Scholarship Awards Top $91K

Marion Community Foundation is proud to announce its 2010 Scholarship Program awards — more than $91,000, in 89 scholarships, to be given to 74 local students. This represents an increase of $40,000 in awards over last year.

"One of the remarkable things about philanthropy, and the Marion community in particular, is generosity in difficult times," said MCF President Brad Bebout. "Donors to our scholarship funds understand the importance of education for future generations and have responded, enabling us to make substantial awards this year."

Bebout noted that applications for the scholarship program were up nearly 50 percent over previous years and a marked increase came in applications from area students attending college. The average scholarship award is nearly $1,000.

"We've always received applications from high school seniors; however, now that Marion Community Foundation has been around for a number of years, we have reached the point where students who have gone off to college remember us and come back home for continued help with their educational goals."

The 2010 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: board members Tom Johnston (chair), Dr. Charlie Garvin, Sue Jacob, Larry Geissler and Doug Ford, as well as The Ohio State University at Marion Director of Student Services, Michael Short.

The 2010 scholarship funds and their award recipients are as follows:

Adam Johnston Memorial Scholarship -- for Ridgedale High School seniors -- awarded to Katherine Eberhardt ($525);

Alex Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors -- awarded to Alicia Blevins ($1,450);

Andrew Wigton Memorial Scholarship -- for Pleasant High School seniors -- awarded to Austin Duncan ($600);

Aris Kasotis Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors -- awarded to Geoffrey B. Baird ($1,000);

Carole S. Geissler Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors and graduates pursuing degrees in education -- awarded to Holli Gattsahl ($1,000);

Christopher B. Ream Scholarship -- for Marion County students pursuing degrees in special education or obstetrics -- awarded to McKenzie Orsini-Thomas ($1,125);

Danny C. Sipes Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors and baseball team members -- awarded to Asher Rumble ($2,100);

Douglas & Elaine Waring Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion County high school seniors -- awarded to Steven Barber ($575), Thomas Owings ($575), Mary Jones ($575), and Hannah Stoltzfus ($575);

Erin Y. James Memorial Scholarship -- for North Union High School seniors -- awarded to Autumn Bumgamer ($700);

Eugene & Cecilia Rieszczynski Scholarship -- for Marion County students -- awarded to Michele Zentkovich ($1,000), Lauren Prettyman ($1,000), Breck Willis ($1,000), Meredith Andrews ($1,000), Rebekah Gliem ($1,000), and Katherine Eberhardt ($500);

Gary W. Troll Memorial Scholarship -- in 2010, for seniors attending Seneca County high schools -- awarded to Brittany Twigg ($850);

Gene Jerew Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion County students -- awarded to Kean Reel ($1,000);

Gregory A. Rees Memorial Scholarship -- in 2010, for seniors attending Georgetown (Texas) High School -- awarded to Jordan Sheffield ($1,000);

Hazel B. & A.B. Augenstein Scholarship -- for River Valley High School seniors (4-year award) -- awarded to Heather M. Gorslin ($1,000, 1st year);

Helen & Bob Bintz Scholarship -- for Marion County students attending the University of Dayton -- awarded to Erin Baldinger ($1,000), Emily Sheridan ($1,000), Amanda Myers ($1,000), and Tyler Feaver ($750);

Helen E. Evans Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors pursuing degrees in education -- awarded to Megan Herr ($1,200);

Herbert Tillet Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors pursuing degrees in education -- awarded to Brook Corney ($250);

Jeanette White Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors and graduates pursuing careers in veterinary medicine -- awarded to Tyler Fields ($400);

Joe Petrich & Al Beach Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors who have participated in the interscholastic athletic program -- awarded to Madison Mackay ($800);

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SSG Shannon M. Smith
"No Fear" Scholarship Fund

Created by the friends and family of Shannon M. Smith, this new scholarship memorializes the only soldier from Marion to die in Iraq. A 1997 graduate of Marion Harding High School, Smith was killed in action on September 9, 2005, in Baji, Iraq, while fighting the Global War on Terror.

A scholarship will be awarded annually, beginning in 2011 to a senior from either Big Walnut or Marion Harding high schools who participated in interscholastic wrestling. Smith, a wrestler from the age of six, had planned throughout his childhood to go to college to pursue wrestling. Shortly after high school, he changed his plans and joined the US Army.

According to his widow, Cassie, although Shannon did not like war, he felt it was necessary to protect our country and all that it represents. Smith was more than a soldier; he was a dedicated husband, a loving son, a devoted friend and a loyal battle buddy in his 12th year of military service when he made the ultimate sacrifice.

To honor SSG Shannon M Smith, his scholarship will be awarded to a student in the upper 50 percent of his or her graduating class who shows courage, determination, self-less service, honor, dignity, respect and above all, "No Fear."

The selection committee for the No Fear Scholarship will include a relative of Shannon M. Smith and the wrestling coach and an administrator from Marion Harding and Big Walnut high schools.

Marge Sorreles Davies Memorial Scholarship Fund

This new scholarship fund was created in memory of Marge Sorreles Davies, wife of Bob Davies and mother of former Harding Home director Melinda Gilpin. The scholarship will support area nursing students and begin making awards in 2011.

Davies passed in February at the age of 82. A Marion native, she was a graduate of the former Green Camp High School, the White Cross School of Nursing, and The Ohio State University. Her nursing career spanned 50+ years and included 15 years as director of nursing for the Marion County Health Department, as well as employment at Marion General and the former MedCenter hospitals.

To be eligible for the Davies Scholarship, applicants must be a senior or graduate of a high school located in Marion County and be ranked in the upper 25th percentile of his or her high school graduating class or have at least a 3.0 grade point average. If in college and, be pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. Special consideration will be given to seniors and graduates of Elgin High School.

According to Gilpin, “We knew there was no better way to honor Mom than with a scholarship; and, no better place to do that than at Marion Community Foundation.”

SCHOLARSHIPS (continued from page 1)

John & Carol Bobienz Scholarship -- for River Valley High School seniors -- awarded to Karelyn Holston ($1,000);

Judge Thomas K. Jenkins Scholarship -- for Marion County graduates to attend law school -- awarded to Jeremy D. Burkhardt ($1,425), Brian J. Dean ($1,425), and Sean P. Williamson ($1,425);

Kenny Martin Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School graduates or seniors -- awarded to Geoffrey Baird ($1,187.50), Kristian Irey ($1,187.50), Ariel Mastro ($1,187.50), and Janelle Wilson ($1,187.50);

Mandy Kruder Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors pursuing degrees in education -- awarded to Joy Fetter ($2,000), Maci Rife ($2,000), and Brook Cornely ($1,600);

Marion Academy of Medicine Scholarship -- for Marion County graduates to attend medical school -- awarded to Eric E. Vangeloff ($850);

Marion Area Auxiliary Scholarship -- for Marion County students pursuing education in health care or medical sciences -- awarded to Andrew C. Conway ($1,000), Caitlin E. Haycock ($1,000), Amber M. Kreis ($1,000), Hannah E. Loya ($1,000), and Mary J. Meyer ($1,000);

Marion Elks Lodge #32 Scholarship -- for high school seniors residing in Marion and contiguous counties -- awarded to Matthew Scharf ($600) and Ericka Kneisi ($600);

Pleasant Local Schools Board of Education Scholarship -- for Pleasant High School seniors in the upper 25th percentile of their graduating class -- awarded to Rochelle Vance ($1,000), Preeym Gandhi ($1,000), Nathan Alexander ($1,000), Natalie Field ($1,000), Michele Zentkovich ($1,000), and Ellen Dutton ($1,000);

Ridgemont Scholarship -- for seniors and graduates of Ridgemont High School (Ridgeway, Ohio) -- awarded to Briana Bodine ($1,000), Rachel Eastman ($1,000), Paige Guenther ($1,000), Benjamin Ray ($1,500), Matthew Scharf ($1,000), Breanna Schrader ($1,000), Aaron Scott ($1,000), Robin Shafer ($1,500), and Stephanie Taylor ($1,000);

Robert M & Dorothy C. Wopat Scholarship -- for Marion County high school seniors and graduates -- awarded to Amanda Worstell ($1,350), Alexander Langley-Maddy ($1,000), Abby Bailey ($1,000), and Natalie Field ($1,000);

Rocco Nicolosi Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion County high school seniors -- awarded to Madison Mackay ($750);

Sharon Bender Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors pursuing a degree in education -- awarded to Maci Rife ($500);

Sims Family Scholarship -- for Pleasant High School seniors -- awarded to Lindsey Hayes ($500) and Steven Barber ($500);

Stephanie K. Lust Memorial Scholarship -- for Pleasant High School seniors -- awarded to Austin Duncan ($1,487.50) and Rochelle Vance ($1,487.50);

Taft Middle School Music Department Scholarship -- for Marion Harding High School seniors who have participated in music programs and attended schools in the former Taft Middle School district -- awarded to Megan N. Herr ($800);

(continued on page 3)
SCHOLARSHIPS (continued from page 2)

Ted Mitchell Memorial Scholarship -- for Marion area high
school students to attend The Ohio State University -- awarded to
Elizabeth Bender ($1,275) and Cody Price ($1,000);

The Craig Scholarship -- for seniors of Ridgedale High School
-- awarded to Mollie Galloway ($1,000);

Ula McNamara Watts Performing Arts Scholarship -- for high
school seniors pursuing degrees in the performing arts -- award-
ed to Breck Willis ($1,150);

Vera O. McDanel Scholarship -- for Marion County high school
seniors and graduates -- awarded to Josh Campbell ($1,000),
Jameson Boblenz ($1,000), Seth Hinkin ($1,000), Michaela
Phillians ($1,000), Hannah Schlichting ($1,000), and Nathan
Alexander ($850);

Wayne Hoch Memorial Scholarship -- for Pleasant High School
graduates and seniors -- awarded to Rachel Probst ($250);

William and Marjorie Grover Scholarship -- for seniors and
graduates of Pleasant High School -- awarded to Madeleine Agler
($500);

Youth Engaged in Philanthropy Scholarship -- for Marion
County high school seniors who have demonstrated commit-
tment and dedication to community service, volunteerism, and phi-
lanthropy -- awarded to Kristian L. Irey ($1,000); and,

Founders’ Fund Scholarship -- for Marion County scholars --
awarded to Bryan ‘Colton’ Bowers ($500).

Center Street Community Health
Center Seeks to Add Dental Clinic

The Center Street Community Health Center, led by executive
director Cliff Edwards, is seeking funds for a much needed dental
clinic to be added to CSCCH. The dental clinic is a requirement of
a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) grant the organization
has already received, however, approximately $200,000 in
matching funds needs to be raised locally.

CSCCH has approached Marion Community Foundation and
other organizations such as United Way of Marion County,
Marion General Hospital, and the MGH Foundation to assist with
fund raising. Marion Community Foundation has agreed to pro-
vide $50,000 for the project.

“Gifts to the Center Street Community Health Center are noth-
ing new for Marion Community Foundation,” noted president
Brad Bebout. “The Foundation has an on-going relationship with
the Health Center and has provided substantial grants to the
organization since its inception.” To date, MCF has provided
more than $1.3 million in grants to CSCCH as part of the directive
of its original and largest fund, the Healthcare Fund, to provide
healthcare access to Marion residents. MCF itself was created in
1998 from the proceeds of the sale of the former MedCenter
Hospital and has, understandably, maintained a focus on health-
care access ever since.

A free dental clinic was one of the needs identified in a previous
community needs assessment conducted by a partnership of local
organizations, including MCF, United Way, ADAMH and Job and
Family Services.

P.I.T. Stop
PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT TIPS

by Bradley C. Bebout
President of Marion Community Foundation

Who is our customer? Actually, I don’t feel very comfort-
able with the term “customer.” It seems too impersonal for
what we do at Marion Community Foundation. After all,
we’re not selling widgets. I suppose that I could use the term
“client,” which might be more descriptive considering our
fiduciary responsibilities to the people and organizations we
serve. But, I digress.

At a Marion Community Foundation board retreat several
years ago, we asked ourselves, “Who is our customer?” The
first group that came to mind consisted of the many non-
profit organizations in Marion County that receive our grants.
But, then, we considered the many scholars -- 74 of whom will
receive more than $91,000 in scholarship awards this year
alone. After further thought and discussion, we realized that,
in fact, our main customer is the donor who creates a fund at
Marion Community Foundation. I think all of us were a bit
surprised by that realization.

Our Mission Statement directs us to foster philanthropy by
providing a vehicle for planned giving. It all makes sense. If
we can help good people do good things in our community
by the creation of charitable funds that will last forever, then
we will necessarily help scholars receive quality educations
and help area non-profits administer effective programs.

By being a trusted clearinghouse for planned giving in our
community, we provide an effective and trusted tool that
connects good people to charitable causes important to them.
So although donors are our main “customers,” the entire com-
community benefits from the services we provide.

If you would like more information, please call us at 387-
9704. Just ask for “Customer Service.”

P.I.T. Stop is a series of Philanthropic Investment Tips from Marion
Community Foundation’s president, Brad Bebout, an
attorney since 1980.
MTC to Manage Harding Sites

It began as a suggestion via Marion Community Foundation; and, now, Marion Technical College has stepped up to the plate to save a major piece of Marion history. Following a threatened closing of the Harding Home and Memorial by the Ohio Historical Society, due to budget reductions, MTC has come forward to undertake the local management of these landmarks.

When it became apparent that OHS had slated the Harding site for closure, site manager Sherry Hall contacted Marion Community Foundation for funding and partnership ideas. President Brad Bebout facilitated local discussion of the situation and approached a number of local organizations deemed to be a logical fit for sustaining the historical sites. MTC, led by Andy Harper, vice president of student services and institutional advancement, rapidly organized the necessary support.

“WWhen we were first approached,” said Harper, “we thought that it would be a difficult venture; then, we began to see it in terms of opportunities.” MTC is actively developing a co-op and internship program in conjunction with the Harding sites. Top priorities include the development of audio and video presentations and a new website. According to Harper, the creation of an audio walking tour program is already in progress and the website is nearing completion. MTC student will also be involved in the creation of a comprehensive Harding history CD that will become available for purchase in the Home’s gift shop.

MTC has taken on daily operations, receiving a $105,000 subsidy from the Ohio Historical Society. The state retains ownership of the sites and will continue to be responsible for major capital improvements and maintenance. The current staff and hours of operation – Noon-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday – will remain the same. In addition to Hall, the staff includes technician Gene Peek and interpreters Shannon Morris and Sarah Gilliam.

Cheryl Kellogg, MTC cooperative education coordinator and an avid presidential history buff, will be the program administrator; handling business operations and fund raising. MTC officials are working with MCF to establish an endowed fund for the Harding Home and Memorial.

“We don’t want to go through this again and have the Harding sites at risk,” Harper said. “We want to put funding in place that will ensure that they are in existence forever.”

Hall described MTC as “emotionally invested” in the Harding sites. “They seem to be making not only a financial, but also a moral commitment to this valuable piece of Marion history,” she said. “We couldn’t be more pleased.”

An advisory council is being formed, including representatives from MTC, MCF, OSLUM, the Marion Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Marion and other community organizations.

“We want to provide better and more access to the sites,” noted Harper. Public programs, such as lunchtime lectures on the famed Front Porch, are at the top of the list of new program ideas. “We want to make sure the community is stopping in for a visit,” he said.

“MTC’s management of the Harding Home and Memorial is a really good option for the college, the community, our students, and the sites,” said MTC’s Harper. “It means local control of local history. Warren and Florence can look down and smile.”

Warren G. Harding was the 29th president of the United States. During his presidential campaign, the front porch of the home gained iconic status as the venue for his public speeches. Built in 1891, the home contains original furnishings owned by President Harding and his wife, Florence. Adjacent to the Harding Home is a press house, used during the 1920 campaign, which now serves as a museum dedicated to the Hardings.

The Memorial was completed in 1927, following Harding’s untimely death in office in 1923. Built of white Georgia marble, it is the final resting place for both Harding and his wife.