



RICHLAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

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Connections is looking for the next generation of philanthropists

When Connections of the Richland County Foundation began a decade ago, the focus was to engage, foster and grow the next generation of givers.

Connections founding member Geneva Cummins said, "I became involved because I wanted to give back and support my community.

"The mission of the Connections Fund is to foster and retain leaders and professionals in Richland County and to promote a philanthropic identity and involvement in the community. The philanthropic identity sets us apart from many other organizations," said Mrs. Cummins.

"I became involved because I wanted to give back and support my community."


-Geneva Cummins

Other founding Connections members include Joanne Blay, Carl Fernyak, Terri Hamilton, Bill Naumoff, Maura Siegenthaler and Josh Taylor. Following several months of meetings, Connections

was created in October of 2004 with an original fund of \$5,000. Now the endowment totals more than \$100,000.

"I have grown as a person by being involved in my community. I have gained far more than I have given both in time and money," said Mrs. Cummins.

Each year between \$2,000 and \$11,000 is granted to local non-profit organizations. Since 2005 Connections has awarded over \$53,831 through 47 grants to 34 organizations.

It is easy to become a member of Connections. Individuals can join with a \$150 donation and couples for \$250 annually. 



Pictured Top: Drew Gilbert, Cristen Gilbert, Mansfield Area YMCA president and CEO, Velma Bond, YMCA Family Services director, James Twedt, YMCA director of Operations and Ashley Twedt during the Winter Gala at the Mansfield Art Center. Center: Leslie Nielsen, teacher and Tygers Robotics Club advisor, Marty Jones, teacher and Keys to Success coordinator, Maggie Voedisch, teacher and Pedaling for Your Future program coordinator and Brian Garverick, Mansfield City Schools superintendent. Bottom Left: Connections founding member Geneva Cummins talks about why she became involved in the fund. Bottom right: Connections co-chairs Carrie Fanello and Krista Schmidt host the Winter Gala at the Mansfield Art Center


For women, by women, for the future

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation hopes to reach a monumental goal by 2016, \$1 million in its endowment. In order to reach the milestone, the Women's Fund is recruiting donors. A person becomes part of the fund simply by making a monetary gift; often to celebrate or honor a special woman.

The 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.

Since its inception the Women's Fund has awarded 157 grants totaling over \$264,000.

Parenting is the focus of the 2013-14 grants awarded by the Women's Fund.

"The Women's Fund Advisory Committee reviewed recent grants and observed we have supported programs from anti-bullying, to obesity in girls, to healthy cooking/eating. We recognized parenting is at the core of these issues and feel effective parenting can be a change agent to help avert poor behavior and habits before they manifest into larger problems," said Carolyn Carto, Women's Fund Advisory Committee chair. 

Shelby Mayor Marilyn John talks to girls during a program supported by the Women's Fund.

The 2013-2014 Women's Fund grants total over \$16,600 to support:

City of Mansfield

Department of Regional Community Advancement - *Bottoms Up! Help Me Grow Project*

Emergency Pregnancy Aid Contact (EMPAC)

Loving + Learning = Bonding

Harmony House Homeless Services, Inc.

Feed, Flower, Flourish

Parent Aide Program, Inc.

Enriching Foundations for Moms

College Scholarships

2 - Non-traditional students

For more information or to donate to the Women's Fund go to www.rcfoundation.org



RCF welcomes a new director of donor services and communications

Maura Teynor has been named the director of Donor Services and Communications at the Richland County Foundation.

Ms. Teynor most recently was a public relations specialist and senior physician recruiter at MedCentral Health System. Her health care career at MedCentral began as a volunteer. Helping out in the community has always been important to Ms. Teynor who also serves on the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Mansfield Kiwanis Club Board of Directors and Community Service Chair, assists with the Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund Wooman Bike Tour and other community events and projects.

Prior to MedCentral, Ms. Teynor was a radio news director, high school sports color commentator, morning show co-host and advertising sales executive in Richland and Crawford counties.

Her professional experience will help her communicate the vision of the Richland County Foundation which is to be a leader in community development, innovative granting and endowment building to enrich and improve the quality of life in our community. One of her first goals is to increase the awareness of the Foundation in the community especially via social media.

Ms. Teynor earned her bachelor's of science degree in broadcast journalism from Ohio University. She enjoys skiing, biking, swimming and running.



What is happening at the William Ritter house?

For 30 years the Richland County Foundation has been seeking a permanent home. The William Ritter House will become the perfect new home by the end of the year. Since the property at 181 South Main Street in Mansfield was purchased, a lot has been going on.


- Dan Seckel of Seckel Architects designed the period reconstruction using old photos to take the house back to its original grandeur.
- Julie McCready of McCready Interiors and Norwalk the Furniture Idea is designing and furnishing the home.
- A boardroom addition was constructed at the eastern side of the house.
- A fence was installed.

A significant amount of furniture from the Foundation's current office at 24 West Third Street will be moved into the Ritter House. The color palette, window and floor treatments and new furnishings will reflect the turn of the 20th Century style.

An anonymous donor purchased the Queen Anne Victorian brick home for the Foundation in December of 2012 and MT Business Technologies is partially funding the restoration.

Brady Groves, Richland County Foundation president, said "It has been a long term objective and part of the Foundation's strategic plan to be housed in a stand-alone property.

"The Ritter house was brought to our attention and it fit with our mission to make an impact and be a change agent in the community. By restoring the Ritter House, the southern gateway to Mansfield will be improved and it will give more exposure for the Foundation."

Mr. 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." 



History of the William Ritter House

William Ritter, son of Joseph Ritter, owner of Joseph Ritter & Sons Company, built his home at 181 South Main Street in 1891. The house was built for a man of some importance with the tastes of the city's then upper-middle class. Its location on South Main Street, however, is something of an anomaly. Most of the larger homes were located in the more popular western side of the city on Park Avenue West.

According to the description written by David Simmons for the National Register of Historic Places, Request for Determination of Eligibility, the external physical appearance of the house shows a two-and a half story brick building of irregular plan. A brief description must include the mention of the northwest corner of the three-story tower which is set at an angle. The first floor window of the tower had a stained glass transom with the letter "R", after the first owner. The southwest corner is curved with two oversize brackets supporting the gable roof. The rear projecting bay has scalloped siding and twin windows with a fanlight.

Foundation announces change to grant cycles

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees decided last year to reduce the number of grant cycles from six to four. This allows the Board of Trustees and staff the opportunity to take a more active leadership role within the community. The Board of Trustees will continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis to conduct the business of the Foundation.

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Join us for breakfast

We invite you to join us for breakfast at the Richland County Foundation. Breakfast dates are April 10, May 22, October 9 and November 13 from 8 to 9 a.m. It will give us a chance to meet you, and you a chance to learn more about us.

Start our day off right, join us for breakfast. Please RSVP to Maura Teynor at mteynor@rcfoundation.org.



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CALENDAR

Tue, April 1

Due date for college scholarship applications

Thu, April 10 – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast at the Foundation

Fri, April 11 – 5:00 p.m.

Due date for general applications for a June decision

Mon, April 14 – 11:30 a.m.

Board of Trustees regular meeting, Founders Room

Mon, May 5 – 11:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting of Richland County Foundation Members

Thu, May 15 – noon

Professional Advisors CLE Seminar, NCSC Urban Center

Thu, May 22 – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast at the Foundation

Mon, June 9 – 11:30 a.m.

Board of Trustees regular meeting, Founders Room

Wed, June 11 – 10:00 a.m.

Teacher Assistance Program grant writing workshop, Founders Room Main Library, 43 W. Third St. Mansfield



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Richland County Foundation is recognized for having organizational and financial practices that are in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.



Richland County teachers can access funds for their innovative ideas

Technology is changing how educators teach in the classroom and the Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees is adapting its Teacher Assistance Program to keep up with changing times.

That is why the board recently modified the criteria and grant total for the Teacher Assistance

Program (TAP). Teachers can now apply for grants of up to \$1,500 instead of \$1,000 and they can use the funds for software and technology. Something that was not allowed in the past.

Glenna Cannon, Foundation Board of Trustees member and Pioneer Career and Technology Center superintendent said the changes were made following conversations with school superintendents and principals in the county.

Ms. Cannon said, "Everything has changed in our schools. Children know technology. They are using iPads in kindergarten. We want to help teachers access technology so they can be effective, innovative and creative in their classrooms.

"I hope teachers use these grants to think outside of the box; so they can get creative and innovative in how they engage their students in the classroom.

"Teachers do not have the funds for what they really want to do in the classroom and TAP is a way to help them reach their goals."

TAP awards grants directly to K-12 teachers in 501c3 public or private Richland County schools to encourage them to develop new programs, projects, or events for their classrooms.

A one-hour grant writing workshop will be held Wednesday, June 11 at 10 a.m. in the Community Room at the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library, 43 West Third Street, Mansfield.

The deadline to apply for a TAP grant is Friday, July 11. For more information visit www.rcfoundation.org.

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For more detailed grant information visit www.rcfoundation.org