

The Darke County Foundation is a community foundation dedicated to improving the lives of Darke County residents by receiving, managing and distributing charitable gifts.

Pohls Start Scholarship Fund

Versailles residents Harold and Deb Pohl have established a new scholarship fund at the Darke County Foundation. Exclusively for Versailles High School graduates, the first scholarship will be awarded to a 2026 graduate and will be renewable for 4 years.

As a permanent endowment, the fund will provide a renewable scholarship every year to a graduating senior. Distributing only investment income, the Harold and Debra Pohl Scholarship will remain a lasting legacy.

The Pohls have been lifelong supporters of the Versailles community, contributing to many programs and projects that have fortified and enriched their village. Their strong allegiance to Versailles Schools, student activities, and career development motivated the couple to set up the scholarship. They especially wanted to assist students with limited financial resources and those who work hard but don't get perfect grades.

"We have been thinking about starting a scholarship for a long time and finally decided to take the step," said Harold. "We believe strongly in education, whether it's gaining a technical certificate, a 4-year degree, or more."

"We hope that announcing this scholarship will inspire other donors to start a fund of their own to help students," added Harold.

Deb said, "We just love watching Versailles students participate in their activities, from athletics to music, academics, and the theater. We are proud to see them excel at so many things! We want our scholarship to reward a student who puts their heart into their work."

The impact the Pohls have made in Versailles runs deep. Both Harold and Deb graduated from Versailles, as did their 4 children. So did/will their 5 grandchildren. Harold began working as a diesel mechanic in 1957 and went on to establish Harold J. Pohl, Inc. and Pohl Transportation. Deb is a founding member and board president of the Versailles Area Historical Society, dedicating decades to research, collection, documentation, and display of artifacts at the Versailles Area Museum. Because of their commitment to numerous causes, the couple was named grand marshals of the 2014 Poultry Days parade, and Deb was named Versailles Citizen of the Year in 2013.

The Darke County Foundation is honored to assist the Pohls in supporting an endeavor they believe in. Thank you, Harold and Deb, for making college more affordable for deserving Versailles students!



Deb and Harold Pohl

Leave Your Legacy of Love

Joy Marchal of Greenville dedicated her life to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Joy worked as a nurse and hospice director, she lovingly raised four children with her husband John, and she volunteered for many organizations that improved lives in her community. Some charitable causes were so important to Joy that she wanted to continue supporting them after she was gone. Especially close to her heart were her children's elementary school, her church, and her college alma mater.

Joy's family ensured her generous spirit would live on by establishing a permanent fund at the Darke County Foundation to benefit her three beloved organizations. Each year, a portion of the fund's investment income is distributed to the groups, while the original gift amount remains intact. The annual gifts honor Joy's life, assist worthwhile interests, and remind others of her legacy of love.

How do you want to preserve your legacy or perhaps the legacy of a loved one? Honoring a cause you care about could result in lasting benefits for a charitable purpose. Two ways the Darke County Foundation furthers legacies are through financial support to non-profit organizations and scholarships to students pursuing higher education.

The Foundation's Legacy Society allows individuals to name the Darke County Foundation in their will or trust, transferring assets when they die and establishing a fund at that time. Alternatively, many donors set up funds while still living so they can receive a tax benefit, see the fruit of their philanthropy, or make changes to



Joy Manier Marchal

(Continued on back page)

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Thanks to Lead Sponsors of the 2025 Sunshine 5K



Ray & Bettye Laughlin



Sunshine 5K Benefits Local Groups

The Darke County Foundation's 13th Sunshine 5K/1-Mile welcomed a record 664 registrations and raised \$22,000 for local non-profit organizations. The following groups rallied runners and walkers for their teams and received proceeds from the event:

- AddieGirl for Cancer Association of Darke County
- Darke County Pregnancy Help Center
- DeColores Montessori School
- Edison College Foundation
- Final Bow Center for Children's Performing Arts
- LifeWise Academy Greenville and Versailles
- Y.O.L.O. of Darke County

(Legacy continued from p. 1)

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Thank You, Donors to the Darke County Foundation

The Darke County Foundation is grateful to these donors who made gifts the past year. 100% of donations to the **Friends of the Foundation** went back into the community for programs that benefit local residents. Gifts to **Scholarship and Community Funds** include any donation to one of our other 110 funds established by donors for causes they believe in. Your generosity is helping the Foundation strengthen Darke County through education, the arts, health and wellness, community projects, and more.

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Main Street Greenville installed its fifth mural in downtown Greenville, thanks to a grant from the Darke County Foundation.

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Donate to Friends of the Foundation

If you are a past donor to the Friends of the Foundation Fund, your 2025 invitation will arrive in the mail soon! If you don't receive a Friends of the Foundation mailing, we invite you to become a member. All gifts to the Friends Fund go entirely into our community to support meaningful projects and programs. Two ways to donate:

1. Make checks payable to Darke County Foundation.
Mail to DCF, P.O. Box 438, Greenville, OH, 45331.
2. Donate online by scanning the QR code or visiting www.darkecountyfoundation.org.





\$290,000 Granted to Non-Profit Groups

Funds Providing Community Grants

J. Michael Beard Community Fund
Harold & Betty Brewer Fund for
Darke Co. Humane Society
Harold & Betty Brewer Fund for
Wayne HealthCare

Ralph and Phyllis Brumbaugh Fund
Darke Co. Agricultural Society Fund
Darke Co. Foundation Endowment Fund
Darke Co. Foundation Unrestricted Fund
Darke Co. Legal Aid Fund
Darke Co. Special Olympics Fund
Darke Co. United Way Fund
DeColores Montessori School Fund
Friends of the Foundation Fund
Ruth Elaine Furlong Fund
Grace Resurrection Community Center
Greenville City Park Fund
Helen L. Hawkey Music Project
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Sunshine 5K Event
Jean Louise Thieme Children's Theatre
Dr. Marlin D. Thompson Founder's Fund
Marlin & Shirley Thompson Fund
Ella VanDyke/St. Clair Home Fund for
Brethren Retirement Community
Beth Warner Fund for Darke County
Humane Society



The Darke County Foundation recently distributed \$290,000 in community grants, including awards to the following non-profit organizations that provide meaningful services to local residents. Here is how some grant recipients are using the money they received. Funding came from donor-directed funds and also the Friends of the Foundation Fund that is bolstered each year by hundreds of supporters.

ACES Alternative School	Art instructor for twice weekly art class
Anna Bier Art Gallery	High school art show awards and supplies
Annie Oakley Committee	Annie Oakley Days bus tours to Darke County sites
Arcanum H.S. Band	Updates/repairs on band instruments
Arcanum M.S. Drone Team	Drone equipment and competition fees
Arcanum H.S. Academic Team	Entry fees, materials to enter academic tournaments
Arcanum Public Library	Outdoor gazebo at the library
Arcanum Wayne Trail Histor. Soc.	New furnace
Bear's Mill – Darke County Parks	Better lighting on Bear's Mill second floor
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Expand Lunch Buddies program: games, snacks, supplies
Boys & Girls Club of Greenville	After-school meals for children
Bradford Schools	Art displays in school/town to highlight railroad heritage
Bradford Schools Band	Assist students in paying for band supplies
Breast Wishes Foundation	Support for Darke County breast cancer patients
Bridges to College	College visits for high school students
Cancer Association of Darke Co.	Nutritional supplements for cancer patients
Community Help Center	Wooden carts to transport food and supplies
Darke Co. Bd. Develop. Disabil.	Sensory kits for first responders to give in trauma cases
Darke County Center for the Arts	Family Theatre Series of 3 live performances
Darke County Senior Outreach	Line dancing class for senior citizens
Darke County United Way	Postage for free books mailed to all children age 0-5
Empowering Darke County Youth	Homework help for students, tutors, materials
EverHeart Hospice	Celebrations for patients' birthdays or anniversaries
Fish Choice Pantry	4 months of milk for pantry clients
Fort GreeneVille DAR	Performing artists for America 250 events
Franklin-Monroe M.S. Lego League	Robot kits, supplies, and contest fees
Franklin-Monroe Grades K-3	Book bundles for struggling readers
Franklin-Monroe H.S. Algebra	TI-84 graphing calculators to keep in classroom
Garst Museum	New air conditioners
Gateway Youth Programs	Field day supplies for at-risk youth
Greenville Fire Department	Fire safety and prevention programs for kids
Greenville Community Unity	Rent and utility assistance for families in need

(Continued on next page)

Community Grants (continued)

Greenville Grades K-1	Sensory hideaway to calm students with disabilities
Greenville Grades 1-4	Extra STEM (science, technology) activities
Greenville H.S. Zoology Lab	Assist students in purchasing anatomy kits
Greenville Municipal Concert Band	Free Sunday concerts in the park
House that Lulu Built	Free lodging for families during funerals
Illumination Ministries	Stage rental for Illumination Festival
Main Street Greenville	New speakers for Broadway light poles
Main Street Greenville - Murals	Vinyl and supplies for downtown murals
New Madison Public Library	Live performance of Harriet Tubman
Osgood Fire Department	Replace MARCS base station radio
Pittsburg Fireman's Association	Wildland/tech rescue protective equipment
Pittsburg Village	Asphalt for basketball and tennis courts
Recovery & Wellness Centers	Mental health leadership training for youth
Ronald McDonald House Dayton	Housing at Children's Hosp. for Darke Co. families
SafeHaven	Mental health services one day a weekend
Shelter From Violence	Technology upgrade, new freezer and meat
Tri-Village Gr. 2 "Patriot Partners"	Transportation to retirement home, books, bags
Upper Valley Career Center Aspire	GED testing fees for Darke County residents
Versailles Grades K-6 STEM	Hands-on building activities
Versailles M.S. Civic Leadership	Food to make 200 lunches for the homeless
YMCA of Darke County	Snacks and supplies for Healthy Kids Day

Tips for Tax Savings on Charitable Giving

As you review your year-end financial plan, keep in mind that a gift to the Darke County Foundation can benefit causes you care about and also provide a tax benefit to you. Consider the following tax-wise methods for supporting non-profit organizations or scholarships. Consult your financial advisor for the best option for you.

1. Transfer an IRA distribution.

If you are age 70½ or older, you can transfer up to \$108,000 from your traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) directly to a charity. If you are 73 or older, the transfer counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Because the distribution is not recorded as income, you avoid paying income tax, even if you don't itemize deductions. You can direct your IRA gift to any existing fund at the Darke County Foundation or set up your own fund to support designated organizations, scholarships, or fields of interest.

2. Give appreciated stock or mutual funds.

Donating appreciated securities that you have held for more than a year can provide a double tax benefit. You avoid the capital gains tax that you typically pay when you sell an asset that has appreciated in value. You can also claim the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the donation as a charitable deduction on your tax return, reducing your taxable income.

3. Bunch multiple years' gifts into one.

The standard deduction of \$15,750 for individuals/\$31,500 for couples may make it difficult to itemize charitable giving. Consider bunching multiple years' worth of donations into one tax year to push itemized deductions over the standard deduction. You get the tax deduction now to set up your fund at the Foundation. Then you can decide over time how you want to support causes that matter to you.



Organizations Show their Community Grants at Work

Greenville H.S. student Jocelyn Reier won Best of Show at the Darke County High School Art Show, hosted by the Anna Bier Gallery. Volunteers stock food at FISH Choice Pantry. At Tri-Village Elem. School, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and their Littles celebrate completing the Lunch Buddies program.



2025 Darke County Graduates Receive \$300,000 in Scholarships



Ansonia H.S.: Front: Lauren Warner, Zoey Elson, Gabriella Leeper, Ryan Ward. Back: Sophia Aultman, Ethan Sparks, Cooper Riffle, Isaiah Hartzell, Zane Henderson. Photo by Carla Ungerecht.



Bradford H.S.: Griffin Trevino, Owen Canan, Elizabeth Skinner, Avery Helman, Emma Lavey, Kaylin Richard, and Trey Manuel. Photo by Don Selanders.



Franklin-Monroe H.S.: Front: Kori Garber, Adison Tucker. Middle: Ty Riffle, Eric Brenner, Parker Patrick. Back: Presley Cox, Ashley Saylor, Allison Muhlenkamp. Photo by Lange Photo.



Mississinawa Valley H.S.: Front: Taylee Woodbury, Braden Wisner, Aubrie Cooley. Back: Syenna Purdin, Ethan Grow, Daniel Hartzell, Harley Hanes. Photo by Lifetouch.



Tri-Village H.S.: Kaylee Stark, John Milliff, Leana Metzcar, Grant Howell, Reagan Brewer, Trey Homan, and Lydia Avette. Photo by Lange Photographics.



Greenville H.S.: Front: Ashton Noggle, Gabriella Stebbins, Shyanne Gibboney, Rebekah Bunch, Elise Fugett, Kyrie Unger. Middle: Lauren Schmitmeyer, Megan Lind, Olivia Flatter, Brookelyn Schmidt, Addisyn Gathard, Emily Gilmore. Back: Elijah Silknitter, Mason Pierri, Kamdon Riethman, Owen McGreevey, Braeden Wills, Joshua Baker. Photo by Dick Brown.



Arcanum H.S.: Front: Shiloh Brown, Katelynne Michael, Payten Parks, Emma Rogers, Brooke Anderson, Anna Stump. Back: Claire Rogers, Landon Wagner, Seth Fearon, Ethan Hartman, Carter Rice, Landon Miller, Quinn Jorgensen, Mackenzie Cantrell. Photo by Craig Schmidt.

Versailles H.S.: Front: Morgan Schutz, Paige Holzapfel, Danielle Francis, Erica Rauh, Ella Porter, Lauren Grogean, Julia Bergman, Maddalyn Walters. Middle: Ava Shardo, Tyler Barga, Cameron Magoto, Cade Bergman, Lance Keller, Ross Francis, Michael Menke, Karlie Litten. Back: Taylor Wagner, Chase Monnin, Benjamin Brewer, Leland Bolin, Andrew Wuebker, Andrew Lyons, Colin Batten, Luke Kaiser, and Margret McGlinch. Photo by Lange Photographics.



Scholarship Funds Grow for Upperclass College Students

The term “college scholarship” often refers to a one-year financial award that a high school senior receives for further education. The scholarship helps pay for the student’s first year in college. In many cases, scholarships disappear after the first year, resulting in greater financial need for years 2, 3, 4 or more.

The Darke County Foundation realized the shortage of scholarships for upperclass students and has been encouraging new donors to direct scholarship aid to those students. Last year over \$85,000 in scholarships was paid to students currently in college. Some scholarships are renewable awards spread over 4-5 years, and some scholarships are 1-year awards reserved for upperclass students.

“Our scholarship committee recognizes that there are many highly qualified college students and yet very few scholarships for upperclassmen,” said Carrie Schmidt, DCF trustee and member of the scholarship committee. “The goal is to reach these older students and reward them for their motivation and hard work in their fields of study. We are hopeful that these scholarships can lessen the financial burden many students experience in their later years of college.”

One scholarship fund that assists students for consecutive years is the Harold and Betty Brewer Scholarship. Recipients receive \$2,500 each year for 4 years. Alaina Baughn of Greenville has received the scholarship for 2 years so far.

“I’m beyond grateful to receive a renewable scholarship from the Darke County Foundation each year,” said Alaina. “Having the opportunity to renew the award relieves so much stress that comes with paying tuition and allows me to focus on my academics and athletics. This scholarship gives me peace of mind knowing I’ll be able to graduate with substantially less debt.”

If you have been thinking about starting a scholarship fund for deserving students, consider setting up your fund to benefit students who are already in college. They are well on their way to success!

Funds Providing 2025 Scholarships

Velma and Merlin Applegate Fund
 Pauline Winbigler Bales Fund
 Tim Best/Ronnie Kreitzer Fund
 Robert and Iris Bolen Fund
 Harold and Betty Brewer Fund
 Bill and Rosie Brinley Family Fund
 Joyce Bruns Nursing Fund
 Darke Co. Engineering/Science Fund
 Darke County Foundation Endowment
 Brian and Regina Delk Fund
 Wayne K. Detling Fund
 Millie Kiger Dunaway Fund
 Nils and Collette Eikenberry Fund
 Howard and Eva Fisher Fund
 Kenneth and Virginia Marie Flory Fund
 Kathleen Floyd Fund
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 Bob & Jan Lantz Miami U. Teacher Fund
 Ami McClurkin Fund
 Allyson Mescher Fund
 Joseph R. Mills Fund
 Fred Miltenberger Fund - Susan North Fund
 Norton Family 4-H Fund
 Oliver Fund for Versailles/Wittenberg
 Gregory Olwine Arcanum Alumni Fund
 James B. Phelan Fund
 Pohl Transportation Fund
 Road Less Traveled Fund
 JC & Alice Schafer Fund
 Schipfer Family Fund - Lois E. Snyder Fund
 Neil E. Stemley Fund
 John E. and Ella M. Stevenson Fund
 Edwin, Mac & Marguerite Stoltz Fund
 Steven Stucke Fund
 Jan and Jim Thomas Fund
 J. Howard Trump Art Fund
 Versailles Masonic Lodge Fund
 Paul C. and Helen D. Warner Fund
 Sarah Whittaker Fund
 Lori Michelle Williams Fund
 Matthew Wuebker Fund - Ryan Wulber Fund

High School Scholarships Open Feb. 16

High school seniors who attend school in Darke County may apply for scholarships from the Darke County Foundation.

Deadline is March 31, 2026.

Complete just one application to qualify for \$300,000 in awards.

Students may be going to 4-year colleges, 2-year colleges, or shorter vocational programs.

Approximately 70% of applicants receive awards!

Learn more about our scholarships and apply online at
www.darkecountyfoundation.org.