

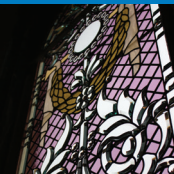
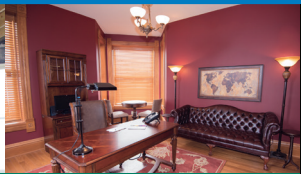


RICHLAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

For good. For ever.® • Spring 2015 Newsletter



before photos by Courtenay Wright, after photos by Dave Damron of DRM Inc.



The Foundation has a permanent home

Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor with a passion for historic building preservation, the Foundation has a permanent home at 181 South Main Street.

The Foundation staff moved into the Queen Anne Victorian brick home on January 20. The renovation project began in December 2012 when the Foundation received the William Ritter House as a donation along with monetary support to build a boardroom addition and renovate the existing house.

The house was built in 1891 by William Ritter, son of Joseph Ritter, owner of Joseph Ritter & Sons Company. It is listed on the national historic registry. The location on South Main Street was out of the ordinary at the time because larger homes were built on Park Ave. West.

While the new location provides increased exposure of the presence of a community foundation in Richland County, the decision to relocate was

rooted in the Foundation's strategic plan:

- Create a positive first impression to visitors entering Mansfield.
- Be a leader in the transformation of a declining neighborhood.
- And most importantly, demonstrate the Foundation's commitment to its slogan: For Good. For Ever.

When it was acquired, the house had been neglected for several years and was devoid of woodwork and a staircase.


Dan Seckel of Seckel Group Architects used photographs to restore the home to its original grandeur. Julie McCready of McCready Interiors and Norwalk the Furniture Idea researched the color palette, flooring and furnishings. With the help of many workers, Mr. Seckel and Ms. McCready created a beautiful home that serves as a functional, professional environment for a nonprofit organization.

Engwiller Properties of Mansfield was the general contractor with Junior Wood as the project manager.

Again using old photographs, Bill Vidonish of Vidonish Studio in Lexington recreated the stained glass window over the main staircase. Other artisans crafted the custom-made woodwork, staircase, two porches, windows and floors.

Parts for the main staircase including spindles, finials and newel posts were found in a Chicago resale warehouse. The mantles were purchased from warehouses in Ohio.

Exterior work will continue this spring and summer including the landscaping.

Foundation President Brady Groves said, "The restoration of the Ritter House is a permanent investment by the Foundation in the community. It's indicative of what we do for donors, create endowments for lasting change." 



The Women's Fund

RICHLAND COUNTY FOUNDATION



Cheryl Carter presents the first topic in the Women's Fund lecture series March 10 at the North Central State College Urban Center.


Women's Fund offers community lecture series

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation is offering a series of educational lectures open to everyone in the community.

The first lecture was presented by North Central State College Director Cheryl Carter at the Urban Center in Mansfield. Her topic was "Cultivating Giants: The Art of Escorting Children to Greatness" which aligns with the Women's Fund parenting grant focus over the past two years.

Ms. Carter's presentation was the first in a series of three lectures; additional presentations will be offered in June and September. There is no cost to attend. For more information please visit richlandcountyfoundation.org or call 419-525-3020.

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation was formed in 1996 to promote philanthropy among women and to provide funding to programs to empower women and girls.

Since its inception the Women's Fund has awarded close to \$269,000 in grants, including 22 scholarships to non-traditional female undergraduate students. 

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees recently approved grants totaling more than **\$1,606,225**.

The board approved two grants from unrestricted funds for:

Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio to hire a Community Outreach Coordinator for Richland County. The coordinator will play a role in preventing unwanted pregnancy to those most at risk and also focus on healthcare by encouraging women to get annual exams. A Community Outreach Coordinator can help women access a health center and register for benefits.



Richland County Agricultural Society for funds needed to help with

drainage, soil erosion and overgrown plants in The Nature Park, located in the center of the Richland County Fairgrounds. The park is a quiet shaded area used by people during the Richland County Fair and other events held at the fairgrounds. The Richland County Agricultural Society, Richland County Volunteer Master Gardeners, Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and the Mansfield Men's Garden Club have partnered to ensure care for the Nature Park.

The Board of Trustees also approved grants from donor advised, field of interest, donor designated and agency funds to meet emerging needs in Richland County to the following organizations:

- American Guernsey Foundation
- American Red Cross
- Ashland University
- Boy Scouts of America
- Catalyst Life Services – Rehab Center for New Beginnings
- Catalyst Life Services – Rehab Center
- Catalyst Life Services – Center for Individual and Family Services
- Children's Theatre Foundation
- Clear Fork Valley Foundation
- Community Baptist Bible Church
- Discovery School
- Domestic Violence Shelter
- First Christian Church
- First Congregational Church

- First Presbyterian Church
- Friendly House Association
- Gorman Nature Center
- Habitat for Humanity Richland County
- Kingwood Center
- Lucas Schools
- Malabar Farm Foundation
- Mansfield Art Center
- Mansfield Cancer Foundation
- Mansfield, City
- Mansfield Memorial Homes
- Mansfield Playhouse
- Mansfield Richland Public Library
- Mansfield Rotary Club Foundation
- Mansfield Symphony Society
- Mansfield YMCA
- Masonic Learning Center for Children
- MedCentral Health System Foundation
- MedCentral Mansfield Hospital
- Methodist Theological Seminary
- Mohican School in the Out-Of-Doors
- New Beginnings of Rehab North Central Ohio
- North Central Ohio Alzheimer's Association
- North Central State College
- North Central State College Foundation
- North End Community Improvement Collaborative
- Ohio Genealogical Society
- Ohio State University College of Medicine
- Ohio State University – Mansfield
- Ontario Public Schools
- Pioneer Career and Technology Center
- Rehab Services of North Central Ohio
- Renaissance Performing Arts Association
- Renaissance Theatre
- Richland Academy
- Richland Carrousel Park
- Richland County Children's Services
- Richland County Historical Society
- Richland County Museum
- Richland Newhope
- Richland Newhope Center
- Richland Newhope Industries
- Richland Pregnancy Services
- Salvation Army
- St. John's Church
- Third Street Family Health Services
- Toy Time Inc.
- Trapshooting Hall of Fame
- United Way of Richland County
- University Club Foundation
- Volunteers of America

The Osborne Meese Academy is building capacity



Allison Black Cornelius of Blackfish Consultants leads a two-day Standards for Excellence Clinic as part of the Osborne Meese Academy at the Foundation. Pictured in the front row left to right are: Sheri Hughes and Marianne Cooper from the Richland Academy.


The Foundation's newly formed Osborne Meese Academy is underway with staff and board members from 20 Richland County nonprofit agencies participating. The first three sessions included an orientation in January, a capacity building clinic in February and a human resources module in March.

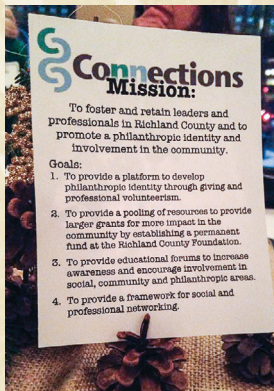
The educational sessions will continue through November and will cover topics such as board governance, marketing and fundraising.

The Foundation Board of Trustees approved \$96,450 to establish the academy. The program is designed to build and support nonprofit organizations and to act as a catalyst to encourage stronger collaboration in the community.

The academy encompasses three key components: education, professional support and grant writing assistance. The new initiative was named the Osborne Meese Academy to honor the Foundation's founding father.

Foundation President Brady Groves said, "This is a perfect way to recognize the work done by Osborne Meese at the beginning of the Foundation. He believed in and was passionate about this community. It is not just about what can be done today, it's about helping agencies fulfill their mission and to improve over time to positively impact people."

The organizations participating are: Catholic Charities, Community Action for Capable Youth, Culliver Reading Center, Downtown Mansfield Inc., Friendly House, Harmony House Homeless Services, Journey Life Center, Kingwood Center, Little Buckeye Children's Museum, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield YMCA, Mohican School in the Out-of-Doors, Ontario Growth Corporation, Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Renaissance Performing Arts, Richland Academy of the Arts, Richland County Children's Auxiliary, Richland Newhope Industries, Taking Root Farms and The Domestic Violence Shelter. 



Connections Fund grants focus on parenting

The Connections Fund of the Richland County Foundation announced its 2015 grant recipients during its Winter Gala held earlier this year. Three grants totaling more than \$5,100 focusing on parenting were awarded to the following organizations:

Culliver Reading Center for the "Together We Can" program. It is designed to build positive relationships within the family. A goal of the program is to have parents and guardians more involved in their child's learning and to connect them to resources and special services as needed.

First English Lutheran Church for the "Standing Together Every Parent Succeeds" program. It will assist families with various topics such as parenting, relationships, budgeting, shopping, cooking and family game night.

Richland County Youth and Family Council for "Boot Camp for New Dads." The program is a unique community-based workshop to inspire and equip fathers to engage with their infant, support their mate and find their way as a new parent.

Since 2005 The Connections Fund has awarded over \$63,200 through 53 grants.

The mission of the Connections Fund of the Richland County Foundation is to foster and retain leaders and professionals in Richland County and to promote a philanthropic identity and involvement in the community.

The Connections Fund is hosting two upcoming events for members:

[March 21 a Connections Fun Night at the Mansfield YMCA] and [April 25 a Progressive Dinner]

Individuals can join Connections with a \$150 donation and couples for \$250. For more information on how to get involved with Connections or the Richland County Foundation visit richlandcountyfoundation.org.

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Scholarship applications due April 1

Scholarship applications are available at richlandcountyfoundation.org. All scholarships are based on financial need and are due April 1.

Applications also can be picked up at local high school guidance offices and area college campus financial aid offices.

These are not recurring scholarships and students must re-apply each year.

New applicants and high school seniors must have at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA), returning applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA, attend an accredited college or university on a full-time basis and be a resident or student in Richland County.

For more information call Allie Watson or Krisi Johnston at the Richland County Foundation at 419- 525-3020 or visit our website at richlandcountyfoundation.org.



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As a little girl, Jill Montgomery played "bank." Her mother, a former Richland Bank teller, encouraged her daughter to manage money.

Now as an adult, Ms. Montgomery is the Manager of the Richland Bank branch located inside the Kroger's store on Ashland Road.

She attributes some of her success to a scholarship provided by the Richland County Foundation. She received the scholarship after graduating from Crestview High School and Pioneer Career and Technology Center. She enrolled for classes at North Central State College and over three years earned two associates

degrees, one in accounting and another in financial management.

"My mother stayed at home to raise her children. My parents supported me in many ways but could not afford my tuition. So the Foundation scholarship along with other grants and scholarships allowed me to attend college," said Ms. Montgomery.

While attending NCSC full-time, Ms. Montgomery worked 30 hours a week as a Richland Bank teller. Within six months of graduation, Richland Bank promoted her to Teller Supervisor. She then became Assistant Manager then Branch Manager.

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