

FOUNDATION FORUM

SUMMER 2020

Meet our new logo!

The Greater Oxford Community Foundation is #paving the way and #grantmaking for good. We encourage our community to #give where you live.

Since 1996, in partnership with our wonderful community of donors, we have awarded more than \$4 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and student scholarships. Our organization's logo has been with us almost since our start, so we decided it's time for a refresh to reflect our progress.

Our new logo features...

The addition of the word **Greater** in our name, in recognition of our service area of Hanover, Milford, Oxford and Reily townships, as well as the City of Oxford (the same geographic area as the Talawanda School District).

Bricks, a traditional and iconic symbol of Oxford. Our offices at 22 East High Street are surrounded by brick streets and overlook the centerpiece of Oxford—the Uptown Parks. Our Red Brick and Ivy Fund, which works to renovate and maintain the parks, is a partnership between the Greater Oxford Community Foundation and the City of Oxford.

A cornerstone – reflecting our stability and strength. Our endowment is strong and growing through the generosity of our donors and our conservative investments. We will be here forever, serving Greater Oxford in the areas of Arts & Culture, Beautification, Civic Projects, Education, Environmental, Health Services, Recreation and Social Welfare.

"The Red Bricks in the initial logo endure, but in a different arrangement. They remain symbols of

Oxford. However, since the bricks are now



attached, they also suggest cornerstones, embodying the role of the Foundation as a recognized and well-established charitable institution," said James Robinson, president emeritus of the Greater Oxford Community Foundation. "They also represent the commitment to enhance the quality of life in Oxford, based on professional management and leadership by the Foundation's staff and Board members."

"The committee worked together with a mix of board members, community volunteers, and a professional designer to create a more interesting and updated look for the Foundation," added Heather Monson, chair of the Foundation's Marketing & Advancement Committee. "We first decided on the message we wanted to convey, then went through several cycles of design work before a final decision on a strong, clean look for our new logo."

Look for the new logo in our publications and signage over the next few months. Thank YOU for supporting your local community foundation. Please **#give where you live** so that we can continue our work of **#grantmaking for good** and **#paving the way** for our community.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

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

Leaving a Legacy

Many of our donors leave money to charity in their will. *What causes do you feel passionately about?* Contact the Oxford Community Foundation at (513) 523-0623 to learn how you can leave a legacy in your family's name.

Online Giving

Giving to the Oxford Community Foundation online is quick, easy and secure! Many choose to give to the foundation this way. 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.

Letter from the Executive Director

We hope you are soaking up the sunny days and warm temperatures. As usual this time of year, we are tying up the Spring grants cycle and preparing for our next funding deadline: August 15. We are sharing the excitement of new high school graduates, as we work to disperse their scholarships to their respective universities.

However, so much has changed this year. Unrest threatens to divide our country. COVID-19 has resulted in great losses. The economic fallout from the pandemic (see below for details on our new COVID-19 Organizational Assistance Fund) means nonprofits need funding more than ever. We are responding and remaining positive in this challenging year for our community and the world.

Our staff and board offer the following statement on current affairs:

"The Greater Oxford Community Foundation has served Greater Oxford since 1996.

As part of our work in awarding grants and scholarships, we have funded, and will continue to fund, projects supporting diversity and inclusion. Our commitment to this community work remains as strong as ever.

We value diversity in all forms, including race, ethnicity,

gender, sexual orientation and religion.

We applaud local initiatives such as the recent Take a Stand Against Racism and Injustice gathering, which call us to "be the change we want to see." We join our community in striving toward change, in which justice and equality for all is the goal.

We are starting a new fund at the Greater Oxford Community Foundation with the purpose of supporting initiatives upholding and celebrating the dignity of all persons. In the next few weeks we will announce a new fund supporting these efforts."

Normally staff and volunteers at the Foundation would now be putting the finishing touches on our Brews for Bricks event, originally slated for August 15, 2020. However, due to Governor's orders and our concern for safety, we are postponing this event, hopefully to be held August 2021.

Your community foundation is here for you. Please enjoy the updates in this newsletter. Stay safe and well.

Betsy Hope



Greater Oxford COVID-19 Organizational Fund Started

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Greater Oxford Community Foundation has started the Greater Oxford COVID-19 Organizational Assistance Fund.

The Foundation is now accepting grant applications from nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organizations serving residents of Greater Oxford, with needs and projects related to the Coronavirus pandemic and its affects. The first deadline for grant applications was April 15, 2020, with applications still being accepted.

Donors can give to the fund by mailing a check to Greater Oxford Community Foundation, 22 E. High Street, Oxford, OH 45056. The check should be made payable to The Oxford Community Foundation, with OCF COVID-19 Assistance Fund in the memo line. Donations can also be made online with a credit card at oxfordfdn.org.

"We encourage local charitable support of this fund so we can provide help right here in our community," said Betsy Hope, executive director of the Greater Oxford Community Foundation. "This will be a permanent fund at the Foundation. It's hard to predict what our local nonprofit's future needs will be as a result of this crisis, but we stand ready to help them as they help others."

The grant application is available at oxfordfdn.org/grants. Funding from the Greater Oxford COVID-19 Organizational Assistance Fund will follow the Foundation's regular granting schedule and procedures.

"We care about our community and are in full support of the wonderful nonprofit organizations serving the people of the City of Oxford and Hanover, Milford, Oxford, and Reily Townships. They live their missions daily and we don't want their work to be disrupted if financial resources can assist," said Hope.

Dr. Edwin M. Yamauchi Lectureship Fund

Expanding Our Horizons One Speaker at a Time

For 15 years the Edwin M. Yamauchi Lecture Series has featured fascinating speakers, the most recent featuring Dr. Jennifer Wiseman, an astrophysicist from the Goddard Space Flight Center, speaking about "Planets, Stars, Galaxies and Life: Investigating a Fruitful Universe."

Sponsored by the History Department at Miami University, the series is made possible by the Edwin M. Yamauchi Lectureship Fund of the Oxford Community Foundation.

Created by colleagues of Dr. Yamauchi when he retired, the fund's purpose is to honor Dr. Yamauchi by bringing speakers of international caliber here to spark dialogue between the evangelical Christianity community and the academic community.

"The fund enables us to bring in the best speakers and authors who are very popular and very scholarly," says Dr. Yamauchi.

Dr. Yamauchi has studied 22 languages from Arabic to Ugaritic and attended eight schools, earning his PhD from Brandeis University in Mediterranean

Studies in 1964.

The retired professor treasures the memories of his storied career. "In 1968 my wife and I spent five months in Jerusalem, just after the Six Day War, and in 1974 and 1975 I traveled in nine countries in the Middle East. I spoke at an international conference in Tehran," he remembers. "The dozen or so of us from the US were given lunch by the ambassador, Richard Helms, in the compound which was taken over by Iranian students in 1979. Although I did not see the Shah, I shook hands with the Empress who was the sponsor of the convention!"

Originally from Hawaii, Dr. Yamauchi lives with his wife, Kimie, at the Knolls of Oxford. They are parents of a grown son and daughter.



Oxford Community Foundation Receives Its Largest Gift Ever

The Greater Oxford Community Foundation has received the largest gift in its 24 year history. The Open Space Preservation Fund has been established at the Foundation with a gift of \$3.5 million dollars.

The gift was received through a trust established by Kenneth M. Buerk, MD, who died earlier this year. According to his sister-in-law Ellen P. Buerk, MD, successor trustee, he was an understated man with a passion to preserve local agricultural land, water resources and sensitive ecosystems. He had planned the gift with his attorney and Oxford Community Foundation officials in 2011 and wished it to remain anonymous until his passing.

This fund will support the Three Valley Conservation Trust and/or other nonprofit organizations with similar goals. These include promoting responsible development while preventing the loss of prime farmland, water resources, and sensitive ecosystems; leading by building partnerships with landowners and local communities that respect property rights

and agricultural conservation values; providing tools to help landowners retain control of their land and preserve the rich farm and rural heritage and economy the Oxford, Ohio region, and negotiating land conservation agreements. The fund is not to be used for the purchase of land.



"It is a privilege and an honor to accept this fund on behalf of Dr. Buerk. To keep the beauty of our area intact is truly a gift to us all," said Betsy Hope, executive director of the Oxford Community Foundation.

Oxford Community Approves First Grants of 2020

The Board of Trustees of the Oxford Community Foundation has awarded nearly \$60,000 in grant requests for its first grant cycle of the new year. "We are so pleased to make these awards to help creatively solve issues and improve quality of life for Greater Oxford," said Betsy Hope, executive director.

Grants awarded for the January cycle include:

- Talawanda City Schools Office of Gifted Services, \$1,000 for Space Camp.
- PARACHUE Butler County Court Appointed Special Advocates, \$1,000 for Be a Child's Voice.
- Oxford Museum Association, \$900 for Signage for Barn Artifacts.
- Talawanda Middle School, \$300 for Model United Nations.
- Talawanda High School Special Education, \$1,976 for Brave Coffee.
- Interfaith Center, \$500 for Unity Walk.
- Talawanda Elementary Schools, \$2,000 for Improved Thinking Skills for All.
- League of Women Voters, \$1,543 for Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage.
- Oxford Seniors, \$5,000 for Computer Software Replacement.
- Talawanda Schools, \$3,000 for National Inventors Hall of Fame.
- Talawanda 5th Grade Gifted, \$360 for Stock Market Game.
- Talawanda Middle School, \$2,000 for Sandy Hormell Community Book Celebration.
- Kramer Elementary, \$700 for Breakfast Club.
- Three Valley Conservation Trust, \$4,000 for ADA Compliant Signage.
- Camp Kasem International, \$5,000 for Camp Kasem at Miami University.
- Talawanda Middle School, \$3,719 for Dobot & STEM Education.
- Oxford Farmers Market Uptown Association, \$5,000 for Sprouts Program.

Grants awarded for the May cycle include:

- Talawanda Middle School, \$2,250 for StudioWeb Code Avengers.
- Oxford Parks and Recreation, \$800 for Learning Blocks Preschool.
- City of Oxford Police, \$625 for Oxford Police Community Picnic.
- Talawanda School District, \$600 for Talawanda Preschool.
- Reily Township Historical Society, \$1,700 for Military Veterans of Reily Township.
- Crossroads Community Church, \$1,000 for Whiz Kids for Oxford Community.
- Oxford Farmers Market Uptown Association, \$4,500 for Oxford Farmers Market V-Commerce.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters, \$5,000 for Site Based Mentoring at Kramer.
- Oxford Reach Out and Read, \$1,000 for Oxford Reach Out and Read.

Grants to area organizations are possible through the continued support and generosity of donors to the Oxford Community Foundation, and the Foundation's investment earnings are returned to the community each year in the form of grants. "Our funds grow with each new gift and produce income that will continue to meet local needs for generations to come," said Hope. Matching donor funds with promising projects and programs, the Oxford Community Foundation funds scholarships and grants that positively impact those living and working in Greater Oxford. The grants provide financial support in the areas of Education, Health, Recreation, Civic Projects, Social Welfare, Arts/Culture; Environment and Beautification.

The foundation has three grant cycles each year. The next grant request deadline is **August 15, 2020**. For the grant guidelines and application, go to oxfordfdn.org.

Grants in Action!

Oxford Community Foundation grants support a wide variety of activities and projects throughout our service area of the City of Oxford and the townships of Hanover, Milford, Oxford and Reily.

Advocating for Special Children



Butler County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are judge-appointed volunteers advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the state's care. A \$1,000 grant from the Oxford Community Foundation recently purchased online training resources, volunteer manuals, background checks, certification costs, badges, and other supplies to help train CASAs.

Last fall's new CASAs were sworn in by Butler County Juvenile Court Judge Kathleen D. Romans. From left to right: Taylor (of Oxford), Gabriela (of Hamilton), Amy (of Middletown), Tim (of Monroe), Renee (of West Chester), Kristy (of Oxford) and Judge Romans. The Spring 2020 class was held online, resulting in 13 new CASA volunteers sworn-in in June.

Having Fun Ninja Style



A fun reason to play and exercise outdoors in January can be hard to come by. At the start of the year, OCF granted \$2,500 for the Ninja Warrior Course at the City's Conquer Cabin Fever Weekend.

Reily Park Groundbreaking



As a contributor to the Reily Township Park Enhancement Project led by the Coalition for a Healthy Community, the Greater Oxford Community Foundation attended the groundbreaking last fall to dedicate the walking paths, kiosk, ballfields and playground.

The foundation has three funding cycles each year. The next funding deadline is **August 15, 2020**. For the grant guidelines and application, go to oxfordfdn.org.

Physical Therapy



Oxford area children with special needs can now access physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language therapy near home with the help of a \$7,650 grant from an anonymous donor and the Oxford Community Foundation to Hillside Farm. The grant allowed Hillside Farm to offer therapy to families who otherwise could not afford it. The services are led by pediatric physical therapists, often with the help of horses, bunnies and goats at Hillside Farm.

"You have enabled Hillside Farm Pediatric Therapy to make a difference in the lives of children with special needs in our area," said Amy Vollmer, PT, president of Hillside Farm Pediatric Therapy.

Veggies for all



With the Governor's Stay at Home orders in the spring and some customers isolating this summer, Oxford Farmers Market organizers needed to quickly come up with a workable solution to get produce in people's hands.

Through Veggie Commerce, a collaborative community of passionate individuals who are persisting in their quest to supply fresh local produce to Oxford area, customers can order everything from produce to vegan baked goods to pasture raised meat, online. The order then be picked up when ready, or in some cases, dropped off to the customer.

In June, the new program received a boost with an Oxford Community Foundation grant of \$4,505 from its Covid-19 Organizational Assistance Fund. The grant is funding a computer, software and office supplies to handle online ordering and tracking. Veggie Commerce collaborates with local organizations such as the TOPPS food pantry and Oxford Seniors, to the program is available to everyone.

"Veggie Commerce keeps it local and fresh," said Manager Larry Slocum. "If people can't come to the market, this grant ensures they can still get good food from the farmers they love."

Here, Chantel Raghu with the fresh produce she ordered online.