

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 Friends of the Foundation Fund at the Darke County Foundation provided financial support for a conservation camp hosted by Darke Soil & Water Conservation District. 150 youth enjoyed outdoor activities while learning about the environment.



Darke County Youth Explore the Outdoors at Conservation Camp

“Friends Fund” of the Darke County Foundation Helps Make Camp Possible

Last summer, 150 Darke County youth attended the first Darke County Conservation Camp at a nature facility near Greenville. The camp provided hands-on outdoor fun for learning about the environment. Hosted by Darke Soil & Water Conservation District, the 2-day event received financial support from the Darke County Foundation Friends Fund.*

For just a \$20 fee, campers experienced archery, fishing, crafts, bird feeder building, watersheds, pollinators, soils, trees and survival skills. Each camper received a nature journal and new fishing rod and reel to take home.

“Our goal was to get kids to unplug for a couple days and experience the environment we live in,” said Jared Coppess, DSWCD administrator, “and try to sneak in a couple lessons while they were having fun.”

“The kids left camp with a greater respect for the outdoors and a new perspective about how their actions affect the world around them,” said Coppess.

The 2019 camp had a waitlist of over 50 kids, so the 2020 camp will host 180 campers. For information, visit www.darkeswcd.com.

“We’d like to thank everyone who donates to the Friends Fund at the Darke County Foundation,” said Coppess. “With their help, we can continue making this camp an affordable and fun experience for Darke County students.”

**Nearly 200 donors gave to the 2019 Friends of the Foundation Fund, which awarded \$30,000 to local non-profit organizations. The Friends Fund provides grant-making dollars to fill requests that are most needed and deserving in Darke County. To donate to the 2020 Friends Fund, use the form on the next page.*



Greenville Couple Supports Community Now and in the Future

Eileen and Steve Litchfield of Greenville are well-known for many things - their friendly and outgoing nature, successful professional lives, but perhaps most notably, their deep commitment to serving their community. The couple has passionately volunteered for decades for Darke Co. Special Olympics, Garst Museum, Annie Oakley Foundation, Kiwanis, YMCA, Darke Co. Foundation, Darke Co. Parks, and many other efforts.

The Litchfields raised their children, Dan and Becca, in Greenville and feel it's their responsibility to support the organizations that have made life meaningful for their family.

"We are so fortunate in our community," said Eileen. "We have received so much from others who had a concern for the public good.

We should all strive to improve our community in any way we can."

The Litchfields will carry that selfless philosophy into the future by donating to several local charities through their will. As members of the Foundation's Legacy Society, Eileen and Steve made plans to establish a permanent endowment fund at the Foundation after they die. The fund will provide annual distributions to the non-profit organizations the couple chose.

"We selected groups that we have a passion for and for which we hope will

benefit many people for years to come," said Steve.

Eileen acknowledged the founder of the Darke County Foundation (formerly H.O.P.E. Foundation), Marlin Thompson of Ansonia.

"Marlin said it best: "The community you leave for your children is as important as the money you leave for them,"" said Eileen.

The Litchfields named the Darke County Foundation as a beneficiary in their will because of its focus on long-term support of community organizations. Endowment funds are held in perpetuity and aim to distribute only investment income each year while keeping the principal gift in tact.

The Litchfields used the beneficiary designation on their IRAs as one source of their gift to the Foundation. In addition, they allocated a portion of their trust to go to the Foundation. Both methods by-pass probate and distribute quickly.

"It's very simple," said Steve. "Our attorney helped with the language in the will and trust, and the Foundation wrote an agreement to ensure that our wishes are carried out in the future."

The Litchfields review their estate goals every few years. "Laws can change, family changes and your wishes can change," said Eileen.

"Being prepared to have our wishes fulfilled for the community and our family after we are gone truly gives us peace of mind," she said.



Eileen and Steve Litchfield

Legacy Society Ensures Future Fund at Darke Co. Foundation

When you name the Darke County Foundation in your will or estate plan, you become a member of the Legacy Society, a group of generous people who have made a pledge to donate a portion of their estate when they die. The Foundation stores your instructions and sets them in motion once you are gone.

Ways to give:

- Designate a portion of your estate (a specific amount, a percentage, or a share of the residue).
- Name the Foundation as beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan.
- Set up a charitable annuity or trust that pays you a fixed amount annually and leaves the remainder to the Foundation.
- Each method of giving offers tax advantages that you should discuss with your tax advisor.

The Legacy Society allows you to make plans now to establish a personalized fund in honor of a loved one or a special purpose. This "gift of a lifetime" will keep giving to our community for years to come, using investment earnings to benefit causes that are important to you. Here are some types of funds you can set up with your future gift:

- Annual financial support for one or more non-profit organizations
- Unrestricted community grants where they are needed most in Darke County
- Scholarships for Darke County students

If you have put off updating your will, take the time now to make your wishes known. With thoughtful planning, you can ensure that your estate has the greatest impact on your family and charitable causes you support.

Please notify the Darke County Foundation with your intentions or to discuss giving options that are advantageous to your financial situation. Call (937) 548-4673 or email dcf@darkecountyfoundation.org.



Foundation Awards \$567,000 in Local Grants and Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of our annual donors, plus income from over 90 established funds, the Darke County Foundation awarded \$567,000 in 2019. Scholarships worth \$193,000 were awarded to 109 Darke County students, and community grants totaling \$374,000 were distributed to 60 non-profit organizations, including the following:

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| ACES School | Catholic Social Services | Edison Foundation | Little Sisters of the Poor |
| Anna Bier Art Gallery | City of Greenville | Empowering Darke County Youth | Mississinawa Valley Schools |
| Ansonia Elementary School | Council on Rural Services | Eternal Word Television Network | Osgood Volunteer Fire Dept. |
| Ansonia H.S. National Honor Soc. | Darke Co. Pregnancy Help Center | Financial Asst. Med. Emergencies | Ronald McDonald House |
| Arcanum High School Band | Darke County Christian Education | Food for the Poor, Inc. | St. Mary's Church and School |
| Arcanum Historical Society | Darke County Agricultural Society | Friends of Darke County Park | St. Vincent de Paul Social Services |
| Athenaeum of Ohio | Darke County Center for the Arts | Grace Resurrection Comm. Center | State of the Heart Hospice |
| Big Bros./Big Sisters Darke Co. | Darke County Historical Society | Greenville Art Guild | TASKS, Inc. |
| Bradford H.S. Publications | Darke County Humane Society | Greenville City Schools | Tri-Village Schools |
| Bradford Middle School Band | Darke County Special Olympics | Greenville Community Unity | Upper Valley Career Center |
| Brethren Retirement Community | Darke County United Way | Greenville Girls Softball Assoc. | Versailles Heritage Park Fund |
| Brianna's Hope | Darke County Veterans Services | Greenville Public Library | Versailles Music Boosters |
| Cancer Assoc. of Darke County | Darke Soil & Water Conservation | Greenville Township Rescue | Wayne HealthCare Foundation |
| Catholic Ministries Appeal | DeColores Montessori School | Illumination Ministries | YMCA of Darke County |
| Catholic Relief Services | Dylan Williams Allstar Foundation | Knights of Columbus Charities | YOLO of Darke County |



These 2019 graduates of Greenville High School received scholarships from the Darke County Foundation.



The Darke County Foundation awarded a grant to Bradford Middle School for new band instruments.

Friends of the Foundation Fund Help Support Darke County Non-Profit Organizations and Scholarships

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ Other

Please make check payable to Darke County Foundation.

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ E-mail address _____

Donation is for: Community Grants Scholarships Either Community Grants or Scholarships

Donation is in memory of _____ (name of deceased)

Mail to: Darke County Foundation
P.O. Box 438
Greenville, OH 45331

The Darke County Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization serving Darke County. Contributions are fully tax deductible as allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.

Website:
www.darkecountyfoundation.org

E-mail:
dcf@darkecountyfoundation.org

Address Service Requested

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Sunshine 5K Benefits Local Groups

The Darke County Foundation's annual Sunshine 5K in September had 467 participants and raised over \$14,000 for several local non-profit organizations, including Ansonia H.S. National Honor Society, Cancer Association of Darke County, DeColores Montessori School, Edison College Foundation, St. Mary's School, and several other local groups.

"It was invigorating to see Greenville Park alive with music, refreshments and determined runners and walkers, all here to support valuable causes in our community," said Christy Praker, director of the Darke County Foundation.

Volunteers baked over 1,000 homemade cookies and donated a variety of drinks and fruit. Over 30 door prizes worth \$25 each were given away, along with award medals for age-group winners. Thanks to the 60 sponsors that supported the event!

The 2020 Sunshine 5K will take place Sept. 19 in Greenville City Park. Registration begins in March at www.darkecountyfoundation.org.



Runners for Team AddieGirl near the finish of the Sunshine 5K. Left to right: Peg Goodpaster, Beckie Shumaker, Connie Harshbarger. Beckie and Connie have served as captains of Team AddieGirl for 7 years, helping their team raise nearly \$13,000 for Dayton Children's Hospital and the Cancer Assoc. of Darke County.



Darke County Foundation trustees and staff at Sunshine 5K.

