

## The Mansfield Rising Plan Rolls Out to the Public

Downtown Mansfield has been on a revitalization path since 1991 when the Richland Carrousel Park opened. During the planning, many people in the community scoffed at the idea that a wooden carrousel could improve downtown. Twenty-eight years later, most would agree it was a fantastic idea. Since then, many improvements have been made in downtown. But it has not reached critical mass with regards to development and investment. The Mansfield Rising Plan offers ways to get there.

The Richland County Foundation will use the plan to prioritize its investments in downtown. Braintree Business Development Center, Destination Mansfield, Downtown Mansfield Inc., Mansfield City Council, North End Community Improvement Collaborative, North Central State College, Richland Bank, Richland Area Chamber of Commerce, Richland Community Development Group, Richland County Commissioners, Richland County Land Bank, Richland County Regional Planning, Richland Young Professionals and SCORE all have voted to support the Mansfield Rising Plan.

“The Foundation turned regular citizens into consultants which gives depth and authenticity to the plan. It provides a road map for projects and opportunities for partnerships to continue the renaissance of Downtown Mansfield,”

– Richland County Foundation President Brady Groves.

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

With the assistance of Richland Area Chamber of Commerce President Jodie Perry and Richland Source President Jay Allred, the Richland County Foundation leadership selected a diverse and qualified group of 15 individuals who were willing to commit nearly a year of their lives to develop the Mansfield Rising Plan. The Foundation awarded a grant to send the group to the South by Southwest Conference (SXSW) in Austin, TX, last year. SXSW

is a world-renowned thought and ideas festival that brings the sharpest minds in government, technology, business, and entertainment together in one place. The goal was for the team to come back with ideas to improve the downtown.

The Foundation engaged the Greater Ohio Policy Center to provide guidance for the plan. GOPC develops and advances policies and practices that value urban cores and metropolitan regions as economic drivers and preserve Ohio's open space and farmland. Through advocacy, research, outreach, and education, GOPC strives to create a policy and political climate to allow communities to stabilize and thrive for statewide economic growth.

The vision is for Downtown 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.

This is a plan for any organization, business, citizen, or group looking to get involved. In order to be successful, this must be a comprehensive effort. The execution phase will be just as collaborative as the development one.

“The plan and the energy its generated is a great example of what can be accomplished when nobody cares who gets the credit,” said Allred.

Costs range from sweat equity to millions of dollars. The Foundation will continue to lead, convene, guide, and fund efforts that support this plan. It will be implemented at various speeds and through various organizations with an end result of a better Downtown Mansfield.



To read the plan go to [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org), click “Community Impact” then “Mansfield Rising” tab.

Photo courtesy of Destination Mansfield





## How to donate to a fund



Doug Castle was a local educator whose 50 year career spanned all aspects of education in Richland County. He had a special place in his heart for the underdog. When he died of brain cancer in 2018, his family established the Doug Castle Legacy Fund to carry on his work and honor his life. His wife, Liz, and daughter, Beth, want the fund to help in many areas including education, racial equity and inclusion, mentorship and community building.

“My dad just did so much with his life and was a source of inspiration to countless people. What we will miss the most is him of course- and as we can’t replicate him and he meant so much to us, we need to do what we can to honor his life through our work. So in his absence, we hope to organize efforts to carry his legacy of integrity, educational opportunity, and

belief in community,” said Beth Castle.

An advisory committee is being formed to ensure that any efforts will be ongoing and in touch with what the community needs. The first initiative launched will be Castle Community Conversations in which community members will be invited into a productive dialogue around an issue that needs to be addressed “Doug Castle style” - directly but with fairness and compassion leading to change.

**“We are in the process of assessing and talking with those who my dad mentored and worked with in education to determine how best to support educational opportunity and community based mentorship and support as an initiative,” said Beth.**

He began his teaching career in 1965 at John Simpson Junior High School and took an active role in coaching football, basketball and track. Castle retired from Mansfield City Schools in 2000, and then worked as the Galion Middle School principal for the next five years.

Castle developed an administrative philosophy based on being fair and keeping a

**If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to any of the funds at the Richland County Foundation: go to [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://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, or you can write a check made out to the Richland County Foundation and note the fund on the memo line.**

sense of humor. He was a staunch believer in disciplining children in a way that would not destroy their dignity or self-respect.

For many years he was the director of the Mansfield Mehock Relays and then the Gorman Wrestling Tournament. Ohio State University Football Coach Jim Tressel hired Castle to work as an Academic Encourager for the young men on the football team.

## Christ Lutheran Church of Lexington Scholarship Fund

By Donald Karger, Church Treasurer



As one of its final and lasting acts of community service, Christ Lutheran Church of Lexington established a scholarship fund. The church closed its doors at the end of last year due to declining membership. Prior to its last service Dec. 30, 2018, the members of the congregation voted to use its resources to set up a fund to award a scholarship to a Lexington High School graduate attending Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA, or the North American Lutheran Church designated seminary.

If there are no students who meet the first criterion, other criteria in the follow-

ing order allow the scholarship then to be awarded to a Richland County high school graduate attending Trinity School for Ministry; then to a Lexington High School graduate attending a trade school or technical school, then to a Lexington High School graduate attending a college or university.

Christ Lutheran Church of Lexington had its beginnings in September 1964 when Pastor George Billman began surveying the Village of Lexington to establish statistics for the Board of American Missions, Lutheran Church in America.

On Nov. 22, 1964, all interested Lutherans, some of whom were educators in the local school district, gathered at the Congregational Church to set up plans for future worship services. At an organizational meeting Nov. 29, 1964, the new congregation was named Christ Lutheran Church of Lexington. Church services began on Dec. 6, 1964, in the

Central Elementary School Cafeteria in Lexington. The first Sunday School sessions started Jan. 10, 1965.

On Jan. 27, 1965, the charter members of the Christ Lutheran Church of Lexington declared their wishes to be recognized as a member body of the Lutheran Church in America. On Oct. 10, 1965, George Billman was installed as the first pastor. On Sept. 8, 1966, two purple telephone poles in the shape of a cross were placed on the future church building site at 159 Frederick Street, Lexington. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Jan. 28, 1968, and the dedication service for the newly constructed church was held June 16, 1968.

The Christ Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund shall endure as a legacy to all previous members as well as everyone who was baptized, confirmed, married and interred through the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church of Lexington.

## Jana and Pat Mulherin Fund



Pat and Jana Mulherin

Jana and Pat Mulherin recently established a donor advised fund at the Richland County Foundation. When asked why they did it, they both replied, "We want to continue to give back to our community. There are a lot of positive things happening here that gives us hope for future generations."

"Our fourth generation family business, Mansfield Dairy Queen, has been here for over 70 years. The community has been good to us and we want to do our part. We were both born and raised here so it is important to us to make sure Richland County continues to grow and prosper." Pat said.

Before taking over the Dairy Queen Glessner location from his father in 1987, Pat spent several years in local banking and industry with accounting and finance. Jana started working for United Telephone and left 17 years later when it was Sprint as Staff Administrator Complex Training.

"It is nice to show that people of ordinary means like us can make an impact. The needs and opportunities of a community change over time. When everyone pulls together, we can do great things to meet those needs. We're excited about the future." said Jana.

For many people, a job at the DQ is their first job. A first job there provides the opportunity to learn interpersonal skills, self confidence and how to become a valued employee. The Mulherins believe their success in this community is due to the people here; their customers, their employees and their families.

*They like knowing their gift to the Richland County Foundation will continue to benefit their community forever.*

## The Remy-McCollough Family Trust



David and Therese Remy

Life's circumstances, experiences and fortunes inspired David and Therese Remy to give back to their community. They established The Remy-McCollough Family Trust at the Richland County Foundation in memory of his parents.

His father, Lewis F. Remy, was a home builder and realtor while his mother, Janice B. McCollough Remy, was mostly a stay at home mom but went to work in order to pay for David's college tuition.

"I am so full of gratitude for my life and want to share it. The community was good to my parents. My wife and I set up this donor advised fund as a way to memorialize them and pay it forward in perpetuity," said David.

His parents were high school sweethearts and met at Madison High School. They married in 1947 after his dad returned home from serving in the Air Force during World War II. When his father came back, he wanted to go to college but abandoned the idea and ended up working for David's grandfather at City Loan in the Collections Department for a couple of years.

Lewis Remy eventually ended up working as a finish carpenter and then a home builder for Modern Builders. Later he went into business for himself and began selling real estate in the 1960s.

He was very active in the community and served on the Mansfield City Planning Commission, Regional Planning Commission, Mansfield Board of Realtors as well as a Washington Township Trustee.

He had an aptitude for mathematics and engineering and surprisingly, he was artistic. He carved wooden ducks, birds, miniature

carrousel horses, and turned wood to craft plates and bowls.

Janice Remy, who was also very artistic and a very good seamstress, went to work in the Mansfield Clerk of Courts Department in order to fund David's tuition at Ohio Northern University for undergraduate and law school.

David was born with infantile cerebral palsy and esophageal dysphasia. He spent the first several months of his life in Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. Growing up, he was not coddled because of his physical disability. He worked construction with his father; hauled block, spread gravel and pulled nails.

"My parents completely allowed me to participate in a lot of things including sports. They believed people with disabilities could live a normal life," said David. "They encouraged keeping up on physical therapy and agility to my maximum ability," he added.

Dave's wife and her sisters were adopted as children by Dr. Albert and Elaine Voegelé. Terri has an affinity to help children.

**"With our donor advised fund, Terri and I would like to give children the spark and opportunity to better themselves," said David.**

They would like to help several nonprofit agencies including those that serve disadvantaged children and people with disabilities.

David Remy currently is the City of Mansfield Public Works Director. He is an attorney whose career includes tenures as the City of Mansfield Law Director and Human Resources Director as well as working in the Richland County Juvenile Court, Mansfield Municipal Court, and Mansfield Law Director's Criminal Division along with running a private practice for many years. Terri Remy worked for O'Sullivan's Wine & Cheese Store, in the Mansfield Clerk of Courts Office and as a CASA (court appointed special advocate) volunteer in Juvenile Court.

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## The Women's Fund

RICHLAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

*Honor someone special  
for Mother's Day*

**The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation is offering people a way to honor special women in their lives with a Mother's Day gift to benefit women and girls in this community.**

Donors can make a gift to honor a special woman or in memory of a loved one. Donations will support the Women's Fund's grant-making.

To make a Mother's Day gift mail a check made out to the Richland County Foundation and note Mother's Day on the memo line. Or you can donate to the Women's Fund at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org).

The Women's Fund was formed in 1996 to promote philanthropy among women to provide funding to programs and projects that empower women and girls to achieve their full potential.

## Connections Fund Awards Grants

**The Connections Fund of the Richland County Foundation announced grant awards during its annual reception. The Connections Fund donors approved 11 grants totaling \$6,568.**

The following organizations and programs were funded by Connections:

- Altrusa of Mansfield – Tools for Schools
- Children's Cupboard - F.I.E.L.D. Strong Youth Project
- Clear Fork Valley Schools – Military Kid's Lunch Bunch at Bellville Elementary School
- Interlocal – Interlocal
- Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio – J.A. in Richland County
- Mansfield Area Y – Kids Club Program
- Mansfield City Schools – Third Grade Spelling Bee
- Mansfield City Schools – Swim to Self Regulate & Mindfulness at Malabar
- Mansfield City Schools – Cultural Diversity Educational Trip for Senior High School
- Ontario United Methodist Church – Grandfamily Project
- Pioneer Career and Technology Center – Work Ethic Program



Brian Breitinger and Connections Advisory Committee Co-Chair Amy Staker Breitinger at the reception.