

GoodNews



R.C. Appenzeller Family Foundation and Scholarship Funds \$13.9 Million Gift Ensures Family's Legacy for Future Generations

Third-generation Daytonian Robert Appenzeller had a deep love for his community. Bob, and his wife, Phyllis, came from humble beginnings and dedicated their 68-year marriage to building a successful life centered on family and helping others.

The Appenzellers' love for Greater Dayton became most evident after their passings in 2022, when Bob and Phyllis gifted a total of \$13.9 million through their estates to the R.C. Appenzeller Family Foundation of The Dayton Foundation, making it the second-largest legacy gift in the Foundation's history. The fund now is advised by the Appenzellers' children, Robert "Chip" Appenzeller, Jr., and Rebecca "Becky" Cain.

"My parents' goal was first to provide for their immediate family and second to provide for the community as critical needs emerge," Chip said. "The Dayton Foundation is a perfect conduit to execute this plan because of its breadth of experiences with regional organizations and its networking abilities with community leaders."



Phyllis and Bob Appenzeller

"We are extremely proud of our family's legacy of giving back to the community that nurtured our success. Thanks to our parents' gift, the Appenzeller legacy will be projected far into Dayton's future."

— Robert "Chip" Appenzeller, Jr., Dayton Foundation donor

"What an absolutely wonderful legacy Bob and Phyllis have left for our community," added Mike Parks, CFRE, president of The Dayton Foundation. "This generous gift will keep working to make a positive impact on Greater Dayton for years to come, just as the Appenzeller family has done for generations."

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Meet the Foundation's New Board Chair, Jan Culver



Jan Culver

When it comes to helping her community, Jan Culver, CPA, "simply can't say 'no,'" according to her husband, Gene Kurtz. As a longtime community volunteer, Jan cares deeply about Greater Dayton and the organizations striving to make it a stronger, more vibrant region. So, it was no surprise when she moved home to Dayton following her retirement in 2013 as the chief fiduciary officer for KeyBank NA, Cleveland.

"There are so many wonderful things about this region – kind people, nationally recognized arts and a low cost of living to name a few. I want to help it become even better. That's why I'm so drawn to The Dayton Foundation and its mission to help people help others," said Jan, the new chair of The Dayton Foundation's Governing Board.

"[The Dayton Foundation's] collaborative nature and nimbleness to gather the right people at the right time has made positive change happen."

— Jan Culver, chair, Governing Board

Born in Schenectady, New York, Jan spent her early years moving wherever her father's engineering work took her family, eventually landing in Dayton when she was in the fourth grade. Her passion for hard work and helping others was rooted in her upbringing and inspired by her mother.

"Volunteering and giving charitably, no matter the cause, was Mother's way."

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Legacy continued

Like many Americans born in the 1920s, Bob and Phyllis withstood many hardships, which Chip attributes to his family's stoic Germanic roots. Growing up, Bob's and Phyllis's families had little money, though Bob's father managed to stay employed during the Great Depression. This example of hard work and dedication helped lay the foundation for Bob's stellar work ethic, which included serving in the United States Navy during World War II, then earning a mechanical engineering degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts. He returned to Dayton in 1948 and began his career at Delco Products. In 1956, Bob founded Machine Products Corporation, which provides specialized equipment and technology worldwide to the electric motor industry.

"Dad never lost sight of his goal to be successful through good times and bad. Never flaunt your success, be humble, was his way," Chip said. "Mom, a devoted stay-at-home mom, was his muse and soulmate. She never doubted Dad's career choice and remained firmly supportive of him to the very end of her life."

The Appenzellers first established a charitable fund through The Dayton Foundation in 1997 to assist students majoring in engineering at an accredited college, university or trade school in furthering their education. They later established a Family Foundation *Plus*SM to award grants to causes important to them, such as youth and education.

Thanks to the Appenzellers' funds, more than 400 students have received over \$600,000 in scholarship assistance to date. Recently, their annual scholarship was made renewable and now offers 10 eligible students \$3,000 per year for four years to help with rising educational costs.

Makayla Bedford, who was inspired to become a civil/structural engineer following the destruction caused by the



Makayla Bedford, a 2024 R.C. Appenzeller Scholarship Fund recipient

2019 tornado in her neighborhood, is attending the University of Cincinnati with the help of the R. C. Appenzeller Scholarship Fund.

"My three little sisters are my biggest motivations to go to college. I want to show them they should pursue their dreams no matter how big or small,"

"I plan to become the first in my family to earn a degree and hope that I can aid students in the future, just like the Appenzellers have done for me."

— Makayla Bedford, scholarship recipient

Makayla said. "Financially, college seemed like an unachievable dream. Receiving this scholarship means everything to me, and I will be forever grateful to the Appenzeller family for making my dreams a reality. I plan to become the first

in my family to earn a degree and hope that I can aid students in the future, just like the Appenzellers have done for me."

Makayla's words echo the sentiments of Bob Appenzeller, who, in a 2008 Dayton Foundation article, said, "If I hadn't received a scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to get my degree. I'm thrilled I'm able to give these students the same opportunity to fulfill their dreams that I had."

The R. C. Appenzeller Family Foundation also has awarded significant grants to many worthwhile community efforts. Recent grants include \$450,000 over three years to Crayons to Classrooms to provide free school supplies for teachers of low-income students, as well as \$200,000 to Montgomery County Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Association to construct a permanent memorial for local fallen deputies and officers. The memorial project, which will be located next to the Dayton Masonic Center, is particularly meaningful to Becky and Chip, as both their grandfather and father were masons and had a high regard for the sheriff's office.

Becky and Chip look forward to working with The Dayton Foundation to increase grantmaking from their family's funds in the future, thanks to the substantial gift their parents left behind.

"Dad felt giving to The Dayton Foundation was the best way to give back to the region that was so beneficial to multiple generations of Appenzellers, going back to family members who worked as basket weavers in the late 19th century," Chip said. "We are extremely proud of our family's legacy of giving back to the community that nurtured our success. Thanks to our parents' gift, the Appenzeller legacy will be projected far into Dayton's future." 🌿



Phyllis and Bob were married for 68 years until they both passed away in 2022.

World-Renowned Dance Company Poised to Make Great Strides, Thanks to Grants

Dayton native Jeraldine Blunden was a trailblazer. In 1963, during a time of uncertainty and unrest in America, she had the vision to create a dance school for African-American youth, who were excluded from Dayton's segregated dance studios. With a troop of outstanding dancers, she established the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company in 1968.

Now in its 56th season, DCDC has grown to be widely regarded as one of the nation's best and most historically significant arts institutions, proudly boasting the largest repertoire of works by Black choreographers in the world.

"We are a company of professional dance artists who are bold, electrifying, masterfully skilled and innovative. DCDC engages audiences through their hearts, minds, spirits and our common humanity, artfully demonstrating the power of the moving body," said Shola Odumade, grants administrator for DCDC. "DCDC remains a vital performing arts institution and a seasoned educational resource locally and around the world."

To help maintain this tradition of excellence far into the future, DCDC launched the Strategic Capacity Building for a Sustainable Future Initiative in 2023. The Dayton Foundation awarded a \$64,000 discretionary grant for the effort in 2023, with an additional \$64,000 awarded from The Harry A. Toulmin,



Rooted in the African-American experience, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company is committed to reaching the broadest audience through exceptional performance and arts-integrated education.

Jr., and Virginia B. Toulmin Fund of The Dayton Foundation. Collectively, these grants helped DCDC to implement new software, develop its board, hire business consultants and more.

"Thanks to these and other grants, DCDC executed critical activities to aid in strategically advancing the company's operations," Shola said. "Gifts like these are vital to the execution of day-to-day operations, organizational vitality and overall fiscal solvency."

To further this work, Debbie Blunden-Diggs, who previously served as the company's artistic director since 2007, was named chief executive and artistic

director last February. Debbie has deep roots with the company. As Jeraldine's daughter, she is fiercely committed to preserving its enduring legacy.

"DCDC's remarkable 56-year legacy continues as we launch our 2024-2025 season," Debbie said. "A time to recall, a time for dynamic presence, a time to venture forward, *Timeless Grace* is how DCDC will delight audiences with dances from our past, present and future."

In addition to Debbie's appointment, the company has made great strides in reestablishing touring operations, including enlisting the help of a touring agent

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A Special Thank You to David Miller

The Dayton Foundation would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to David Miller for his unwavering commitment and exceptional leadership as chair of the Foundation's Governing Board for the last two years.

"Under David's leadership, we were able to make impressive strides in the Foundation's mission to help individuals and organizations help others through charitable giving and community leadership," said Mike Parks, CFRE, president of The Dayton Foundation. "This

"We are deeply grateful for the gift of David's time, talent and treasure to grow The Dayton Foundation and make it a stronger, more dynamic philanthropic resource for the Greater Dayton region."

— Mike Parks, president



David Miller

included the awarding of more than 50,000 grants totaling \$247.6 million from all Foundation funds in the last two years to assist nonprofit organizations locally, nationally and internationally."

Included in the grantmaking total, \$2.7 million was awarded in Board-directed discretionary and Greenlight GrantsSM that helped local organizations develop programs and services for individuals with disabilities; create

after-school programs to empower young men; increase access to healthy food for low-income families; provide safe and welcoming housing for victims of domestic violence and the LGBTQ+ community; and offer enhanced arts-based programming, among other efforts. Additionally, the Foundation reached a new milestone in giving with more than \$124 million awarded in fiscal year 2023 alone. This was the first time in the Foundation's history that grantmaking in a single year exceeded the \$100 million mark. This extraordinary accomplishment shows the compassion that Foundation fund holders have for causes important to them, as well as their confidence in The Dayton Foundation to steward their funds.

During David's chairmanship, the Foundation assisted individuals, families and organizations in furthering their charitable goals through the creation of 536 new endowed and non-endowed funds and Charitable Checking Accounts.SM Included among these were 26 new, unrestricted and

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From the President

Empowering Individuals and Our Region's Workforce



Michael M. Parks,
CFRE

“This initiative offers a unique opportunity to significantly reduce poverty by building a robust talent pipeline in the region. Together, we can create a stronger, more resilient Dayton!”

— Joe Sciabica,
executive director,
Dayton Workforce
Coalition

As we continue our series on individuals and efforts inspiring change throughout Greater Dayton, I want to introduce Joe Sciabica, executive director for the Dayton Workforce Coalition. Joe has more than three decades of experience in a variety of United States Air Force engineering, senior technical management and senior executive service leadership positions, including a tenure as the CEO and president of Universal Technology Corporation (now ARCTOS). This experience makes him the perfect “changemaker” to lead DWC. The Dayton Foundation is helping to convene community partners that are actively engaged in the local workforce opportunities for this new collaborative effort. The Foundation also has awarded \$500,000 over three years to lift up this initiative.

Launched in 2023, it is focused on developing and aligning career pathways with industry needs to strengthen our region's workforce, while simultaneously fostering a vibrant, inclusive community where everyone can access innovative, career-appropriate education and training.

What is Dayton Workforce Coalition's mission?

Joe: Created in response to the urgent need across the region for a skilled labor force, DWC's mission is to empower individuals and families by providing access to specialized education tailored to high-growth and small business industries throughout the region. DWC will operate as a central hub for workforce development to unify the efforts of business leaders, educational institutions, local governments, military representatives and community organizations to address Greater Dayton's workforce challenges.

What do you see as the community's greatest challenges? How does DWC work to meet those challenges?

Joe: The Dayton Region is at a pivotal point where the rapid growth of job opportunities is outstripping the current rate of workforce development. In 2023, there were 26,000 unfilled job postings, and this figure is projected to skyrocket to around 59,000 by 2030. The growing gap between the supply and demand for skilled labor poses a significant threat to our local economy. If unaddressed, it potentially could lead to \$4.1 billion in lost earnings for workers and \$6.1 billion in lost regional GDP, which could drive employers and skilled workers to relocate outside the region or state.

In addition, the Dayton Region currently falls below the state average for retaining its college-educated workforce, particularly in higher education fields such as healthcare and STEM. With labor force participation expected to decline from 2024 to 2030 by 112,000 workers due to retirements and broader economic trends, a coordinated effort is crucial.

DWC will work to address these challenges by bringing together various



Joe Sciabica

stakeholders to develop and execute comprehensive strategies in these areas: increase workforce participation, college graduate and workforce retention, and migration from around the United States to the region. Our initiatives will be inclusive, community-driven and responsive to local needs. This will ensure equitable access to in-demand jobs for all individuals and guide employers to the right set of ecosystem resources to meet their workforce needs.

How is DWC inspiring change in Greater Dayton?

Joe: We are revolutionizing workforce development by transforming how employers, employees and educational providers will collaborate through collective impact to build a skilled and resilient workforce. Employers will play a crucial role by creating an inclusive and dynamic labor market that values diversity, equity and the fair evaluation of talent. They will set the tone for an adaptable and innovative workforce capable of meeting evolving industry demands. Employees will be encouraged to engage in continuous learning and align their career paths with changing market needs, becoming active agents in their professional development and upward mobility.

Additionally, educational institutions will be pivotal in bridging the gap between learning and employment.

They will need to ensure that academic programs meet current and future job market requirements, as well as to prepare students with the skills necessary for long-term success. By aligning these efforts, DWC will help build dynamic talent pipelines that connect education with employment opportunities.

Our initiative also will focus on community engagement and equity. We actively will collaborate with communities, businesses and educators to build awareness and support for career-appropriate education and opportunities. This approach will help to close opportunity gaps for underrepresented and underserved populations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to succeed.

What do you see on the horizon for Greater Dayton and its STEM workforce?

Joe: Looking forward, the future of Greater Dayton's STEM workforce is both promising and challenging. Fortunately, as job opportunities in STEM fields continue to expand, the demand for a highly skilled workforce also will grow. The challenge is that many of our STEM education and skilling agencies are mostly saturated by current demands. We'll have to be creative in how we address the demands.

To improve the quality of life for all citizens in the Dayton Region, DWC is committed to positioning Dayton as a national leader in workforce readiness and development and ensuring that opportunities for economic advancement are available. By empowering individuals with skills, credentials and education, DWC will help provide family sustaining wage jobs and promote economic growth. This initiative offers a unique opportunity to significantly reduce poverty by building a robust talent pipeline in the region. Together, we can create a stronger, more resilient Dayton! 🌱

For more information or to get involved with the Dayton Workforce Coalition, contact Joe Sciabica at jsciabica@daytonfoundation.org or (937) 225-9919.

Michael M. Parks, CFRE
President

Donors and organizations establish funds to help others

Endowments

Establishing a strong foundation for our community's future is a vision shared by donors who have endowment funds at The Dayton Foundation. The following funds are some of the new endowments established by donors in recent months to support their special charitable causes and our region, now and in the future.

Dr. Karl Borsody and Dr. Jaleh Eslami Fund was established to support the charitable wishes of the donors.



Ron Casey
Ron Casey Memorial Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to help select graduating seniors from Northridge High

School pursue their academic goals. This fund honors the life of Ron Casey, a Vietnam veteran who was inducted into the Northridge Hall of Fame in 2008 for his contributions to the Harrison Township and Northridge communities.



Peter and Linda Chu
The Peter and Linda Chu Designated Fund was established by Peter and Linda Chu, both graduates of Spring Valley Academy's first class in 1970. Through this fund, they wish to enable students to have the life-changing enrichment of high-quality academics.

Go with the "Flo" Fund carries out the donor's charitable wishes by awarding grants to the Church of the Incarnation, Oak Tree Corner Inc., and St. Vincent De Paul Society.



Jeff and Ellen Ireland
Ireland Community Needs Fund supports organizations throughout Greater Dayton that provide services in the fields of education and basic human needs. This fund was established by Ellen Ireland, former Governing Board chair of The Dayton Foundation, and her husband, D. Jeffrey Ireland, Esq., founding partner of Faruki PLL.



MAK Scholarship Recipients
MAK Scholarship Fund honors Mark Andrew Kreuzsch's life and spirit by granting a one-time



The Partners for the Environment Fund

scholarship to high school seniors who demonstrate community service and plan to attend a technical school, college or university.

Mightiest Warriors Project supports the welfare of people, animals and the environment.

Paul Nugent Legacy Fund celebrates the memory of Paul Nugent, a United States airman who retired with the rank of colonel and the status of chief flight surgeon after 22 years of service. With a sense of responsibility to help those in need, Paul made a life-long practice of donating to charities focused on helping animals, veterans and the environment.

The Partners for the Environment Fund garners revenue for nonprofit organizations focused on the conservation of the natural environment and agricultural resources. The Partners for the Environment is an alliance of environmental organizations focused on protecting and preserving the environmental and agricultural resources of the Great Miami River and Little Miami River Watersheds.

The Mark C. Thompson Legacy Fund supports organizations working to improve the quality of life in Greater Dayton, as determined by The Dayton Foundation's Governing Board. 🌿

Culver continued

She set a strong example and showed me the importance of helping others," she said. "Once I started my career as a CPA, I realized many of my clients, whom I considered successful in life, also devoted their time and charitable dollars to improving their communities."

Jan has followed this direction throughout her many volunteer roles. After joining the Foundation's Governing Board in 2017, Jan chaired its Marketing and Public Relations Committee during the Foundation's Centennial Celebration



(left to right) Jan Culver with the late former Governing Board Chair Marva Cosby (2020-2022), President Mike Parks, former Chair Judy McCormick (2004-2005) and former Chair Ellen Ireland (2013-2015)

in 2021 and served on the Grants Committee. Regionally, she's served on the boards of the Alliance for Education, Culture Works, Friends of the Dayton Ballet, Montgomery County Historical Society (now Dayton History), Ohio's Hospice of Dayton Foundation and YWCA Dayton. She also served on the Board of Trustees for the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance, providing much-valued counsel and arts advocacy during the organization's formative years.

Volunteering feeds Jan's spirit. Because of it, she's made lifelong friends, helped to create positive change and been inspired to do even more for her community.

"People get things done when they work together," Jan said. "That's one of the things I admire most about The Dayton Foundation. Its collaborative nature and nimbleness to gather the right people at the right time has made positive change happen."

Jan witnessed this firsthand while serving on the Foundation's Board during the 2019 tornado outbreak, the

"...I hope that together, we can continue to strengthen the region and create more opportunities for the generations coming behind us."

— Jan Culver

mass shooting tragedy and the 2020 pandemic.

"The Dayton Foundation was the go-to organization because of its established trust, broad network of resources and expertise in facilitating donations," she said. "The staff and volunteer Board members also are persistent. If they don't have the answers, they find the people who do so the work gets done. It's this same level of commitment that they apply toward community initiatives currently supporting student success, coordinating care for traumatic brain injuries, filling workforce gaps and strengthening diversity, equity and inclusion for all. We are so fortunate in Greater Dayton to have the charitable giving services of The

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Recent discretionary grants help build a better community

Grants

The Dayton Foundation recently awarded \$795,000 in discretionary grants that were approved by the Foundation's Governing Board to assist Greater Dayton charities. Additionally, grants totaling \$52,100 were awarded through the Foundation's Greenlight GrantsSM program to benefit area nonprofits.

The Foundation's discretionary and Greenlight Grants programs are made possible by donors who have provided unrestricted or lightly restricted funds. These funds enable the Foundation to act on opportunities for the community and address pressing needs throughout the region.



Dayton Performing Arts Alliance

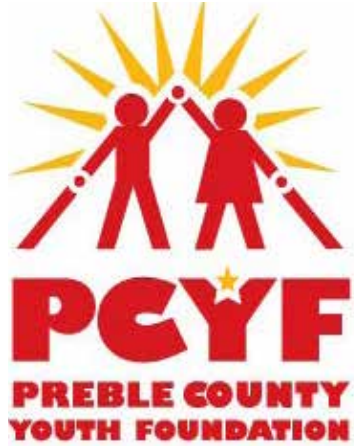
Dayton Performing Arts Alliance (\$30,000) to establish an apprentice company for dancers who have graduated from high school but are not yet ready to join a professional company.

Dayton Workforce Coalition (\$500,000 over three years) to support a collaborative effort to prepare 20,000 individuals per year for in-demand jobs across the Dayton Region.

Hannah's Treasure Chest (\$75,000) to purchase and renovate a permanent facility to help more children and expand the organization's programming.

Miami Valley Urban League (\$40,000) to publish the 2024 State of Black Dayton Report to raise awareness of issues facing Black communities and outline priorities for addressing them.

Preble County Youth Foundation (\$75,000) to construct a new gym at the YMCA in Eaton, Ohio.



Wright Dunbar (\$50,000) to construct a memorial that pays tribute to 40 Medal of Honor recipients and 100,000 veterans living in Greater Dayton.



Yellow Springs Home

Yellow Springs Home (\$25,000) to provide low-income older adults with eight new, affordable rental units through a community land trust.

Greenlight Grants Awards



Dayton Dream Center

Dayton Dream Center (\$6,000) to launch phase one of the "Roadmap for Recovery" program, which includes purchasing software to track clients' engagement.

Felons with a Future (\$5,000) to provide supplies and automotive training for five participants.

Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers (\$3,000) to provide strategic planning services for the organization's pro bono program.



Greater Edgemont Community Coalition

Greater Edgemont Community Coalition (\$5,000) to automate popcorn shelling and harvesting processes for its popcorn pilot project.



Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton

Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton (\$4,100) to complete an adaptation of the Holocaust memoir, *Anschel's Story*, to raise awareness of the dangers of hatred and prejudice.

Joshua Recovery Ministries (\$7,500) to purchase two homes to better serve clients in finding healing and recovery.

Kids in New Directions (KIND) (\$5,000) to purchase a van to include more students in its foundational learning program.



Kids in New Directions



Omega Community Development Corporation

Omega Community Development Corporation (\$7,500) to create a community garden for participants of its food outreach program, many of whom are food insecure.



RaiseSTEM!

RaiseSTEM! (\$2,500) to construct a 120-pound robot for outreach and recruiting events.



Spectrum New Beginnings

Spectrum New Beginnings (\$2,500) to develop a strategic plan for long-term success.

United Rehabilitation Services (\$4,000) to complete the organization's Adapted Therapy Apartment, including purchasing and installing assistive technology to better serve clients.



United Rehabilitation Services

These grants were made possible thanks to the following Unrestricted or Field-of-Interest funds of The Dayton Foundation.

Ted and Irita Black Legacy Gift
Victor J. Cassano Unrestricted Fund
W. A. Chryst Fund
Francis Crosthwaite Fund
The Eckstein Community Fund
The Joan F. and William H. Eicher Fund
Patrick J. Fannon Discretionary Unrestricted Fund
Fresh Air Farm Society Trust Fund
Fund for the Homeless
Dr. and Mrs. John Genovesi Fund

Greater Dayton Jaycee Fund
James P. Hudson Legacy Fund
Mary J. & Frances P. Hussey Fund
William and Joanne Hussey Fund
Eleanor and John Kautz Fund
Edward L. and Esther B. Kohnle Fund
Leon Norman and Mildred Miriam Nizny Memorial Fund
Dr. and Mrs. Juan A. Paulet Fund
The Robert and Jean Penny Endowment Fund
Hyde E. Ruble & Eleanor F. Ruble Fund
Caroline Patterson Shaw Memorial Fund
Harry A. & Phoebe Shaw Charitable Fund

6320 Fund
Edith Slutzker Fund
Paul E. and Josephine H. Smiley Fund
Frederick C. Smith Fund
Donald M. and Dorothea Hunt Spindler Endowment Fund
Wayne and Catherine Staley Fund
Wallace and Florence B. Stauffer Fund
John E. Weiser Fund
Betsy B. Whitney Discretionary Fund
Herman and Dorothy Worsham Fund
The Signa W. Zimmerman Memorial Trust Fund

Air Camp Founders Scholarship

Fund Helps Students Take Flight, Ignite Their Passions

When a stark realization emerged in 2006 of the critical need to engage more youth in pursuing STEM careers, four prominent local leaders stepped up. Fueled by examples such as the United States Navy's National Flight Academy in Florida and Space Camp in Alabama, they recruited solid community support and enlisted local STEM professionals as volunteers to bring Air Camp, Inc., to fruition in 2010.

"We are blessed to live in a region that has a rich array of organizations, programs, activities and assets that span the full range of aviation and aeronautics output," said Dr. Vince Russo, co-founder and president of Air Camp, Inc. "Air Camp works in partnership with these organizations to achieve the important outcomes embodied in our vision and mission."

Vince's background as an engineer and retired senior executive for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, combined with that of the other co-founders, Dr. Tom Lasley, former dean of education for the University of Dayton, retired Lt. General Dick Reynolds, a former test pilot and senior United States Air Force commander, and Dan Sadlier, retired president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank's Western Ohio division, set into motion one of the most exciting STEM offerings for youth and local educators locally and around the country.

From flying planes under the supervision of an FAA-certified instructor pilot, to constructing and operating small, powered aircraft models, participants are bused to different locations, such as the Dayton International Airport, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and three of the area's colleges and universities. These interactive activities are just a sampling of Air Camp's curriculum, which originally was designed in 2009 by a team of 10 educators, including six with terminal degree credentials.



Middle school student Lucas Estrada traveled from El Paso, Texas, to attend Air Camp, thanks to the Air Camp Founders Scholarship fund.

"Though we've added and retired curriculum modules over our history, Air Camp has changed little since we launched, with 'hands-on' being the key feature and brand differentiator," Dick Reynolds said. "We seek to design and deliver experiences that require our students and teachers to 'do' rather than just 'watch.'"

The program initially hosted only middle school students but has since grown to include teachers, elementary school students in grades 4 to 6 and high schoolers. In 2023, Air Camp held 17 camp sessions for 500 students and 89 educators from 34 states with attendance numbers increasing each summer.

"If you consider each teacher who attends Air Camp can use the experience to inspire 75 to 150 students per year, and you add to that the number of students who attend our camps, in 2023 we had the opportunity to inspire nearly 14,000 students," Tom Lasley said. "We are on a path that could reach 100,000 youth in a few years."

To further this goal in 2023, the founders established the Air Camp Founders Scholarship through The

"Thank you for your generosity and the opportunity to participate in Air Camp....In ten years, I cannot wait to show you what I have accomplished!"

— Lucas Estrada, Air Camp participant

Dayton Foundation. Currently, 15 to 20 percent of needs-based campers receive tuition scholarships. The designated fund awards an annual grant to help an additional middle school student, who may not otherwise be financially able, attend overnight camp.

"We've received nothing but exceptional support from The Dayton Foundation since our inception. In recent years, special projects involving facility planning, STEM workforce development, program growth, broader base fundraising and now this scholarship have been enabled with superb Dayton Foundation help," Dan Sadlier said. "The Foundation staff is universally helpful and a genuine joy with which to do business."

Lucas Estrada, who attended Air Camp thanks to assistance from the fund, was excited to learn about future career opportunities, including information about internships in the biomedical engineering field.

"Thank you for your generosity and the opportunity to participate in Air Camp. I liked getting to know the people and learning the fundamentals of flight," Lucas said. "I learned that in the Air Force, there are many opportunities for anyone with a passion for engineering. In ten years, I cannot wait to show you what I have accomplished!"

Inspiring students like Lucas to pursue their STEM passions is at the heart of Air Camp's mission. The nonprofit organization hopes to continue its work with other local organizations to positively impact Greater Dayton in the same way that Space Camp has impacted Huntsville, Alabama.

"Greater Dayton has a solid array of STEM programs," Vince Russo said. "We sincerely hope the community recognizes our impact alongside these organizations in inspiring the next generation of technical leaders in our community and beyond." 🌿

DCDC
continued

to facilitate multiple bookings, as well as DCDC's presence at the Association of Performing Arts Professionals in New York City, the industry's premier networking event. Surveys also were conducted to inform new marketing strategies for audience cultivation and development.

Efforts like these are more important than ever, as, like most arts organizations, the pandemic hit the company hard. Though it pivoted to bring performances and programming to audiences in new and innovative ways, the lingering effects of the shutdown have resulted in significant struggles for the organization.

"DCDC saw a decrease in everything, most notably contributed income, subscribers, touring engagements, ticket sales and more," Shola said. "We are only now beginning to see an increase in ticket holders, but it is not as prolific as it once was."



In 2021, DCDC established an endowed fund through The Dayton Foundation to generate annual income for the organization and help ensure the organization's long-term success.

"In addition to financial support, The Dayton Foundation has offered a wealth of resources, tools, networking and training opportunities, and learning experiences that have been extremely useful,"

Shola said. "We truly are grateful for this partnership!"

Individual and community support also is crucial for DCDC's future, whether it's through purchasing subscriptions and tickets for upcoming performances, making charitable donations, providing corporate sponsorships, planning major or estate gifts, or volunteering.

"DCDC's primary product and greatest asset is its exceptional artistic output. Sharing this art with the world is largely possible because of essential financial investments that help empower our mission and ensure long-term sustainability for the collective benefit and edification of all," Debbie said. "We invite our cherished public to continue to share in the magic that is DCDC, and we offer gratitude for all we have built and continue to sustain together." 🌿

The Mi'Che Movement

Fund Enhances the Quality of Life for Dogs and Women Through Connection

It's been said there is nothing truer in this world than the love of a good dog. This sentiment rings especially true for Gina Austin-Lewis, PhD, FACHE, whose constant companion, Mi'Che, inspired her to create a charitable fund through the African-American Community Fund of The Dayton Foundation.

"I watched my mother and sister and how their love for their dogs increased their quality of life, particularly through hard times. The bond they shared was unparalleled," Gina said. "It wasn't until I adopted Mi'Che 16 years ago that I finally understood how strong their connection was. This inspired me to help others feel the same."

Gina established her fund in 2018 when The Dayton Foundation offered a 50 percent match for contributions to AACF funds. The Mi'Che Movement is a Donor-Advised Fund that supports charitable organizations in bringing together abandoned, abused or neglected dogs with women to enhance the quality of life for both. To date, thousands of dollars have been granted through her fund, including significant grants to WagsInn, which provides lodging for dogs and safe care for rescues.

"Through The Mi'Che Movement, Gina has granted funds so we could provide emergency vet care, behavior modification, and spays and neuters for our new rescues. Her donations also helped to build a privacy fence for a woman's dog, who otherwise would have had to be rehomed during a critical time in the owner's life," said Lori Wolcott, founder and owner of WagsInn.

When WagsInn recently hosted a fundraiser to build "forever" homes for dogs that have medical or behavioral issues and have trouble finding adoptive families, Gina donated \$3,500 through her fund to create a new room that will provide all the comforts of home for these dogs.

"Because of people like Gina, we are able to carry on with our mission to give rescues a chance at loving, forever homes," Lori said.



"Because of people like Gina [Austin-Lewis], we are able to carry on with our mission to give rescues a chance at loving, forever homes."

— Lori Wolcott, founder and owner, WagsInn

Dr. Gina Austin-Lewis's dog, Mi'Che, was the inspiration behind The Mi'Che Movement, a charitable fund that enhances the lives of women and dogs.

Coincidentally, the new WagsInn building is named "Clarebelle's House," which resonated with Gina because her grandmother's name was Clarabelle. As a child, she and her sister volunteered at the Veterans Administration Center, where their grandmother was the choir director. Gina felt it was a fitting way to honor the woman who taught her the value of giving back.

"My grandmother unquestionably inspired me to give back to the community," Gina said. "I believe giving is a part of someone's social responsibility. It's a way to fulfill our duty to contribute positively to the well-being of others, offering opportunities for personal growth and development, allowing us to learn new skills, gain perspective and broaden our understanding of different social issues."

Before retirement, Gina made a career out of helping others by serving 35 years in healthcare and health systems administration. Starting as a phleboto-mist in 1971, Gina put herself through

school, eventually earning her PhD and becoming a top hospital administrator. Throughout her career she volunteered on several nonprofit boards, including the Victoria Theatre Association (now Dayton Live) and YWCA Dayton. She received many accolades for her professional and community work, including being named as one of *Dayton Daily News'* Ten Top Women in 1991. She also served on the Ohio Commission for Minority Health for more than 17 years, focusing her work on healthcare legislative affairs.

For Gina, everything she does revolves around serving others any way she can, just as her mother, sister and grandmother did during their lifetimes.

"I would like our family to be remembered as a collective of individuals dedicated to serving others, whether through



WagsInn Lodging & Canine Charities Rescue has provided boarding for dogs and care for rescues for more than 26 years, saving thousands of dogs without homes since its inception.

volunteering in our community, supporting charitable causes or offering a helping hand to those in need," Gina said. "It's important others recognize our service as genuine and heartfelt, reflecting our deep-rooted faith and belief as children of God, who strive to make a positive impact in the lives of those around us. This makes me feel complete and fulfilled in a way nothing else does." 🌿

Culver
continued

Dayton Foundation, as well as the staff's and volunteers' deep commitment to community good."

Together, Jan and Gene manage their charitable giving through The Dayton Foundation with a Charitable Checking AccountSM and two deferred endowment funds that will support the Foundation's community grantmaking in the future.

"The needs in our community are vast, and every day The Dayton Foundation is asked to play a greater role in efforts to address those needs and to help lessen the demands upon area nonprofits," she said. "Growing our unrestricted resources is the only way to do this, and an unrestricted or lightly



Jan Culver was joined by Foundation President Mike Parks (left) and Governing Board Member George Forest (center) following her recognition as a 2024 YWCA Women of Influence.

restricted fund is a great opportunity to create a lasting legacy for ourselves and our family."

As she steps into the role of chair, Jan is thoughtful about the Foundation's future and what opportunities and challenges are on the horizon.

"Our region is one of the most segregated in the nation, and we need to overcome this. It's not going to happen overnight, but all of us should be mindful of including all residents in decision-making processes," she said. "Most of all, I hope that together, we can continue to strengthen the region and create more opportunities for the generations coming behind us." 🌿

The Dayton Foundation News



Alonzo Patterson

New Member Welcomed to Governing Board

This summer, Alonzo Patterson III, MD, became the newest member of the Foundation's Governing Board, which provides stewardship for the Foundation and its charitable activities. He was appointed to serve a five-year term on the Board.

A board-certified pediatrician in private practice since 1992, Alonzo is on the medical staff for Kettering Health, Miami Valley Hospital, Primed Physicians and Dayton Children's, where he also is the chief medical health equity officer. Additionally, he is an assistant clinical professor for Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and previously was the assistant dean of Minority Affairs in the Office of Student Affairs. He currently serves as chair of the board for Omega Community Development Corporation and is a board member for Dayton Early College Academy and The Physicians' Charitable Foundation of the Miami Valley, a component fund of The Dayton Foundation. He also is active in the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Board of Pediatrics and the National Medical Association. Previously, Alonzo served as a board member for Dayton Contemporary Dance Company.

Greater Dayton Public-Philanthropic Housing Partnership Recognized Nationally

The Dayton Foundation is pleased to announce that it is a recipient of the 2024 Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships, a national award issued annually by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Council on Foundations.

lightly restricted funds that help the Foundation address pressing community needs and opportunities today and long into the future. Additionally, new contributions combined with sound investment management added \$140 million in charitable assets, bringing the Foundation's community resources to an all-time high of \$1.16 billion.

Thanks to David's thoughtful guidance, the Foundation's collaborative work on community leadership initiatives is driving purposeful and transformative solutions for the region's benefit. Current initiatives include the Del Mar Encore Fellows Initiative, which harnesses the talents of skilled, older adults to address community needs; the Brain Health Collective, a partnership with the University of Dayton to coordinate care, education and community outreach for individuals inflicted with traumatic brain injuries; the Nonprofit



(left to right) Adrienne Todman, acting director of HUD, Jeanne Holihan, retired senior vice president of Operations for The Dayton Foundation, Laura Mercer, former executive director for the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Group, and Steve Naas, president of County Corp, at the July 11 HUD award ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The award, now in its 12th year, honors grantmakers and public-sector collaborators who together create innovative, place-based initiatives that have led to measurable benefits in housing and community development. The Dayton Foundation was recognized for The Pathways to Homeownership Program, which was established to address the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes' impact on affordable housing in Dayton. The Foundation worked alongside 30 other public and private partnerships, including the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Group, the City of Dayton, County Corp, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Land Bank, to establish this program that not only creates new, affordable owner-occupied housing but

also invests in and stabilizes underserved, disaster-impacted neighborhoods. To date, 19 storm-resistant, energy-efficient homes have been completed.

"The Memorial Day tornadoes in 2019 disproportionately affected low-income neighborhoods where many residents already were uninsured or underinsured. In the wake of that tragedy, our community collaborated to create this unique program which is helping tornado-impacted renters become first-time home buyers," said Mike Parks, CFRE, president of The Dayton Foundation. "We're honored to share this prestigious award with all of the partners who had the vision for making homeownership possible for the affected individuals and families." 🌿

"Under David's leadership, we were able to make impressive strides in the Foundation's mission to help individuals and organizations help others through charitable giving and community leadership."

— Mike Parks, president

Capacity-Building Partnership, a collaboration with the Mathile Family Foundation to strengthen Black-led and Black-serving nonprofits in Montgomery County; and the Dayton Workforce Coalition, a collaboration of community STEM-based partners and employers to fill workforce gaps.

His insights and leadership also helped the Foundation make great strides in adding robust services through technology, including an online grant application portal for nonprofits to apply for the Foundation's competitive grant

opportunities and a new website, with simplified navigation and a modern, user-friendly design.

"We are deeply grateful for the gift of David's time, talent and treasure to grow The Dayton Foundation and make it a stronger, more dynamic philanthropic resource for the Greater Dayton region," Mike said. "We welcome his continuation on the Board for the remainder of his term and look forward to what he will continue to give to further the Foundation's work in strengthening the Greater Dayton community today and for future generations." 🌿

Miller

continued



The Dayton
Foundation
We help you help others.

The Regional Community
Foundation

1401 S. Main St., Suite 100
Dayton, Ohio 45409
Phone (937) 222-0410
Fax (937) 222-0636
Web www.daytonfoundation.org
Email info@daytonfoundation.org

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From the President: Empowering Individuals and Our Region's Workforce

Fund Helps Students Take Flight, Ignite Their Passions

Fund Enhances the Quality of Life for Dogs and Women Through Connection

*We help you help others.*SM

Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations



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Tips on Charitable Giving

How You Can Make a Greater Impact with Your Giving



**By Jill Koorndyk,
Senior Director,
Donor Services**

Last fiscal year, nearly 200 local nonprofits applied for funding to support innovative, collaborative and dynamic programs designed to effect real change in Greater Dayton. Though we funded a number of these requests, many proposals went unfunded or were funded at a smaller amount than requested because The Dayton Foundation's grants processes are highly competitive.

To help fill the gap, the Foundation launched Partners in Giving in 2012 to engage donor-advised fund holders in this grantmaking process and to join with us to make a collective impact on regional programs and initiatives. The program provides fund holders with information about new projects that have been vetted by The Dayton Foundation and allows them to support efforts that align with their charitable giving goals.

Partners in Giving initially was piloted with a small group of fund holders, but it has since grown significantly. Thanks to the Partners, an additional \$1.3 million has been awarded to area not-for-profit organizations that applied

for and received funding through the Foundation's Discretionary and Basic Human Needs Grants processes. Projects that have received support from the Partners include a new health and wellness center in Northwest Dayton; assistive equipment and services for individuals who are blind or have low vision; and personal health and hygiene kits for students attending local, low-income schools.

Thanks to the Partners [in Giving], an additional \$1.3 million has been awarded to area not-for-profit organizations that applied for and received funding through the Foundation's Discretionary and Basic Human Needs Grants processes.

The process is simple. For each grant cycle, the Partners receive a summary of the eligible grant requests. Some grant cycles contain information about Dayton Foundation-sponsored initiatives, which are collaborative efforts designed to encourage systemic change for some of our community's biggest challenges.

After reviewing the information, fund holders may (or may not) choose to provide additional support through their funds for any number of projects. These additional grants are much appreciated by the nonprofit grant recipients, as they help them to secure the funding necessary to launch critical efforts.

The Partners have said that participating in the program simplifies the giving process and offers them a wide range of projects to support. They point out that it is an easy way to leverage their giving, saving them the time of researching worthy causes and organizations, many of which they may not have known about were it not for the Foundation. Another benefit of the program is it allows donors to give anonymously to the nonprofit organizations whose projects they wish to support through their fund if they so choose.

For more information about how you can make a greater impact by joining the Partners in Giving program, please contact me at jkooorndyk@daytonfoundation.org or (937) 225-9944. 