



## OVER \$53,000 AWARDED to LOCAL NONPROFITS

At its annual Awards Presentation, the Ottawa County Community Foundation awarded over \$53,000 in community grants to thirty-two local nonprofit organizations. The community grants program addresses the current and emerging needs of local residents in the fields of education, social services, physical and mental health, safe and positive living environment, natural resources, and the arts.

The Foundation acknowledged the work of so many organizations that meet pressing needs in the community and conduct effective programs throughout Ottawa County. We applaud each organization's efforts. Find a list of 2021 grant recipients on page 3.

Funding for these grants is made possible by earnings from several unrestricted Community Funds and a Donor Advised Fund held by the Ottawa County Community Foundation. These include the Kenneth and Naomi Akins Family Fund, Bob and Grace Armbruster Fund, Earl J. Johnson Fund, Jane Ellen Gulau Fund, Joseph and Eleanor Kokinda Fund, OCCF Fund, Lenore Peterson-Blackburn Fund, Dr. James I. and Priscilla Rhiel Fund, Paul H. Rofkar Fund, Harry Stensen Memorial Fund, and Dave and Jeanne Thierwechter Fund. Several local donations were also received in support of the community grant program.

## Joy Roth Little Tiger Award in Memory of Our Founder



Babs Klacik, general manager of Bistro 163, accepted the **Little Tiger Award** on behalf of the nonprofit organization. Jeff Roth and Jan Preston, OCCF President, were on hand for the inaugural presentation.

Words could not express our sadness at the sudden 2020 loss of our president, mentor, and friend—Joy Roth. Joy was the spark plug that launched the Foundation in 1999. Her passion for the mission of OCCF and her boundless energy grew it into the vibrant Community Foundation that it is today with over \$11 million in assets and 95 established funds. The OCCF Board decided they would create a special recognition in memory of Joy.

During the annual Grant Awards Presentation, the inaugural *Joy Roth Little Tiger Award* was presented to honor her legacy. Board Member John Madison remembered Joy as an avid fan of the Auburn University Tigers football team and described how she was known by her family and friends to be somewhat of a “little tiger” herself. Thus the *Joy Roth Little Tiger Award* was created to recognize similar champions who go above and beyond to give back to the community. The 2021 award was presented to Bistro 163, a “pay it forward” restaurant in Port Clinton. The award included a \$500 grant and a framed certificate. The staff and team of volunteers at Bistro 163 have served over 25,000 meals throughout the county since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to do so.

# OTTAWA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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## Small Businesses Benefit from Innovation Grants

Thanks to a very generous \$62,000 grant from the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, the Ottawa County Community Foundation

(OCCF) was able to partner with the Ottawa County Improvement Corporation (OCIC) to bring the Regional Incubator for Sustainability and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Small Business Innovation Grant program to Ottawa County in October of 2020.

This grant program focused on assisting existing entrepreneurs to grow their small businesses. Applicants proposed innovative and strategic investments to help them pivot and adapt despite the public health pandemic that devastated the local economy. A RISE Selection Committee, composed of seven representatives from the OCIC, OCCF, and partnering organizations and businesses, selected the grant recipients.

The RISE grant program turned out to be a great success with \$63,485 awarded to 23 businesses, with grants ranging from \$1,000-\$3,500. The grants supported projects such as capital improvements, technology enhancements, and training and education for marketing initiatives.

### A sample of businesses that were awarded grants:

- *Bar-B-Que Traveler* (Lacarne): transforming a delivery truck into a food truck and a new website for ordering
- *Christy's Corner Café* (Elmore): display freezer and supplies for carry out
- *Clinton House* (Port Clinton): fence and wrought iron furniture for outdoor seating and creation of beer/wine garden
- *Coastal Swing* (Catawba Island): patio construction, fencing, and outdoor lighting
- *Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center* (Put-In-Bay): producing Explorer Packs (tote bag, binoculars, compass, etc.) and marketing materials
- *Lilly & Gert's* (Port Clinton): specialty cameras and related equipment to prepare online inventory and website content design
- *Put-In-Bay Watercraft Rental* (Put-In-Bay): additional kayaks and GPS units
- *R Coffee Corner* (Catawba Island): outside digital sign to increase visibility
- *Radiant Remodeling* (Oak Harbor): Smart TV's for training installers in the warehouse and showing new products in the showroom
- *Whimsy & Blue* (Elmore): computer, video equipment, and microphone to expand social media platforms and outreach

## Congratulations to the 2021 Grant Recipients

Bistro 163	Joy Roth Little Tiger Award
Catawba Island Historical Society	Video camera and microphone
Clothing Corral, Inc.	New undergarments and socks for clients
Community Christian Academy	Renovation of aging school facility
Concerned Citizens for Oak Harbor	Update old appliances
Cultivate the Clover	Train teens to serve as 4-H Camp Counselors
Engaging Opportunities Foundation	Expand job training, skill development for Christy's Café
Firelands Symphony Orchestra	Present small ensemble concerts in Port Clinton/Lakeside
Friends of Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Refuge	Create accessible nature trail
Genoa Area Community Food Pantry	Carts/storage bins to transport food pantry products
Girl Scouts of Western Ohio	Virtual learning opportunities
Habitat for Humanity of Ottawa County	StopSaw for the safety of volunteers
Joyful Connections	Crisis Prevention Institute training and first aid training
Lake Erie Islands Conservancy	Support Great Lakes Islands Alliance annual conference
Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Ctr.	Create geology, migratory bird, and beehive exhibits
Lakeside Heritage Society	Professionally digitize historical documents and photographs
Light House Sober Living	Sober and healthy living activities for individuals in recovery
Luther Home of Mercy	Expansion of Boy Scout Pack 928 for LHM residents
Magruder Hospital	Provide to-go meals for patients/caregivers upon discharge
Main Street Port Clinton	Items to implement a COVID plan for 2021 events
Musical Arts Series	Concerts at senior residential facilities
Oak House	Increase accessible technology to members
Ottawa County Family Advocacy	Repair and replace outdated technology
Ottawa County Family & Children First	Larger printer/fax machine
Ottawa County Museum	Frames, shadow boxes, and mannequins for displays
P.C. Schools Champions for Children	After school program emphasizing STEM
Port Clinton Fire Fighters Association	Equipment for American Heart Association training program
Riverview Industries Inc.	Remodel Adult Day Services spaces
Salvation Army	Rent, mortgage, utility assistance for those in need
St. Thomas Episcopal Church	Increase number of meal bags for those in need
Terra College Foundation	Titan Kids Club programs for students in Ottawa County
United Way in Ottawa County	Books for children via the Dolly Parton Imagination Library

### Special Thanks

Brian Snyder – For the use of the Conference Room at the Sutton Center for our Awards Presentation.  
 John Smothers – For the lovely, new flower boxes that adorn our Madison St. office.  
 Bud Chasteen, Cros.net, Inc.– For covering the cost of our monthly office internet service.

### Please Consider a Gift to the OCCF Sustainability Fund

Enclosed is my/our gift :      \_\_\_\$50    \_\_\_\$100    \_\_\_\$500    \_\_\_\$1000    \_\_\_Other \$\_\_\_

Return this form with your check payable to: *Ottawa Co. Community Foundation, P.O. Box 36, Port Clinton, OH 43452*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like my donation to remain anonymous.

I would like information on including OCCF in my estate plans.

I would like information on establishing a fund.

*Let Us Help You Create Your Legacy.*

## ***RISE Innovation Grant Program a Success***



Sandra Widmer, owner of Whimsy & Blue in Elmore, purchased new video and computer equipment with her RISE grant to expand social media platforms and outreach for her business.



A RISE grant helped to create a new beer/wine garden behind The Clinton House in Port Clinton. Carolyn Rodenhauer, owner, on the right, and Staci Hawthorn show off the new area.