

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

The House that Lulu Built Comforts Grieving Families

A peaceful presence fills The House that Lulu Built in Greenville, warmly welcoming families who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The home is available at no cost for day or night stays during the funeral, offering comfort, compassion and convenience. Since opening in 2019, The House that Lulu Built has received over 100 families who have found solace in being together in a home-like setting. The house is located within ½ mile of Greenville’s two funeral homes.

Jason and Cami Snyder of Greenville established The House that Lulu Built in memory of their infant daughter Lulu, born 13 years ago. Having an extra chromosome, Lulu lived just 2 months, but her legacy continues through the generous efforts of her family and community.

"Sharing Lulu's story helps us connect with others who are on their own grief journey," said Cami. "Connecting with others helps us know we are not alone. It was important to us to do something tangible with our grief and lead by example to our other 4 children. We learn step by step how to walk through difficult times."

Buying the home and completing renovations came from a heartfelt commitment the Snyders made to keep Lulu’s spirit alive. The Snyders have poured their own resources into their mission, and they generate community support through gifts, in-kind services, and fundraising events.

The Darke County Foundation has provided grants to The House that

Lulu Built through donor-advised and unrestricted funds, responding to the needs the Snyders have shared to keep the house operating.

"We have been overwhelmed with the amazing support of our

(Continued on back)



Gaylen Blosser photo

Participants enjoy the Sunshine 5K in Greenville City Park.

Proud of My Community

By Christy Prakes, Executive Director of the Darke County Foundation

As I approach my 15th year as executive director of the Darke County Foundation, I reflect upon the experiences that have exhibited the spirit, purpose, and growth of our community foundation.

One shining example is the Sunshine 5K that the foundation hosts every fall in Greenville City Park. A fundraiser for local non-profit organizations, the 2023 event had 595 registrations, a record in our 11 years of hosting the event. The strong turnout was a testament to the support for the 6 groups that benefited from proceeds. Darke Countians are faithful to their causes.

An upbeat and invigorating energy filled the air that day. Smiling faces and lively chatter grew as participants crossed the finish line, eager to enjoy the home-made cookies, prizes, and camaraderie. The Sunshine 5K has become a Darke County tradition.

I scanned the crowd and felt a sense of pride for my community, pride for the effort these runners and walkers made on this early, chilly morning. My sentiments broadened to Darke County as a whole, as I thought about why I love living here.

(Continued on back)



*The Snyder family:
Owen, Eleanor, Simon,
Jason, Cami, Anna-
belle, Abby and Dylan.*



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Christy Praker, *Executive Director*
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(Lulu cont. from p. 1)

community,” said Jason. “Our supporters go further than just caring for us – they are caring for families they may never meet, families who may not even live in our community. Visiting families will feel the kindness from our generous community.”

Families learn about Lulu’s House through local funeral homes, churches, and the public.

The home also offers grief care classes and resources to those who have lost loved ones. For information, visit www.thehousethatlulubuilt.org, or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

The Darke County Foundation is honored to be a funding partner for this meaningful cause.



(Community cont. from p. 1)

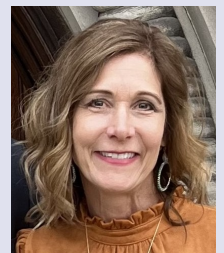
Our way of life is peaceful, uncomplicated, sensible and safe, compared to many parts of the world. Our residents are genuine, considerate, and hard-working. They are active in their schools, churches, and service organizations; they look out for their neighbors.

Darke County residents care about the well-being of our community, often donating time or resources to better the lives of others or improve our surroundings. A cohesive society builds strength, stability and success.

My work at the Darke County Foundation allows me to interact with people who have a heart for enriching our community. They are passionate about supporting causes they believe in, like student scholarships, children’s programs, health and well-being initiatives, park improvement, art and theater, religious outreach, animal welfare, and more! Often these charities have deeply impacted the lives of the donors. Life is better in Darke County because of the generosity of our citizens.

Donors from all income levels contribute gifts great and small to efforts that improve our quality of life. Some donors create lasting legacies to memorialize loved ones, supporting programs in their name year after year.

I am honored to assist those who want to fortify our community in a purposeful way. If you have been thinking about furthering your commitment to something you care about, give me a call at (937) 548-4673, or write me an email at cpraker@darkecountyfoundation.org. I would love to help you connect with your cause!



Christy Praker



Fund Options Help Donors Meet Their Charitable Goals

At the Darke County Foundation, people from all walks of life donate to charitable causes they believe in. Donors can support scholarships to local students or provide assistance to organizations that serve Darke County residents. Whether donors establish a personalized fund or add to an existing fund that matches their interest, they are enriching and improving our community!

Donors often create lasting legacies by naming a fund after loved ones or a specific purpose that is important to them. Then grants are made in this name for years to come. The following types of funds are available at the Darke County Foundation. For more information, call us at (937) 548-4673.

Unrestricted Community Fund: This type of fund offers the broadest reach and most flexibility, strengthening programs that address the changing needs of our community. For example, our Friends of the Foundation Fund is bolstered by hundreds of donors each year who give any amount they wish. Friends' gifts help fill grant requests from local charitable groups.

Donor-Advised Fund: Donors are actively involved by recommending grants periodically to a variety of charitable organizations. The grants are made in the name of your fund. Donor-advised funds offer the benefits of a private foundation while leaving the administration to the Darke County Foundation.

Designated Fund: Donors name one or more charitable organizations to receive automatic annual distributions, benefiting specific groups that are close to the donor's heart.

Field of Interest Fund: Donors interested in a certain cause (like youth programs, the arts, mental health, etc.) or geographic area (like a town) may set up a fund to award grants that further these interests. Grants are not restricted to one organization.

Scholarship Fund: These funds provide financial assistance to any level of education (such as college freshmen, upperclass students, or vocational school). Donors may determine criteria such as a specific high school, fields of study, colleges, or extracurricular activities.

Project Fund: Established by a group of individuals to support a community need, project funds collect donations from the public then distribute the principal to the project.

Organization Fund: Non-profit organizations may set up a fund to provide ongoing support to its own organization. In so doing, the Foundation helps organizations manage their assets.

Donate to Friends of the Foundation

Support our unrestricted fund that provides scholarships to students and grants to non-profit organizations serving our community. Make checks payable to Darke County Foundation and mail to DCF, P.O. Box 438, Greenville, OH 45331. Or donate online at www.darkecountyfoundation.org.



Scan this QR code to donate online.

Scholarship Honors Kathleen Floyd

The Darke County Foundation has established a new scholarship fund in memory of (Mary) Kathleen Floyd of Greenville.

Mrs. Floyd taught at St. Mary's Catholic School, Greenville, for 23 years (1973-1995). She also taught at Edison State Community College as an adjunct professor for 19 years (1987-2006). She then served on the college's board of directors.

The scholarship is for a graduating senior from any Darke County high school who attended St. Mary's Catholic School.

Mrs. Floyd's family established the scholarship to honor her legacy as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and teacher. As a permanent endowment, the fund will provide an award in Mrs. Floyd's name every year. Her



Kathleen Floyd

commitment to teaching, particularly language arts, reflected the value Mrs. Floyd placed on education. From 1960 through 1973, Mrs. Floyd wrote a weekly column, "All Around the House," in the Greenville Daily Advocate. Readers enjoyed her humorous stories of life with her husband Bill and their 8 children. From 1995 to 2020, Mrs. Floyd wrote "Back Around the House."

Mrs. Floyd was dedicated to the Greenville community, serving on Greenville City Council for 3 terms. She was on the boards of Family Health Services, Greenville CIC, Downtown Greenville, Inc., Community Action Partnership, the Boys and Girls Club, and Darke County Center for the Arts.

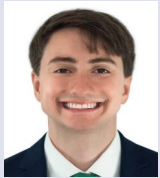
The Darke County Foundation is proud to honor Kathleen Floyd with an annual scholarship in her name.

DCF Welcomes New Trustees



Jim Atchley

Jim Atchley is superintendent of the Darke County Educational Service Center. He has been a teacher and administrator throughout Darke County since 1988. Jim graduated from Wright State University with a bachelor's degree in education, and he earned a master's degree in education administration from the University of Dayton. Jim has served on boards for the YMCA, Darke County United Way, META Solutions, Darke County Community Improvement Corporation, and Wayne HealthCare. He lives in Greenville with his wife Liz and has two adult children and one grandchild.



John A. Barga

John Barga is a financial advisor with an Edward Jones office in Greenville. He has been in the financial services industry for 7 years and specializes in holistic financial planning and investments. John graduated from Wright State University with a bachelor's degree in financial services. He serves on boards for Main Street Greenville, Versailles Area Pride and Progress Association (VAPPA), Versailles Knights of Columbus, Poultry Days, and Versailles Lions Club. John lives in Versailles with his wife Emily, and they are expecting their first child in the spring.

IRA Distributions Save Taxes and Help the Community

When December rolls around every year, a Darke County couple makes their Christmas wish list. The wishes aren't for themselves, but for charitable programs that have made an impact on their lives. The donors give away about \$25,000 through a designated fund they established at the Darke County Foundation.



The couple doesn't want any recognition for the good they do in our community, so they asked to remain anonymous.

"We don't donate in order to be recognized," they said.

"We donate because we

believe in supporting good causes where others can use a little help."

This generous couple could represent any number of donors in Darke County, no matter the amount they give. Our community is filled with people who want to further meaningful causes but don't want their name printed.

Each year, this particular couple replenishes their charitable fund with distributions from their IRA accounts. Because they are over age 73, the couple has minimum distributions required by law. When they transfer the amount directly to the Darke County Foundation, a qualifying charity, the amount is not counted as income and thus not taxed.

"I love America and support America, but I won't give America all my tax money," quipped the donor.

Local groups benefiting from the couple's generosity include The House that Lulu Built, EverHeart Hospice, St. Mary's Church, and Greenville City Schools. The couple also sponsors scholarships for students pursuing healthcare and education degrees.

The Darke County Foundation charges no administrative fee for this "pass-through" gift-giving. Beneficiary organizations can be inside or outside Darke County. If you have a required IRA distribution, you can support causes close to your heart while also reducing your taxes. The Darke County Foundation can help fulfill your charitable wishes, whether you want to be identified or not!



Local groups show community grants at work from the Darke County Foundation:

Upper left: Grace Resurrection Community Center fills 170 grocery boxes each week for local residents in need.

Upper right: Radiant Church hosts a Back-to-School-Party and distributes free hygiene items to students.

Left: Versailles FFA gives away books about farming for Trick-or-Treat.