

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2025



KNOX COUNTY  
FOUNDATION



## Dear Partner,

On behalf of the Knox County Foundation Board of Directors, it is our pleasure to provide you with a copy of our 2025 Annual Report. For more than 80 years, Knox County Foundation has been a driving force for charitable activity, enhancing and expanding the philanthropic impact made by thousands of Knox County residents.

Our collective work extends to all corners of our community as the stories shared within these pages make evident. We want to say thank you to our generous donors, trusted advisors, and committed community partners for their continued support.

We hope you enjoy reflecting on our shared accomplishments in 2025 as you review this annual report. Thank you for all you do to help us improve the quality of life in Knox County through the power of philanthropy!

Jeffrey Scott  
Executive Director

**1.** The Salvation Army of Mount Vernon, *Light the Day Childcare Project*, **2.** The Gund at Kenyon College, *Support for The Annex's Artist Residencies and Senior Programming*, **3.** Foundation Park Conservancy, *Ariel-Foundation Park Community Engagement Partnership*, **4.** City of Mount Vernon, *Memorial Park Babe Ruth Baseball Field Renovations*, **5.** Kokosing Gap Trail, *Honoring the Legacy of Karen Buchwald Wright*, **6.** YMCA of Mount Vernon, *Scholarships for Programs and Membership*, **7.** Knox County Regional Airport, *Aviation Education Center*, **8.** Habitat for Humanity of Knox County, *Habitat for Humanity Headquarters Improvement*



# Financial Summary

## SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Summary for the year ended December 31, 2025.

CONTRIBUTIONS	
Foundation Directed Support	\$1,323,000
Donor Directed Support	\$4,670,000
Scholarship Support	\$682,000
Nonprofit Directed Support	\$7,289,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$13,964,000</b>
Investment income	\$ 16,195,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$30,159,000</b>

EXPENSES	
Direct nonprofit organization support	\$11,853,000
Student scholarship assistance	\$1,260,000
Economic Development Initiative	\$204,000
Other Foundation initiatives & programs	\$277,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$13,594,000</b>
Administrative & investment expenses	\$810,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$14,404,000</b>

## HISTORICAL FOUNDATION TRENDS

	TOTAL ASSETS	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	TOTAL GRANTS*
<b>2025</b>	<b>\$131,992,000</b>	<b>\$7,122,000</b>	<b>\$6,906,000</b>
2020	\$87,693,000	\$6,086,000	\$4,283,000
2010	\$33,749,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,922,000
2000	\$19,100,000	\$2,954,000	\$803,000

\*Historical trends exclude activity associated with agency endowment funds held on behalf of other nonprofit entities.

## S&P 500 ANNUAL RETURN AND FOUNDATION INVESTMENT INCOME

	S&P 500	INVESTMENT INCOME
2021	27%	\$ 15,243,000
2022	-19%	\$ (14,240,000)
2023	24%	\$ 13,119,000
2024	23%	\$ 15,870,000
<b>2025</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>\$ 16,195,000</b>

# \$16,195,000

## INVESTMENT INCOME

The Foundation has adopted an investment policy focused on a diversified portfolio designed to achieve an appropriate balance between investment return and market risk. The target asset allocation is weighted 70% equity securities and 30% debt securities and other interest-bearing assets.

# \$131,992,000

## TOTAL ASSETS

Financial information is unaudited and excludes all supporting organization activity.  
The most recent audit report and form 990 are available on the Foundation website.

## TOTAL FOUNDATION ASSETS BY FUND TYPE

Community Impact & Field of Interest	\$33,620,000
Designated & Donor Advised	\$37,993,000
Scholarship	\$35,404,000
Nonprofit Agency Endowment	\$24,975,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$131,992,000</b>

### Community Impact & Field of Interest

Funds created by individuals to support our competitive grants program and Foundation Initiatives.

### Designated & Donor Advised

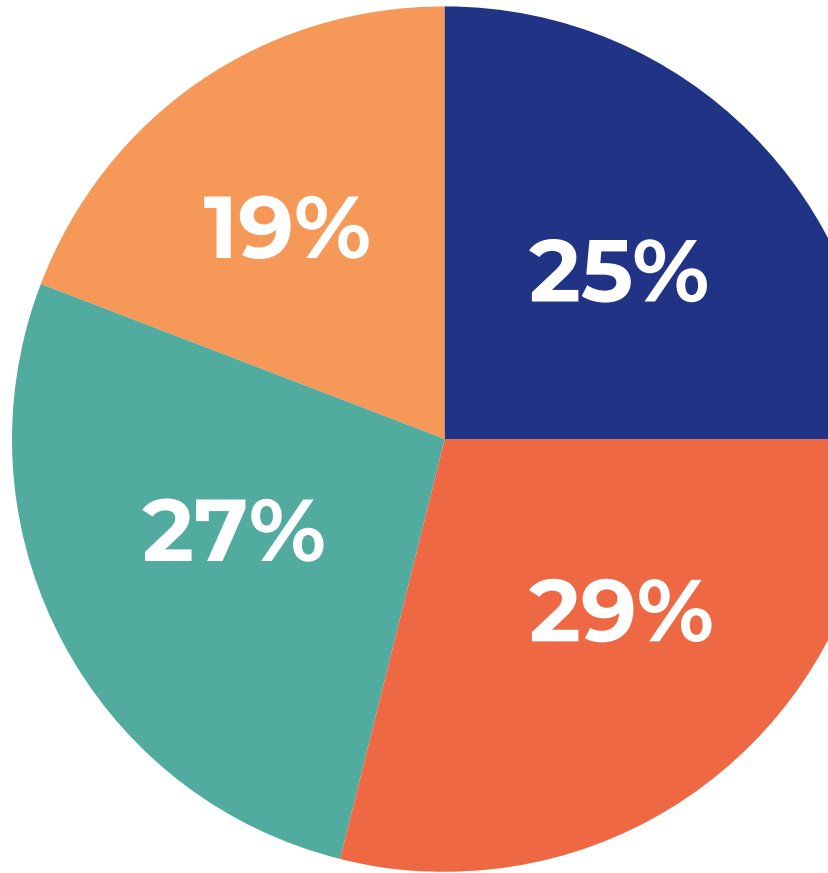
Funds created by individuals to directly support nonprofit organizations as determined by the donors or their families.

### Scholarships

Funds created by individuals to support the Foundation scholarship program benefiting Knox County students.

### Nonprofit Agency Endowment

Funds created by other nonprofit organizations to either accumulate contributions or invest accumulated assets on their behalf.



**“The Foundation continues to be in excellent financial health. Our growth over the last 25 years has been remarkable, allowing us to distribute more, and more significant, grants back into the community.”**

Mark Odenweller,  
Finance Director

# Community Investment & Impact

Knox County Foundation is especially indebted to those donors who have established funds which provide the resources necessary to support our nonprofit partners through our annual grantmaking program. In most cases, these funds generate resources which are pooled together each year into an annual Competitive Grants Fund. Where appropriate, we have also identified specific named funds which were instrumental in supporting certain grants.

## The following 2025 grants were made possible with the direct support of the Community Impact and Field of Interest funds named below.

RECIPIENT	PROJECT	AMOUNT	FUNDS
Knox County Area Development Foundation	Downtown Village Coordinator	\$60,000	Competitive Grants Fund; Harold C. and Roberta Johnson Fund
The Salvation Army of Mount Vernon	Light the Day Childcare Project	\$50,000	Competitive Grants Fund
Knox Educational Service Center	Youth Enrichment Series	\$12,500	Competitive Grants Fund; The Barone Family Arts in Education Fund
Knox County Foundation Scholarships	Career and Technical Education Scholarships	\$22,000	Competitive Grants Fund
Foundation Park Conservancy	Ariel-Foundation Park Community Engagement Partnership	\$25,000	William and Peggy Stroud Fund
The Gund at Kenyon College	Support for The Annex's Artist Residencies and Senior Programming	\$15,000	Donald W. Clutter Fund
Habitat for Humanity of Knox County	Habitat for Humanity Headquarters Improvement	\$150,000	Harold C. and Roberta Johnson Fund; Ted and Ann Schnormeier Unrestricted Fund; Ariel Corporation Fund
Main Market and Beyond	Danville Veterans Memorial Park Restoration	\$19,619	William and Peggy Stroud Fund
Danville Athletic Boosters Club	Danville Turf Field Project	\$50,000	William and Peggy Stroud Fund
Knox County Regional Airport	Aviation Education Center	\$60,000	Belle Shrontz Fund
Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio	Program Support for Knox County Students	\$8,500	Beatty B. Williams Memorial Fund
Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities	Extracurricular Activities for Individuals with Disabilities	\$20,000	Katherine A. Sheedy Memorial Fund
YMCA of Mount Vernon	Scholarships for Programs and Membership	\$15,000	Richard I. and Arline J. Landers Foundation Fund
American Red Cross ECO	Building Community Resiliency with Disaster Preparedness and Recovery	\$7,500	Richard I. and Arline J. Landers Foundation Fund

Kokosing Gap Trail	Honoring the Legacy of Karen Buchwald Wright	\$100,000	Competitive Grants Fund
Food for the Hungry	2025 Annual Campaign Support	\$5,000	Ariel Corporation Fund
Knox Memorial	Knox County Memorial Building Intelligent Lighting Upgrade	\$4,552	Beatty B. Williams Memorial Fund
Knox County Park District	Thayer Ridge Program Shelter	\$10,000	William and Peggy Stroud Fund
The United Way of Knox County	Vine Lawn Community Garden	\$1,500	Competitive Grants Fund
City of Mount Vernon	Memorial Park Babe Ruth Baseball Field Renovations	\$10,000	William and Peggy Stroud Fund
Community Roots	Composting Programs	\$5,000	Beatty B. Williams Memorial Fund
Mount Vernon City School District	Mount Vernon High School Guitar Class	\$7,458	Beatty B. Williams Memorial Fund
Fredericktown Forest Cemetery	Forest Cemetery Signs	\$2,500	Competitive Grants Fund
Knox County Educational Service Center	Robotics Program Launch at East Knox	\$7,500	Robert and Elisabeth Meier Fund
MTVarts	Aesthetic, Scene Shop, and Technical Upgrades to Warehouse14	\$9,653	Competitive Grants Fund; J. William & Helen F. Baird Fund for the Arts
Flying Horse Farms	Support for Knox County Campers	\$10,000	William and Peggy Stroud Fund
GroundTruth	Knox Pages "It Takes a Village" Childcare Reporting Project	\$10,000	Belle Shrontz Fund
Community Concert Association	Philanthropy Month Concert Support	\$1,700	J. William & Helen F. Baird Fund for the Arts
Muskingum Valley Council	Building Scouting Capacity in Knox County	\$3,500	Beatty B. Williams Memorial Fund
SPI	SPI Spot Bonus Days Programming	\$8,240	Beatty B. Williams Memorial Fund
Experience Mount Vernon	Downtown Mount Vernon Holiday Lighting	\$6,000	Walter and Jane Rudin Family Fund
Friends of the Kokosing Scenic River	Kokosing River Safety and Water Quality Improvement	\$4,030	William and Peggy Stroud Fund
Knox County Career Center	OTC+ Programming Support	\$7,500	Competitive Grants Fund
Knox County Sheriff's Department	Project Lifesaver	\$10,000	Richard I. and Arline J. Landers Foundation Fund
Clinton Township	Zoning Book Updates	\$5,000	Katherine A. Sheedy Memorial Fund
Leadership Knox Applications	Leadership Knox scholarships for non-profits	\$1,390	Competitive Grants Fund
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$745,642</b>	

## Community Impact Funds

Funds in **bold** were newly created in 2025.

Albright/Nagy Family Fund (2021)  
Ariel Corporation Fund (2009)  
Arthur C. and Ada B. Wolfe Memorial Fund (1969)  
Beatty B. Williams Memorial Fund (1986)  
Belle Shrontz Fund (1983)  
Berta H. Schnebly Fund (1992)  
Blanche Stevenson Fund (1993)  
Charles F. Colville Fund (1959)  
Community Foundation Memorial Fund (2009)  
Community Impact Fund (2009)  
Don & Sigrid Harnsberger Fund (2004)  
Donald W. Clutter Fund (2008)  
Dorothea M. George Fund (2007)  
Douglas & Dianne Mack Community Fund (2020)  
Edgar and Joan Clipse Family Fund (2007)  
Edith Hindley Williams Fund (1973)  
Eileen Brenner Community Impact Fund (2020)  
Ellen Grant Crawford Fund (2008)  
Frank L. and Anna Beam Fund (1979)  
Frederick and Carol Surlas Fund (1974)  
Gary G. & Carolyn S. Gray Community Endowment Fund (2020)  
George Culbertson Fund (1967)  
Harry M. and Lovella R. Foster Memorial Fund (1992)  
Havilah Phelps Fund (1995)  
Henry L. Beecher Fund (1944)  
Herbert Rock - Cutler Family Memorial Fund (2006)  
J. R. and Lorene Purdy Memorial Fund (2001)  
J.W. Rudin Jr. Fund (1947)  
J.W. Rudin Family Fund (1977)  
James A. McElroy Fund (2009)  
James H. Debes Fund (1969)  
Jean Ann Wagner Fund (1998)  
Jennie J. Debes Fund (1969)  
John and Genevieve Minor Foundation Fund (2009)  
Kathryn A. Sheedy Memorial Fund (2003)  
Knox County Savings Bank Fund (1962)  
Lamb Glass Company Fund (1946)  
Lawrence and Josephine Lewis Fund (1991)  
Lawrence E. & Nancy R. Vail Family Fund (2016)  
Lawrence F. and Ruby Williams Fund (2009)  
Luke B. Biggs Fund (1991)  
M. Elizabeth Cummings Fund (2009)  
Margaret Polahar Memorial Fund (1995)  
Mark & Elaine Hauberg Community Impact Fund (2023)  
Mary Blanche Stuckey Fund (1994)

Morton M. Hanson Fund (2003)  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Fairchild Memorial Fund (1959)  
Mrs. Walter J. Sperry and Family Fund (1966)  
Nancy J. Page Fund (1987)  
Ohio Magazine Fund (1994)  
Ora & Sue Smith Community Impact Fund (2020)  
Perry and Louise Trinkner Fund (1989)  
Pond Motors Sales Fund (1953)  
Ralph L. and Doris Boyer Fund (1987)  
Residential Homes of Knox County Fund (1999)  
Rich and Suzanne Cochran Family Fund (2013)  
Richard B. & Susan B. Murray Community Impact Fund (2024)  
Richard F. Ritter Memorial Fund (2020)  
Robert & Elisabeth Meier Fund (2015)  
Robert B. and Helen W. Lantz Fund (2006)  
Robert T. and Nancy S. Harnsberger Fund (2013)  
Rudin Company Fund (1947)  
Russell E. Ramser Jr. Memorial Fund (1996)  
Samuel and Marie D. Cureton Memorial Fund (2008)  
Sanderson-Salisbury Memorial Fund (1968)  
Ted & Ann Schnormeier Unrestricted Fund (2018)  
The Dick & Peggy Mavis Fund (2021)  
The Mount Vernon Bridge Company Fund (1945)  
W. M. Rudin Fund (1960)  
William L. Moore & Geraldine Moore Fowler Fund (2002)  
Zenno E. and Mae S. Taylor Fund (1976)

### FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Centerburg Economic Development Fund (2022)  
Centerburg Lions Community Fund (2023)  
COTC KnoxPromise Field of Interest Fund (2022)  
George & Leanna Hartig Fund (2024)  
Gordy & Fran Yance Knox County Fund (2022)  
Harold C. and Roberta C. Johnson Fund (2008)  
J. William & Helen F. Baird Fund for the Arts (2016)  
**Knox County Agricultural Heritage Fund (2025)**  
KnoxLabs Field of Interest Fund (2022)  
MVDC Parents & Friends Volunteer Association Fund (2015)  
Ralph Y. & Helen W. Struble Endowment Fund (2020)  
Richard I. and Arline J. Landers Foundation Fund (2024)  
Sue Webster Fund (2014)  
The Barone Family Arts in Education Fund (2020)  
Thomas F. McHugh Community Engagement Fund (2019)  
Vernon P. Johnson Collection Operating Fund (2019)  
William and Peggy Stroud Fund (2005)  
Youth Philanthropy Initiative (2011)

# Supporting Knox County's Nonprofit Community

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Knox County Foundation has always supported the nonprofit community through grantmaking and other programming. In 2025, the Foundation further invested in this vital sector through a new **Nonprofit Advocacy Initiative**. In partnership with Jennifer Williams of Williams Nonprofit Consulting, the Foundation offered consistent communication, strategic educational opportunities, and one-on-one capacity building sessions to strengthen our local nonprofit partners.

## Highlights of this initiative included:

- **26 newsletters** outlining legislative activity and other resources
- **2 in-person trainings** equipping nonprofit organizations to advocate effectively
- **2 webinars** covering issues related to the federal government shutdown and Ohio's budget and property tax reform efforts focusing on local impact and opportunities
- **More than 35 coaching appointments** with more than 25 Knox County organizations covering fundraising, board governance, strategic planning, compliance, and more

Additionally, the initiative helped to connect several local entities with funding opportunities at the state level.

"The Knox County Foundation is proud to extend our support of our community's nonprofit sector through the Nonprofit Advocacy Initiative, said Lisa Lloyd, Senior Program Director at Knox County Foundation. "Through this work and in conjunction with the Knox Network of Nonprofits, the Foundation and our nonprofit partners are working together to expand our collective capacity."

**"Thank you for organizing these resources! They are very helpful, especially for people new to the world of nonprofit work."**

– David Heithaus,  
Knox County Park District

**"Working with Jennifer and Williams Nonprofit Consulting was a great experience. She quickly identified key needs and brought strong knowledge of the nonprofit field and resources. Her guidance was clear, practical, and impactful."**

– Afet Kilinc,  
Alcohol and Drug Freedom Center  
of Knox County

# A New Nature Preserve in Knox County



**Ackerman Nature Preserve** is one of the newest natural environments Knox County has to offer. The 52-acre property features a 22-acre pond and wetland area at which more than 165 different species of birds have been formally documented on eBird.com.

The property at 785 Salem Avenue Extension in Fredericktown, adjacent to State Route 13, was originally owned by Fredericktown natives John and Lori Ackerman. It was donated to the Fredericktown Recreation District in 2012. Over the past two years, Knox County Foundation assisted with the community fundraising and administrative oversight to create the new preserve.

Ackerman Nature Preserve offers a number of bird blinds from which birders of all ages can watch and listen for, or take photos of, a variety of species year-round. The blinds have an open interior with window openings at various heights, allowing for children and adults, as well as options for standing or wheelchair use. Additionally, walking trails—including an elevated covered boardwalk—encircle the property and offer breathtaking scenic views.

**“The Ackerman Nature Preserve Committee worked with the Knox County Foundation to raise over \$600,000 for the project, and the Foundation now maintains a \$100,000 endowment for maintaining the improvements. Those funds are available at the request of the Fredericktown Recreational District.”**

– Kim and Pam Rose

# Knox County Agricultural Heritage Fund

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Knox County's agricultural heritage will now be celebrated and sustained through a new partnership with local farmers—the **Knox County Agricultural Heritage Fund**. This new fund will generate annual grant-making resources to support education and training, youth farming initiatives, preservation, research, and much more.

Each year, the Foundation will ask local area farmers to donate their last load of grain in support of the fund. The Foundation is working with all regional granaries to facilitate these gifts. The gifts are tax-de-

ductible and will be permanently endowed to benefit Knox County's agricultural heritage for years to come. Additional donations from other interested parties are also welcome. Two Knox County families, the Staats brothers and Jim and Susan Braddock, donated in 2025 to launch the fund.

For more information about the Knox County Agricultural Heritage Fund or to donate, please contact Jeffrey Scott at [jeff@knoxcf.org](mailto:jeff@knoxcf.org) or 740.392.3270.

**“I have donated grain to the Knox County Foundation on a number of occasions, and it is always an easy and seamless process. I know I can trust the Foundation to have our community's interests in mind. I am excited about the prospect of a Foundation fund supporting Knox County's agricultural heritage through this new initiative.”**

– Bruce Gregg, Fredericktown



# Fund Donors

The mission of Knox County Foundation would not be possible without the generous support of our partners in philanthropy. We wish to recognize and express our gratitude for all who gave generously to and through the Knox County Foundation in 2025.

## \$100,000 AND ABOVE

Anonymous  
Ariel Corporation  
The Ariel Foundation  
Dr. Allan Bazzoli  
Behavioral Healthcare Partners  
Central Ohio Technical College  
John and Donna Horn  
Anne McElroy  
Jeanne Mullendore  
North Central Ohio Nazarene  
District Church of the Nazarene  
Susan Ramser  
Richard & Arline Landers  
Foundation  
Marsha Rinehart  
Theodore H. Schnormeier  
Schnormeier Gardens Foundation  
Stricklin Family Trust

## \$50,000-\$99,999

Anonymous  
Anonymous in memory of  
Emerson L. Laird, M.D.,  
Judith Lee Davidson Fisher,  
and Karen Buchwald Wright  
Phillip and Barbara Bentz  
Mark and Denise Ramser  
Ian and Charlotte Watson

## \$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous  
Dr. Christopher M. Bazzoli  
Carolyn A. Blizzard  
Dr. Christopher Cordle and  
Susan Palmer-Cordle  
Danville Athletic Boosters  
James and Susan Eck  
Gay Street United  
Methodist Church  
George and Leanna Hartig

Dennis and Ann Luna  
Mount Vernon Elks Lodge #140  
Dr. Kyle and Sara Randall  
Keith and Vickie Sant  
Mary Jo Shrimplin  
Martha Stuller  
Alex and Libby Wright

## \$10,000-\$24,999

Mary Busenburg  
Jean Carter  
J. Mitchell Durbin  
Matthew and Tamara Erick  
Judith Mary Johnson Estate  
Earl and Patricia Heithaus  
Knox County Park District  
Robert McClelland  
Joseph and Kryz Mortellaro  
Park National Bank  
Carol Ritter  
Kim and Pam Rose  
The Elizabeth H. Ring Mather &  
William G. Mather Foundation  
The Peters Creek Fund  
United Way Of Knox County

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Brian Ball  
Kerra Clinedinst  
Arthur Dremann  
Margaret Dunn  
Scott Erick  
Bruce and Colleen Gregg  
Rachel Gregg  
Hafter Family Foundation  
Elizabeth Heer  
Morris and Suellen James  
John Kaylor  
Judy LaBrun  
David Logan

Robert Meier  
Keith and Sherri Mickley  
Robert and Norma Noble  
Rotary Club of Kokosing Valley  
Malcolm Shrimplin  
Volunteer Fire Department  
of Fredericktown  
Joseph Walsh

## \$2,500-\$4,999

Jeff and Karen Balcom  
James and Susan Braddock  
Robert Crise  
John and Margaret Fisher  
Galbraith Properties  
Howard and Sarah Gratz  
Anne Gregg  
Mark and Elaine Hauberg  
Janet Kohr  
Morgan Family Foundation  
Nature Lovers Garden Club  
Gregory and Susan Spaid  
Gary Streby  
Geoff and Paige Van Fossen  
William Wilson

## \$1,000-\$2,499

Anonymous  
Sam and Paula Barone  
Michael and Christine Billow  
Aaron and Lisa Boucher  
Lois Boyce  
Gerald and Tami Bunnell  
The Burgett Family Foundation  
Janenne Burgett  
William Barth and Sarah Burgett  
Betty Caroli  
Alan and Traci Cassell  
Dr. Brian Cassell and  
Dr. Linda Fineman

Centerburg High School  
Danville Local Schools  
Caroline Detmer  
Terry Divelbiss  
Nancy Dunbar  
Jill Durbin

Dennis and Patricia Tuttle  
Larry and Nancy Vail  
Haley Van Voorhis  
Kelly Welker  
Betty Weller  
Jeffrey Wells

Timothy J. Smith  
Specialty Outdoor Services  
Alice Straus  
Holly Trask  
United Aggregates, Inc.

**“My wife and I have always been philanthropic. We wanted to do more, not only during our lifetimes, but after. The Foundation was a great partner in helping us achieve that goal.”**

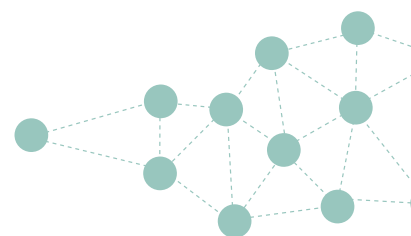
- Anonymous Donor

Dr. William and Mary Elder  
Cheryl Evans  
Susan Rischard Fehl  
Charlotte Frank  
Kendra Frank  
Fredericktown Community  
Development Foundation  
David Fry  
Gary and Sharon Frye  
George J. Igel & Co., Inc.  
Dr. James and Diane Goodrich  
Christopher and Dee Hoeflich  
Brian and Amanda Huprich  
Charles Johnson  
Jeff and Vicki Kauffman  
Michael Kitts  
Todd and Kristine Lindeman  
Lucinda Miller  
Katherine Nygren  
Owl Creek Conservancy  
Melanie Payne  
Ramser Arboretum  
Staats Brothers LLC  
Marcie Steen  
Maureen Tobin  
Lori Totman

**\$500-\$999**  
Anonymous  
Margie Armstrong  
Thomas and Kathryn Arnold  
Marilyn Ann Cordle  
R. Dave and Kathy A. Daniels  
Paedric and Allison Davis  
Henk and Annie Dekker  
Eric and Kamila Diehl  
Susan Ecker  
Loretta Godfrey  
Robert S. Gregg  
Joseph and Mary Harlett  
Joseph and Kimberlee Klesner  
Lori Kuhn and Karl Hendrickson  
Daniel Laskin  
Wilma Lepore  
Markt, LLC  
Roger Melick  
Rebecca Mitchell  
Michael and Merlene O’Neill  
Jennifer Parker  
Sabrina Pugh  
Rickabaugh Graphics  
Howard and Judith Sacks  
Donna Schulz

**\$250-\$499**

Anonymous  
Mike Badger  
Jeffrey and Lori Blanchard  
Brandwell Solutions, Inc.  
Cornerstone Community  
Church of Fredericktown  
D & J Rentals  
Roger and Jeannine Davis  
John and Gayle Dowalter  
Karen Greever  
Griffin Insurance Agency  
Robert Gunther  
Mike and Diane Henry  
Sharon Holmes  
Ron and Barbara Hules  
Rebecca Leakey  
Doug and Julie Leonard  
Harland and Barbara Long  
John Long  
Kevin Madison  
Sheryl Mickley  
Joseph and Sally Nelson  
Richard and Teresa Orr  
Daniel Pealer  
Dr. Richard and Bonnie Ramseyer  
Phil and Mary Samuell  
Jack Scott  
David and Kristine Shoewalter  
Christopher and Holly Troupe  
Bonita Warren  
Stephanie Wendler  
Michael and Myra Wilson



# Scholarship Funds

Funds in **bold** were newly created in 2025.

Alexandra D. Letz General Scholarship Fund (1985)	Charles E. Cassaday Scholarship Fund (1990)	<b>Donna &amp; John Horn Scholarship Fund (2025)</b>
Alexandra D. Letz Nursing Scholarship Fund (1984)	Charles F. & Zella H. Simpson Memorial Scholarship Fund (1998)	Doris Jean Dilts Scholarship Fund (2015)
Aljian-Barnes Scholarship Fund (2010)	Charles Lawson Memorial Scholarship Fund (2013)	Dr. Clyde L. and Dora L. Purdy Scholarship Fund (1997)
Allan S. Bazzoli, M.D., Medical Student Scholarship Fund (2021)	Charles M. Zelkowitz Community Service Scholarship Fund (2009)	Dr. John D. & Norma L. Hubbell Centerburg H.S. Alumni Scholarship Fund (2015)
American Legion Post #136 Scholarship Fund (2010)	Charles Pursel Memorial Scholarship Fund (2000)	E. Allen Craigo Scholarship Fund (2015)
Anna B. and Ralph V. Mowery Scholarship Fund (1989)	Chief Thomas E. Bartlett Scholarship Fund (2006)	East Knox Community Scholarship Fund (2010)
Arck/Crowthers Scholarship Fund (1992)	Clark and Lucy Biggs Scholarship Fund (1991)	Edwin Kaylor Scholarship Fund (2005)
Ariel Corporation Scholarship Fund (2009)	Cody L. Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund (2003)	Elizabeth W. Bell Scholarship Fund (2005)
Art and Joan Cassell Education Major Scholarship (2020)	Crise Family Scholarship Fund (2018)	Fred Schuller Scholarship Fund (2007)
Arthur and Barbara Packard Memorial Fund (2009)	Daughters of the American Revolution Lucy Knox Chapter Frances Sturtevant Scholarship Fund (2011)	Fredericktown H.S. Alumni Scholarship Fund (2015)
Arthur and Joan Cassell Scholarship Fund (2013)	Dale and Mary Spearman—DalMarDan Farms Scholarship Fund (2024)	Fredericktown H.S. Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund (2016)
Barbara C. Lamb Scholarship Fund IMO Rex M. Lamb, Jr (1985)	Dean & Audrey Spearman “Rollin’ Buckeye” Scholarship Fund (2000)	Gary and Carol Didinger Scholarship Fund (2008)
Barbara Kurtz Scholarship Fund (2019)	Dean Rinehart Scholarship Fund (2019)	Gary’s Eagles Scholarship Fund (2021)
Beverly Jo Dremann Education Scholarship Fund (2010)	Deborah Hillier Dwyer Memorial Scholarship Fund (2016)	George & Edie Wheeler Scholarship Fund (2024)
Bladensburg SERTOMA Scholarship Fund (2019)	Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Pi Chapter Mary K. Scoles Grant-in-Aid Scholarship Fund (2012)	Gerald D. & Barbara W. Lindstrom East Knox Scholarship Fund (2018)
Blake and Chloris Fritz Scholarship Fund (2010)	Dolly Mae Paige Scholarship Fund (2007)	Geraldine “Jerri” Dennis Memorial Scholarship (2010)
Brown - McGinnis Scholarship Fund (2019)	Don and Phyllis Fuller Centerburg H.S. Alumni Scholarship Fund (2015)	Gordon Hart Memorial Trades Scholarship Fund (2021)
Brian E. Durbin Ag Scholarship Fund (2024)	Donald T. Blizzard Engineering Scholarship Fund (2017)	Gregg & Cheryl Lloyd Scholarship Fund (2021)
Caitlin C. Pugh Scholarship Fund (2007)		Gregory A. Shannon Memorial Scholarship Fund (2014)
Carlos E. and Celestine A. Watkins Scholarship Fund (2006)		Harold B. “Cookie” Cunningham Scholarship Fund (1996)
The Carolyn A. Blizzard Scholarship Fund (2022)		
Charles and Helen Zelkowitz Scholarship Fund (1969)		

Scholarship Funds support local high school seniors and those pursuing 2- or 4-year degrees as well as vocational training by making postsecondary education more accessible and affordable.

Harold W. Smith Family  
Scholarship Fund (2013)

Harriet B. Lawler Memorial  
Scholarship Fund (2009)

Harry & Marguerite Kaylor  
Scholarship Fund (2015)

Harold & Virginia Duston  
Scholarship Fund (2022)

Helen Hope Cooke  
Scholarship Fund (2009)

Henry L. and Alice H. Curtis  
Scholarship Fund (2021)

Holli Anne Bunnell  
Scholarship Fund (2015)

Hugh Cameron Roelofs  
Scholarship Fund (2009)

Ila Ward Kohl  
Scholarship Fund (1983)

J. R. and Lorene Purdy  
Scholarship Fund (2001)

Jacqueline & Harold Cordle  
Centerburg H.S.  
Scholarship Fund (2016)

James & Susan Eck  
Scholarship Fund (2021)

James Warren & F. Jane Roeder  
Scholarship Fund (2021)

Jason and Heidi Crowl  
Centerburg H.S. Alumni  
Scholarship Fund (2015)

Jay M. and Sarah L. Wilson  
OSU Scholarship Fund (2000)

Joe Divelbiss Memorial  
Scholarship Fund (2007)

**John & Mary Jo Shrimplin  
Scholarship Fund (2025)**

John & Nancy Wagner Family  
Scholarship Fund (2015)

John Ackerman Community  
Scholarship Fund (2008)

John D. & Mary Ann Lambert  
Centerburg H.S. Alumni  
Scholarship Fund (2015)

John M. Lee  
Scholarship Fund (2002)

John P. and Agnes D. Rentz  
Scholarship Fund (2006)

Josie L. Kaylor General  
Scholarship Fund (2016)

Josie L. Kaylor Memorial Nursing  
Scholarship Fund (2013)

Justin T. Richert  
Scholarship Fund (2010)

Karl W. Brown Writing Award  
Scholarship Fund (2003)

Kathryn Ann Levering Memorial  
Scholarship Fund (2001)

Kenneth and Margaret E.  
Lambert Academic  
Scholarship Fund (2012)

Kevin Clinedinst Memorial  
Scholarship Fund (2023)

Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon  
Scholarship Fund (2017)

Knox County Fraternal  
Order of Police  
Scholarship Fund (2003)

Knox County Medical  
Society Fund (1991)

Larry A. Schisler Memorial  
Scholarship Fund (2002)

Larry Hall  
Scholarship Fund (2009)

Lillian C. Hickman  
Scholarship Fund (1996)

Lori Emma's Earthly Angels  
Scholarship Fund (2017)

LouAnne and Gerald Walker  
Science Scholarship Fund (2013)

Marjorie Fearn Music  
Scholarship Fund (2008)

Mark & Elaine Hauberg Vocational  
Scholarship Fund (2019)

Martha Deppner  
Scholarship Fund (2005)

Mary Catherine Ritter  
Scholarship Fund (2004)

Meharry Family  
Legacy Fund II (2024)

Mike Crouch Golf  
Scholarship Fund (2017)

MVHS Academic  
Booster Club Fund (2017)

MVHS Class of 1977  
Memorial Scholarship (2023)



**“The Knox County Foundation scholarship has given me the financial stability I needed to enjoy college while pursuing my major. Thanks to their generosity I am happy to say I am on track to graduate debt free!”**

-Madigan Caudill

## Scholarship Funds, Cont'd

Funds in **bold** were newly created in 2025.

Nancy L. Sinclair Scholarship Fund (2008)	Psi Iota Xi Vocational Scholarship Fund (2010)	Stephanie Thompson Sprang Memorial Scholarship Fund (2012)
Nate Jacklin Scholarship Fund (2022)	Ralph and Ara Flack Scholarship Fund (2000)	Stephen J. Short Scholarship Fund (2013)
Nick Gaumer Scholarship Fund (2012)	Ralph W. and Gertrude E. Workman Scholarship Fund (2015)	Stephen W. Zelkowitz Ethics Scholarship Fund (1993)
Norma J. Cornell Memorial Fund (2001)	Raymond E. Kinney Scholarship Fund (2011)	Stephen W. Zelkowitz Ohio Junior Miss Scholarship Fund (2007)
Ohio Lodge #199 F&AM Scholarship Fund (2003)	Richard T. Poling Scholarship Fund (1992)	Strang Memorial Scholarship Fund (1995)
Ohio State University Knox County Alumni Club Scholarship Fund (2007)	Rick L. Scott Memorial Scholarship Fund (1999)	The Carl E. and Sharon K. Holmes Scholarship (2018)
Ohio's Junior Miss Scholarship Fund (1987)	Robert & Mary Crise First Congregational U.C.C. Scholarship Fund (2017)	The Judy McDavid Scholarship Fund (2019)
Patricia A. and Robert F. Folland Scholarship Fund (2014)	Robert and Wroena Dusthimer Scholarship Fund (2015)	The McElroy Family Scholarship Fund (2022)
Paul J. Arnold Chemistry Scholarship Fund (2016)	Robert C. Appleton Scholarship Fund (1980)	The Robert J. & Arlene K. Griffith Centerburg H.S. Alumni Association Scholarship Fund (2016)
Pauline B. Freeman Scholarship Fund (1982)	Robert S. & Carol Jo Gregg Family Scholarship Fund (2021)	Ulery Knox County Career Center Scholarship Fund (2018)
Pauline L. Gordon Memorial Scholarship Fund (2007)	Roelofs Family Scholarship Fund (2009)	Utica High School Class of 1956 Scholarship Fund (2013)
Pauline S. Riel Scholarship Fund (2003)	Ron and Julie (Huffman) Burke Family Scholarship Fund (2021)	Valjean & Charles "Tobe" Knerr Scholarship Fund (2019)
Pay It Forward Centerburg Scholarship Fund (2016)	Ron Godfrey Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Fund (2017)	Vaughn Wiester Music Scholarship Fund (2010)
Pay It Forward Danville Scholarship Fund (2016)	Ron Meharry Legacy Nursing Scholarship Fund (2022)	W. Joan Levering Scholarship Fund (2011)
Pay It Forward East Knox Scholarship Fund (2016)	Roy McKinley Scholarship Fund (2008)	Wilbur Gaunder Engineering Scholarship Fund (2009)
Pay It Forward Fredericktown Scholarship Fund (2016)	Ruby & Alan Riedel Scholarship Fund (2021)	William Burgett Builder & Contractor Scholarship Fund (2011)
Pay It Forward Mount Vernon Scholarship Fund (2016)	Ruth Leedy Scholarship Fund (2006)	William E. & Helen F. Pond Scholarship Fund (1996)
Pay It Forward Scholarship Fund (2013)	Ryan Kelly Knox County Career Center Scholarship Fund (2018)	William E. Wing Music Scholarship Fund (1990)
Perkins Owens CHS Alumni Association Scholarship Fund (2018)	Sammeter Family Scholarship Fund (2021)	William S. and Pearlene E. Rowley Scholarship Fund (2012)
Perry & Louise Trinkner Scholarship Fund (2023)	Sarah Karolin Pressler Memorial Scholarship Fund (2002)	William S. Hunter Scholarship Fund (1990)
Phil Burghard Memorial Scholarship Fund (2004)	Sims-Rose Scholarship Fund (2002)	
Psi Iota Xi Scholarship Fund (2007)	Stenger Family Knox County Veteran's Family Scholarship Fund (2021)	

# Scholarships and Youth Initiatives

## \$1,254,950

**RECORD AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

**“Our intern, Oliver, was a joy to have on our team. He was a great fit, highly competent, and brought advanced skills that had a meaningful and lasting impact on our operations.”**

– Afet Kilinc,  
Alcohol and Drug Freedom Center of Knox County

**“It was truly our pleasure to host Tyler. He was an incredible asset during his time with us and made a meaningful impact on our volunteer program.”**

– Danielle Moffat,  
Knox County Head Start

*KCF interns visit The Salvation Army for a site tour and to learn about services in Knox County. Pictured: Captain Christine Moretz, Kara Ernsberger, Tyler Chinn, Oliver Griffith, and Lisa Lloyd.*

Knox County Foundation continued its support of the next generation of leaders in 2025. The **Foundation’s long-standing scholarship program**, now under the direction of Kara Ernsberger, awarded a record \$1,254,950 last year. In all, 480 unique scholarships were awarded to 327 traditional students and an additional 16 non-traditional students. Furthermore, another \$31,000 was awarded to 28 students pursuing Career and Technical Education.

This year also saw the birth of a new program serving college students, the **Youth Philanthropy Internship Program**. Designed for incoming college juniors and seniors, this program offers paid summer internships at a variety of Knox County nonprofit organizations, giving them a real-world opportunity to connect with their home community in unique and inspiring ways.

Knox County Head Start and The Alcohol and Drug Freedom Center of Knox County each hosted an intern as part of the inaugural season.

To learn more about the Youth Philanthropy Internship program, please visit [www.knoxcf.org](http://www.knoxcf.org) or contact Kara Ernsberger at [kara@knoxcf.org](mailto:kara@knoxcf.org) or 740.392.3270.



# Danville Athletic Boosters Turf Field

The **Danville Blue Devils** entered the 2025 high school football season with high hopes and a brand-new surface for the Tough Street Stadium. A new synthetic turf field was installed over the summer and debuted in a scrimmage with Newark Catholic on August 8 and the inaugural home opener vs Utica on August 29th.

The \$1.2 million project was designed to provide a much more consistent and playable surface than the old grass field and will require less maintenance. Additionally, the new turf will allow for greater versatility—creating additional practice and conditioning space for multiple athletic programs.

In addition to a grant of \$50,000 toward the project through its grantmaking program, the Knox County Foundation provided additional support by creating the Danville Athletic Boosters Tough Street Stadium Fund, receiving community donations on behalf of the athletic boosters, and monitoring and managing distributions as the project unfolded. The majority of the funding for the new field was raised locally.

“After a few years of late season mud games, something had to be done to provide a safe playable surface for our student athletes,” said Tony Mickley, President of the Danville Athletic Boosters. “The outpouring of support for the idea of creating a first-class stadium came together in two to three months and was completed within six months.

**“As a community we are proud of the project and grateful to the community members and alumni who made the renovated Tough Street Stadium possible. The Knox County Foundation, through their generous donation, helped enhance our efforts and provided a building block for the Tough Street Project. We are very grateful for the Foundation’s support.”**

– Tony Mickley,  
President of the Danville Athletic Boosters



# Support For Workforce Housing

The Knox County Land Bank, in partnership with Habitat For Humanity of Knox County, Ohio, is utilizing nearly \$2.5 million in state funding to build twelve new homes along the Columbus Road corridor in Mount Vernon.

## 12 NEW HOMES ALONG THE COLUMBUS ROAD CORRIDOR IN MOUNT VERNON

Funding for the project comes through the Welcome Home Ohio program, which invests reimbursement grants to help land banks purchase, rehabilitate, or build qualifying residential properties for income-eligible Ohioans.

In order to expedite the process, Knox County Foundation offered to loan the Land Bank the capital necessary to facilitate construction. As properties are completed and sold to new homeowners, the Land Bank is repaying the loan with grant funding.

“The Knox County Foundation’s willingness to provide bridge financing gave us the capacity to take on this project, said Sam Filkins, President of the Area Development Foundation and Land Bank. “Without their support, we would not have been able to move forward with all twelve homes. Their partnership helped us maximize the Welcome Home Ohio funding and turn it into attainable homeownership opportunities for Knox County families.”



**“This project represents what’s possible when organizations and community partners come together with a shared vision. The Foundation’s involvement helped turn an idea into reality, and the result will be a stronger, more connected community for everyone in the South Vernon neighborhood.”**

–Terry Shultz,  
Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity

# Donor Advised Funds

Funds in **bold** were newly created in 2025.

Aaron Christopher Donor Advised Fund (2006)  
AHQ Family Fund (2019)  
Allan S. Bazzoli, M.D. Family Fund (2013)  
Apple Valley Property Owners  
Association Fund (2005)  
Ariel Corporation Donor Advised Fund (2006)  
Ariel Corporation Employee Charitable  
Support Fund (2024)  
Ariel Corporation Foundation  
Forward Fund (2024)  
Arms of an Angel Anti-Drug Fund (2016)  
Beckett Family Fund (2019)  
Bethanne Moore Fowler Fund (2021)  
Blizzard Family Fund (2009)  
Bob & Gwen Tiell Family Fund (2018)  
Boucher Family Fund (2014)  
C. Watkins Family Fund (1997)  
Chloris A. Fritz Memorial Fund (2015)  
Christopher Cordle & Susan Palmer  
Cordle Charities Fund (2024)  
Christopher M. Bazzoli, M.D.  
Charitable Fund (2018)  
Douglas & Patsy Brenneman Donor  
Advised Fund (2006)  
Douglas R. & Dianne W. Mack Fund (2015)  
Dr. Clyde L. and Dora L. Purdy Fund (1997)  
Dr. Howard & Jean Kiracofe Fund (2017)  
Fred Barry Jr., Virginia M. Barry, Douglas  
A. Barry, & Barbara A. Barry Fund (2012)  
Gary W. and Carol A. Didinger Fund (2004)  
Gary's Eagles Fund (2016)  
Givens Family Fund (2006)  
Gordy and Fran Yance Family Fund (2012)  
Gordy and Fran Yance Family Fund II (2020)  
Healthy Soles Fund (2018)  
Heartland Cares Fund (2022)

Ian and Charlotte Watson Family Fund (2012)  
**James & Martha Stuller Fund (2025)**  
James T. & Diane D. Goodrich Family Fund (2019)  
Jean M. Patrick Donor Advised Fund (2015)  
Jim and Beckie Swetlic Legacy Fund (2015)  
Joe and Krys Mortellaro Fund (2012)  
John and Nancy Wagner Family Fund (2024)  
Judith and Leon Marlow Family Fund (2009)  
Julie Davis Family Fund (2021)  
Kelly Welker McD Fund (2024)  
Kim & Pam Rose Family Fund (2015)  
LeFurjah Family Donor Advised Fund (2007)  
Lois and Burt Hanson Donor Advised Fund (2005)  
Madcap Memorial Fund (2012)  
Madtes Family Fund (2024)  
Mankins Family Fund (2012)  
Marc and Jen Odenweller Community  
Investment Fund (2013)  
Mary Jane and Rick Bayer Foundation Fund (2012)  
Noel and Suzanne Parrish  
Legacy Society Fund (2010)  
Ora & Sue Smith Fund (2020)  
Otho Eyster & Carol Garner Fund (2021)  
Plocki-McManus Family Fund (2004)  
Ramser Family Fund (2003)  
Randall Family Fund (2024)  
Randy and Rebecca Cronk Family Fund (2014)  
Richard B. & Susan B. Murray  
Donor-Advised Fund (2008)  
Richard, Barbara & Travis Ritter Fund (2004)  
Robert S. & Carol Jo Gregg Family Fund (2018)  
Ronald Meharry Fund (2023)  
Rowe Family Fund (2021)  
Ruby and Alan Riedel Fund (2004)  
Sally and Joe Nelson  
Donor Advised Fund (2004)

Donor Advised Funds provide donors a simplified and consolidated process by which they can maximize their charitable contributions in a given tax year while also extending the impact their charitable funds can make in the years to come. Donor Advised Fund advisors may recommend grant funding from their funds at Knox County Foundation to qualifying nonprofit entities.

- Sam and Paula Barone Family Fund (2004)
- Schnormeier Family Fund (1998)
- Sgt. Benjamin J. Laymon Memorial Fund (2008)
- Sheryl A. Hall Memorial Fund (2006)
- Stenger Family Knox County Veterans' Family Donor Advised Fund (2007)
- Susan Ramser Preservation & Conservation Fund (2025)**
- TBP Family Fund (2019)
- The Burley Family Fund (2017)
- The Dean & Marsha Rinehart Family Fund (2016)
- The Gillen Family Fund (2017)
- The Hope Fund (2024)
- The Jack Marlow Family Fund (2021)
- The Mankins - Ball Family Fund (2016)
- The Mowry Family Fund (2014)
- The Murnen Family Fund (2017)
- The Sant - Bernicken Fund (2017)
- Tom & Peggy Dunn Fund for the Arts (2024)
- Totus Tuus Fund (2005)

**245**

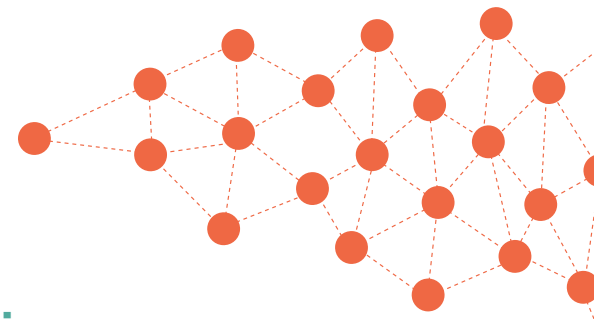
**NUMBER OF DONOR ADVISED GRANTS AWARDED**

**\$1,972,530**

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONOR ADVISED GRANTS**

**85%**

**OF DONOR ADVISED GRANTS TO KNOX COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS**



**“Our dealings with the Knox County Foundation over the years has been extremely positive. Lisa’s thoughtful communication and the Foundation’s dedication to local causes gives our family real confidence that our contributions are making a positive impact.”**

–Rick Bayer,  
Donor Advised Fund Advisor

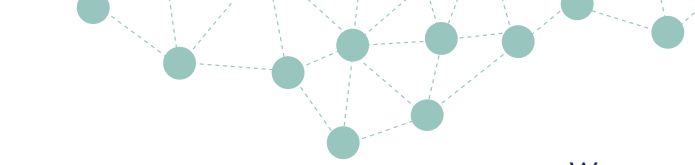
# All Other Funds

Funds in **bold** were newly created in 2025.

## AGENCY ENDOWMENT (ORGANIZATION) FUNDS

Income-generating funds established by a nonprofit organization to provide long-term financial stability and support for its mission.

4-H Planning Committee Facility Fund (2018)	Faith Lutheran Mission Fund (2010)	Habitat for Humanity of Knox County, Inc. Fund (2015)
4-H Planning Committee Programming Fund (2020)	Food For The Hungry Fund (2023)	Heritage Center Association Fund (2015)
Alcohol and Drug Freedom Center Fund (2009)	Foundation Park Conservancy Fund (2013)	HopeNow Fund (2022)
Arc of Appalachia Land Preservation Fund (2024)	Fredericktown Community Fund (2003)	Hospice of North Central Ohio Knox County Endowment Fund (2015)
Ariel-Foundation Park Capital Improvements Fund (2015)	Fredericktown Recreation District Fund (2014)	Interchurch Social Services Fund (1986)
Ariel-Foundation Park Maintenance Fund (2015)	Friends Cemetery Association Fund (2008)	Jacket Boosters Athletic Facilities Fund (2021)
Barbara Butler Fund (2020)	Friends of Memorial Park Fund (2019)	Jacket Boosters Inc. Endowment Fund (2018)
Bladensburg Sertoma Fund (2019)	Friends of the Quarry Chapel Fund (2009)	Knox Community Hospital Foundation Fund (2004)
<b>BHP Center Operational Fund (2025)</b>	Gay Street United Methodist Jan Reynolds Fund (2015)	Knox County Agricultural Museum Fund (2016)
Community Concert Association of Knox County Fund (2010)	Gay Street United Methodist Boyer Music Fund (2016)	Knox County Head Start Fund (2022)
Cornerstone Community Church of Fredericktown Fund (2017)	Gay Street United Methodist Harold & Ruth Drew Memorial Music Fund (2016)	Knox County Inclusion Park (2018)
<b>COTC Knox County Fund (2025)</b>	Gay Street United Methodist Henrietta L. Lord Fund In Memory Of Carrie P. Lord (2016)	Knox County Junior Fair Building Fund (2017)
<b>COTC Knox Promise Fund (2025)</b>	Gay Street United Methodist Irene B. & Faye L. Strang Memorial Fund (2016)	Knox County Landmarks Foundation (2017)
Danville Academic Fund (2009)	Gay Street United Methodist Lawler Interest Fund (2016)	Knox County Parks Fund (2007)
Danville Beautification Project Fund (2022)	Gay Street United Methodist Living Memorial Fund (2016)	Knox County Symphony Association Fund (2008)
<b>Danville Athletic Boosters—Tough Street Stadium Fund (2025)</b>	Gay Street United Methodist Martha Winkle Fund (2024)	Kokosing Gap Trail Fund (2014)
<b>Danville Heritage Association Library Fund (2025)</b>	Gay Street United Methodist R.S. Sr. & Carrie Lord Memorial Fund (2016)	Licking/Knox Goodwill Industries, Inc. Fund (2015)
<b>Danville Mock Trial Fund (2025)</b>	Gay Street United Methodist Ralph M. Rumbaugh Memorial Fund (2016)	Mount Vernon Board of Education Fund (2003)
Education Gateway Project Fund (2019)	Gay Street United Methodist White, Wright & Ritter Fund (2016)	Mount Vernon Rotary Foundation Fund (2006)
		Mount Vernon YMCA Endowment Trust (1996)
		Mount Vernon Youth Baseball Leagues Fund (2004)
		MVNU South Main Plaza Fund (2021)



We are grateful to our partners who make the following designated, agency endowment, and other funds available in support of our community.

New Directions Capital Project Fund (2021)  
Owl Creek Conservancy Conservation Easement Acquisition Endowment Fund (2021)  
Owl Creek Conservancy Endowment Fund (2020)  
Owl Creek Conservancy Memorial Endowment Fund (2018)  
Owl Creek Conservancy Stewardship Fund (2019)  
Ramser Arboretum Fund (2017)  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio (2012)  
Sandra Barrick Knox County Humane Society Fund (2010)  
The Shane Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc. Fund (2016)  
Town & Country Garden Club Fund (2018)  
United Way of Knox County Fund (2009)  
YMCA of Mount Vernon Fund (2021)

### DESIGNATED FUNDS

Charitable funds established by donors to provide ongoing financial support to specific nonprofit organizations or causes.

Ackerman Preserve Fund (2023)  
Alice Jewell Memorial Fund (1955)  
Altrusa Club of Knox County (1997)  
Amy Fairchild Williams Memorial Fund (1953)  
Andy Rassing Memorial Fund (1994)

Arc of Appalachia Knox County Fund (2021)  
Arc of Appalachia Special Projects Fund (2021)  
Arthur E. and Grace E. Rawlinson Memorial Fund (1971)  
Beatty B. Williams Community Endowment Fund (1974)  
Beatty B. Williams Fund (2009)  
Beatty B. Williams Library Fund (1959)  
**Captain Hunter's Landing Maintenance Fund (2025)**  
Carlos E. and Celestine A. Watkins United Way Fund (2013)  
**Carol Ritter Fund (2025)**  
Carolyn Lord Double Bass Chair Fund (2010)  
Character Building Activities Fund (1945)  
Charles and Helen Zelkowitz Soroptomist Fund (2006)  
Charles Zelkowitz Chamber of Commerce Fund (2007)  
**Chloris A. Fritz Memorial Fund (2025)**

Congregation Backed Scholarship Fund for Mount Vernon Nazarene University (2024)  
Daniel Pealer Memorial Fund (2001)  
Delbert C. Schmidt Fund (1992)  
**Dennis & Ann Luna Fund (2025)**  
Didinger Family Fund For Knox Community Hospital (2007)  
Didinger Family Fund for St. Luke Catholic Church (2007)  
Didinger Family Fund for The Knox County Humane Society (2007)

Didinger Family Fund for United Way of Knox County (2007)  
Doris Zink Endowment for Hospice of NCO/ Knox County (2017)  
Dorothy Farmer Pike Township Cemetery Fund (2006)  
Dr. Anna Quinn Denzer-Emerson New Directions Fund (2019)  
Early Learners' Scholarship Fund (2007)  
Edith C. Laird Kenyon College Scholarship Fund (2014)  
Ellen M. Heckler Memorial Fund (1969)  
Emerson Laird Kokosing Gap Trail Maintenance Fund (1993)  
Ethel Lyman Memorial Fund (1955)  
Ethel V. Jamison Fund (1987)  
F. William Kahrl Fund (1964)  
First Church of the Nazarene Charles R. Wilson Fund (2024)  
First Congregational United Church of Christ Fund (1966)  
Fletcher M. Devin Fund (1961)  
Fred Barry Jr. Memorial Fund (1993)  
Fredericktown H.S. Alumni Endowment Fund (2017)  
Fredericktown Local School District Fund (2024)  
Friends of the Quarry Chapel Endowment Fund (2013)  
Garfield & Mazie Colgin Memorial Fund (1971)  
Gelsanliter Family Fund (1965)  
George & Ruth Gelsanliter Memorial Fund (1997)  
George A. and Lynda L. Small Fund (2023)

## All Other Funds, Cont'd

George H. and Eleanor M. Ralston Memorial Fund (2007)	James L. Wilson Memorial Fund for Hospice of Knox Co. (2015)	Kokosing Gap Trail Endowment Fund (2009)
Gordon & Roberta Chalmers Library Fund (1955)	James R. Westerheide Memorial Fund (2009)	Kokosing Park Endowment Fund (2021)
Greg Farmer Memorial Knox County 4-H Clubs Fund (2006)	Jennie Debes Heart Fund (1969)	League of Friendship Fund (1992)
H. Grant Heckler Memorial Fund (1970)	Jim and Annette Puster Fund (2013)	Lester R. and Mildred E. Bennett Memorial Fund (1993)
Hannah Browning Home Fund (1998)	Jim Daniels Family 4-H Camp Scholarship Fund (2018)	Mae S. Taylor Mount Vernon YMCA Fund (1976)
Harriet B. Lawler Memorial Fund (1986)	John & Mary Jane Kaylor Fund (2019)	Maize-n-Blue Endowment Fund (2014)
Harriett Buchanan Lawler Memorial Fund (1986)	John Gordon Bone, Jr. Student Aid Fund (2009)	Margaret Jamison Church Fund (2002)
Helen E. Zerkowitz Fund (2000)	John L. and Mary J. Kaylor Legacy Fund (2023)	Margaret Louise Jamison Interchurch Fund (2002)
Helen Hope Cooke Memorial Fund (1994)	John L. and Mary J. Kaylor Legacy II Fund (2023)	Margaret Louise Jamison YMCA Fund (2002)
Henry L. and Alice H. Curtis Fund (2014)	Kathryn Sheedy Sanctuary Memorial Fund (2005)	Martha Turner Walker Memorial Fund (1980)
Howard McDonald Friends Cemetery Fund (2009)	Kenneth W. and Jean R. Stevenson Fund (2013)	Mary Hendrickson New Directions Fund (2014)
Howard S. Tarr First Congregational United Church Fund (1970)	Kiracofe Family Fund (1995)	Mary M. Frank Fund (2015)
Ian & Charlotte Watson First Congregational UCC Fund (2020)	Knox County Career Center AFJROTC Flight Education Fund (2023)	Mary Ramser Jelloway Methodist Church Fund (2021)
Ida T. McHugh Pleasant Street Elementary Library Fund (2008)	Knox County Humane Society Endowment (2017)	Meharry Family Fund for the Knox Co Humane Society Cat Shelter (2021)
J. R. and Lorene Purdy Fund (2001)	Knox County Humane Society - Barbara S. Jones Fund (1999)	Meharry Family Legacy Fund I (2024)
	Knox County Society for Crippled Children & Adults Fund (2004)	Mount Vernon High School Alumni Association Fund (1998)
		Mount Vernon Livestock Co-operative Association Fund (1957)
		Mount Vernon Theater Guild Fund (1963)
		MVDC Parents & Friends Volunteer Association Fund (2015)
		MVNU Fairbanks Center For Global Engagement Fund (2023)
		Norma J. Cornell Memorial St. Vincent de Paul Education Fund (2001)

### WHY DO YOU GIVE TO THE KNOX COUNTY FOUNDATION?

**“They offer so many options for giving.”**

**“Trust. They are an organization that is committed to the community.”**

Funds in **bold** were newly created in 2025.

North Central Ohio  
Revitalization Fund (2023)

Palmer-Gain Glen Helen  
Fund (2022)

Patricia “Trish” Rankin  
Hospice Fund (2018)

Paul G. Crawford MVHS  
Student Athlete Fund (2005)

Paul Hothem 4-H Fund (2020)

Pauline Jamison Kartman  
Fund (2002)

**Phillip “Wayne” Bentz  
Memorial Fund (2025)**

R. B. Kincaid Fund for the  
First Congregational United  
Church of Christ (1985)

Richard Landers Fund for Knox  
County Career Center (1994)

Richard T. Turner Coshocton High  
School Scholarship Fund (2020)

Riverview Park Care Fund (2021)

Robert & Sue Denzer  
YMCA Fund (2022)

Robert B. & Helen W. Lantz  
Memorial Fund (2019)

Robert Black Fund (1989)

Rose M. Blair American  
Cancer Society Fund (1959)

Rose M. Blair Knox County  
Heart Association Fund (1959)

Ruth T. Bemis Knox County  
Symphony Orchestra  
Fund (2006)

Sam & Paula Barone Kenyon  
Endowment Fund (2020)

Sam & Paula Barone United Way  
Endowment Fund (2020)

Short Term Project Fund (2005)

St. Vincent de Paul School  
Tuition Assistance (2019)

Stacy Doyle Memorial Fund (1998)

**Stephen & Jeanne Mullendore  
Fund (2025)**

Sterling B. and Edna B.  
Braddock Fund (1984)

**Stricklin Family Fund (2025)**

The Mary F. Farmer  
East Knox Schools Fund (2019)

Thomas A. Mavis  
Memorial Fund (2014)

Thomas E. Heine  
Memorial Fund (2002)

W. Glenn Hess Fund (1983)

Walter and Jane Rudin  
Family Fund (2000)

Walter T. Starr First  
Congregational United Church  
Memorial Fund (1965)

Wayne and Charlotte  
Frank Fund (2024)

Wesley Judd Park  
for MVNU (2008)

Wilbur Gaunder Fund for  
the Harcourt Parish Episcopal  
Church (1999)

Wilbur Gaunder Hospice  
of Knox County Fund (1999)

Wilbur Gaunder Knox County  
Humane Society Fund (1999)

Wilbur Gaunder Knox County  
Red Cross Fund (1999)

Wilbur Gaunder Nursing  
Scholarship Fund (1999)

Wilbur Gaunder  
Salvation Army Fund (1999)

William S. and Pearlene E. Rowley  
Fund (2012)

Woodward Development  
Corporation Designated  
Fund (2020)

YWCA Girls’ Fund (1984)

Zack T. Hollister Bird  
Cemetery Fund (1980)

Zelkowitz Family  
United Way of Knox County  
Endowment Fund (2007)

Zelkowitz Family  
YMCA of Mount Vernon  
Endowment Fund (2007)

Zenno E. & Mae M. Taylor  
First Congregational Church  
Memorial Fund (1976)

### **NON-AGENCY ORGANIZATION FUNDS**

Charitable funds established and supported by donors or third parties—not by the nonprofit organization itself—to benefit one or more not-for-profit entities.

Jewish Cemetery Society  
of Knox County Fund (2013)

Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon  
Fund (2005)

Knox County Historical  
Society Fund (1994)

### **Kokosing Valley Rotary Club Fund (2025)**

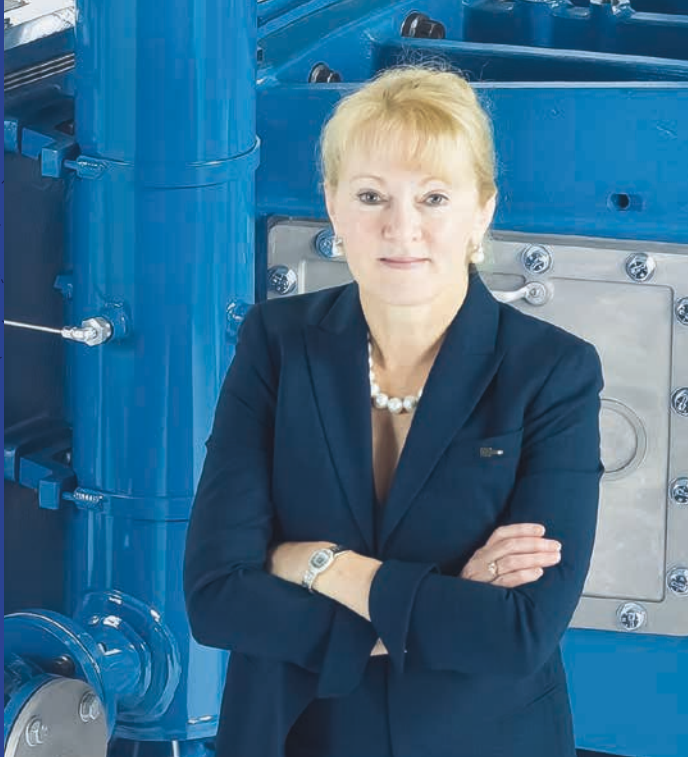
Mount Vernon Elks Lodge #140  
Fund (2004)

### **SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION FUNDS**

Held on behalf of legally distinct 501(c)(3) entities that qualify as public charities because of their affiliation with Knox County Foundation.

Camp Cornish Foundation (2013)

Schnormeier Gardens  
Foundation (2009)



# Karen Buchwald Wright

(JULY 4, 1954 - OCTOBER 15, 2025)

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**Karen Buchwald Wright** served on the Board of Directors of the Knox County Foundation from 2007 to 2016 and was Chair of the Board from 2014-2016.

At a recent event, Kim Rose, Secretary of the Board for the Knox County Foundation, shared these words about Karen's influence. "She had a deep and personal understanding of what philanthropy could mean for the philanthropist, even beyond what it might mean for the beneficiaries of that philanthropy. For Karen, it was important that others had the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the joy of engaging in significant philanthropy."

Karen's leadership, including the creation of the New Philanthropy Initiative, a matching program now known as Foundation Forward, was instrumental to both the Foundation and to a new generation of Knox County philanthropists. Her impact on the Foundation's work was and remains profound and her legacy will live on for years to come.

**"She had a deep and personal understanding of what philanthropy could mean for the philanthropist, even beyond what it might mean for the beneficiaries of that philanthropy. For Karen, it was important that others had the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the joy of engaging in significant philanthropy"**

– Kim Rose

## 2025 Board of Directors



Marsha K. Rinehart  
*Chair*



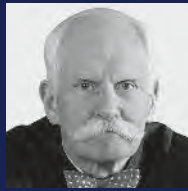
Kathy Daniels  
*Vice Chair*



Kim Rose  
*Secretary*



Kurt E. Schisler  
*Treasurer*



Otho Eyster  
*Member*



Tyler Griffith  
*Member*



Justin Nowicki  
*Member*



Ora Smith  
*Member*



Wes Snyder  
*Member*



Libby Wright  
*Member*

Not Pictured:  
Sarah Wagner  
*Member*

## 2025 Staff



**Left to Right:**

Jeffrey Scott,  
*Executive Director*

Lisa Lloyd,  
*Senior Program Director*

Kara Ernsberger,  
*Program Coordinator and  
Administrative Specialist*

Marc Odenweller,  
*Financial Director*



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