



Richland County Foundation Awarded Record Amount in Grants

The Richland County Foundation recently held its annual meeting. About 130 people attended to hear messages from Foundation President Brady Groves, Chairwoman Glenna Plotts and keynote speaker Mansfield Christian School Superintendent Dr. Cy Smith.

Groves reported the Foundation's assets were \$153,570,296. During 2018, \$8,427,603 was awarded in grants which far exceeded any previous year.

The incoming Board of Trustee members approved by the membership are Debbi Adams, Mechanics Bank executive vice president, Dr. Norman Jones, The Ohio State University at Mansfield dean, Dr. Theresa Roth, OhioHealth vice president and Lee Tasseff, Destination Mansfield executive director.

Bruce Cummins, Glenna Plotts and Mark Masters completed three, three-year terms and were recognized for their dedicated service to the board of trustees and the community.

Outgoing Chairwoman Glenna Plotts invited incoming Chairwoman Julie McCready to ceremoniously accept the gavel. Other officers elected were Chair Elect Jessica Gribben, Treasurer Michael Chambers and Secretary Jana Mulherin.

Foundation awards scholarships to local students



The Richland County Foundation recently awarded \$569,091 in scholarships to Richland County students. Scholarships are awarded based on a student's financial need and grade point average.

RCF Scholarship Committee Chairwoman Jana Mulherin reported that 256 students received scholarships from 65 various funds, of those, 86 students will attend a local college or university. The average scholarship amount increased this year to \$2,223 over last year's average of \$1,446. In addition, the Foundation awarded scholarships to six students attending a trade school.



Sandy Mazur/Spherion Excellence in Leadership Scholarship



Beth DeLaney, left, and Michael Chalmers, right, present Sandy Mazur with a check at the Spherion National Conference to establish a new scholarship fund.

DeLaney is very involved in the communities her office serves. She is on the Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees and serves as past chairwoman. She is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management and the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC). She also serves as an active board member of the Richland Community Development Group (RCDG) and the Ontario Growth Corporation.

Beth DeLaney, franchise owner of Spherion Staffing, recently spearheaded the establishment of the Sandy Mazur/Spherion Excellence in Leadership Scholarship Fund.

Numerous franchise owners from across the country have contributed to the fund as a legacy to Mazur who was the Spherion division president for 15 years, in Atlanta.

DeLaney said the franchise owners wanted to do something special to honor Sandy when she retired. "She was a blessing to all of us. We presented the new fund to her during an annual meeting in California," said DeLaney.

"We created a campaign to get others to donate. A committee will be formed to award a scholarship to a woman who represents excellence in leadership."

From Be the Boss website: "Sandy Mazur was an industry pioneer at Spherion Staffing Services. Building its reputation as a national leader with a local focus, Mazur championed service excellence and workforce innovation. Through a creative combination of thought leadership—including the ground-breaking Emerging Workforce® Study, workplace surveys and job market reports—and innovative digital resources—including a new delivery mechanism for the ubiquitous salary survey—Mazur ensured local translates into leading for Spherion's network of business owners. As a result, Spherion earned the distinction of being named a "World-Class Franchise" by the Franchise Research Institute."

DeLaney's franchise is a local recruiting, staffing and workforce solutions provider. With operations spanning 10 counties, DeLaney has owned Spherion of Mid-Ohio, headquartered in Mansfield, for 19 years with a strong team of staffing and recruiting experts.

EMPAC Continues to Deliver on its Mission

The Board of Trustees of EMPAC, Emergency Pregnancy Aid Contact, chose to establish a field of interest fund at the Foundation. The organization was founded by Richland County residents and for the 43 years of operation it was staffed by community volunteers. The fund is named for Betty Finlayson, one of the founders of EMPAC, Fran Conley, a longtime volunteer, and JoAnne Williams, a volunteer and the first director. EMPAC was organized in 1973 by a group of women at St. Peter's Church under the leadership of the Margaret Walley.

The new fund will make grants for the purpose of providing support to parents, children and families emotionally and financially distressed by pregnancy.

EMPAC volunteer Peg Sipes said EMPAC recently ceased operations for a couple of reasons. **"We were competing with organizations receiving federal funding and were duplicating services. On top of that, it was getting very difficult to recruit volunteers."**

EMPAC volunteer Sheila Sipes Jones said EMPAC was there to help people and offer advice in a non-judgmental/non-threatening way. Volunteers worked with clients to help them overcome their obstacles and frustrations related to pregnancy.

"The birth of a child should be a positive experience," said Sheila Sipes Jones.

EMPAC services were compassionate, caring and free to all families. Education on various topics included what to expect at childbirth, breast feeding, bottle feeding, shaken baby syndrome, parenting tips and financial counseling. The organization provided supplies such as layettes, cribs, pack n' plays, diapers and blankets.

The counseling and support evolved into peer-to-peer help as well as some clients then became EMPAC volunteers. "We want to give people an equal opportunity for a happy and healthy life," said Peg Sipes.



Internship Results in a Full-time Job

Dignity Ruebensaal walked across the stage to receive her bachelor's degree in business management and administration having already secured a full-time job at Catalyst Life Services.

The Ohio State University at Mansfield student from Chippewa Lake said she has the campus internship program to thank for her good fortune. Dignity's internship at Catalyst was funded by the Fran and Warren Rupp Fund of the Richland County Foundation.

An Outdoorsman, Businessman, and Family Patriarch is Memorialized with a Fund



Brian Arthur Adair

Patricia Adair, wife of Brian Arthur Adair, along with their children, Katherine Adair Truitt and Matthew Adair, established a donor advised fund as a way to memorialize him. Brian passed away unexpectedly in February following a brief illness. An avid outdoorsman since his youth, Brian utilized this passion, as well as his business acumen when, in 1976, he opened Freedom Trails Outdoor Outfitters, a sporting goods store specializing in hiking, camping, backpacking, canoeing and Nordic skiing. Throughout

his career, Brian had the opportunity to outfit campers and scouts, sharing his expertise with customers and helping them explore their interest in the outdoors. Brian retired and closed his store in November 2017 after 41 years of business.

Brian was involved in the Boy Scouts his entire life, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop #152. While in college, he was active with the Troop #152 Explorer Post. He continued his service to scouting with Troop #104, embarking on two backpacking trips

to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico with his son, Matthew. At the time of his death he was a District Eagle Scout Counselor and was involved on the Troop Committee for #121.

Brian was a vibrant, fun-loving family man. He was an avid skier and traveled all over the United States, Canada, and Europe enjoying experiences on the mountains with his family. Brian was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather to his four grandsons. According to his family, Brian was the consummate family man and patriarch to the Adair clan, keeping close ties among his siblings and their spouses, nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Brian was a member of the First Congregational Church, where he was a former Deacon and Trustee in addition to being very active on other committees. He had the pleasure of being involved with the church camp, Hemlock Trails, since its inception in the mid-1960's, where he enjoyed volunteering his time to help maintain the property.

In the spirit of Brian's passion for the outdoors and scouting, the family plans to focus charitable donations in these areas. Tax deductible donations can be made by check written to the Richland County Foundation with the name of the Brian Arthur Adair Fund on the memo line or online at richlandcountyfoundation.org.

A Beloved Swim Coach is Remembered



Steve Shoenfelt

Jim and Nancy Shoenfelt along with a group of family and friends recently established the Steve Shoenfelt Memorial Scholarship Fund. Steve was Jim and Nancy's son who passed away unexpectedly last November.

Steve's passion for swimming and people made him a truly great swim coach. He influenced many people in a positive way and helped many reach a potential they didn't realize they had.

According to his family, Steve had a huge appetite for life. You would find him in front row seats at a Bruce Springsteen concert, a dive bar listening to a new band, a week-long outdoor concert or watching a high school marching band performance. Food was also a passion; he would order the most unique item on the menu whether at a food truck or a five-star restaurant.

Two scholarships, in Steve's name, will be awarded by an independent committee each February. The criteria for the scholarships include a 2.8-grade point average, a minimum of three years as a high school swimmer and age group experience in USA or YMCA. The scholarship applicants will write an essay about their favorite band/concert or their favorite meal/food.

In 1986, Steve founded the Mansfield Waves Swim Team and coached about 150 kids each year. He also coached at Hudson High School, Dublin Community Center, Massillon Perry High School, Clear Fork Swim Club, and most recently head swim coach at Mansfield Senior High School. In the last few years of his life, Steve was dedicated to another passion - helping people cope with mental and emotional struggles. As a registered nurse in The Behavioral Unit at OhioHealth Hospital in Mansfield, Steve most favored his work with adolescents. He also had a way with words and understood the value of encouraging others, writing uplifting letters to family and friends.

How to donate to a fund

You can make a tax-deductible gift to any of the funds at the Richland County Foundation: go to richlandcountyfoundation.org and click the donate button, click the fund option and scroll down the list until you locate the fund or start typing the name of the fund in the box. We also accept checks made out to the Richland County Foundation, please note the name of the fund on the memo line.

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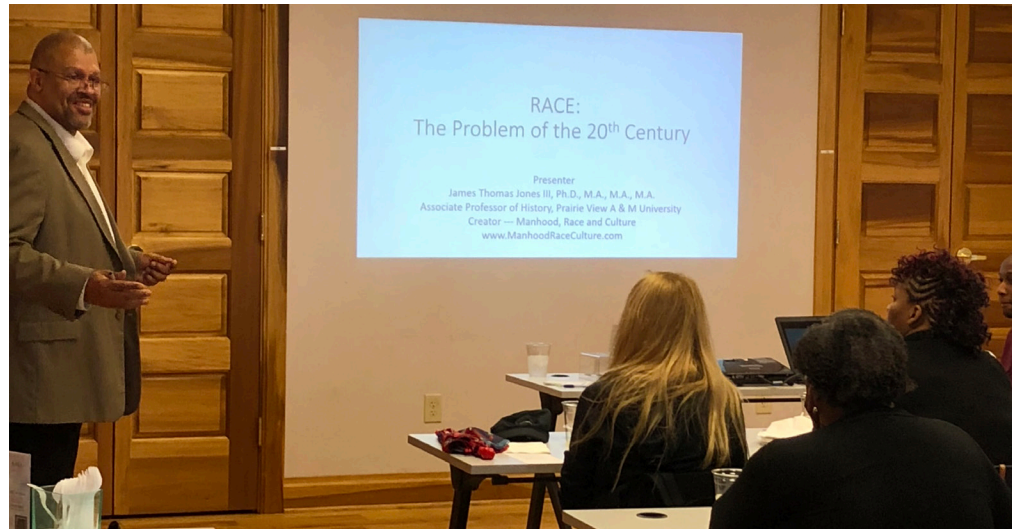
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Women's Fund Welcomes New Members

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation welcomed five new members; Brigitte Coles, Richland County Children's Services community engagement specialist; Amy Hiner, Ashland University field of education student teacher supervisor; Heidi Jones, North Central State College workforce development trainer; Carol Payton, retired and charter member of the Women's Fund; and Dr. Johanna Wilson, Providers for Healthy Living psychiatrist.

Women's Fund Chairwoman Kristie Massa thanked Carol Chambers, Paula Cohen, and Jeanne Meisse for their dedication after serving the limit of six years on the Women's Fund. The Women's Fund currently is driving a new initiative to make quality childcare affordable and accessible to women facing economic insecurities



Dr. James Thomas Jones III presented during the African American Leadership Initiative at the North End Community Improvement Collaborative.

African American Leadership Initiative

The North End Community Improvement Collaborative was awarded a grant from the Fran and Warren Rupp Fund at the Richland County Foundation to start an African American Leadership Initiative.

The AALI has three facets ; monthly speakers, social gatherings and involvement in community projects. The monthly speaker series provides a platform for inspiring African American speakers to share insightful and thought-provoking experiences and stories. AALI Social is a gathering to promote networking. The AALI in Action will get people involved in an urban farm project in collaboration with the Ohio State University at Mansfield.