

## New Area Agency on Aging Fund Catalyst for Giving

Jana and Pat Mulherin are providing a pathway for people to donate to the Area Agency on Aging Ohio District 5. They awarded a grant from their Richland County Foundation donor-advised fund to the Area Agency on Aging to establish an agency endowed fund.

**“Our philanthropic philosophy is simple; it is about giving back. The endowment fund will be a way for people to donate to the Area Agency on Aging and it will make a difference in our community,”** said Jana Mulherin.

“We give because we believe in the organization, its mission, and employees. The fund is important so that other people in the community realize they can do this as well. Either set up a fund for a nonprofit or give to an existing fund at the Foundation,” said Mrs. Mulherin.

Pat Mulherin’s grandparents, John and Winnie Mulherin, relocated from Iowa to build their Dairy Queen in Mansfield at the corner of Glessner Avenue and Wood Street in 1948. Later, another DQ store was opened on Ashland Road by the family.

“The community embraced the Mulherin Family then and our family continues to embrace the community with nonprofit involvement. We feel a responsibility to give back,” said Pat Mulherin.

To incentivize donors and grow the fund, the Mulherins have offered a \$10,000 matching grant through December 31, 2022.

Area Agency on Aging Ohio District 5 CEO Duana Patton said the fund will be a catalyst for future gifts.

“This agency endowed fund is such an honor. Jana and Pat are great advocates for our work. This honors Jana’s work on our board over the past seven years,” said Patton.

Patton wants to help the fund grow.

To donate to the Area Agency on Aging Ohio District 5 Fund go to [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org) and select the fund from the drop-down box or write a check payable to the Richland County Foundation and note the fund on the memo line.

### **About the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging:**

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (AAA) is a nonprofit agency that serves Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties. It has programs for all ages and income levels; however, it specializes in services and programs for older adults and anyone with disabilities.

For 45 years, AAA has served North Central Ohio with the same goal in mind: to help older adults and individuals with disabilities live safely and independently in their homes



Area Agency on Aging Duana Patton with Pat and Jana Mulherin

for as long as possible. It manages programs that provide in-home help and can connect people to various community-based services, including transportation, nutrition programs, and safety monitoring. AAA also offers free workshops to those with diabetes and other chronic conditions and educational resources, respite, trainings, and support for caregivers and grandparents raising grandchildren.

AAA advocates for older adults at the local, state, and national levels. It partners with organizations and agencies in its service area to provide options.

Learn more at <https://www.aaa5ohio.org/>.

## Women’s Fund to announce annual grants

The Women’s Fund of the Richland County Foundation will host its annual luncheon November 11 at Kingwood Center Gardens from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The WF will announce grants and the JoAnn Dutton Volunteer Service Award recipient.

You can purchase tickets at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org).

Women’s Fund Vice-Chair Heidi Jones, Women’s Fund Chair Kristine Lindeman and Nyasha Oden from NECIC.





## Mansfield Rising Project update:

In 2018, the Richland County Foundation leadership took an unusual track to develop an investment strategy for downtown Mansfield. Instead of hiring a professional consulting firm, it had a citizen-led group create the plan.

The vision is for Mansfield to become an optimal place to conduct business, gather and live. This vision can be achieved through five key areas: effective land use, wayfinding, technical assistance for business, branding and marketing, and safety.

**Q:** The Main Street Corridor Improvement Plan recently received a 7-million-dollar federal grant. Can you give us an update on the project and its funding?

**A:** If you go to DMI's website and click on projects, then Main Street Improvement, you can see the whole grant application. It walks you through the history of Main Street as well as the future planning for the area. This is going to be a long process as it's a really big project. In total the project is over \$11M and will stretch from 5th Street to 1st Street. <https://www.downtownmansfield.com/mainstreetimprovement>

**Q:** A community branding project began in 2019, however it was put on pause due to the pandemic. What is the status?

**A:** The new brand was released earlier this year and a committee is working on a website that would make the brand open source, so anyone could use it in their marketing materials. We really want everyone to embrace the brand and use it. The stories we tell about everything Richland County has to offer is more impactful than just a new logo. If you pick up Destination Mansfield's latest publication, you will how they utilized the brand.

**Q:** A project outlined in the plan is expanding public art. We now have a City of Mansfield Public Art Commission. What is new with the Commission?

**A:** The dragon at the Buckeye Imagination Museum facing west on Park Avenue was part of this Public Art Commission and funding received through the Richland County Foundation. The next one to watch is the space next to Hursh Drug on Diamond Street across from the Municipal Parking Lot. The Public Art Commission is always looking



for ideas and locations for new artwork – you can contact Richland Community Development Group to learn more.

**Q:** Free public Wi-Fi in downtown was part of the list in Mansfield Rising. That is in place, how did that come about?

**A:** It is up and running now. My favorite part of the Free public Wi-Fi is that the business who helped the city with the planning and purchasing equipment is located in town on Orange Street. The Wi-Fi is strong and working well in the most high-traffic areas of downtown – it is set up to work outside so you will see it drop once you step into a building but while you're hanging out in Central Park, the Brickyard or on any of the new benches, you'll have free wi-fi!

**Q:** Two grant opportunities are available for downtown building owners to improve their property. Explain how those grants work.

**A:** DMI's website has all the grant opportunities listed under Programs, then Development. One is funded through the License Plate Tax of \$5 to benefit downtown improvement and it is called the Vertical Development Grant. It helps property owners bring their buildings up to code. So many of the buildings downtown have been unoccupied on the upper floors for years and the plumbing, electricity, and stairs need an upgrade. The second opportunity is funded through the Richland County Foundation and its goal is to create upper-

level living opportunities for some of these buildings. Applications are under review for these grants.

**Q:** Downtown Mansfield Inc, the City of Mansfield and the Foundation are working together on a Façade Improvement program. How is that coming along?

**A:** Great! We are going into our third year of investment in this grant program with 17 approved projects. This grant allows downtown property owners to improve the outside of their building with some assistance. Some examples of improved facades are the Voegle Apartment Building and Dream Huge Realty.

*If you would like to read the plan, go to [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org), click "Community Impact" then the "Mansfield Rising" tab.*



## OhioHealth commits \$100,000 to the Mansfield Rising project



OhioHealth announced it will commit \$100,000 to the Richland County Foundation for the Mansfield Rising: Downtown Investment project. The monies will be specifically used toward creating a permanent linear park, which will encourage pedestrians to walk between the Imagination District and the Carrousel District, which are less than a half mile apart.

“One way to complete our mission ‘to improve the health of those we serve’ is to create safer and more appealing settings for people to walk within our communities,” said Vinson Yates, president of OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital and OhioHealth Shelby Hospital.

Linear parks, which are parks in urban settings, transform alleys, parking lots, and underutilized properties into safe walkways and greenspaces for gathering, exploring, and art. Mansfield Rising created a temporary, pop-up linear park in parking areas along Third Street during the Fall of 2021, and the concept was well-received.

“We were impressed by the partnerships and collaboration for the pop-up project and the number of people who visited and participated in the space,” said Allie Watson, senior community investment officer with the Richland County Foundation and member of Mansfield Rising. “The success of that project gave us the confidence to move forward with a permanent solution and this gift will help it become a reality.”

## Sarah Mead Siegenthaler Fund



**Sarah Mead Siegenthaler Lichtenstein**, a charitable and community minded person, made plans in her estate to set up an endowed fund at the Richland County Foundation. The Sarah Mead Siegenthaler Fund is a field of interest fund that supports programs for disadvantaged youth, adults, and the elderly.

Sarah, who went by the nickname of Sally, died in November 2021.

She attended Mansfield City Schools and graduated from the Laurel School in Shaker Heights. She earned a degree from William and Mary, in Williamsburg, VA. After graduation, she worked several years in publishing at Prentice Hall in Hoboken, NJ, and Charles Merrill in Columbus.

After returning to Mansfield, Sally was a member of the First Congregational Church, Johnny Appleseed Garden Club, Charity Club, and an avid golfer at Westbrook. She volunteered at the Catalyst Life Rehabilitation Center, Kingwood, and other organizations.

## Renaissance Performing Arts Endowment Fund



Chelsie Thompson

With a focus on long term financial goals, the Renaissance Performing Arts established an agency endowed fund at the Richland County Foundation.

“The new fund enhances stability and sustainability for the Renaissance Theatre. It will diversify our funding and give donors an additional option for gifts that can benefit the Ren for many years to come,” said Renaissance Performing Arts President & CEO Chelsie Thompson. “We trust the Foundation and its investment strategy. It has a heart for the nonprofit community and we know that donors who choose to make a gift to the fund will have peace of mind that their funds are always put to good use.”

Every donor has a different priority, some like supporting operations and others like an investment option that lasts into perpetuity.

During COVID, the Renaissance Theatre was shut down for a combined nine months of the pandemic. When it reopened, it was only able to offer limited seating at a 25-50% capacity for over a year.

“We had to find ways to bring in revenue. The staff is highly creative, and they delivered on our mission,” said Thompson.

Thompson said the Renaissance has a big opportunity now that the Imagination District has been formed in partnership with the Buckeye Imagination Museum.

“We’ve built a number of high-quality programs. One of our main goals moving forward is to go outside of our walls and improve our community engagement to make sure all people have access to those programs,” said Thompson.

As part of that effort, Maddie Penwell has been named the first ever Director of Community Engagement for the organization.

Anyone can make a tax-deductible donation to the fund at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org) by clicking the donate button and selecting the Renaissance Performing Arts Fund or writing a check payable to the Richland County Foundation with the fund noted on the memo line.

### About the Renaissance Performing Arts Association:

The mission of RPA is to foster greater human connection and understanding through performing arts experiences that inspire, engage, and educate all people.

The work of the Renaissance supports a vision for a healthy, thriving North Central Ohio community - both culturally vibrant and economically strong, attractive to businesses, residents, and visitors alike - with a culture that values experiences with the performing arts as vital to increased quality of life and lifelong learning.

*Among others, programs offered include musical theatre, the Mansfield Symphony, Emerging Artists mentorships, touring acts, and education programs serving over 16,000 annually. To learn more, go to <https://rentickets.org>.*

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This is the eighth year for Richland Gives hosted by the Richland County Foundation.

Richland Gives is designed to encourage people to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving website. The Foundation hosts the day to build capacity, grow philanthropy and make the community stronger.

Each charity registered for the event will have an individualized web page to promote their cause. The success of the event will depend on our collective enthusiasm and implementation.

The Richland Gives donation period is from November 14 at 7 a.m. through November 29 at 7 p.m. For more details or to donate go to [richlandgives.org](http://richlandgives.org).



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The Richland County Foundation is recognized for having organizational and financial practices that are in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.



[RichlandCountyFoundation.org](http://RichlandCountyFoundation.org)

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## West End Neighborhood

The first phase of the West End Neighborhood project is finished on Glessner Avenue. The Gorman Fund & Jones Porter Nauman Family Fund at the Foundation supported the City of Mansfield project with grants. The first phase included improved sidewalks, new street lighting, tree lawns and retaining walls.

*A new retaining wall at Dairy Queen was part of the project.*



## City of Ontario – Inclusive Playground and Spray Park

The Gorman Fund, Ralph C. Lutz Fund, and Floyd H. Lutz Fund at the Foundation supported an inclusive playground and spray park at Marshall Park in Ontario. The new play area provides opportunities for able-bodied children to play alongside differently abled children in a unique environment accessible to everyone.

*Children enjoy the new spray park.*



## Hospice of North Central Ohio Dementia Care

The Robert & Ester Black Family Foundation Fund at the Richland County Foundation awarded a grant to fund the training of front-line caregivers in Alzheimer's and Dementia Care at Hospice of North Central Ohio.

*RN Deb Leber*