Gregory A. Rees Memorial Scholarship (for 2014 only) open to seniors of University High School in Morgantown, WV; Youth Engaged in Philanthropy Scholarship returns to the 2014 program after a year of hiatus; and, The Community’s Memorial Scholarship, given this year in memory of Russell Reichardt.

The 2014 Scholarship Program will see the continuation of the Wopat Scholars program. Launched in 2012, the Wopat Scholars program provides four, 4-year, $10,000 per year scholarships to outstanding local students. The 2013 recipients and the colleges they are attending are as follows: River Valley’s Mitch Messenger, University of Cincinnati; Pleasant’s Kara Kubbs, Ohio Northern University; and Harding’s Adeline Baird and Kate Stoneburner, Kent State University and Miami University, respectively.

The Wopat Scholars program is made possible by the substantial gift of the late Robert and Dorothy Wopat. “These are intended to be ‘impact’ scholarships,” said MCF president Dean Jacob. “The Foundation’s scholarship selection committee will identify several outstanding candidates from among this year’s applicants who demonstrate both superior academic merit and financial need. The intention of impact scholarships is to enable students to attend a college or university program that would otherwise be beyond their reach.”

The selection process for the Wopat Scholars includes a personal interview late in the scholarship season. This will enable MCF’s Scholarship Committee to consider each candidate’s full financial aid package and options in light of the scholarship award.

The online application for the Marion Community Foundation scholarship program has been hugely successful, according to Jacob. The application has been updated for the new year and is already available for applicants’ use.

“In this tech savvy age, students expect to be able to file applications online,” said Jacob. Not only can the application be completed online, applicants can start and save the application in process and come back and complete it in stages. This allows the applicant to begin the application process while gathering the necessary supporting materials. By providing email addresses, applicants can request letters of recommendation as well as transcripts and records from guidance counselors electronically. All applicants will need to submit their FAFSA information as part of the application process.

Applications are available now through midnight March 17. The review process continues for several weeks, culminating in the Board’s final decisions in late April. The MCF Scholarship Committee consists of Kathy Goodman, Nicki Workman, Larry Geissler, Megan Queen and Sue Jacob.

Additional information and access to the online scholarship application is available at marioncommunityfoundation.org. Students should click on the “Scholarships” tab in the left sidebar to start the process. MCF can be reached by calling 387-9704.
Seven New Funds Created

Seven new funds have been recently created at Marion Community Foundation. Of the seven, six are new scholarship funds and one commemorates the retirement of MCF former president and CEO Brad Bebout.

**Philip Leedom Memorial Scholarship Fund**

The Philip Leedom Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established at Marion Community Foundation to honor the memory of long-time Marion City School Board member Phil Leedom. Leedom, who passed away in the fall of 2012, had a 30-year career teaching in the Marion City Schools and, after retirement, served on the school board. Known for “putting kids first,” he cited his seven grandchildren as his motivation for continued service to the schools.

Established by his wife, Rebecca, and family, the Leedom Fund will make annual scholarship awards to students of Marion Harding High School pursuing a career in the field of education and English.

**Rubcich Family Scholarship Fund**

Family members of Emil Rubcich have created a scholarship fund at Marion Community Foundation, both to honor him and to show their support of higher education. The scholarship fund was created by his wife of 52 years, Nicki, and children, Mark and Tina, and their families.

Rubcich was a noted figure at Elgin Local Schools, having had an outstanding, 36-year teaching and coaching career. Rubcich was Elgin High School’s first head football and baseball coach and led his teams to numerous championships. Several of his former players went on to professional sports careers, including baseball’s Larry Barnett, Toby Harrah and Jerry Layne and basketball’s Brian Agler.

Recipients of the Rubcich Scholarship will be students of Elgin High School pursuing a degree and career in the field of education.

**Dr. Sarah Kulkofsky Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Students of Marion Harding High School will have another scholarship opportunity in the newly created Dr. Sarah Kulkofsky Memorial Scholarship Fund at Marion Community Foundation. In creating this scholarship, her family seeks to support students pursuing a career in science and, especially, individuals who are the first generation of their family to attend college.

Kulkofsky was a successful college professor, having held faculty positions at Cornell, Colgate and Texas Tech universities. At the time of her passing from the flu in 2011, she had accepted a position at Oberlin College to be closer to family. With a background in psychology, her research focused on issues of memory and behavior.

**Charles L. Hastings and Marguerite Marcelin Hastings Memorial Scholarship Funds**

Graduates and seniors of high schools in Marion, Wyandot, and Morrow counties, as well as Clyde High School, are the focus of the Charles L. Hastings Memorial Scholarship. This new scholarship fund at Marion Community Foundation, created by David Hastings to honor his father, will provide an annual award to high achieving students who wish to pursue a degree and career in agriculture at The Ohio State University or another land grant university in Ohio.

Likewise, David created the Marguerite Marcelin Hastings Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor his mother. Her scholarship will support students from Marion, Wyandot, Morrow and Crawford counties who wish to attend Marion Technical College and pursue an education in business, accounting or information technology.

**Brenda Dye Music Boosters Scholarship Fund**

The Brenda Dye Music Boosters Scholarship Fund has been created to support the education of seniors from River Valley High School who have participated in the school’s music program. It will make annual awards to support students’ higher education goals.

The fund honors its namesake who was active for many years with the River Valley Music Boosters, 4-H, Marion and Morrow County Farm Bureau, and many other community organizations. Dye was a noted community leader and active with her church.

**Bebout Family Fund**

The Bebout Family Fund has been created to honor former Marion Community Foundation president Brad Bebout for his 13+ years of service to the organization. Created by the Board of Trustees, family and friends, the Bebout Fund is a donor advised fund that will continue to involve Brad and his wife, Carol, in philanthropy in Marion. Brad and Carol’s son, Steve, will serve as successor fund advisor.

The Bebout Fund was announced by Larry Geissler, representing the MCF Board of Trustees, at the Foundation’s annual holiday open house in December in recognition of Bebout’s retirement. The fund has been created by an initial transfer of $5,000 from the Founders Fund, as well as contributions by family members and friends. Grants will be awarded annually, beginning in 2015, to community programs and projects recommended by the Bebouts.
From the President’s Desk...

As I write this, I am finishing my first month on the job as President and CEO. If the ancient philosophers were correct – that the wise man is the one who knows what he does not know – then I must be very wise! There is so much to learn here at MCF. What I know with certainty, however, is that I am supported by an outstanding staff.

Brad Bebout, my predecessor, to whom much of the credit must be given for the success of the foundation over the last thirteen years, has been here most afternoons as a consultant. His insight and wealth of knowledge are a welcome resource for me. I will miss him when he soon departs, but I know that he is willingly only a phone call away.

Diana Rinesmith, our Office Manager for the past thirteen years, is amazing. Her ability to successfully manage everything that happens at the foundation is evident whenever I ask her for assistance. Not only does she help me immediately, but she doesn’t seem to miss a beat with whatever else she happens to be working on at the time. She knows where every document and computer file is located, she has complete command of the grant and scholarship processes, and she is fully respectful, knowledgeable, and trustworthy in relation to the many people with whom she comes in contact on a daily basis.

Diane Mault has been our contractual bookkeeper and accountant for fourteen years. Although she is not directly employed by us, she is at our office faithfully two days per week (and sometimes more) and treats the foundation as if it were her only client. Diane’s attentiveness is what keeps us balanced to the penny and allows our donors to rest easy knowing that we are giving our full effort to ensure their trust in the foundation.

Lori Stevenson beautifully handles our public relations and marketing. She is on contract and only in the building occasionally, but, like Diane, she has the foundation’s best interests at heart. With a treasure trove of knowledge about MCF, Lori has been behind the scenes at the foundation for eleven years tirelessly promoting our programs and the people attached to them. You can thank her for these remarkable Legacy newsletters you receive as well as virtually all of our publicity. If you have not seen our Facebook page, be sure to do so. Lori keeps this page fresh with information and stories about our fund creators, scholarship recipients, grant recipients, and the lives of those memorialized by so many with funds here at MCF.

You may not be familiar with Doug Lukeso, but he is our on-staff, off-site Chief Investment Officer. Doug’s firm, Lancaster Pollard, specializes in ensuring that nonprofit institutional investors – like our foundation – have an investment spending policy and asset allocation aligned with the target rate of return that has been established by management and the investment committee. Another important function of Lancaster Pollard is to monitor compliance with the investment policy and asset allocation. Our Board of Trustees has been very pleased with the extraordinary financial knowledge, assistance, and oversight that Doug provides to our foundation.

And speaking of financial matters, our local financial advisors – Ron Scharer at Scharer Investment Consultants; Ken Vincent, Kit Fogle, and Lars Olson at Merrill Lynch; Dan Wigton, David Campbell, and Ryan Campbell at Stifel Nicolaus; and, Richard Dixon at Wells Fargo Advisors – are amazing. While staying within institutional investment guidelines, these financial advisors continue to show excellent performance whether the markets are up or down. Their expertise and acumen allow the foundation’s endowed assets to produce the income that funds our numerous scholarships and grants.

The real brains and heart of the foundation are our Board of Trustees. These fifteen volunteers from the community bring breadth and depth of intelligence and awareness to the table. They are a completely active and involved group, each of whom are devoted to the well-being of the foundation in all its aspects. See page 4 for a list our current board members.

And speaking of programs, we welcome our new Program Manager, Julie Prettyman, who will oversee our grants and scholarship programs. Julie has a strong background in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors and I know she will be another dedicated part of the foundation team.

Last, but not least, MCF is supported by our donors. None of what we do in the Marion Community would exist if our many donors had not been so generous and forward-looking. Our donors have trusted us to help them create, grow, and manage their funds and to invest in the programs and people of Marion.

I’m the new kid on the block. My job – for both the short term and the long term – is to listen to and learn from these amazing people that I work with and work for. And perhaps most important, my job is to listen to and learn from you – our donors, fund advisors, grant recipients, and other interested community members – who make Marion Community Foundation such a trusted resource in Marion.

Dean L. Jacob is the president & CEO of Marion Community Foundation

Grants continued from page 1

-- $300 from the KSAN Charis Fund for the charitable purposes of the Rafiki Foundation;
-- $500 from the KSAN Charis Fund to the Marion County Historical Society in memory of Trella Romine;
-- $1,000 from the KSAN Charis Fund in support of the charitable purposes of the Italk Autism Foundation;
-- $500 from the R&C Non-Endowed Fund to the Marion Concert Band in sponsorship of the Midwest Vocalfest;
-- $125,000 from the Marion Palace Theatre Perpetual Care Fund to the Palace Cultural Arts Association to address the structural issues with the marquee and front facade of the Palace Theatre building; and,
-- $320 from the Jerry Davis Prairie Parks Foundation Fund for the charitable purposes of the Prairie Parks Foundation.
Trustees Elect New Board Members

Four new members have been welcomed to the Marion Community Foundation Board of Trustees, announced president and CEO Dean L. Jacob. The new board members include: Kathy Goodman, Rev. Daniel Kiger, John C. Bartram and Lowell Thurston. MCF’s board has a total of 15 members.

Kathy Goodman is a retired educator, having worked with the Marion City schools and the I CAN Center of Excellence.

She is a past president of the United Way of Marion County Board of Directors and current president of the Rushmore Academy Board of Directors. She is active in Marion’s First Presbyterian Church.

A graduate of Marion Harding High School, she holds degrees from DePauw and Akron universities.

Rev. Daniel Kiger is a native of Lancaster and a graduate of Zanesville High School, Princeton University, and Harvard Divinity School. He is a retired United Methodist minister, having served congregations in Lima, Columbus, Athens and Marion and as Director of Pastoral Care at Marion General Hospital for 13 years.

A native of Marion, John C. Bartram is a graduate of Marion Harding High School, Ohio Wesleyan University and Northwestern University School of Law.

In addition to 40 years of private law practice, he served as public defender and assistant Marion County prosecutor. He is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association, past president of the Marion County Bar Association and is a Fellow of the Ohio State Bar Foundation.

Bartram is active with the Marion Rotary Club and has served as chairman of both Marion General Hospital’s Board and Foundation. He is a Trustee of the Henry A. True Trust. He is active with the First Presbyterian Church.

Lowell Thurston is the owner of Carroll’s Jewelers, a graduate of Bowling Green State University and the Gemological Institute of America, and a certified gemologist with the American Gem Society.

Thurston has a long history of community involvement, including: the Marion County Welfare Board, Marion Area Chamber of Commerce, Marion Therapy Center, Marion Residential Board, Marion Family YMCA, and the Marion Popcorn Festival.

He is a long-standing member of Rotary at both the local and district levels, as well as the Palace Cultural Arts Association. He has served the Marion City Schools, Tri-Rivers Career Center’s Advisory Board, and on the Marion City Planning Commission. He was appointed to the Mayor’s Community Development Block Revolving Loan Committee. Additionally, he has volunteered for Easter Seals, the American Cancer Society, and Kids for Christmas, among others.

Marion Community Foundation’s other board members include: Susie Brown (chair), Dr. Charles Garvin (vice chair), Nicole Workman (secretary), Megan Queen (treasurer), Larry Geissler, Rex Parrott, Dr. Scott Yancey, Ted Graham, Judge Thomas K. Jenkins, Dr. James Barney, and Dr. Kimberly Stark.