



# Ottawa County Community Foundation

Doing Good. Forever.

[www.ottawaccf.org](http://www.ottawaccf.org)

Summer 2024

## More than \$76,500 Awarded to Local Nonprofits

At its annual awards presentation, held at Catawba Island Club on June 20, the Ottawa County Community Foundation (OCCF) awarded \$76,527 in grants and special recognitions. Thirty-four local nonprofit organizations received funding, including OCCF's recipient of the fourth annual *Joy Roth Little Tiger Award*.

"Year after year, the Foundation sees the needs in our community, and it is so uplifting to know that we have been a part of the solution in meeting those needs," said Grants Chair Mary Coffee. "We are very thankful that we have had this opportunity to improve the quality of life for so many."

The OCCF grants program supports county efforts in the fields of health, safety, human services, education, the environment and the arts. Funding is made possible through private donations and earnings from numerous unrestricted community funds and donor advised funds held by OCCF. Now in its 25th anniversary year, the Foundation has distributed more than \$8 million in grants and scholarships — \$1.2 million of which served nonprofits via OCCF Board-determined community grants.



## *Joy Roth Little Tiger Award* Presented to Light House Sober Living



Trustee Mary Coffee and Jeff Roth with Kenn Bowers, Jr. (center), Executive Director of Light House Sober Living.

During the awards breakfast, the Foundation presented its 2024 *Joy Roth Little Tiger Award* to Light House Sober Living, a non-profit organization which provides recovery housing for residents of Ottawa and Erie Counties.

OCCF Founder Joy Roth, a fan of the Auburn University Tigers football team, was known by family and friends to be a "little tiger" herself. Upon her passing in 2020, the OCCF Board, with the support of Joy's husband Jeff Roth, sought to establish this special recognition to honor her legacy. The award recognizes similar champions who go above and beyond to give back to the community.

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## Ottawa County Community Foundation

P.O. Box 36, Port Clinton, OH 43452

Office Hours: Wednesday, noon-3pm  
306 Madison Street, Port Clinton

Email: [ottawaccf@gmail.com](mailto:ottawaccf@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ottawaccf.org](http://www.ottawaccf.org)

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## Trustee's \$40K Match Met and Exceeded

To encourage unrestricted giving, earlier this year an OCCF Trustee challenged donors to raise \$40,000 through a dollar-for-dollar match opportunity. We are proud to say the goal has been met and exceeded.

"This demonstrates the power of like-minded people working together to support OCCF's mission," says OCCF Executive Director Shea McGrew. "I am grateful to this Trustee and all other board members who continue OCCF's long history of strong Trustee financial support."

## Little Tiger — cont. from page 1

"When we at Light House think of the OCCF, the words community, compassion, help, support, caring and love quickly come to mind," said Kenn Bower, Jr., Executive Director of Light House Sobor Living. "I then picture Joy's face and her friendly smile. She

was like the wizard behind the curtain. We often take in people who come to us with little or nothing to their name. Together, we work to build them up to become productive citizens and show them they can have a life worth living. We teach our residents how to care for themselves and others, and become members of a sober community and the community in general.

"With help from the Foundation, we are able to help them get counseling, rebuild their relationships, develop spirituality, gain employment, and learn that they can have fun in sobriety," concluded Kenn.

For information, visit [lighthousesoberliving.org](http://lighthousesoberliving.org).



## Join the OCCF Business Partners Giving Society

We can help your business touch lives through the power of giving. As a member of the OCCF Business Partners Giving Society, your contributions will enable us to expand our grant-making and will promote philanthropy throughout our county.

**Partner with us.** Become an OCCF Business Partner and help Ottawa County thrive. Business Partners receive recognition through OCCF at a level commensurate with the gift given. Together we can do more for Ottawa County than any person, business, or organization can do alone.

## Thank you to all 2024 OCCF Business Partners!

To become a Business Partner, contact  
Executive Director Shea McGrew, 419-635-7750.

## Message from OCCF's Executive Director: Planning for Financial Stability through the Joy Roth Founders' Fund

You might be hard-pressed to convince the average person that giving their money away to charity — even ten dollars — is an investment. It's a nice gesture, a good deed in support of an organization he or she favors, but an investment? In what?

The future. A future that is bright and full of promise. A future in which the quality of life of all people, by most any measure, is greater than today.

Twenty-five years ago, a small group of people, led by Joy Roth, believed that a pathway toward Ottawa County's future was through the creation of a community foundation ... and OCCF was born. Today, OCCF's impact on our area's quality of life continues to grow, touching an ever-increasing number of citizens. Your investments, through unrestricted gifts of any amount, has enabled the Foundation's daily work. These gifts increase our capacity to provide charitable services to donors and to give grants and scholarships. They are the lifeblood of what we do and an investment in Ottawa County.

At our recent 25th anniversary celebration and gala fundraiser, I announced the Founders Fund, an endowed fund established in 2019 by Jeff Roth and fellow donors to support OCCF's operating costs, was renamed the "Joy Roth Founders' Fund" to honor her legacy. Going forward, we seek contributions to the fund so that, eventually, its annual earnings provide every dollar OCCF needs to operate and continue "Doing Good. Forever." To kick off that effort, OCCF's Board of Trustees voted to add 25% of gala proceeds to the fund, as well as 25% of all 2024 unrestricted contributions.

We are excited about the future. Through the power of charitable investments, consider helping OCCF touch the lives of the people of Ottawa County! To donate to the Joy Roth Founders' Fund, click on the QR code to the right or visit [ottawaccf.org](http://ottawaccf.org).



OCCF Executive Director  
Shea McGrew



Trustee Arlyn Bensch volunteers with the local chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nonprofit building beds for children in need.

## What Cause Matters Most to You?

Charitable giving throughout one's lifetime may be motivated by various considerations, but it is said that what you support through your estate reveals what you cherish most.

Not everyone makes charitable gifts — "bequests" — upon death. Half of Americans never create an estate plan at all, though its purpose is to direct how one's assets will be distributed. Who do you wish your assets to benefit after you are gone? Family members? Friends? One or more organizations, such as a church or nonprofit? Even OCCF?

The process is simple. As you work with an attorney or other qualified professional to prepare or update your estate plan, consider providing for the cause that has captured your heart by incorporating a couple of sentences in your will or trust. You may give: 1) a specific dollar amount or 2) a percentage of your estate after any debts, taxes, or other costs are paid.

Leave a legacy that touches lives. OCCF is available to help you evaluate your charitable goals and put you in touch with estate planning professionals to assist you.

## 25th Anniversary Celebration Remembers the Past and Looks Toward the Future

Approximately 250 OCCF friends and supporters attended or donated to OCCF's second annual Doing Good Gala, "Cheers to 25 Years," a 25th anniversary celebration and fundraiser held at Catawba Island Club on Tuesday, July 23.

More than \$58,000 was raised during the sold-out event celebrating the history of the Foundation.

"We wanted to be here to commemorate this amazing 25 years," said Alison Roth Patellis, daughter of OCCF Founder Joy Roth.

Alison spoke on behalf of the Roth Family, several of whom were in attendance, and noted that OCCF began in 1999 because Joy was at a crossroads in her life, with her children off to college, and needed a project.

"She asked herself 'What can I do for others?'," added Alison, "and that is how the Ottawa County

Community Foundation was born ... She knew that she wanted to touch people, to help people."

Joy passed away unexpectedly in 2020, but Alison feels her mother would be proud of how far OCCF has come. Throughout its first quarter century, the Foundation has distributed more than \$8 million in grants and scholarships.

"Hardly anyone said 'no' to Joy Roth," concluded Alison. "People trusted her. They knew if she was involved with a project, the cause was worthy and recipient deserving ... Joy Roth left the world a better place. Because of her legacy the Foundation is strong and will continue 'Doing Good. Forever.'"

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and area business owners, one hundred percent of event proceeds generated from ticket sales, sponsorships, live auction, and



Alison Roth Patellis,  
daughter of Founder Joy Roth

raffle purchases, will help continue OCCF's countywide efforts to award student scholarships and provide grants to area nonprofits supporting the fields of education, health and social services, economic development, natural resources and the arts.

For a link to OCCF's 25th anniversary video, visit [ottawaccf.org](http://ottawaccf.org).



## Congratulations to OCCF's 2024 Grant Recipients

Arc of Ottawa County  
 Courageous Community Services  
 Cancer Services  
 Cast It Forward  
 Catawba Island Historical Society  
 Cultivate the Clover of Ottawa County  
 Firelands Symphony Orchestra  
 Friends of Ida Rupp Library  
 Friends of Ottawa County Parks  
 Genoa Area Community Food Pantry  
 Heartbeat Pregnancy Center  
 Joyful Connections  
 Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center  
 Liberty Aviation Museum  
 Marblehead Lighthouse Historical Society  
 Musical Arts Series Port Clinton  
 Oak Harbor Alliance Chapel Food Pantry  
 Oak House  
 Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center  
 Ottawa County Holiday Bureau  
 Ottawa County Museum  
 Ottawa County Senior Resources  
 Port Clinton Firefighters Association  
 Portage Fire District Firefighters Assoc.  
 Put-in-Bay Chamber of Comm. & Tourism Bur.  
 Schedel Arboretum & Gardens  
 Sleep in Heavenly Peace  
 St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
 St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry  
 Team VIAC  
 The Salvation Army  
 Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank

Summer camp for children with disabilities  
 Camp Courageous for adults/children with disabilities  
 Cancer services for cancer patients and families  
 Fishing excursions for veterans, kids, and seniors  
 Rewiring electrical system in museum annex  
 4-H camp for youth/leadership skills for counselors  
 Free pops concert at Marblehead Lighthouse  
 Increase locations of Little Free Libraries  
 Bike Safety Camp  
 Two new freezers and one refrigerator  
 Safe Haven baby box at fire station  
 Replace/upgrade security cameras  
 Live animal displays and educational toys  
 Granite for base of Harold Brown statue  
 Semi-annual concerts for lighthouse visitors  
 Live concerts for seniors  
 Commercial kitchen for free community meals  
 Renovate garden/meditation space for members and peers  
 Provide 24/7 access to food and basic needs  
 Vouchers to purchase food  
 Archival materials for Purple Heart artifacts and display  
 Items for senior citizens to stay warm in winter  
 Certify full-time personnel to capacity of career firefighter  
 Fire blanket and blowers for fighting field fires  
 Intern for Chamber of Commerce office  
 Science camp (4 wks.) and art camp (1 wk.)  
 Build/deliver beds to children in need  
 Emergency food through Esther's Table and The Vineyard  
 Food & certificates to those in need in Port Clinton  
 Website upgrade to reach more veterans and community  
 Residential summer camp for underserved youth  
 Increase access to food in underserved communities

**THANK YOU**  
 to all  
**Ottawa County**  
 nonprofits for  
 touching so many  
 lives in 2024

**Special Initiatives**  
 Skilled Trades Academy —  
 Business Advisory Council  
 (BAC)

2024 Joy Roth  
 Little Tiger Award —  
 Light House Sober Living

*Special thanks to  
 Heather Stouffer &  
 OCCF Advisory Council  
 Member Jim Stouffer,  
 as well as the entire  
 staff at Catawba Island  
 Club, for helping make  
 both the 2024 Awards  
 Breakfast and Doing Good  
 GALA such a success!*

*Thank you for touching the lives of the people of Ottawa County.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT OF DONATION:** Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

\$100  \$500  \$1,000  \$2,500  \$5,000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

My gift is  in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgement to honoree or family at below name and address:

I have questions. Please contact me via:  email  phone

Send me information about:  establishing an OCCF fund  giving through my estate plan

**DONATE TODAY.** Make checks payable to "Ottawa County Community Foundation."

Mail to P.O. Box 36, Port Clinton, OH 43452. To pay by credit card, visit [ottawaccf.org](http://ottawaccf.org).



### **OCCF Giving Levels**

*No gift is ever too small!*

Benefactor	\$5,000 +
Sustainer	\$2,500 – \$4,999
Advocate	\$1,000 – \$2,499
Patron	\$500 – \$999
Supporter	\$100 – \$499
Friend	Up to \$99

**DONATE  
 TODAY!**





OTTAWA COUNTY  
Community Foundation

[ottawaccf.org](http://ottawaccf.org)

P.O. Box 36 | Port Clinton, OH 43452

*Give to a cause; invest in a dream!*

## Touching the Lives of the People of Ottawa County



### THANK YOU

to the many friends who joined OCCF in raising nearly \$60,000 during our July OCCF GALA fundraiser and 25th Anniversary celebration held at the CIC.

Such generosity will help OCCF to continue its efforts of *“Doing Good. Forever.”*

