

# Growing Home GAZETTE

ISSUE 2

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A NEWSLETTER OF THE FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO



## MUSIC TO MORGAN COUNTY'S EARS

**The Morgan High School band is small. A competitive marching band, it had been working hard to increase both quality and participation. That's why one grant from the Morgan Foundation for music lessons made such a difference.**

Morgan County students don't have many opportunities to learn to play an instrument. Lessons are scarce, which made the band one of the only opportunities in Morgan to learn about music. The band had community and school support, as well as eager students; they simply needed an opportunity to develop their skills.

When the Morgan Foundation invested an \$1,800 grant for eight students from the high school to study music with master's level students at Ohio University, it lit the fire that re-energized the small band.

Once a week for ten weeks, students would get on a county transit bus to Ohio University in Athens for lessons in piano, trumpet, flute, clarinet, and tuba. After weeks of tutoring, they played a recital to celebrate how much they had learned in under three months.

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**Morgan  
Foundation**

*A Fund of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio*

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# KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH FAO

There are a lot of exciting things happening at FAO. From scholarships and grants to new funds and events. We hope you'll stay connected with us. Here are some ways to do that:

## **www.AppalachianOhio.org**

Get the latest news and events online at our website.

## **Growing Home Gazette**

Our annual newsletter is published in the summer and mailed to donors, volunteers, and partners of FAO.

## **eNews**

Sign up on our website to receive our quarterly e-newsletter with stories from the Foundation and periodic updates on scholarship and grant opportunities, events, and more.

## **Videos**

Watch the stories of FAO on our website and hear directly from our community partners, grantees, honorees, and donors. Their stories are best told in their own words.

## **Facebook**

Like our page, stay up to date, and join the conversation.

## **Annual Report**

Our valentine to the region lands in mailboxes every February.

## **LEGACY RECEPTION**

Featuring scholarship recipients, community heroes, fine food, and a historic treasure. **Join us September 24<sup>th</sup> at Stuart's Opera House** for an evening guaranteed to inspire another year's worth of philanthropy. Call 740.753.1111 to RSVP.

# MUSIC TO MORGAN COUNTY'S EARS

*Continued from Page One*



It was clear that this grant deeply impacted the eight students who received lessons, but its reach extended much further. When these students returned to school and to the band, there was a true resurgence in the quality of the music program. For the first time in twenty years, the Morgan High

School's Band received a "Superior" rating at the annual, statewide Ohio Music Education Association Contest, and other students are taking notice. Band participation has increased because of the band's success. More students are interested in lessons and those who took the lessons became more disciplined in their musical pursuits.

***"It's the worlds of opportunity that are introduced to our students when they learn music, enjoy a performance, or express themselves through painting.***

***The arts are really a gateway."***

***~ Morgan Foundation***

***President Mike Workman***

And success extends far beyond the effect on students and the band. The Morgan Foundation has seen what an investment like this in arts and culture can do and they aren't stopping there. Inspired, the Morgan Foundation is already at work planning how to grow more funding for arts and culture in the county. Exciting developments are on the horizon in Morgan County and it will all have started with music lessons and one \$1,800 grant.

**What will come next for the arts in Morgan County? We hope you'll stay tuned to find out.**

Even more is happening in Morgan County through a generous planned gift to the Morgan Foundation. Read more on page 6.

**Would you like to join our mailing list to get more stories from FAO?**  
Just email us at [info@ffao.org](mailto:info@ffao.org) and we will gladly add you!

# FROM APPALACHIAN OHIO TO OUTER SPACE

When Lauren Worley simplifies her job as press secretary and senior advisor to NASA, she sometimes says that her job is to “explain the wonders of the universe to a twitter audience in 140 characters or less.” At FAO we are lucky that in between grappling with the universe and briefing the White House press secretary on NASA, Lauren takes the time to review scholarship applications for the Foundation.

An Adams County native and a Peebles High School graduate, Lauren has been volunteering on FAO’s Scholarship Committee since 2012. Though she is based in Washington, DC, Lauren has found that reading applications from Appalachian Ohio is a way to keep her ties to home strong despite a busy schedule.



Photo credit: Joshua Krohn

**“When your heart is in Appalachia and your body is somewhere else, it’s a way to give back.”**

Lauren also brings an important perspective to scholarship review based on her own experience growing up in the region and pursuing her dreams all the way to NASA.

She recognizes a lot of herself in the students. Coming from a farm community inspires a strong work ethic that Lauren believes cannot be matched, she also recognizes the encouragement needed to step into the next stage of education or try something new.

“As I’m reading these applications from 400 miles away, it causes me to reflect on my journey from the farm in Peebles to the frontiers of NASA. I’m realizing some of my goals and have overcome obstacles from having grown up in a rural place versus other students who have had other experiences. And in the applications, I see these kids right at the cusp and they are full of energy. You can feel that emotion. I’m so impressed. I would give them all scholarships.”

For Lauren, reviewing scholarships through FAO is more than just helping students go to college. It has a much larger impact. Education begets education. With every student going to college for the first time, there is an impact on the generation to follow.

“I have that responsibility to the kids who come from the place that I grew up.”

**Would you like to give back to a place where you grew up? Consider joining our Scholarship Committee or opening a Scholarship Fund.** Contact FAO’s Holly Shelton at 740.753.1111 for more information.

## Want a way to support what’s closest to **your heart**?

FAO created the **Pillars of Prosperity** to give us all a chance to invest in what’s closest to our heart while helping to transform generational poverty into generations of prosperity. Concentrating on five areas critical to a vibrant Appalachian Ohio with opportunity for all of our citizens, the Pillar endowments are the cornerstone of our efforts to grow the philanthropic resources our communities need.



Arts &  
Culture



Community  
& Economic  
Development



Education



Environmental  
Stewardship



Health & Human  
Services

**So tell us, what’s closest to your heart? We’re listening.**

## Want your legacy to the region matched dollar for dollar?

To accelerate the growth of the **Pillars of Prosperity** and the difference they can make, Ohio CAT has issued a matching challenge. For every dollar FAO raises for the Pillars, Ohio CAT will provide a matching dollar—up to \$500,000. **Visit our website at [www.AppalachianOhio.org](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org) to join in the Ohio CAT challenge or learn more.**



# EVERY SCHOLARSHIP, AN OPPORTUNITY

No matter what their field of study we take pride in our recipients and the story behind each scholarship fund. The **Foundation for Appalachian Ohio** is honored to support 46 donor-established scholarship funds in sustaining the

## ROBIN The Orthodontist

## JERIMIAH The Lawyer

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Jeff Cox and Jane Schumacher Cox Scholarship, Lester and Thelma Ellwood Scholarship, and Bob Evans and Wayne White Memorial Scholarship

### RESIDENCE

Guernsey County

### SCHOLARSHIP

Bob Evans and Wayne White Memorial Scholarship

### RESIDENCE

Muskingum County

### FUTURE GOAL

Become the first in my family to earn a college degree.

### HIGH SCHOOL

Buckeye Trail High School

### FUTURE GOAL

Help kids take pride in their smiles.

### HIGH SCHOOL

Zanesville High School

### COLLEGE

Ohio State University

### COLLEGE

Ohio Dominican University

### WHAT PHILANTHROPY MEANS TO ME

Creating Opportunities. Helping those who are less advantaged receive the same opportunities to succeed as others.

### WHAT PHILANTHROPY MEANS TO ME

Appreciation. Because of someone else's philanthropy I will get help attending college and be more likely to finish. This appreciation leads me to want to pay it forward to others.

# EACH STUDENT, A DREAM

continued educational pursuits of our region's students. Every scholarship carries the legacies of the story behind it and the future of its recipients.

## RUBY The Teacher

**SCHOLARSHIP**  
Bob Evans and  
Wayne White  
Memorial  
Scholarship

**RESIDENCE**  
Athens County

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
Athens High  
School

**FUTURE GOAL**  
Make a difference in  
my community and  
the world through  
education.

**COLLEGE**  
Ohio University



## JUSTIN The Experimental Physicist

**SCHOLARSHIP**  
AK Steel  
Foundation  
STEM Scholastic  
Award

**RESIDENCE**  
Muskingum  
County

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
Maysville High  
School

**FUTURE GOAL**  
Study the cosmos  
and create  
equations and  
theories for  
how it works.

**COLLEGE**  
Miami University



### WHAT PHILANTHROPY MEANS TO ME

Growing. It's more than a transaction. It's about human connection.

### WHAT PHILANTHROPY MEANS TO ME

Giving back. Being able to give back to people using your talents—whether through sharing your knowledge with the world, donating your time, or giving to charity.



# A GIFT TO KEEP GIVING



**When we talk about a gift that keeps on giving, we don't usually mean it literally.** Hazel Syphers of Morgan County, however, took the expression to heart. When she passed away in 2014 at the age of 100, she left behind a gift that will have the children of Morgan County unwrapping presents for years to come.

Hazel and Gerald lived quietly and simply. Their grand-niece Marsha Long remembers staying summers with Hazel and Gerald as a child, helping with farm chores, walking on the backs of sheep, and letting her imagination run wild in the woods with their dog, Rover. She also thinks she went home ten pounds heavier from all the food Hazel fed her. "They loved kids," shared Marsha. "She was good with kids and she adored them. They never had any of their own."

So perhaps it should have come as no surprise when Hazel left a series of gifts in her will for the Morgan Foundation and other organizations that showed her love for Morgan County and its children.

Hazel knew she wanted every Morgan County child to open a Christmas present, but it was only after she learned about the Morgan Foundation that she saw a way to do it. With her gift, the Morgan Foundation will be working to ensure kids who might not otherwise have something to open on Christmas morning will be able to join the celebration.

Through the Morgan Foundation, Hazel's gift will be forever managed, invested, and cared for to assure it will help generations of children celebrate Christmas with excitement, wide eyes, and joy.

Led by a local, volunteer committee, the Morgan Foundation is a Family of Funds managed and supported by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for all people of Morgan County, both now and in the future. The Morgan Foundation not only awards grants and makes investments in the community, but it gives citizens—past, present, and future—the opportunity to give back locally, just as Hazel Syphers did through her estate.

In addition to her gift to the Morgan County Foundation, Hazel also invested in the Morgan County Historical Society, Morgan County United Ministries, and the Pennsville Church of Christ through her estate. Together, Hazel's final gifts are celebrating the county's past while uplifting its future by supporting children. Now that's truly a reason to be merry.

## Ways to Give

Community funds, like the Morgan Foundation, are just one way to leave a legacy at FAO. You can tailor a fund to match your charitable passions, support an area of interest, or honor a loved one.

### **Pillars of Prosperity Funds**

Endowment funds that support grantmaking in areas fundamental to a vibrant Appalachian Ohio: Arts & Culture, Community & Economic Development, Education, Environmental Stewardship, and Health & Human Services.

### **Unrestricted Funds**

Funds FAO can direct to meet the greatest needs and opportunities in the region.

### **Designated Funds**

Support specific nonprofit organization(s) with permanent and flexible endowed resources and helps the organization accept large and complex gifts.

### **Donor-Advised Funds**

Serve as an alternative to a private foundation where donors can address the issues and needs they care about most and involve their family, if desired.

### **Field of Interest Funds**

Funds donors designate for a field of interest they are passionate about, like the Morgan County Christmas Wish Fund described above.

### **Organizational Funds**

Ensure the role and work of a nonprofit organization forever through endowment.

### **Scholarship Funds**

Support to help students achieve their academic and career goals.

# MEET FAO'S NEW TEAM MEMBER



**General Counsel &  
Vice President of Gift Planning**

A native of Pike County and an attorney, Heather Keesee joined FAO with the perfect blend of experience needed to help FAO's donors and their advisors in gift planning. At FAO, Heather works with donors as well as their attorneys, financial planners, and other advisors to help them make a

difference in what's closest to their hearts through their estate plans and complex gift arrangements to maximize tax advantages.

**"Working at FAO gives me the opportunity to pair my legal expertise with that feeling of knowing my work is helping to leave the community better than I found it."**

**Are you interested in learning more about planned giving?** Would you like to discuss opportunities through the sale of a business or more complex assets? Or do you know a professional advisor who could benefit from learning more about FAO? Contact Heather at [hkeesee@ffao.org](mailto:hkeesee@ffao.org) or 740.753.1111.

## FAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**Ronald Strickmaker** – Athens County StoreFlix!

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### In-House Finance Counsel

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Learn more about our staff at

[www.AppalachianOhio.org/](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/WhoWeAre/Staff)

[WhoWeAre/Staff](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/WhoWeAre/Staff)

In addition to FAO's Board, our work is guided and supported by more than 100 volunteers who represent the broad diversity of our region. If you would like to make a difference in Appalachian Ohio by volunteering with FAO please contact us at 740.753.1111





# GRANT TO WATCH:

## *A Study on Ohio's Appalachian Children*

Because of generous donors, FAO is giving grants every month. Last year, FAO gave more than one grant a day on average, and this year we have already invested 418 grants across the region. As we close this newsletter, we wanted to feature just one of our recent awards.

With a recent grant, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio is continuing its commitment to the children of Appalachia. By committing funding to a report on Ohio's Appalachian Children, being produced by the Children's Defense Fund, FAO is helping to shine a spotlight on the state of our region's youngest citizens. The study will guide the work of many partners in early childhood education as well as in the health and economic welfare of our children.

These many partners are often held back without the data they need to make the case for our region's children or to gauge the success of their partnerships and initiatives. With this report, partners from across our region and beyond will have a tool to help guide investments and activities for the benefit of Appalachian Ohio's children.



**See page 2 on how to keep up with FAO and learn more this fall.**



FOUNDATION FOR  
APPALACHIAN OHIO

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