



*Stories of*  
*Philanthropy*

*2004 Outstanding Philanthropists*

Celebrating the Power  
of Charitable Giving  
in Appalachian Ohio

APPALACHIAN OHIO  
*Giving*

## *Appalachian Ohio Giving*

supports and encourages the selfless acts of giving occurring every day within our region. The people who so willingly share their time, talents and resources with others shape our communities and deserve to be recognized for the differences they have made.

By collecting the stories of these “Outstanding Philanthropists,” we are celebrating the spirit of giving inherent in the Appalachian culture. Storytelling has long been a cherished tradition, preserving the history of generations of people who have called this region home. In keeping with this tradition, we present these stories of giving. In addition to honoring the generosity and dedication of these men and women, we hope these stories will inspire others to find and share their hidden assets.

*We would like thank everyone who made this booklet possible: the nominators, who submitted information for the stories; the Appalachian Ohio Giving staff, who wrote and produced the booklet; the Appalachian Ohio Giving Management Team, which has supported this process; and especially the honorees, whose lives gave us these stories to tell.*

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# Ora Anderson

HONOREE

NOMINATED BY

Herb Amey, The Dairy Barn

**O**ra Anderson moved to Appalachian Ohio when his family bought a farm in Jackson, Ohio in 1929 and he has been making his mark on the region ever since. Now 93 years old, he has a long and distinguished history of supporting conservation, wildlife preservation and arts and culture.

Born and raised in Kentucky, Ora was 18 when he came to Ohio and he got a position with the twice-weekly *Jackson Herald* the next year. His job, first as a reporter and then as an editor, taught him about the region and assignments related to the land purchases of the Wayne National Forest piqued his interest in area wildlife. Life in Jackson also introduced him to his wife, Harriet, a native of Athens County.

A series of career moves brought Anderson into the arena of state legislation, first with the Dairyman's Cooperative Sales Association and later with the Ohio Bankers' Association. As a result, he moved his family to the state capital of Columbus, where they spent the next several years.

Even when living in the city, Ora was an outdoor enthusiast. His activities reflected his passion: he was chairman of the Columbus Camp Fire Council, a member and chairman of the Forestry Advisory Board and a member of the Parks and Recreation Section of the Development Committee for Greater Columbus.

City life didn't prevent Anderson from deepening his connection to the Appalachian Ohio region. While still living in Columbus, he and Harriet bought the 98-acre Athens County farm where Harriet had spent her childhood. Over the next several years, they turned the property into a tree farm and wildlife refuge by planting 44,000 trees, building six ponds and creating more than two miles of trails. The farm has since been used by university students and others as an educational resource.

When Ora retired in the 1973, he and Harriet moved into a cottage on the tree farm. Ora continued to be active in various organizations, serving as President of the Ohio Forestry Association and Trustee and Chairman of the Nature Conservancy of Ohio. In the latter position, he helped the conservancy acquire at least three of its preserves in Ohio, one of which now bears his name (the Ora E. Anderson Compass Prairie Plant Nature Preserve in Lawrence County).

Harriet Anderson was a talented artist, so she and Ora actively supported causes related to the arts. In 1978, they became the driving force behind a petition to save an old dairy barn in Athens scheduled for demolition. The Andersons and their friends had a vision to turn the building into a cultural center for artists and the community, so they encouraged people to rally with them. Their petition was granted nine days before the building was to be torn down and the Dairy Barn Arts Center was born. Now, the Dairy Barn's various exhibits and events bring artists and spectators from all over the country and world into the region.

Today, Ora continues to be actively involved in community and nature-related issues, most noticeably through his weekly spot on WOUB public radio during which he reads selections from his numerous nature essays. He is also an avid bird watcher who has honed his wood carving skills to replicate many of the species he observes.

Ora's dedication to nature and the community have not gone unnoticed – over the years he has received a number of distinctions and awards. Most recently, he was recognized with the Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area Life Long Achievement Heritage Award for outstanding leadership and contributions toward the protection, preservation and appropriate development of heritage, culture and sense of place in Ohio's Hill Country.

# Kathy Brantley

HONOREE

NOMINATED BY

James McDonald, Six County

**K**athy Brantley made Zanesville her home twelve years ago and she became a key figure working to improve the community almost immediately. Her fundraising efforts, organizational skills, and willingness to commit her time and energy have made a significant impact on Muskingum County particularly in the areas of diversity and education.

Born in Florida, Kathy went to Bethune-Cookman College in Florida, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in elementary education and a minor in learning disabilities. She had teaching jobs in Miami and in the D.C. area and also earned a Master's degree in early childhood education from Ohio State University, specializing in reading.

Kathy did not take a teaching position when she moved to Zanesville with her husband, cardiologist Keith Brantley, and their three children. However, she continued to dedicate much of her time and energy to education. She became involved in the schools her children attended, volunteering in classrooms and libraries.

The construction of Kidzville, a recreation area for children at the Riverside Park in Muskingum County, was one of Kathy's first community projects. She joined the efforts of area mothers who desired to create a new and appealing venue for children and families. Kathy helped with the fundraising efforts and the design of this much-needed playground.

Kathy has been instrumental in the organization of the Martin Luther King Day Prayer Breakfast, an annual community-building event held to honor people who have shown dedication to community improvement. Appointed by Joanne Harris of the St. Paul AME Church, Kathy chairs the committee in charge of this event, which has attracted as many as five hundred attendees each year.

The breakfast and her husband inspired another of Kathy's primary projects – the Martin Luther King, Jr., scholarship fund, established ten years ago at the Muskingum County Community Foundation. Kathy has raised more than \$60,000 to fund annual awards of \$500 (to purchase textbooks) for all graduating students at Zanesville high schools who are minorities, have maintained a 3.0 grade point average and are planning to pursue higher education. The eligible student who has the highest GPA receives a \$1000 scholarship. All of the awards are announced during the prayer breakfast in January.

Recently, Kathy has played a significant role in the renovation and establishment of the Putnam Underground Railroad Education (PURE) Center at a house donated to the Muskingum County Community Foundation in 1998. In addition to joining the revitalization efforts already underway in the Putnam Historic District of Zanesville, the Center will enhance the Ohio and American History curricula in the local schools. Although local historians are researching to determine whether or not the house was actually a part of the Underground Railroad, several other houses on the street are verified stops.

Recognizing the historical significance of the Underground Railroad on local and national levels, Kathy became the driving force in developing the PURE Center. Partnering with the Muskingum County Community Foundation, she helped raise more than \$350,000 to renovate the house, dedicating significant amounts of her own time and resources. The vision of the center is to “inspire young people and adults to embrace human equality.” With a state-of-the-art computer lab, artifacts from Zanesville and Africa and an extensive library, the center provides a positive learning environment for people of all backgrounds.

Through her modeling and encouragement, Kathy has passed the value of community involvement on to her children. Seventeen-year-old Kerron and fourteen-year-old Kandice Brantley are active members of the Muskingum County Community Foundation's Youth Foundation. They, along with their 11-year-old brother Krandall, have also become involved in the PURE Center, making a donation to the renovation fund and volunteering their time.

# *Bill & Helen Breon*

HONOREES

NOMINATED BY

Dean Schooler and Cece Cugliari  
Schooler Family Foundation

**H**elen and Bill Breon have been quiet models of philanthropy in Coshocton County as well as throughout the Appalachian Ohio region for several decades. Their gifts of time, energy and money have shaped the community in areas such as education, health care, the church, and assistance for people with disabilities, among others.

A native of Lawrence County, Helen grew up in Ironton. Bill grew up in Pennsylvania, but moved to Coshocton with Helen in 1947 after serving as intelligence officer in World War II. He became a partner in PBF farms, a successful berry producer in West Lafayette.

Both Helen and Bill were raised to hold the idea of giving back to the community as a key value. Bill was an Eagle Scout as a teenager and has continued to be involved in the Boy Scouts throughout his life. Helen's strong background in the church shaped her philanthropy by inspiring her selfless giving.

Building on Helen's roots in the church, the Breons have been active in their Presbyterian church where they have served as members of the Session, as Elders, and as Deacons. Helen also once headed the primary children's department and taught Sunday School for the church.

The Breons have had an impact on health care in the area by supporting Coshocton Memorial Hospital through consistent contributions as well as more generous gifts to help renovate the surgery facilities. Bill also served as a member of the hospital's Board for more than a decade.

Bill has dedicated much of his time and energy over the last thirty years to Echoing Hills Village, a residential facility for people with mental and physical disabilities. Founded by Rev. Cordell Brown,

who is a longtime friend of Bill's, Echoing Hills has grown and is thriving, with a year-round residential program and a summer camp for people of all ages. Rev. Brown describes Bill as a "rare individual" who has "always been the Rock of Gibraltar for this county, quietly working behind the scenes."

Helen has also been involved the community in ways aside from the church. She has been active with the Salvation Army, serving as a member of the governing board and hosting guests for the local Citadel in her home.

Foundations in Coshocton County have benefited from the Breons' generosity over the years. The couple set up an unrestricted fund for projects benefiting the Coshocton Community. Bill has been a community member of the board for the Schooler Family Foundation as a trustee and now trustee emeritus. He also was a trustee for the Coshocton Foundation from 1985 until 2003. From 1984 until 1992, Helen served on the board of the Montgomery Foundation. They have also been donors and trustees for Echoing Hills Village and its Foundation since the organization was founded.

In addition to the work they've done locally, Helen and Bill also support their alma maters. They give regularly to Penn State's College of Agriculture, where Bill earned his undergraduate degree, and Denison University, from which Helen graduated.

Overall, the Breons exemplify community involvement. They live out their belief in the importance of giving locally because of being part of a community.

# Donna Sue Groves

HONOREE

NOMINATED BY

Michael Maloney, Michael Maloney & Associates

**D**onna Sue Groves was born into the Appalachian culture and developed a deep affinity for the region, motivating her to work for community improvement throughout Appalachian Ohio. Since she came to Adams County fifteen years ago, she has helped transform the approach to Appalachian culture in this region and beyond.

As a child in West Virginia, Donna Sue was steeped in the Appalachian culture through the traditions of her family. The economic situation of the 1960s caused her family to move out of the region to Xenia, Ohio, but she never forgot her roots. As a result, when Donna Sue and her mother, Maxine, found themselves at a crossroads in life, they decided to move to Adams County because of its many similarities to their home in West Virginia.

Donna Sue's commitment to community developed long before her move to Adams County. While living in Xenia, she served as a city commissioner for several years. She was also a community organizer, a Girl Scout leader and co-organizer of a food co-op.

After her return to the Appalachian region, Donna Sue became a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Volunteer, working with Ohio Partners for Drug Free Youth and the Ohio Appalachian Arts Initiative. Her work with the arts initiative transformed into a position as the Appalachian field representative for the Ohio Arts Council, a title she has held for the last five years.

Through her work, Donna Sue has encouraged people to celebrate the unique gifts, talents and cultural traditions of Appalachian Ohio by creating new partnerships and collaborations. Recently, she has been one of the driving forces of the Adams County Quilt Sampler project, funded in part by OAC's Appalachian Program and a community organization called Planning for Adams County Tomorrow. Inspired by the Mail Pouch tobacco advertisements once found on sides of barns throughout the region, this project

involved painting traditional quilt squares on barns in Adams County. The group then designed a driving tour so visitors could view the barn artwork. The success of this project has inspired its expansion to other places in Ohio and throughout the nation.

Another collaboration in which Donna Sue has been a key player is the Appalachian Ohio Regional Investment Coalition (AORIC), an initiative working to strengthen the region's economy by building on its strengths and unique market advantages, particularly in terms of experiential tourism (like the Quilt Sampler project) and value-added field and forest products. Funding from AORIC and the National Association for the Mentally Ill made possible The Athens Photographic Project's Quilt Barn exhibit, with Donna Sue acting as a key player. Through this project, photographers advocate for mental illness while producing professional photography exhibits.

Donna Sue has also been an advocate for many festivals unique to Appalachian Ohio. Recognizing the value of these events, Donna Sue has been a leader in the planning of an annual educational conference for people throughout the region who are involved in making these festivals happen.

In addition to her work within the region, Donna Sue has been instrumental in projects focusing on the Appalachian culture in cities outside the region where large populations of Appalachian people now live. She has worked with the Appalachian Program to serve these communities, acting as a resource in grant-writing and other activities. She has also assisted the Appalachian Community Development Association, which sponsors the Cincinnati Appalachian Festival.

According to Donna Sue, her love and life and people are what motivate her in her work. "Each day I am blessed with meeting new people that are unassuming and that are filled with compassion, extremely wonderful creative talent and creative grace," she said.

# Maxine Groves

HONOREE

NOMINATED BY

Martha Van Meter

Since moving to the Appalachian Ohio region fifteen years ago, Maxine Groves has dedicated much of her time and talent to the community. Particularly through her quilt-making and knowledge of the traditional Appalachian arts, she has helped reinvigorate the culture of the area and has encouraged others to do the same.

Born and raised in the Appalachian hills of West Virginia, Maxine learned the art of quilting at the age of five, from her grandmother and mother. She earned a teaching certificate from Morris Harvey College in West Virginia, but left the region when her husband took a job in Xenia, Ohio. Quilting continued to be a passion for Maxine, but she also dedicated much of her time to being a teacher for the next 25 years.

After Maxine retired in 1989, she and her daughter, Donna Sue, wanted to return to the Appalachian culture of their roots. Maxine had visited Adams County on several occasions during field trips and recognized the similarities between the nature, earth and culture of the area and that of her home in West Virginia. She and Donna Sue moved to a farm in Manchester, where Maxine started to become involved in the community through her quilting.

Maxine's background as a teacher coupled with her artistic talent as a quilter have made her a powerful influence in Adams County and the surrounding areas. She became one of the key players in the creation of the Appalachian Artisans Guild, an organization providing support for artisans in a three-county area. Through her work with the guild, she has fostered an appreciation of the arts in Appalachia, helping organize multiple educational events for children and artists.

In 2000, Maxine was recognized by the Ohio Arts Council as a Master Quilter and she has become known for her talent in working with apprentices, cultivated by years of teaching. She has also

become the driving force behind a group of women in Adams County who meet monthly to share their experience in sewing, quilting, crocheting and knitting.

Maxine has used her quilts to benefit the community in other ways, donating them to different organizations, often so they can be sold in raffles or charity auctions. She also loans parts of her quilt collection to be shown at events throughout the region.

Maxine's dedication to quilting inspired Donna Sue to encourage tourism by painting quilt squares on the sides of barns throughout Adams County in the tradition of Mail Pouch tobacco advertisements. Maxine and others in the community formed a committee and dedicated significant amounts of time to researching and selecting traditional quilt patterns for twenty barns. The successful project has benefited the local economy with the help of a guide the committee developed, leading tourists passed the quilt squares and recommending shopping and dining stops along the way.

In addition to her efforts in quilting, Maxine encourages artists with a variety of different talents and background. Martha Van Meter, who makes pine needle baskets, tells the story of how Maxine suggested she contact the Ohio Arts Council's Apprentice Master Program. With Maxine's help, Martha received a grant to work with a master basket-maker in North Carolina. Maxine later encouraged Martha to apply for an Individual Artist Fellowship grant, which Martha received in spite of her own initial doubts.

By using her talent and passion to benefit the community, Maxine Groves has had a significant impact on the culture of Appalachian Ohio. As Martha says, "this is a tale of one person making a big difference in the lives of others, her community an Appalachia. This is a tale of an Appalachian lady who has given everything she has to others."

# *Dr. Harry Keig*

HONOREE

NOMINATED BY

Leslie Lilly, Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

**D**r. Harry Keig spent most of his adult life as a successful physician and surgeon in the Omaha area, but he never for got his Appalachian roots nor his debt of gratitude to the educators who influenced his life during his formative years growing up in Middleport, Ohio and Mason, West Virginia. Before his death in 2003, he put a \$700,000 bequest in motion to create two endowment funds within the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio. This money has created a component scholarship fund for graduates of Meigs High School and a fund to provide school and teacher awards at Mason Grade School.

Harry's role model in life was his father, Dr. Eugene Keig, who was a physician in southern Ohio and West Virginia. The elder Dr. Keig realized the financial struggles many families in the area faced, so he often accepted whatever form of payment people could afford, including vegetables and livestock. He also believed strongly in the value of education and set up a scholarship fund at the high school he attended in Iowa.

Sharing his father's beliefs about the importance of education, Harry wanted to honor two teachers who impacted his life significantly – Miss Lena Gibbs and Forrest Bachtel. Setting up scholarship funds to benefit the schools to which the teachers were dedicated seemed an appropriate way to recognize their legacies.

A \$200,000 portion of the bequest established the Mason Grade School Award in honor of Lena Gibbs, who taught first grade at the school for several decades. Miss Lena never married, dedicating her entire life to teaching and her students. A merit award in her name will be given annually to a teacher or team of teachers who have demonstrated outstanding instructional technique and excellence in motivation of students. This fund will also provide an annual school award for the purchase of educational materials or equipment not within the school's budget.

The remaining \$500,000 has become the Bachtel Scholarship Fund in honor of Forrest Bachtel, Harry's teacher and coach from high school. Harry was inspired by Bachtel's strength and optimism in dealing with Lou Gerhig's disease for more than twenty years. Diagnosed at the age of 38, Bachtel continued to teach for another five years. He was quadriplegic for the last decade of his life, but still managed to write letters and poetry, with a pencil attached to his head allowing him to type.

The Bachtel Scholarship fund awards \$2500 annually to students graduating from Meigs High School and continuing on to college or technical school. Four students receive the recognition each year – a boy and girl who have excelled academically and a boy and girl who have achieved in athletics. The first scholarships were granted in June of 2004.

Although Harry is no longer alive to see his generous donations come to fruition, his daughter, Martina Henderson, has been actively involved with the funds. When the first round of Bachtel Scholarship applications were under consideration, she served on the advisory committee to decide which students were most deserving of the money.

# Ed Mulligan

HONOREE

NOMINATED BY

Jim Gauerke, Coshocton Foundation

When Ed Mulligan's wife, Janet, passed away in 1994, he decided the most appropriate way to honor her memory would be to set up a donor advised fund at the Coshocton Foundation in her name and for the purpose of funding projects related to her passion in life – swimming.

Janet Mulligan was an avid swimmer throughout her adult life, successfully participating in competitions at a number of levels. Her early accomplishments included National Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) championships in the 400-meter freestyle in 1934 and the 100-meter freestyle in 1935. She continued to swim for pleasure for many years and resumed competitive swimming at the age of 60, earning gold medals in the freestyle and backstroke at competitions such as the U.S. Masters Long Course Championships. She also held the fastest time in the nation for the 50-meter backstroke in 70-74 age group.

The Mulligans have been longtime residents of Coshocton. Janet's family owned Jones Metal Products and Ed joined the company. He eventually became CEO, a position he passed on to his daughter, Marion Sutton, when he retired.

The Janet Jones Mulligan Aquatic Fund has had a significant impact on aquatics in Coshocton County. Since it was established in 1994, the fund has provided more than \$300,000 for projects such as upkeep of the three community pools and the purchase of new equipment for these facilities. The money has also funded summer camps for young swimmers and the Rising Tide swimming program at Coshocton High School.

The fund is a family affair for Ed and Marion, who both make regular contributions. They also are in charge of allocating distributions. Through this arrangement, they are able to select projects in which Janet would have been most interested.

In addition to the fund in his wife's name, Ed has a fund called the Ed Mulligan Charitable Foundation through which he supports various activities in the community. Some of the projects the foundation has funded include the Johnson Humrickhouse Museum, the scouting programs, the Salvation Army, the City and County Park District, the County Hospital, the Coshocton Foundation, the emergency medical squad, the Coshocton Sportsmans' Club and the Lake Park Pavilion restoration project.

Ed's philanthropic activities have also extended beyond the funding of various activities. He served as a member of the expanded board of trustees for the Coshocton Foundation until his term expired in 2000.

Because of Ed's generosity and his desire to honor his wife's legacy, the three community pools in Coshocton have been able to stay open for the community to use and enjoy. For generations to come, these facilities will allow people to develop a love of swimming like Janet Mulligan's.

# W. Guy Spriggs

HONOREE

NOMINATED BY

Mary Witten Wiseman, Foundation for the Tri-State Community

Ironton, Ohio native Guy Spriggs went away to Ohio State University for college, but he later returned to the Appalachian region of his roots to join his father in the family business, Eagle Distributing Company. He started out as a wine salesman, but worked his way up the ladder to the point where he is now the chairman of the board of Anheuser-Busch operations for the tri-state area of Huntington (WV), Ashland (KY) and Ironton. Guy also co-founded the Malt Beverage Education Corporation to deal with underage drinking in Kentucky.

In addition to passing the family business down to his son, Guy's father passed on his commitment to helping others and giving back to the community. The elder Spriggs, who passed away in 1999, was a dedicated supporter of Ironton High School and Ohio University's Southern Campus, among other institutions and organizations.

Over the years, Guy has served this tri-state community in a number of ways, including acting as past president of Kings Daughter's Health Foundation and the Geiger Easter Seals board of director. Currently, he is on the boards of the Ashland Alliance, Ashland Community College Foundation, Ashland Salvation Army, Paramount Arts Center and Ramsey Children's Home. He is also Vice-Chairman of the Foundation for the Tri-State Community, Inc.'s Board of Trustees and chairman of the Ohio University Southern Campaign. Guy and his wife, Lisa, are co-chairs of the Highlands Museum and Discovery Center's Capital Campaign.

In 1996, Guy established the Guy Spriggs Charitable Trust, for which he is now trustee. Each year, the trust distributes more than \$400,000 to local charities, particularly ones with projects related to children and education. For example, since the inception of the trust, it has contributed \$1,000 annually to the Independent's Needy Families Fund. The trust has also given money to the

Ramey Estep Home, a shelter for troubled teens in Ashland.

Guy started the Spriggs Family Foundation (SFF) in 2002 as a supporting organization of the Foundation for the Tri-State Community, an organization with the long-term goal of improving the quality of life in the tri-state area. Since it began, the SFF has distributed over \$260,000 to tri-state area organizations such as the Salvation Army, Highlands Museum & Discovery Center, Kings Daughter's Medical Center Foundation, Community Hospice, Ashland Area Art Gallery, Friends of the Children and Sharon Baptist Church.

One particular organization benefiting from the Spriggs Family Foundation is the North Carolina Outward Bound School, which has a mission of inspiring personal growth through a challenging, adventure-based learning experience. SFF has given scholarships to several Ironton students and has expanded the program to allow these scholarships to continue for up to four years if the students excels in college.

Guy has continued his father's commitment to education by making significant contributions to colleges and universities in the area, including Marshall University, Shawnee State College, Ashland Community & Technical College and Ohio University's Southern Campus. He also supports his alma mater, Ohio State University, as well as his fraternity.

Guy's contributions have been noticed: last year, he received the Leadership Tri-State's Community Service award in recognition of his exceptionally strong commitment to and significant impact on the tri-state community.

Ultimately, Spriggs believes his life has been blessed and these blessings should be shared with others. This conviction, the driving force behind his generous acts, is one he hopes to instill in his four children, just as his father passed it on to him.

# Jancie Thaler

HONOREE

NOMINATED BY

Marianne Campbell, Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

**J**anice Foster Thaler has been an active philanthropist, organizer, leader and volunteer in Gallia County for forty years, concentrating her efforts on the arts and preservation of historic structures.

Born and raised in Freemont, Ohio, Jan met her husband, the late Dr. Donald M. Thaler, while earning her first degree in nursing at Ohio State University. The couple moved to Gallipolis in 1963 when Dr. Thaler, an orthopedic surgeon, joined the staff of Holzer Medical Center. They immediately became involved in the community.

The Thalers were instrumental in establishing the French Art Colony (FAC), the multi-arts center in Gallipolis in 1964. They helped FAC acquire its permanent location at “Riverby,” the historic former home of Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Holzer, in 1970. Since then, Jan has volunteered for FAC as the curator of the Gallery and the grants coordinator. She is a past president of the Board and served eight years as unpaid director of the facility. Presently, she is restoring the formal gardens at Riverby in memory of Dr. Thaler, who passed away in 2002. She personally funded the master plan for the grounds and purchased the garden’s first bronze sculpture – a piece fashioned by internationally-known sculptor Gary Price.

Jan has played a key role in the historic restoration of downtown Gallipolis. This year, she completed the Lupton Block Building, built circa 1894 and a centerpiece of the main business block, which was partially destroyed by a disastrous fire in 2001. In recognition of this work, she will receive one of the prestigious Ohio Historical Society’s Historic Preservation Office Preservation Merit Awards on November 6, 2004.

The list of Jan’s involvements and her philanthropic generosity includes, but is not limited to, volunteer service since 1964 as a

board member of the now Valley Artists Series; spearheading the second expansion of the Gallipolis Historic District, chairing the City of Gallipolis Historic Preservation Review Board for four years; guiding the establishment of the Visitors' Center in 1987, now the Gallia County Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and continuing to serve as its treasurer; and chairing the Gallia County Bicentennial Commission in 2003. With all of this and much more, she still makes time to serve her church, having held all local and State offices including the Synod, and sings in the choir.

Jan is a natural-born and highly motivated volunteer and philanthropist, as demonstrated by her commitment to community service and involvement. She and her husband were recognized with the SEORC Persons of the Year award in 1992, and at the 2004 Gallia County Chamber of Commerce banquet, received the Bud and Donna McGhee Community Service Award.

All who come in contact with Mrs. Thaler recognize her limitless and untiring giving of self and financial support to worthwhile endeavors. Her immeasurable talent and tireless effort, motivating, inspiring and leading others to care as much as she does about projects and causes, makes her the perfect role model for philanthropy and volunteerism.

***“From the first gift that was ever given, right up to this day the basic and fundamental reason for giving has been to fill a need. People give from the heart, not from economics. When a need is recognized, the heart moves with the hand.”***

Unknown

## **A NOTE ON APPALACHIAN OHIO GIVING**

The purpose of Appalachian Ohio Giving is to create regional partnerships that promote the growth of charitable giving in the 29 counties of Appalachian Ohio. Appalachian Ohio Giving is a partnership between Ohio State University Extension and grantmakers serving the region. Our goal is to help build stronger communities through an increase in the region's philanthropic resources.

Appalachian Ohio Giving works through stories and by example to build greater public awareness of and appreciation for the power of philanthropy to bring positive change to our region. Through collaborative and inclusive development and marketing of strategies, tools, products, and service Appalachian Ohio Giving is reaching a large audience of current and potential donors and donor advisors in Appalachian Ohio.

The spirit of our enterprise is to celebrate and increasingly leverage, for the region's benefit, the historic tradition of charitable giving in the region, for the region. We work to communicate, with dignity and respect, an Appalachian face, voice, and experience, to our efforts to promote philanthropy on behalf of all who share love for the region.

For more information on the work of Appalachian Ohio Giving...

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#### FOUNDING PARTNERS

Community Foundation of  
Jefferson County  
Steubenville, OH

Coshocton Foundation  
Coshocton, Ohio

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio  
Nelsonville, Ohio

Foundation for the  
Tri-State Community  
Ashland, Kentucky

Ohio Grantmakers Forum  
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