

Megan Sparks Receives 2023 Teckman Educator Award

The Greater Oxford Community Foundation has named Megan Sparks, physical education teacher at Marshall Elementary in the Talawanda School District, as the recipient of the Harry and Virginia Teckman Award.

The annual award was established in 1997 by Charlie and Joan Teckman in honor of their longtime educator parents.

It recognizes excellence in the Talawanda School District among both current and retired teachers, administrators, and staff.

Sparks was nominated by fellow teacher Cami Schaefer. "In addition to performing her job at an exemplary level, Mrs. Sparks demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the entire population of Marshall Elementary and the Oxford community as well," wrote Schaefer.

"Her classroom is the gym, where she builds foundational skills, knowledge, and values that will lead students to a lifetime of physical activity and overall wellness. She incorporates math and literacy skills into physical education and teaches social and interpersonal skills through partner and team games and activities," adds Schafer.

A special mark that Sparks has added to Marshall Elementary is the Sensory Path, which travels the school's entire first floor. Sparks researched, developed, and implemented the project, finding funding and volunteers along the way to make her vision of the path a reality.

Throughout the path, large brightly colored stickers on the floor and walls include stations where children jump like frogs, walk backwards, do hopscotch, press their palms on the wall, and stomp "bugs" on the floor. Research shows that by engaging their mind and bodies in sensory experiences aids in developing motor skills, balance, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness.

"As a kindergarten teacher, I can attest to the fact



Megan Sparks

that my students are better able to focus on tasks in the classroom after utilizing the sensory path," added Schaefer. "My class benefits from it daily." Other Marshall Elementary teachers also visit the path with their students, at different times and in different ways.

"Mrs. Sparks has made a difference at our building, exemplified the mission of the district, and has positively impacted the people of Oxford. Her skills, knowledge, willingness to help others, and dedication to our students and the community make her a worthy Teckman Education Award nominee," added Schaefer.

Nominations for the Harry and Virginia Teckman Award may be made by anyone in greater Oxford and are accepted throughout the year at oxfordfdn.org. The deadline is each January 31st with the award given each Spring.



Sensory Path at Talawanda's Marshall Elementary

#Grantmaking 4 Good

Dry Boots

"Thank you so much for the grant that was used to purchase a class set of boots. We've already gone on some wonderful learning adventures in them! We love them so much. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

Ms. Currier's kindergarten class

*In September 2022, the Greater Oxford Community Foundation awarded **\$650** to Bogan Elementary School for rainboots for kindergarten walks. This grant was made possible by the **First Financial Bank Learning Links Fund** and the **Education Field of Interest Fund**.*



Aids for Seniors

Through a partnership between the Greater Oxford Community Foundation, Oxford Seniors and Oxford Kiwanis, area senior citizens now have an improved source for borrowing home medical equipment.

Last fall, the Foundation granted Oxford Seniors **\$1,000** for building materials. The Kiwanis Club of Oxford then constructed a secure shed behind the Senior Center to store crutches, canes, knee wheelchairs, and other health aids for seniors to borrow.

Seven Kiwanians spent two days on the community service project, which involved not only building the shed itself but also cleaning, sorting, repairing, and organizing the medical equipment so seniors can now easily borrow what they need.

*This grant was made from the Foundation's **Elizabeth Rogers Fund**. Here, David Mabry, Douglas Ingram (grandson of Dave Mabry), and Dave Belka take a break during the building of the shed.*



Warm Blankets

In December, the Foundation was one of many community organizations partnering with the Oxford Chamber of Commerce to donate holiday trees and gifts to local families in need. The Foundation purchased **new warm blankets** for each family participating.

*Standing by the tree donated by Rotary of Oxford were (from left to right), Pam Robinson, Dodie Wolke, Jonathan James, and Jim Robinson. This donation was from the Foundation's **Community Fund**.*



Ancestry Resources at Library

"Thank you for your gift to the University Libraries. As a member of the Miami family of donors who support our great university, you have an impact on countless students and faculty across campus."

Love and Honor,
Brad Bundy
Vice President for University Advancement

*Last October, the Greater Oxford Community Foundation awarded **\$5,000** for a subscription to [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), housed at the Miami University's King Library. Anyone from the greater Oxford community may use this resource for free at the library. This grant came from the Foundation's **Tolerance Fund**.*

Reach Out and Read

“Oxford Reach Out and Read has been near and dear to the hearts of providers and staff of Oxford Pediatrics for more than 20 years. Your support allows us to continue the program, touching the lives of children and families in the Oxford community. Thank you so much!”

Jill Mock
Reach Out and Read Coordinator
Oxford Pediatrics

Last fall, the Greater Oxford Community Foundation awarded **\$4,000** to buy books for Oxford’s Reach Out and Read – a national literacy program at pediatric health care facilities. Children from birth to age 5 receive a book, and encouragement to read, at their well child visits. This grant came from the Foundation’s **Dome Endowment Fund** and **Elizabeth Rogers Fund**.

Keeping History Alive

Through a partnership with the Greater Oxford Community Foundation, the Oxford Museum Association held a **Pioneer Day** late last year. The event hosted more than 250 attendees and provided a unique cultural experience that keeps our area’s history and culture alive.

This grant was made possible by the Foundation’s **Arts & Culture Fund** and the **Community Fund**.



Inventing The Future

“Thanks to you, children discovered the power of their creativity, worked together to tackle open-ended challenges, and learned to think like innovators as they prepare for the future! You are making a difference by empowering the next generation of innovators whose bold ideas will make the world a better place.”

Michael J. Oister
CEO, National Inventors Hall of Fame

The Greater Oxford Community Foundation Awarded **\$3,000** for Camp Invention, a program of the National

Inventors Hall of Fame, to help pay for the children who could not otherwise afford the registration fee. This grant came from the **Talawanda Unity Fund**, the **Brad and Christy Burke Fund**, and the **June and Arthur Goldner Fund**.



Cops & Kids

“On behalf of the City of Oxford Division of Police, I would like to thank you for awarding this grant to the Police Division. Your endowment will help us fund our annual Cops and Kids event, a community outreach program designed to build relationships between the youth of our community and our police officers...we hope to create generational partnerships and inspire long term trust between the police and the community.”

John A. Jones
Chief of Police

Every holiday season, City of Oxford police officers enjoy dinner and shopping with local children as part of a partnership with area



businesses and the Greater Oxford Community Foundation. In December, the Foundation supported the annual shopping event with **\$2,000** from the Foundation’s **Dome Endowment Fund** and the **Fraternity Headquarters Fund for Youth Development**.

Note of Thanks

“Thank you for your many good works and for consistently helping our community become more beautiful, more responsible, more caring for our neighbors and citizens and more dedicated to improving the quality of life in our community. We are grateful.”

Kay and Bill Snavelly

Bill Snavelly serves as Oxford’s mayor.

President's Message

by Ray Mock

A foundation – “the basis on which a thing stands or is supported.” Also, “funds for the perpetual support of an institution.”

These dictionary definitions provide an apt description of the role and goals of the Greater Oxford Community Foundation. But many in our community may not be familiar with the community foundation, or what it does.

This past fiscal year, the Foundation received direct support amounting to \$443,000, better than a 28 percent increase over the previous year. In that same period, more than 100 grants and 50 scholarships were awarded to deserving groups, organizations, and students.

Our Community Foundation provides support to address many needs. And the funds that are held in trust by the Foundation ensure that this support will

be here in perpetuity. Of course, not all needs are met. So how can you help?

Volunteer to assist with any number of non-profit organizations.

Share information about the GOCF with friends and neighbors, so they know what good is accomplished through our efforts.

And of course, consider a contribution to the Greater Oxford Community Foundation, to the general fund, a specific existing fund, or a fund established by you.

Because ultimately the foundation of our success, is YOU!




Greater Oxford Community Foundation

Granting to Oxford for 26 years

Founded in
1996


14
Board
Members


50
Regular
Volunteers

More than
\$6 million
gifted to our
community 

To give, go to
oxfordfdn.org or
call 513.523.0623



#GiveWhereYouLive
#Grantmaking4Good
#PavingTheWay



Fiscal Year 2021-2022

100 grants made to area nonprofits for education, health, social welfare, the environment, arts and culture, civic projects, and recreation.

50 student scholarships awarded to 2022 Talawanda grads

Foundation Grants 2021-22

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butler County, *Site Based Mentoring Program at Kramer Elementary School*, **\$5,000.00**
- Bogan Elementary School - Heather Davidson, *Teckman Award*, **\$500.00**
- Boy Scout Troop 930, *Sea Base High Adventure Scout Camp*, **\$1,600.00**
- Butler Behavioral Health Services, *Oxford Area Clients Therapy Expenses*, **\$23,377.47**
- Camp Kesem Miami Ohio, *Camp Kesem*, **\$5,000.00**
- Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, *Parent Project*, **\$3,000.00**
- Darrtown Bicentennial, *Army Tank Placement*, **\$2,000.00**
- Des Fleurs Garden Club, *Organizational Endowment Annual Distribution*, **\$814.66**
- Family Resource Center, *Front Door and Printer*, **\$3,190.00**
- Family Resource Center, *Organizational Endowment Annual Distribution*, **\$2,082.61**
- First Tee - Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky, *First Tee GCNKY in Talawanda Schools*, **\$2,000.00**
- Friends of Neighbors in Need, *Backpack Program*, **\$1,500.00**
- Friends of Oxford Lane Library, *Seasonal Plantings*, **\$2,340.00**
- God's House of Praise and Worship, *Renovation of Church's Steps*, **\$4,550.00**
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati, *Reckford Woods Subdivision - Fuller Way Buildout*, **\$5,000.00**
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, *Red Door Community Concerts Season 2*, **\$1,000.00**
- HOPE-full Pastures Therapeutic Farm (H.P.T.F.), *H.P.T.F. Summer Camps*, **\$2,500.00**
- Kramer Elementary School, *Breakfast Club*, **\$3,150.00**
- League of Women Voters, *Community Programs and Services and Operational Expenses*, **\$2,000.00**
- League of Women Voters, *Education Programs in the Talawanda School District*, **\$1,200.00**
- League of Women Voters, *Organizational Endowment Annual Distribution*, **\$373.31**
- Miami University, *ancestry.com*, **\$5,000.00**
- Miami University, *Oxford Area Journalism Scholarships*, **\$6,630.00**
- Miami University, *Truth and Reconciliation Project - Montgomery Trip*, **\$3,665.00**
- Miami University Natural Areas, *Trail Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement*, **\$2,500.00**
- Miami University Student Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, *Cooking Adventures with Nancy*, **\$3,000.00**
- Myaamia Center, *Neepwaantiinki Tour: Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and Oxford, Ohio*, **\$6,200.00**
- National Inventors Hall of Fame, Inc., *Camp Invention for Economically Disadvantaged Greater Oxford Students*, **\$3,000.00**
- Oxford Bible Fellowship, *Edwin M. Yamauchi Lectureship Series*, **\$2,950.24**
- Oxford Cemetery, *Laura and Jack Cohen Fund Annual Distribution*, **\$384.91**
- Oxford Community Arts Center, *Organizational Endowment Annual Distribution*, **\$770.00**
- Oxford Dog Park, *Water Hydrant Repair*, **\$999.35**
- Oxford Literacy Team, *Super Summer Readers*, **\$2,500.00**
- Oxford Museum Association, *2022 Summer Programs Materials*, **\$359.73**
- Oxford Parks and Recreation Department, *Free Swim Lesson Program*, **\$2,000.00**
- Oxford Parks and Recreation Department, *Mobile Summer Camp*, **\$1,500.00**
- Oxford Parks and Recreation Department, *Multi Field Renovation Project at Oxford Community Park*, **\$12,000.00**
- Oxford Parks and Recreation Department, *Swim Lessons and Aquatic Center Passes*, **\$2,060.00**
- Oxford Parks and Recreation Department, *Youth Ball Field Renovation*, **\$5,000.00**
- Oxford Police Department, *2021 Red Brick Friday Streets and Eat*, **\$659.00**
- Oxford Police Department, *Cops and Kids*, **\$2,700.00**
- Oxford Seniors Community Adult Day Service, *Sustaining the Community Adult Day Service*, **\$2,500.00**
- Oxford Service Department, *Hanging Flower Baskets Uptown, at the TRI, and the Oxford Aquatic Center*, **\$2,115.00**
- Oxford United Methodist Church, *Moul Family Fund Donation*, **\$3,000.00**
- Oxford Women's Care Center, *Organizational Endowment Annual Distribution*, **\$1,055.45**
- PARACHUTE: Butler County Court Appointed Special Advocates, *Be a Child's Voice*, **\$2,000.00**
- PUSH - People United for Self Help, Inc., *Operating Expenses*, **\$9,000.00**
- Talawanda Band Boosters, *Purchase of Tuba for Marching Band*, **\$2,200.00**
- Talawanda Cross Country, *Middle School Athletics Bus*, **\$700.00**
- Talawanda High School, *Facility Dog Host provided by Circle Tail*, **\$3,000.00**
- Talawanda Middle School, *LEGO Education Spike Robotics*, **\$5,398.00**
- Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services (TOPSS), *TOPSS Mobile Pantry*, **\$7,618.74**
- Talawanda Recreation, Incorporated (TRI), *New Playground Piece - TRI Tot Lot Playground*, **\$2,000.00**
- Talawanda School District, *Morgan Fund Distribution*, **\$2,088.00**
- Three Valley Conservation Trust, *Capacity Building Campaign*, **\$80,750.00**
- Three Valley Conservation Trust, *Organizational Endowment Annual Distribution*, **\$711.61**

Foundation Funds 2021-22

- Rory Hope and Ryan Boyd Larson Adryan Fund
- Muhammad Ali Fund
- Animal Adoption Foundation Endowment Fund
- Anniversary Fund
- Arts and Culture Area of Interest
- Betty and Jane Baer Old Mile Square Beautification Fund
- Tiffany Lynn Barrett Endowed Scholarship
- Jim Beaton Memorial Scholarship
- Beautification Area of Interest
- Guy Potter Benton Spiritual Award
- Anne Ruder Bever and James E. Bever Fund
- Anne Ruder Bever and James E. Bever Fund for Oxford Community Foundation
- Ernst J. Bever Fund
- Ernst J. Bever Old Mile Square Fund
- Bever Family Flow-Through Fund
- Jnanendra and Tripti Bhattacharjee Fund
- J.K. (Jnanendra) and Tripti Bhattacharjee Math and Science Scholarship
- Bicentennial Fund
- Dorothy Blankenship Memorial Scholarship for Music
- Board Recognition Fund
- Robert W. and Mary Louise Bogan Scholarship
- Buerk Family Fund for Youth
- Kenneth M. Buerk Open Space Preservation Fund
- Bunker Hill Pioneer Universalist Cemetery 50th Anniversary Fund
- Brad A. Burke and Christy L. Burke Fund
- Gene Burton Minority Scholarship Fund
- Butler County Bar Foundation Fund
- Don and Paula Byrckett Fund
- Early Intervention Scholarship Fund
- City of Oxford Administrative Support Fund
- City of Oxford Community Assistance Fund
- City of Oxford Life Squad Fund
- City of Oxford Police Department Fund
- Civic Projects Area of Interest
- Coalition for a Healthy Community
- Laura and Jack Cohen Fund
- Tom and Marilyn Collins Fund for Children with Special Needs
- Thomas and Marilyn Collins Fund for the Oxford Community Foundation
- Community Fund
- Marge and Al Cornett Scholarship
- Mildred B. Cotter Family Fund
- Covid-19 Organization Assistance Fund
- Joe and Barbara Cox Family Fund
- Joe and Barbara Cox Fund
- Darrtown Bicentennial Fund
- Mike Davis Memorial Scholarship
- Kara Deering PSE Leadership Award
- Edward and Elizabeth Demske Charitable Gift Fund
- Demske Family Fund
- Demske Family Fund for Administrative Support of the Oxford Community Foundation
- Des Fleurs Garden Club Beautification Fund
- Marjorie S. Dickinson Memorial Fund
- Diversity Fund
- John E. and Grace C. Dome Memorial Endowment Fund of the Oxford Community Foundation
- Amanda Drake Fund
- Howard and Gwyn DuBois Family Fund
- Education Area of Interest
- Melford T. Edwards Excellence in Education Fund
- Environment Area of Interest
- Family Resource Center Endowment
- Fey Family Fund
- Captain David C. Foley Scholarship
- Fraternity Headquarters Fund for Youth Development
- Friends of the Lane Public Library, Oxford Ohio Branch
- Friends of the Lane Public Library Oxford Ohio Branch Organizational
- James A. Goldey Foundation
- June and Arthur Goldner Fund, The
- Joyce and Gil Gordon Fund in Memory of Their Parents, Joseph and Mary Masura and Walter Gordon
- Jeff Gross Memorial Scholarship
- Health Area of Interest
- Hefner Community Fund Supported by the Oxford Rotary Club
- Oxford Rotary Club/Hefner Fund Scholarships
- Richard (Doc) Hofmann Fund to Support Children
- Catherine Hollins Fund for Administrative Support
- G. Douglas and Joan B. Hoover Family Fund
- Ju Family School Libraries Fund
- Nancy Kane Honorary Fund
- Nancy L. Kane Supplemental Scholarship Fund
- Logan David Keebler Memorial Scholarship
- Richard A. and Ruth Clark Keebler Fund
- Keely Dental Health Fund
- Kids Voting Talawanda
- David L. and Sallie Ann Killian Fund
- Kiwanis Club of Oxford
- Donald Otto Koehler Boy Scout Troop 930 Fund
- Latin American Assistance Fund
- League of Women Voters of Oxford Endowment Fund
- First Financial Bank Learning Links Fund
- Learning in Retirement Fund
- Stanford L. Luce Habitat for Humanity Fund
- Luna Cares Fund

- Tammy McCartney Memorial Scholarship
- McDonald's of Oxford Fund
- Harvard and Elaine McLean Fund
- Pat Meade Embetterment Scholarship
- Mental Health Therapy Assistance Fund
- MetroParks of Butler County
- Miami University and Community Federal Credit Union Student Care Fund
- Roger J. Millar Fund for Administrative Support of the Oxford Community Foundation
- Edwin and Eve Morgan Fund
- Moul Family Fund
- Multi Purpose Flow-Through Fund
- Robert W. and Jeanne L. Murphy Fund
- Jeanne Murphy Administrative Fund
- Tim and Sally Myers Fund
- Richard M. and Roberta L. Norman Fund for Administrative Support of the Oxford Community Foundation
- David R. Osborne Fund, The
- Dr. David R. Osborne Award for Student Research Excellence in Ornithology
- Oxford Aquatic Center Fund
- Oxford Area Journalism Fund
- Oxford Area Trails
- Oxford Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund
- Oxford Chorale Fund
- Oxford Community Arts Center Endowment Fund
- Oxford Community Choice Pantry Fund
- Oxford Dog Owners Group (OxDOG) Fund
- Quincy and Jean Butterfield Endowment Fund for the Oxford Museum Association
- Oxford Rotary Founders Fund
- Oxford Senior Citizens, Inc. Endowment Fund
- Oxford Talawanda Dental Services Fund
- Oxford Veteran's Association Fund
- Oxford Women's Care Center Fund
- OYES! (Oxford Youth Empowered to Serve) Fund
- PARACHUTE Butler County CASA Fund
- Paul G. and Winifred C. Pearson Fund
- Pi Sigma Epsilon Fund
- Dale Plank Award
- William Polanka, MD Memorial Fund
- Martha Lee Pulley Flow-Through
- People United for Self Help, Inc. (PUSH) Endowment Fund
- People United for Self Help, Inc. (PUSH) Flow-Through
- Lisa Raabe Helping Hands Fund
- Recreation Area of Interest
- Red Brick and Ivy Fund
- Paul Mostafa Rejai Fund
- Kay L. Rench Fund
- Kenneth G. and Rita Kelly Robinson Fund
- James G. Robinson Fund for the Oxford Community Foundation
- Elizabeth S. Rogers Fund
- Timothy J. Rogers Memorial Fund
- Charleen and James Rohr
- Salvation Army Oxford Service Unit
- Paul J. Schiller Fund
- Bill and Sherry Schilling Fund
- Phillip R. Shriver Fund
- Skillings Family Fund
- D.R.S. Smith Donor Advised Fund
- Jane E. Smith Music Fund
- K.E. Smith Fund for Administrative Support
- Snyder Career Development Scholarship Fund
- Social Service Area of Interest
- Edna and Robert Southard Family Fund for Community Enrichment
- Jack and Sally Southard Charitable Gift Fund
- Robert F. Southard Memorial Scholarship
- Michele Speh Memorial Fund
- Square D Schneider Electric Company Fund
- Russell and Joan Starkey Fund
- Mitzie Statum "Spirit of Goodwill" Memorial Scholarship
- William Bayne and Frances Holmes Summers Family Assistance Fund
- Sweet 16 Fund
- Talawanda Athletic Boosters Scholarship
- Talawanda Memorial Brick Scholarship
- Talawanda School District Rebranding Fund
- Talawanda Unity Fund
- Harry and Virginia Teckman Fund
- Oxford Community Foundation Fund for the Three Valley Conservation Trust
- Tolerance Fund
- Tricentennial Trust Fund
- Charles Warren Memorial Scholarship Fund - City of Oxford General Scholarship Fund
- Eric Wasser Memorial Scholarship
- Marjorie and Ned Webb Writing Award
- Milton White Fund
- Wiepking Talawanda High School Art Education Fund
- James "Red" Wilcher Scholarship for the Arts
- Marvin Wilhelm Educational Fund
- Mary E. Woodworth Fund
- WOXY-FM Listeners' Fund
- Edwin M. Yamauchi Lectureship Fund

A Place to Call Home

Travelers often express how good it feels to be back in their own bed after a trip. But for some, just having a home to call their own is more than enough.

A grant from the Greater Oxford Community Foundation has helped make the dream of home ownership possible recently for two local families.

In January 2022, The Greater Oxford Community Foundation awarded \$5,000 to Habitat for Humanity for two new homes on Fuller Way in Oxford. This grant was made possible by the Stanford Luce Habitat for Humanity and the William Bayne and Frances Holmes Summers Family Assistance Fund. Construction on the two homes was completed in April.

“The generous support of the Oxford Community Foundation was the initial financial support for this project and was critical in securing \$100,000 from Butler County Community Development,” says Tracy Wells, vice president of development and communications of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati. “We deeply appreciate your support of Habitat’s vision: a world where everyone has a decent place to live. It makes a real difference in people’s lives.” added Ed Lee, President & CEO.

Two local families: Laquita and her children, and Tim and Laura and their children, were at the April dedication and celebration event for their new homes, attended by Oxford area donors and volunteers. Both families say they look forward to having a safe, affordable place to call home.

Laquita

Laquita is a single mom with four children living in a 3-bedroom, third floor apartment. She works in customer service for Delta. Her monthly rent is nearly \$1,500. After closing on her home, her monthly mortgage payment will be \$705 - more than 50% less than her rent payment.



Laquita and her children



One of two new Oxford Habitat for Humanity homes

“I was overwhelmed, overjoyed, and exited. I was like ‘everything happens for a reason’ and I knew God had me through all my tears in not knowing what I was going to do or go,” Laquita said when she found out she was accepted into the Habitat program for home ownership.

Laura & Timothy

Laura and Timothy and their two children have been living in a deteriorating trailer with drafty windows, partially functional electric wiring, no closet space, and situated in a neighborhood plagued with drug abuse. “Our greatest desire is a safe and warm environment in which to raise our children, in the school district where our children are already enrolled,” said Laura in her application to Habitat.

Stanford L. Luce Fund for Habitat for Humanity

Dr. Stanford L. Luce, who was a professor at Miami University, was the site leader for the very first Habitat for Humanity home built in Oxford. In his memory, his family established the Stanford L. Luce Habitat for Humanity Fund of the Greater Oxford Community Foundation. The revenue stream from this endowed fund continues to aid local Habitat projects. His passion for affordable housing - and helping individuals meet their full potential - continues in his memory.

Dr. Luce proceeded to help build Habitat houses around the world. The longtime Oxford resident also built his own house on Oxford’s Silvoor Lane. Dr. Luce’s work also influenced son James, now working with Habitat himself.

It all started in the 1990s, when Dr. Luce met a young mother in town, who was homeless and living out of her car with her child. Witnessing her need, Dr. Luce connected her with Habitat for Humanity.

“When I was attending my father’s funeral, I was surrounded by people from Oxford that I had known my whole life as I grew up here- except for one woman,” says James. “She came up to me after the funeral and shared that she was a lawyer, and her daughter was in law school. Many years ago, when she had met my father, she was living out of her car with her daughter when Habitat built her a home [in the Oxford area].”

In keeping with the Habitat model, the mother participated in the construction, alongside Habitat staff and volunteers, as her young daughter witnessed the process of their first home being built. The mom used that house as a base to finish law school, and years later, her daughter did the same. Both are now practicing attorneys.

Bittersweet, a Miami University Documentary

by Molly Monson, intern

A new film documenting the experience of people of color at Miami University has been funded with a \$16,500 grant from The Greater Oxford Community Foundation. *Bittersweet* tells the story by people in their own words and is part of a larger project being worked on by a team of faculty, staff, and students to document the stories of Black Miamians.

The documentary film captures the “lived experiences” of African American students from the 1970s through the early 2000s. In addition, it blends video testimonials and documentaries that allow the audience to understand the experiences of faculty, staff, and students. Less than 3.5 percent of Miami University’s student population identifies as Black.

“We are so proud to have helped fund this project to further the mission of diversity and inclusion for the betterment of our community,” said Betsy Hope, Foundation’s executive director.

Miami University has been striving to improve its diversity and inclusion but continues to struggle with drawing Black students to Oxford. “*Bittersweet* will be a legacy for students, faculty, and staff, it’s something we can all take pride in... hopefully this can spark some change,” said Seth Seward, one of the project’s main contributors.

The film highlights the integrated history of the City of Oxford and Miami University as it relates to the Black experience. In the documentary, we learn that Main Street and Beech Street used to be called home by dozens of Black families that either worked for or attended Miami University. The last home that was still owned by the descendant of the original owners, a Black family, was recently sold due to the owner not being able to care for the property anymore. The house, located on Vine and Main, will soon likely be transformed into student housing.

For many years, Black students gathered at Bethel A.M.E. Church on Beech Street and the Allen Foundation, worship-centered organizations in Oxford. Today, there are several student organizations available through Miami University’s Center for Diversity & Inclusion, focused on harboring unity, uplifting Black voices, and improving the Black student experience overall.

“It’s important to understand that the purpose of *Bittersweet* is to unite— bringing us together, Oxford residents, university staff, and students. It’s meant to be educational and unifying,” says Miami University archivist Jacqueline Johnson.

Thank you to our 2022 Board!

Bob Carmean, *President*
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Thank you to our volunteers!

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Planting Seeds for the Future The Bill and Sherry Schilling Advised Fund for the Greater Oxford Community Foundation

by Molly Monson, intern

“We are townies with a lowercase t,” says Sherry Schilling of she and Bill. Having moved to Oxford nearly thirty years ago, the couple settled down with their two young children when Bill began working with Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity. Both soon began involvement in Oxford nonprofits, boards, and community organizations.

The Schillings have recently opened a donor-advised fund with the Greater Oxford Community Foundation with a few different causes in mind: “Pun intended... the nature of the fund is aimed at education and activities in the natural world... helping young people access and get involved and excited about nature, can lead to understanding and appreciation. We are hoping to provide opportunities for more access to school and Oxford Parks and Recreation natural programs, camps, field trips, etc.” says Bill.

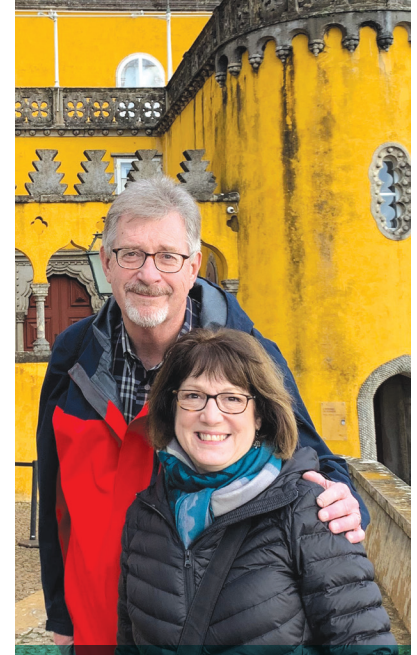
“The rural, small community combined with ‘college town’ and the many green spaces helped entice us to Oxford, it’s why we like it here,” says Bill. “It’s a mix of many different people from different walks of life, with a slower pace. Every time I sit in traffic in Chicago or Atlanta, etc. I think, ‘This is why I live in Oxford!’”

Bill was the executive director at Delta Sigma Pi Fraternity and Leadership Foundation for 28 years, until his recent retirement, and formerly served on the Greater Oxford Community Foundation board

while Sherry had a long career in Human Resources at Miami University. They have also been involved with Boy and Girl Scouts, Chamber of Commerce Board, P.E.O., United Way and the Rotary Club. Sherry was “the greater Oxford Girl Scouts ‘chief cookie mom’ for many years back in the day,” according to Bill.

“We have been blessed to give back to the Foundation. Giving wise, you get the benefit of seeing and helping guide how that money is used, and it’s nice to see that,” says Bill.

Sherry and Bill intend to use their fund not only to further the causes of outdoor activities and supporting youth in Oxford, but also to supplement the funding of other Foundation projects that align with the goals and values of their own donor-advised funds. “The GOCF is a wonderful entity that helps enhance the many great amenities and opportunities we all enjoy living here. Please support the Foundation,” says Bill with a chuckle. “It’s a natural.”



The Schillings on a recent vacation in Portugal

Greater Oxford Community Foundation Announces New President, Officers

The Greater Oxford Community Foundation’s new Board President is Ray Mock. Ray has lived in Oxford for more than three decades and graduated from Miami University in the class of 1982. He went on to work for thirty-one years at the university’s Alumni Association and held the position of executive director for seventeen years.

Ray has been an active member of the Greater Oxford Community Foundation since 2018. “I’ve come to learn and appreciate the Foundation as it provides a tremendous value to Oxford and serves to make our community a better place,” says Ray. “If I make any difference as Board President, I hope to create broader awareness for all that the Foundation does for the greater Oxford community.”

Additionally, the board has appointed a new Vice

President, Heather Monson. Heather has been active on multiple committees of the Foundation for several years, including chairperson for Advancement & Publicity, which focuses on improving the visibility of the Foundation’s projects and furthering the growth of the organization. “I really enjoy helping spread the word of the great work we do at the Foundation,” says Heather. She has been a part of the GOCF’s rebranding campaign, as well as preparing for 25th Anniversary Celebration.

The Foundation’s Executive Committee also includes Treasurer Deb Allison and Assistant Treasurer/Secretary Phyllis Callahan. Other members of the board include Immediate Past President Bob Carmean, as well as Mary Bennett, Missy Friede, Kevin Marks, Marjorie Nadler, Mary Jane Roberts, Geoff Robinson, Debbie Ross, Greg Wilhelm and Jim Robinson, Ex Officio.

Balance Sheet

2022**2021**

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	252,814	218,947
Unconditional promises to give	1,875	3,150
Other receivables	30,000	25,665
Prepaid expenses	6,784	9,607
Other assets	425	0
Total Current Assets	\$291,898	\$257,369

Investments	11,024,800	12,926,258
Property and equipment, net	139	326
Total Assets	\$11,316,837	\$13,183,953

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Note payable – PPP loans	-	16,466
Accounts payable	4,946	6,548
Grants payable	15,360	22,033
Refundable advance for fundraising event sponsorship	0	13,095
Total Current Liabilities	\$20,306	\$58,142

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions

Undesignated	418,262	500,338
Board designated	1,201,580	1,295,734
Total net assets without donor restrictions	\$1,619,842	\$1,796,072

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions

Total net assets with donor restrictions	\$9,676,689	\$11,329,739
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Total Net Assets	\$11,296,531	\$13,125,811
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$11,316,837	\$13,183,953
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Audited by Stephenson & Warner, Inc. Certified Public Accountants



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Save the Date

UPCOMING GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

August 15, 2023

December 15, 2023

April 15, 2024

*Application and guidelines
available at oxfordfdn.org*

For more information on the Greater Oxford Community Foundation's activities, go to www.oxfordfdn.org or call us at (513) 523-0623.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Did you know we accept gifts of appreciated stock at the Foundation? Gifts can be designated to benefit any of our named funds or our unrestricted Community Fund. Contact us for details about transmitting stock as your charitable donation to benefit the Greater Oxford Community Foundation.

Online Giving

Giving to the Greater Oxford Community Foundation online is quick, easy and secure! Go to <https://donorbox.org/oxford-community-foundation> and follow the prompts to give to any fund, in any amount, securely. Questions? Please call us at (513) 523-0623.

Matching Gifts

Matching gift programs are a tremendous opportunity to double, or even triple, the impact of your gift!

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees and retirees. As a nonprofit community foundation, we are eligible to receive matching gifts. Check with your employer for their procedures. Some companies match gifts made by spouses, so don't forget to check your spouse's employer as well.

Please contact us with any questions. (513) 523-0623 or betsy@oxfordfdn.org