

Stories of Philanthropy

2005 Outstanding Philanthropists

Celebrating the Power
of Charitable Giving
in Appalachian Ohio



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

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*“Man has made at least
a start on discovering the
meaning of human life when
he plants shade trees under
which he knows full well
he will never sit.”*

Elton Trueblood

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 The Ohio State University Extension and grantmakers serving the region.

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 services, Appalachian Ohio Giving is reaching a large audience of current and potential donors and donor advisors in Appalachian Ohio.

Appalachian Ohio Giving believes philanthropists are made through countless acts of giving and caring that characterize the passionate individuals who donate their time, talents, and resources to bring about positive change throughout the region's communities.

Storytelling in Appalachian Ohio is a time-honored tradition. It seems, then, especially appropriate to honor and celebrate the generosity of the special individuals who are philanthropists by telling their stories. The stories are, in many ways, the choicest fruits of all of their charitable gifts: the stories provide lessons in life and illustrate the ways and means through which all of us can give back to the issues and places we care most about.

The stories in this collection are in the tradition of a legacy that can help strengthen our vision and resolve to make Appalachian Ohio a better place to be and live. They explain how, through our own unique contributions, we can better the places we love and advance the issues we care about. Appalachian Ohio Giving hopes that in sharing these stories, others will be inspired to find and share their hidden assets.

Evan Davis

NOMINEE

NOMINATOR

Clyde Evans

Ohio House of Representatives

Evan Davis has lived his entire life in the village of Oak Hill in Jackson County. The community inspired Mr. Davis to give back and his giving, in turn, has inspired others to give. In addition, giving is a means for him to show his appreciation to the community from which his success has come.

A graduate of the College of Wooster, Mr. Davis joined his father in the refractory and banking businesses. He served as President of the Oak Hill Savings Bank (now Oak Hill Banks) from 1974 until 1991 when he became Chairman of the Board and later Chairman of the Board of its holding company, Oak Hill Financial, Inc.

Receiving philanthropic inspiration from his father, E. E. Davis, Evan Davis joined him in donating the site for the James A. Rhodes Airport in Jackson County, thus contributing to the community's potential for economic growth. Mr. Davis also has given generously to the University of Rio Grande. The soccer field, the Evan E. and Elizabeth Davis University Center, and the Elizabeth F. Davis House, which houses the President's Office, are all due to his generosity. He was instrumental in the creation and funding of the Madog Center for Welsh Studies. He is extremely supportive of the Rio Grande soccer team,

providing scholarships which allow the University to field championship teams, including a national championship in 2003. In honor and recognition of Mr. Davis contributions to the University of Rio Grande, he was proclaimed a fellow, the highest honor that the university can bestow.

Mr. Davis' civic contributions include long-time service on the boards of the University of Rio Grande, Holzer Medical Center – Gallipolis, Holzer Medical Center – Jackson, and the Welsh-American Heritage Museum in Oak Hill. He was a substantial donor to the building fund for Holzer Hospital - Jackson and for Holzer Hospital – Gallipolis Cancer Center. He is Chairman of the Tyn Rhos Church and Cemetery Association and serves as moderator of the South Central Ohio Welsh Gymanfa Association. He also made significant personal contributions to the athletic complex at Oak Hill High School. Mr. Davis also gave long-time service to the Southeastern Ohio Regional Council's Board as it worked on its highway agenda to open up the region for development.

Oak Hill, Jackson County, and the surrounding region are indebted to Evan Davis, his commitment to the region and the philanthropic activities that have been so important to the educational, economic, and historical interests of the communities.

Bart and Kate Hagemeyer

NOMINEES

NOMINATOR

David P. Mitzel, Ph.D.

Muskingum County Community Foundation

In 1989, Bart and Kate Hagemeyer purchased the Putnam Presbyterian Church Manse (1849), one of the finest homes in Zanesville. When they moved into this home in the Putnam Historic District, they experienced more excitement than they had anticipated. But, instead of moving out, they bravely became the catalysts for the restoration of the neighborhood. In 1997, the Hagemeyers set up the Putnam Restoration Fund, a component fund of the Muskingum County Community Foundation (MCCF). This fund was established by the Hagemeyers to assist projects that would benefit the Historic District.

Within a year, the Fund received an old Putnam home from a business owned by the Dick and Brad Johnson families. The Hagemeyers set about making provisions for its reuse. Today, it is the home of the Putnam Underground Railroad Education (PURE) Center through a community-wide effort directed by local philanthropist Kathy Rowan Brantley whose story was published in last year's *Stories of Philanthropy*.

The Hagemeyers had driven each day by a riverside junkyard where their street, Woodlawn Avenue, dead-ended into Muskingum Avenue. It featured old signs, broken glass, poison ivy, burrs, and stickers. The riverbank featured junk

trees gone amok as background for the industrial wasteland. In the mid 1990s, they learned that the site was once a beautiful, privately owned park with fountains, overlooks, pools, urns and gardens.

In 1998, the company that rented the junk site from the city relocated and vacated the property. The Hagemeyers approached the city to construct a restored park, but the city did not have the desire or resources to do so. The Hagemeyers then took on the park as a personal civic project.

After more than a year of discussions and negotiations, the city leased them the project area and gave them the right to construct a park at their own expense. To further delay matters, the property had to be used as a staging area for the construction of the new 6th Street Bridge across the Muskingum River to downtown Zanesville. By the time the bridge was built and the property was finally cleared of junk, it was the spring of 2001.

In the initial studies with contractors, the riverbank was in far worse condition than expected and to repair it properly would cost in excess of their available funds. Also, to work on the bank to the low water level required consultation with the Muskingum River Commission.

By this time, the Hagemeyers felt they were fighting a lonely battle until they met Joy Padgett of the Governor's Office of Appalachia. She loved the project and said, "Go for it. I believe we can help." Her encouragement was the turning point. All of the engineering, design, planning and estimates were completed. Funds were then raised through several grants, private donations, and gifts in kind. The Muskingum County Community Foundation agreed to be designated as fiscal agent and to lend its staff to support the project. Ann

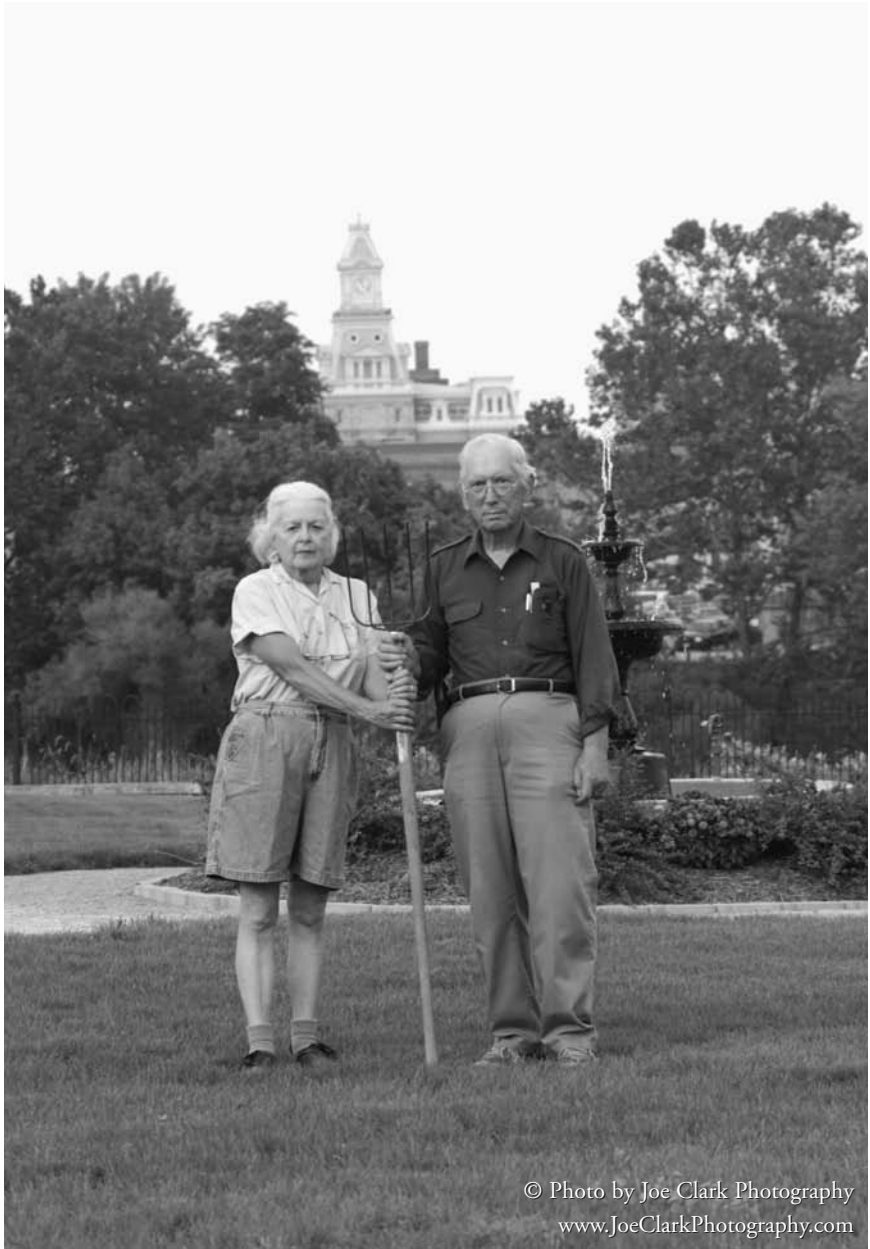
Day, now of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, was instrumental in the writing and the securing of numerous grants. MCCF's accountant Jamie Thomas managed the flow of funds and secretary Ruth Smith assisted as needed.

Construction began in June of 2002. The riverbank took more than 400 tons of fill and 22,000 square feet of erosion control matting. The park area needed more than 500 tons of topsoil to make a proper bed for the lawn.

Restoration Park was dedicated on September 18, 2003. It features a central fountain and an overlook across the Muskingum River to the Court House and the downtown business district.

The approximate cost of the park was \$95,000.00. The Hagemeyers have coordinated the construction of the park and are now personally paying all of the costs of maintenance and utilities which even includes the cost of city water to fill the fountain and water the flowers. They have created an endowment fund with the Muskingum County Community Foundation for the perpetual maintenance of the park.

The Hagemeyers will long be remembered and appreciated for their tenacity and their vision that has restored life and created a new vista for the Putnam Historic District.



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Bonny Huffman

NOMINEE

NOMINATOR

Marianne Campbell

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

Deep within the hills of Appalachian Ohio, tucked away in the village of Wellston, one will find a dynamic, committed individual who gives generously of herself. Bonny Huffman shares her skills, enthusiasm, and treasure with the community and region that she proudly calls home.

Professionally, Ms. Huffman serves as Vice President and Treasurer of the Sand Hill Coal Company, Inc. and Sand Hill Coal Hauling Company, Inc. She is also President of Clinton Stone, Inc. and Vice President of Sands Hill Waste Services, Inc.

Committed to the economic development of the region and the promotion of one of its greatest resources, Bonny Huffman has served the Ohio Coal Association as a member of the Board of Directors, of which she is currently president. In addition, she shares her expertise with the Boards of Directors for the National Mining Association and National Coal Council. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Jackson County Economic Development Board.

Bonny Huffman is also committed to education. She has shared her gifts with the Wellston City Schools, working on

seven levy committees and volunteering as a teacher in Economics at Wellston Junior High School. With an awareness of the connection of education and economic development, Ms. Huffman has also been active with Junior Achievement and the Academic Committee for Excellence in Students.

Bonny Huffman has served as chairman of the United Fund in Jackson County. As a member of Hope United Methodist Church, she has served as trustee, a member of the finance committee, and a Sunday school teacher. She has also served as a trustee of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

For the sharing of her many gifts for the support of education and economic development in Jackson County, Bonny Huffman is an inspiration to others.

Fred Johnston

NOMINEE

NOMINATOR

Christine Cugliari, Ph.D.
Schooler Family Foundation

What is common among these organizations: Salvation Army, Roscoe Village, Echoing Hills Village, Boy Scouts, Coshocton County Memorial Hospital, Coshocton Foundation, Grace United Methodist Church, and Health Services of Coshocton County? The answer: Fred Johnston.

Anonymously or with a low profile, Mr. Johnston seeks institutions that nurture the people of Coshocton County and then generously, yet quietly, supports them in their work. For example, the time, knowledge and funds donated by Fred Johnston to the Coshocton County Memorial Hospital assured that the citizens of Coshocton would receive quality medical care. Another example is the renovation of the chapel in Grace United Methodist Church, for which Mr. Johnston was completely responsible.

In 1981, he established two funds within the Coshocton Foundation. One fund is in honor of his father, Joseph W. Johnston, and annually awards two \$5,000 scholarships to graduating seniors of Coshocton High School. The other fund is for the betterment of Coshocton County.

For six years, Fred Johnston served on the Board of Directors of Health Services of Coshocton County. During

that time it became apparent that in order to continue to maintain and increase services to the community, the organization needed to move from the small space it was utilizing. Mr. Johnston volunteered to head up the search committee.

When nothing appropriate was found, Mr. Johnston headed the building committee. There was discussion that a building without a basement would be cheaper to build but he insisted that it wasn't a good idea for numerous reasons, including what he considered 'free space' - a basement for future use.

Fred Johnston secured donated land and funds for the building, including a significant personal donation. When Health Services moved into its new home, the facility was completely paid for. Today the entire building, including the basement, is being utilized by Health Services of Coshocton County.

The announcement of Fred Johnston's selection as Coshoctonian of the Year in 1995 perhaps best describes his commitment to his hometown: "A man who can calmly, and without flamboyance, call, lead, and love a community to be all it can be through his example and inspiration – a man who shows his compassion by utilizing life's most precious gifts – his time and his possessions." The philanthropic work of Mr. Johnston is truly a treasure in the community and a model to be emulated.

Verda C. Jones

NOMINEE

NOMINATOR

Susan Urano

The Athens Foundation

Twenty-five years ago, Verda C. Jones was one of eight visionary women from Athens, each of whom committed \$50 towards future community development. These women didn't listen to the naysayers who told them that Athens was too small of a community for a group of women and their pooled donations to have much impact. Instead, they brought gifts from many donors and friends into the endowment and stewarded the funds through good times and bad. They could not possibly have envisioned that we would be here, 25 years later, celebrating their accomplishments and looking to the future as how to continue to impact life in our region.

Verda was born on Mill Street in Athens and attended high school in the rural community of Shade on her grandparent's farm. Her family was very generous in giving. After hog butchering, she would ride with her grandparents on their wagon delivering baskets for needy families. Verda rode a pony to school every day.

She's always been involved with the schools in the area and has an affinity for rural Appalachia. She knows most everyone in Athens and has used her friendships to develop the Athens foundation over the past 25 years.

Verda Jones has been instrumental in developing the general fund of the Athens Foundation, almost single handedly. Verda was former President and Founding Member of the Athens Foundation. She's the only original member still involved. Verda's fundraising success has made it possible for the Athens Foundation to award over \$500,000 in the past 25 years. She has forged relationships with grantees such as the Kilvert Community Center, located in a unique yet impoverished area of Athens County.

She also chaired the Athens Bicentennial Committee, was Vice-Chair of the O'Bleness Hospital Board, and helped organize the first board of the Dairy Barn Cultural Arts Center of Southeastern Ohio.

Through her many relationships and diverse friendships, Verda has inspired Ohio University alumni to give to the foundation and has inspired her daughter Cindy Winter to stay in area and work with the Nelsonville York school system. The conviction of Verda's work has inspired the nominator, as executive director of The Athens Foundation, to be a voice for those often left out of community development schemes and plans.

Dr. William C. Lofty

NOMINEE

NOMINATOR

Donnie Loubiere, Chairman

Belpre Area Community Development Foundation

The late Dr. William C. Lofty served his community, his church, and his God. He was an active member and lector of St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Belpre, where he also served in other ministries. Dr. Lofty had a deep religious faith that inspired him to give to others. He believed that one was given talents and wealth to use for others. He was passionate in his helping others and gave from the heart.

Dr. Lofty was born in Parkersburg, WV on May 7, 1920. He graduated from Parkersburg High School and served as an Army corpsman during World War II. After the war, he attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where he earned a degree in Chemistry. Dr. Lofty graduated from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis and did graduate work at the Los Angeles College of Optometry. Returning to his native area, Dr. Lofty opened Belpre's first full-time optometric practice in 1955, where he provided eye care to his devoted patients for 48 years.

During his lifetime, Dr. Lofty was President and District Governor of the Parkersburg Serra Club, an organization promoting religious vocations. He provided funding for scholarships to graduates of Belpre High School, Parkersburg

Catholic High School, and the Parkersburg Catholic Schools Foundation.

Active in service groups, Dr. Lofty served on the Belpre Library Committee, was President and Secretary of the Belpre Lions Club, Chairman of the Belpre United Way, and Founder, original board member, and Treasurer of the Belpre Area Community Development Foundation. Upon his death, he left over \$1.9 million to both the Belpre Area Community Development Foundation and St. Ambrose Catholic Church.

Dr. Lofty's gift to the Belpre Area Community Development Foundation will serve the community for a long time. This gift was set up as an unrestricted fund to service the community he so loved. His gift to St. Ambrose Church is being used to construct a William C. Lofty Christian Education Center.

Dr. Lofty was a true role model for anyone that knew him. He always shared what he had financially and encouraged others to do the same. His belief that you help others was contagious and an example to which others aspire.

Alan Stockmeister

NOMINEE

NOMINATOR

Marianne Campbell

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

Executive Vice President

Holzer Foundation for Tri-State Health Care (Retired)

To say that Alan Stockmeister is involved and committed to Jackson County, Ohio, and the surrounding area would greatly understate the work and generosity Mr. Stockmeister has invested in his hometown.

Mr. Stockmeister graduated from Jackson High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree, with an emphasis in building construction, from Michigan State University. He returned home and became active in area businesses. Mr. Stockmeister is owner and president of Foremost Management, Inc., a local construction management, development, and property management firm. His business interests also include, but are not limited to, plumbing, heating, and cooling; hotels, broadcasting, print journalism, banking, and theaters.

Alan Stockmeister is deeply involved in his community sharing of his time, talent, and treasure. Activities include Holy Trinity Catholic Church, lifetime member of the Jackson Jaycees and the Jackson County Apple Festival, Inc. He is also a member of the Jackson County Airport Authority and Jackson Youth Athletic Organization as well as The Ohio State University President's Club and the

Michigan State University Alumni Association.

Philanthropically, Alan Stockmeister's interests are as varied as his business activities. He is a supporter of the Holzer Cancer Center and served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Holzer Hospital Foundation - Gallipolis, and Holzer Medical Center – Jackson. The University of Rio Grande, where he has also served on the Board of Trustees, is another recipient of Mr. Stockmeister's generosity. Other beneficiaries of Mr. Stockmeister's benevolence include Jackson City Schools, The Ohio State University, Canter's Cave, Markay Cultural Arts Center, the YMCA, and Holy Trinity Church.

Appalachian Ohio is fortunate to have an individual as committed and generous as Alan Stockmeister. His kind acts of philanthropy in the Jackson area serve as a wonderful example that 'charity begins at home'.

Dr. Sergio Ulloa

NOMINEE

NOMINATOR

Leslie Lilly, President
Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

Dr. Sergio Ulloa established a scholarship fund with the love and support of family and friends at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio to honor the life and memory of his wife, Ariana R. Ulloa. A native of Mexico, Ariana received a degree in chemical engineering from the National University of Mexico. Dr. Ulloa moved to Athens with his wife and their four children in 1986. Sergio began work at Ohio University, and Ariana began working for the Hocking College Department of International Programs in 1990 where she made lasting connections with the students she helped. Ariana eventually moved into the position of Director and gained a reputation for her kind and encouraging nature. She was known to many students as “Mama Ulloa.”

Inspired by his wife’s work with international students, the scholarships are awarded on the basis of a competitive process that considers financial need, academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, educational goals and personal aspirations. The candidates for the scholarship are required to be international students or students enrolled in international studies. Recipients are selected without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, handicap, or national origin.

The first recipient of the Ariana Ulloa Scholarship Fund, Bom

Conselho, came to the United States from Brazil to pursue a dual Master's degree at Ohio University. Unforeseen financial difficulties almost forced him to return to Brazil without finishing his program, but the assistance of scholarships such as the Ulloa Scholarship and the hospitality of a professor have made it possible for Bom Conselho to stay in Athens.

Bom Conselho said that this scholarship will allow him to focus more on his studies. "If I have more worry about the financial problems, I will worry about other stuff instead of education," he said. He also acknowledged the scholarship's namesake, Ariana Ulloa's dedication to helping international students. "[The scholarship] will continue the activity that Ariana used to do with love and education with another person, usually someone she didn't know," he said.

The second scholarship recipient, George Ampedu, is a native of Ghana who became interested in business while working for a company his family owned in West Africa. He decided to come to Hocking College to work on a degree in Business Management and Entrepreneurship and hopes to go on to get his MBA. When he has completed his education in the United States, Ampedu plans to return to Ghana where he will work toward building a more effective business infrastructure by sharing what he has learned through his education in the United States with others.

Ebrima Jatta is the third recipient of the Ariana R. Ulloa Scholarship. Ebrima Jatta is a native of Gambia and is currently majoring in Surgical Technology at Hocking College. Mr. Jatta's educational goal is to attain an Associate's Degree in surgical technology and eventually pursue a Bachelor's Degree, then go on to become a surgeon. He is an active volunteer and full-time student. As the recipient of the Ariana R. Ulloa Scholarship, Ebrima Jatta will receive \$500 to continue his education at Hocking College.

John Benson and Steve Vincent

NOMINEES

NOMINATOR

David P. Mitzel, Ph.D.

The Muskingum County Community Foundation

Tragedy can affect communities, like Hurricane Katrina or in the case of the Wilsons, it can affect a single family whose pain inspires actions by a community to prevent its recurrence.

At 7:47 a.m. on December 25, 1989, the Zanesville Fire Department received a report of a fire at 817 Larzelere Avenue. John Benson had just returned home after his shift ended at 7:00 a.m. He was opening Christmas presents with his wife and three young boys who were still in their Superman, action hero pajamas. The phone rang and the dispatcher told him that a general alarm fire was in progress on Larzelere Avenue.

A general alarm is sounded when a large building is on fire. John wondered if 817 Larzelere Avenue could be the address of the church on Larzelere. He figured that since Larzelere Avenue was a street of older homes, it probably was the church. He got to Central Station and grabbed his gear and then drove his personal car to the address. It was a home. Several firemen were just standing around the outside of a burning house. An ambulance had pulled up in front. It was shortly after 8:30 a.m.

Assistant Fire Chief Jack Fenton told John that two firemen (his son Steve Fenton and Fred Buck) were inside looking for two more boys. Fireman Tom Moorehouse had come out onto the front porch with the body of one boy just before the porch collapsed.

John Benson went into the burning building to help search for the other two boys. He crawled up the stairs and met up with Steve Fenton. Steve had a breathing pack and mask on so it was difficult for John to hear him ask for something. He repeated his request, "Get a blanket!" and John heard it this time. He crawled downstairs and asked an ambulance driver for a blanket. When John climbed the stairs again, Steve asked him to spread out the blanket. He did. John was then handed the blanket with the body of a small boy in Superman pajamas.

The electrical fire started in the front hall of the home due to holiday lighting. The parents crawled out on the porch roof accessible from their bedroom window. The three children of Richard and Cathy Wilson died of smoke inhalation that Christmas morning.

There were no working smoke alarms in the Wilson home. Within a few months, the ABC Wilson Fund was incorporated and IRS approval of 501(c)(3) status was obtained by a group of community leaders. The sole purpose of the fund was to raise money to purchase smoke detectors that would be given to anyone who asked for one at any of the fire departments in the city of Zanesville. Later, the program expanded into the volunteer fire departments in the townships. Handicapped and elderly individuals could request installation by the firemen. The fund was called the ABC Wilson Fund for Adam Michael Wilson, age 10; Brian

Richard Wilson, age 8; and Craig Daniel Wilson, age 6, the three boys who died in the fire.

Firefighters John Benson and Steve Vincent were appointed to the ABC Wilson Fund Board as representatives of the Zanesville Fire Department. Steve has taken responsibility for the purchase of the smoke detectors and solicitation of funds. They have distributed smoke detectors and batteries for nearly 15 years and started an endowment fund that they hope will reach \$50,000 so that 300 smoke alarms and batteries can be given out each year.

The endowment fund is a component fund of the Muskingum County Community Foundation, which will continue the program with the ABC Wilson Fund Board after Steve and John retire.

The Christmas tragedy has led to greater awareness of fires and fewer deaths in Muskingum County, especially of children. School children are trained to escape from a special mobile smoke trailer in which each child has an opportunity to be in a bed, experience benign smoke, and climb out a window...thus recreating the events of Christmas, 1989, with a happier ending.