

## Over \$90,000 Awarded to Local Nonprofits

The Ottawa County Community Foundation (OCCF) awarded over \$90,000 in community grants and special awards at its annual Awards Breakfast. Thirty-three local nonprofit organizations received funding through the annual community grant process (view list on page 3).

"For 25 years, the Ottawa County Community Foundation has worked to enhance the quality of life for our citizens. By awarding grants to deserving organizations and initiatives, OCCF addresses critical needs and seeks solutions to the challenges in our community," said OCCF Executive Director



2025 Grant Recipients

Shea McGrew. "Our thanks to the nonprofit leaders whose dedication to Ottawa County is remarkable."

Funding for the Community Grants

program is made possible by the earnings from several unrestricted community funds and donor advised funds held by OCCF, as well as numerous private donations.

## Little Tiger Award Presented to the Business Advisory Council

In addition to the community grants that are presented at the annual Awards Breakfast, the 2025 Joy Roth Little Tiger Award was also announced. This year's recipient of the Little Tiger Award was the Ottawa County Business Advisory Council (BAC).

The award, established to honor the legacy of OCCF founder Joy Roth, recognizes champions who go above and beyond to give back to the community. Accepting the 2025 award were Katherine Adams, Director of Workforce Innovation at the Ottawa County Improvement

Corporation, and Clay Finken, Chair of the BAC.

Katherine described the successes the BAC has made through the Skilled Trades Academy (2019 inception) and with the addition of the State Tested Nurse Aide (STNA) program in 2024.

"We can't do this without each other; we can't do this without our community," said Ms. Adams. "We wouldn't be here today without the support we have received from OCCF

since 2019." For information on the Business Advisory Council, visit [ocic.biz/ocbac/](http://ocic.biz/ocbac/)



Katherine Adams, Director of Workforce Innovation, and Clay Finken, BAC President, accept the Joy Roth Little Tiger Award along with OCCF Director Shea McGrew, Jeff Roth, and OCCF Grants Chair Mary Coffee.

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## From Shea McGrew, Executive Director

There is a dual theme for this newsletter: "giving and receiving". We are pleased to recognize our many donors and highlight the generosity of one of them – our good friend and former trustee Brian Koenig. Thanks to all of you for enabling OCCF to touch Ottawa County citizens through grants and scholarships. The listing of 2025 community grants shows the breadth of important local needs they addressed.

And meet our two new trustees, Jim Boule and Alison Falls, whose talents and commitment are already advancing OCCF's charitable work.

We are grateful for your interest and support!



## *Foundation Welcomes New Trustees*



**Alison Lanza Falls** has called Catawba home for more than 25 years. The Ohio State University graduate originally visited the area with her late husband, enjoying the family's historic Holt Cottage for 50+ years. Leaving Bank of America Securities, Alison created a coaching practice focused on Mindful Leadership. Leveraging her expertise in investment banking, she combines strategic thinking with evidence-based coaching practices and meditation. She has published an award-winning book, "Be Happy NOW! From Wall Street Ambition and the Illusion of Success, My Path to Happiness." She also serves on the Magruder Hospital Board of Trustees and the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Board.



**Jim Boule** retired after a sales and management career in graphic packaging. He was raised in Chicago and spent many of his working years in Cincinnati with his family before relocating to Catawba Island over a decade ago. Jim has been involved in several charities in Ottawa County and is currently active with the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry in Port Clinton. Jim learned to fly after retiring and spends many hours on aviation activities, including youth flight programs. He and his wife Flo enjoy travel and excellent restaurants, which they indulge in on visits to their daughter in Chicago and son who lives in Europe.

# Congratulations to the 2025 Community Grant Recipients

*Thank you to all Ottawa County nonprofits for touching so many lives in 2025.*

## RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION

Cancer Services  
Courageous Community Services  
Cultivate the Clover of Ottawa County  
Engaging Opportunities Foundation  
Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center  
Firelands Symphony Orchestra  
Genoa Area Community Food Pantry  
Habitat for Humanity of Ottawa County  
Kelleys Island Local School  
Lake Erie Islands Conservancy  
Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center  
Light House Sober Living  
Luther Home of Mercy  
LVFD Inc. (Lindsey Volunteer Fire Dept)  
Musical Arts Series Port Clinton  
Oak Harbor Alliance Chapel Food Pantry  
Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center  
Ottawa County Historical Society  
Ottawa County Holiday Bureau  
Ottawa County Museum  
Ottawa County Sheriff's Office  
Ottawa County Task Force on Aging  
PIB Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau  
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace  
The Parkvue Community on Catawba Island  
The Perry Group  
The Salvation Army  
Toledo Opera  
United Way of Ottawa County  
Schedel Arboretum and Gardens

## GRANT PURPOSE

Provide financial support to assist cancer patients and their families  
Provide camp experience for children with developmental disabilities  
Send 4-H members to camp/help with counselor training  
Engage the community and individuals with disabilities  
Provide services to domestic violence victims  
Provide a free summer outdoor concert  
Purchase a refrigerator for the food pantry  
Assist elderly and disabled residents with home repairs  
Provide environmental education programs  
Preserve historic agricultural buildings and provide signage  
Digital display of migratory bird pathways, sounds, and information  
Provide sober and healthy activities for individuals in recovery  
Provide activities and events for residents  
Purchase a drone to enhance emergency response capabilities  
Provide musical concerts for seniors  
Construction of a commercial kitchen to prepare community meals  
Upgrade website for community outreach  
Repair and refurbish Wolcott Keeper's House  
Purchase vouchers for food and household items for those in need  
Historical driving tour of Ottawa Co. and timeline exhibit banners  
Improve communications for divers in an emergency response  
Purchase 100 senior safety kits to ensure safe & independent living  
Remake the member portal of the website  
Purchase food and food certificates for clients in need  
Build and deliver beds to children ages 3-17 who have none  
Install a security camera system to enhance safety and security  
Fund printing costs for event flyers and marketing materials  
Send 10 underserved youth to a weeklong summer camp  
Provide Opera on Wheels - The Bear Who Couldn't Fish for K-8  
Fund Dolly Parton Imagination Library for children up to age five  
Support summer science camps and art camp

## Drone Assists Local Fire Departments

The OCCF, in partnership with the Sandusky County Communities Foundation, provided a grant to the Lindsey Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) for a drone equipped with a camera featuring incredible zoom, light, and focus capabilities, as well as a high-intensity light source and thermal sensors to detect objects with varying heat temperatures.

"Seven of the LVFD members are trained and licensed to operate the drone," said Jason Conklin, LVFD Deputy Chief.

"The drone will be used to find lost persons or search in areas not easily accessible, like riverbanks or fields with tall vegetation. It can also be used to safely monitor a fire and guide firefighters, increasing their safety margin."

LVFD has a close working relationship with volunteer fire departments in Elmore, Oak Harbor, and Bay Township in Ottawa County. These departments each have their own special equipment that they use to support each other.



The Lindsey Volunteer Fire Department demonstrates its new drone.



# Recognizing Our Donors | January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

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## Memorials

In Memory of Paul Blausey - Sandy Blausey  
In Memory of Dr. John Bodie - John & Margaret Bodie; Daniel & Kimberly Periat  
In Memory of Craig Cox - Julene Market  
In Memory of Patricia Delventhal - Kent Delventhal  
In Memory of Renee DeVore - Julene Market  
In Memory of Mike Frederick - Mary Poppe

In Memory of Dr. Derrill Hablitzel - Mark Hablitzel; Matthew Hablitzel  
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In Memory of William Orris Jr. - Vicki Snyder; Richard Gillum  
In Memory of Scott Pugh - Jan Graves  
In Memory of Bob Reynolds - Julene Market  
In Memory of Joy Roth - Daniel Riley; Mark Haar; Steve & Cheryl Bowman; Lenore Kola  
In Memory of Marty Shuff - Carolyn Heintz  
In Memory of Bob Snyder - Dan & Kim Meisler

## New Funds Established

Raymond Family Fund  
Scott Pugh Scholarship Fund  
Pontius CIC Industry Scholarship Fund  
Port Clinton Food Pantry Operations Expenses Fund

January 2024  
February 2024  
June 2024  
August 2024

Norman and Dott A. Dell Gulau Scholarship Fund  
Joseph and Eleanor Kokinda Family Fund #2

December 2024  
December 2024

We strive to accurately acknowledge all gifts; however, errors may occur. If any are discovered, please accept our apologies and notify Brenda Mazur at mazur.occf@gmail.com.

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

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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 |
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| Supporter  | \$100 – \$499     |
| Friend     | Up to \$99        |

**DONATE  
TODAY!**



# Koenig Family - a Legacy of Service



Brian Koenig congratulates Caydie Buchanan, recipient of the Pamela Graver-Koenig Memorial Scholarship.

Brian Koenig was raised in Fremont, Ohio, in a family that made giving back to the community a priority. His introduction to the Ottawa County Community Foundation came when his neighbor, former OCCF Trustee Blair Miller, shared information about the various opportunities available through a community foundation to meet a donor's philanthropic goals.

"Blair asked if I had considered starting a scholarship fund in memory of my wife, Pam, who had recently passed away," Brian explained. Wanting to learn more, Koenig explored the various fund options available with the OCCF and decided to proceed with a memorial scholarship.

"One thing that was important to me was the ability to set the selection criteria," Brian reflects. "Pam was an elementary school teacher, a track and cross-country coach, and served as president of the Woodmore Youth Soccer Program. We decided to align the scholarship criteria with her interests."

Each year, since it was established 14 years ago, the Pamela Graver-Koenig Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to a high-achieving Woodmore High School senior who participated in soccer, track, or cross country during high school and is pursuing a career related to children.

Koenig is proud of the scholarships his fund has provided and pleased that his giving will continue in perpetuity. He is also gratified to see the impact OCCF grants have had in the Elmore area, benefiting Christy's Corner Café, Harris-Elmore Library, Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, Elmore Historical Society, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

Brian went on to serve as a trustee on the OCCF board. During that time, he learned firsthand about the power of a community foundation and the need it has for operating funds to support the cost of administering grants, scholarships, special projects, as well as normal operational expenses.

## Stay Informed!

We are building our email list to communicate quickly with our supporters. Please sign up for future digital correspondence by scanning the QR code and sharing your email address.



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# 2025 Gala

Guests enjoyed friendly conversation, delicious food, and great music provided by Cleveland Keys dueling pianos at the Doing Good Gala, which celebrated the Foundation's good work.

## Thank You to Our Gala Sponsors!

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