Scholarships Top $100,000

The Marion Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2011 scholarship program, according to president Brad Bebout. Awards from 43 funds total in excess of $100,000 – double the awards from just two years ago. A total of 99 scholarships were awarded to 85 recipients.

“The scholarship program at Marion Community Foundation continues to grow thanks to an ever-increasing number of new funds and unprecedented gifts such as was given by the late Robert and Dorothy Wopat,” says Bebout, noting an increase of more than 20 scholarship funds at MCF in the past two years. “We also saw a surge in the number of applications from area college students with the addition of our online application process.”

The 2011 scholarship awards and recipients are as follows:

Alex Scholarship – for Marion Harding High School seniors pursuing a degree in history – awarded to Jade Lackey ($600) and Katherine Reid ($600);

Hazel B. & A.B. Augenstein Scholarship – a 4-year scholarship for River Valley High School seniors – awarded to Casey Swonger (up to $1,000 annually);

Sharon Bender Memorial Scholarship – for Marion Harding High School seniors pursuing a degree in education – awarded to Rebecca Darling ($450);

Helen B. & Bob Bintz Scholarship – for Marion County seniors or graduates attending the University of Dayton – awarded to Erin Baldinger ($2,250) and Mary Martin ($1,000);

John & Carol Boblenz Scholarship – for River Valley High School seniors – awarded to Misty Cushing ($1,000);

The Community’s Memorial Scholarship – for Marion County seniors and graduates – awarded to Kaleigh Keplinger ($225);

The Craig Scholarship – for seniors of Ridgedale High School – awarded to Mark Forry ($500) and Michael Forry ($500);

Marge Sorrelles Davies Memorial Scholarship – for Marion County seniors or graduates pursuing a degree in nursing – awarded to Madeleine Agler ($500);

Marion Elks Lodge No.32 Scholarship – for high school seniors residing in Marion, Delaware, Union,

Hardin, Wyandot, Morrow, or Crawford counties – awarded to Hillary Hall ($500) and Meagan Lyons ($500);

Helen E. Evans Scholarship – for Marion Harding High School seniors pursuing degrees and careers in education – awarded to Gabrielle Draper-Miller ($1,000);

Carol S. Geissler Memorial Scholarship – for Marion Harding High School seniors pursuing degrees in education – awarded to Holli Gattshall ($1,000);

William & Marjorie Grover Scholarship – for Pleasant High School seniors and graduates – awarded to Paityn Baldauf ($500);

Wayne Hoch Memorial Scholarship – for Pleasant High School seniors or graduates who will be attending a college or university located in Ohio – awarded to Maggie Dean ($250);

Roger & Donna Holbrook Memorial Scholarship – for Pleasant High School seniors and graduates active in a range of extracurricular activities – awarded to Lauren Verity ($1,000);

Erin Y. James Memorial Scholarship – for North Union High School seniors – awarded to Hillary Hall ($650);

Judge Thomas K. Jenkins Scholarship – for Marion County graduates to attend law school – awarded to Megan Kaufman ($3,700);

Gene Jerew Memorial Scholarship – for Marion County seniors – awarded to Kaleigh Keplinger ($850);

Adam Johnston Memorial Scholarship – for Ridgedale High School seniors – awarded to Galyssa Ratterman ($500);

Aris Kasotis Memorial Scholarship – for Marion Harding High School seniors – awarded to Ryan Howard ($400) and Nathan Woodrum ($400);

Mandy Kruder Memorial Scholarship – for Marion Harding High School seniors pursuing degrees in education – awarded to Rebecca Darling ($1,500) and Mally Reber ($1,500);

Stephanie K. Lust Memorial Scholarship – for Pleasant High School seniors – awarded to Perry Reynolds ($1,300) and Lauren Verity ($1,300);

Marion Area Auxiliary Scholarship – for Marion County seniors pursuing education and careers in health care or medical science – awarded to Kasarah Darst ($1,000), Christopher DePuy ($1,000), Shane Hoskins ($1,000), Kelsi Lauer ($1,000) and Shelbi Turner ($1,000);

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Online Application A Great Success

New to this year’s MCF Scholarship Program was the addition of an online application option. Made possible by a program purchased from ScholarSelect and personalized locally, the new online application enabled local high school and area college students to complete the entire application process online. The system was also accessible to donors and scholarship selection committee members, who were able to review completed applications online in a secure environment.

“We consider the launch of the online application to be extremely successful,” says MCF president and CEO, Brad Bebout. “It shows much promise for our growing scholarship program.” According to Bebout, the online application was widely lauded by applicants, donors, guidance counselors, and review committee members alike.

“There is no doubt that the online application made it easier and quicker for applicants to gather their required information and complete our application process,” says Bebout. “We saw a significant surge in the number of college students applying, directly resulting from the availability of an online application.”

New Fund Supports Red Cross

Several friends of the Marion Chapter of the American Red Cross have donated a total of $10,230 to create the Marion County Red Cross Endowment Fund, a designated fund at Marion Community Foundation. This fund will make annual grants to the local Red Cross, specifically for its charitable purposes, beginning in 2012.

Scholarships continued from page 1

Kenny Martin Memorial Scholarship — for Marion Harding High School graduates or seniors — awarded to Jeremy Cranmer ($2,000) and Casey Slane ($2,000);

Vera O. McDaniel Scholarship — for Marion County seniors and graduates — awarded to Brittany Morgan ($1,000), Megan Nelson ($1,000), Dominic Placentini ($1,500) and Samantha Walter ($1,000);

Ted Mitchell Memorial Scholarship — for Marion County seniors or graduates attending The Ohio State University — awarded to Lauren Prettyman ($850) and Haleigh Thompson ($1,000);

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

Joe Petrich & Al Beach Memorial Scholarship — for Marion Harding High School seniors who have participated in interscholastic athletic programs — awarded to Gene Rucker ($750);

Pleasant Local Schools Board of Education Scholarship — for Pleasant High School seniors — awarded to Julia Burton ($1,000), Marc LeRoy ($1,000), Jennifer St. John ($1,000), Emily Stephens ($1,000) and Jessica Swope ($1,000);

Christopher B. Ream Scholarship — for Marion County seniors pursuing degrees in special education or obstetrics — awarded to Sierra Larcorn ($1,000);

Gregory A. Rees Memorial Scholarship — for a graduating senior of Marion Harding High School — awarded to Allison James ($1,000);

Eugene & Cecilia Resczynski Scholarship — for Marion County seniors and graduates — awarded to Carolyn Bailey ($1,000), Ethan Craig ($1,000), Michael Forry ($750), Cole Jenkins ($1,000) and Michael Oney ($1,000);

Ridgemont Scholarship — for Ridgeview High School (Ridgeway, Ohio) seniors and graduates — awarded to Rachel Eastman ($1,000), Tyler Furer ($1,000), Paige Guehther ($1,000), Brooke Hughes ($1,000), Raechel Lautenschlager ($1,000), Malana Ledley ($1,000), Amber Pemberton ($1,000), Miranda Roehler ($1,000), Breanna Schrader ($1,000), Robin Shafer ($1,000), Stephen Smith ($1,000) and Heather Winogradner ($1,000);

Sims Family Scholarship — for Pleasant High School seniors — awarded to Eli Bibler ($1,000);

Danny C. Sipes Memorial Scholarship — for Marion Harding High School seniors and baseball team members — awarded to Tyler Haas ($1,800);

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 Dylan Johnson ($700);

Herbert Tillett Scholarship — for Marion Harding High School seniors pursuing degrees in education — awarded to Holli Gattshall ($225);

Gary W. Troll Memorial Scholarship — for seniors attending Carey, Mohawk, or Upper Sandusky Local high schools — awarded to Chelsie Schwart ($725);

Douglas & Elaine Waring Memorial Scholarship — for Marion County high school seniors — awarded to Mitch Augenstein ($1,000) and Emily Springer ($1,000);

John & Jackie Watkins Scholarship — for Marion County seniors and graduates pursuing a degree in agriculture — awarded to Mark Forry ($225);

Andrew Wigton Memorial Scholarship — for Pleasant High School seniors — awarded to Paityn Baldauf ($750) and Perry Reynolds ($750);

Jeanette White Memorial Scholarship — for Marion Harding High School seniors and graduates pursuing careers in veterinary medicine — awarded to Tyler Fields ($350);

Robert M. & Dorothy C. Wopat Scholarship — for Marion County high school seniors and graduates — awarded to Joshua Campbell ($2,000), Misty Cushing ($1,000), Patrick Farmer ($1,000), Rebekah Gliem ($1,000), Bailey Higgins ($1,000), Kristian Irey ($2,000), Kelsi Lauer ($1,000), Taylor McCurdy ($1,000), Victoria Meadows ($1,000), Kayla Mohr ($2,000), Brandon Riedlinger ($1,000), Charity Taylor ($1,000), Kathryn Westbrook ($2,000), Cade Weston ($1,000), Patrick Weston ($2,000), Janelle Wilson ($1,000) and Michele Zentkovich ($1,000);

Youth Engaged in Philanthropy Scholarship — for Marion County seniors with demonstrated community service — awarded to Angelica Dye ($1,000).

A total of 135 applications to the 2011 scholarship program were reviewed by the Foundation’s scholarship committee: Tom Johnston, Larry Geissler, Sue Jacob, Doug Ford and Charles Garvin. Final award decisions were confirmed by MCF’s Board of Trustees.
Migrating Funds Flock to MCF

The number of endowments created prior to Marion Community Foundation, but now moving to MCF, is increasing, says Brad Bebout, president and CEO of Marion Community Foundation. Known in foundation parlance as “migrating” funds, these funds demonstrate donors’ confidence in the Foundation’s stewardship.

Two major funds recently migrating include the Marion Technical College Foundation and Marion Palace Theatre Perpetual Care funds, with assets of approximately $750,000 and $500,000, respectively. Both of these funds existed prior to Marion Community Foundation and add substantially to the Foundation’s value.

By placing these funds with Marion Community Foundation, both MTC and the Palace will continue to receive benefit from their funds in perpetuity. What changes for the organizations is that MCF will now perform the administrative duties such as investment services, audits and government reports.

“At Marion Community Foundation, we know that decisions to move the management of such substantial funds comes only after time consuming and thorough research. We are very pleased that those responsible for safeguarding these funds for MTC and the Palace chose to place their confidence with Marion Community Foundation,” says Bebout.

MCF, with assets approaching $40 million, invests the money entrusted to it according to fiscally responsible investment and spending policies. These policies are executed by four local financial advisors, under the guidance of the Foundation’s investment committee and its Chief Investment Officer, Lancaster Pollard Investment Advisory Group. MCF’s investment committee includes: Larry Geissler, Ted Graham, Judge Thomas Jenkins, Roger Vanover, Fred Manter and Jerry Davis.

“There may come a time with independent funds, trusts, and similar entities, where the trustees become tired and overworked by the administrative duties and financial burdens of maintaining such funds, ” explains Bebout. “This is where a professional philanthropic organization such as a community foundation becomes a good option.”

Other funds which have migrated to MCF include: Mary C. Lombardo’s St. Vincent de Paul Society Fund, Helen Cunningham Handicapped Fund, Rocco Nicolosi Memorial Scholarship Fund, Father Fred Furey Scholarship Fund, Stephen J. Chaney Memorial Scholarship, John & Jackie Watkins Scholarship Fund and Louise Kling Memorial Scholarship Fund.

MCF holds National Standards accreditation by the Council on Foundations. This recognizes the nation’s highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability.

P.I.T. Stop
PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT TIPS

by Bradley C. Bebout,
President of Marion Community Foundation

We take our commitment to the health and longevity of our endowed funds very seriously. We promise that they will be here forever. In our last issue of Legacy, we told you that that we have hired Lancaster Pollard as our Chief Investment Officer. It was a big step for our organization, but we felt it was necessary because of the growing complexities of the investment world. Our CIO will help and advise us as we monitor the performance of our investments. Our CIO will also work with our local financial advisors to coordinate their efforts and to help them comply with our new plan for asset allocation.

Our plan for asset allocation wasn’t an accident. It was carefully considered and thoughtfully designed under the guidance of our CIO. It became the foundation of our new Investment Policy that was adopted by our Board of Trustees on April 28 at the recommendation of MCF’s Investment Committee. Our Investment Policy had been essentially untouched since it was adopted in 1999, soon after MCF was born. Much has changed since then. We believe that our new Investment Policy satisfies the community’s desire for fiscally sound investment. After all, a community foundation’s assets should not be invested the same way an individual invests his or her assets. The goals are markedly different. The individual has an end game. The individual plans to use the assets in retirement or pass them on to heirs or charity. The community foundation does not have an end game. As I said in the beginning of this article, our endowed funds will be here forever.

Another goal that is different for a community foundation is risk tolerance. The individual might be willing to be aggressive or even take some risks. The individual has to answer only to himself or herself. Your community foundation has to answer not only to its donors, but also to the community. Therefore, although a segment of our investments might be aggressive, our investment philosophy minimizes risk.

Another important goal of our new Investment Policy is to reduce volatility in an otherwise volatile market. One important way to reduce volatility is to devise asset allocation that includes components that perform well when the other components do not. Correlation is the buzz word.

We think the timing is right for adoption of our new Investment Policy and the hiring of our new CIO. We have now received almost the entire $16 million gift from Robert and Dorothy Wopat. In only 8 years, our assets have grown from less than $10 million to nearly $40 million! We don’t have to experience growing pains as long as we’re smart about our growth.
Grant Applications Available in June

Beginning in June, non-profit organizations in Marion County have potential access to nearly $500,000 in grant funds via the 2011 Marion Community Foundation Grant Program.

According to MCF president Brad Bebout, the Foundation will soon issue its formal Request for Proposals to all area not-for-profit organizations. Applications, which will be due in July, will be available at the Foundation's offices, 504 S. State St., or online at marioncommunityfoundation.org. Award decisions will be made by the Grants Committee and Board of Trustees by late August and recipients announced in September.

"We understand that compiling all of the information required for the grant application process takes time and effort and, therefore, encourage those considering applying to begin their grant applications as soon as possible," says Bebout.

An information session for potential grantees will be offered and include an outline of the grant process and description of the priorities the Foundation's grants committee will use to select recipients. Those interested in this information session should contact MCF by calling 387-9704.

The competitive grant program draws from the following 12 funds managed by MCF specifically for the purpose of supporting local charitable programs and organizations: Health Care Fund, Henry Heinzeimmann Community Food Pantry Fund, Francis & Thelma Wise Fund, Helen Cunningham Handicapped Fund, Robert M. & Dorothy C. Wopat Community Fund, and Vera O. McDaniel Senior Citizens Transportation Fund.

Grants from the following unrestricted funds are available for projects, programs and organizations that support any worthy charitable cause in Marion County, as determined by MCF's Board of Trustees: "C" Fund, Founders' Fund, Chester and Mildred Roberts Fund, Conway Family Charitable Fund, Kenny Martin Charitable Fund and A. Merle Hamilton Fund.

In the past 12 years, MCF has awarded approximately $5 million in grants and scholarships.

Youth Engaged in Philanthropy Wraps Up Successful Year

Youth Engaged in Philanthropy, the local student organization more commonly referred to as YEP, has completed another successful year with its annual recognition luncheon. YEP was guided during the 2010-2011 academic year by Pleasant High School senior Dominic Piacentini.

The members of YEP are the donor advisors to the Youth Engaged in Philanthropy Fund at MCF. Each year, the fund makes grants suggested by the members of YEP. This year, the group used part of the grant to purchase material to make soft fleece blankets presented to young residents at Marion's Homeless Shelter, who could use a little extra comfort. Each blanket was made by YEP members.

Later in the year, YEP requested grant applications from area agencies to identify other community needs. As a result, YEP selected Turning Point as a grant recipient. The YEP members will use the grant money to sponsor a weeklong summer day-camp for children residing at Turning Point. The members are in the process of creating activities which they will lead.

Throughout the year, YEP members have also helped serve at the Salvation Army’s community kitchen.

YEP's Scholarship Committee served as the donor selection committee to recommend the recipient of the YEP Scholarship. This year’s recipient of the $1,000 scholarship award is Angelica Dye (see story page 1). Angelica was selected based upon her commitment to community service, philanthropy and volunteerism. Without seeing the applicants’ names, the YEP committee reviewed the activities, personal statement, and letters of recommendation of 45 applicants. Angelica was an honorable mention winner of MCF’s 10th Birthday Celebration essay contest in 2008.