

## Barriers facing first generation to college students



L-R: Billie Brandon, Jim Mudra, Brian Garverick, Liz Brown, Emily Brown, Rev. Laurence Rawls and Joanne Mudra

First generation to college students face many obstacles on their path to earning a college degree including financial ones.

To help take some of the burden away the Emily Campbell Brown and Dr. Charles Gailey Brown First Generation to College Scholarship Fund was established by Emily Brown in 2008. She passed away in 2009. She had three sons, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, Charlie, president of World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry and Bob, treasurer in the division of finance at Case Western University in Cleveland.

Senator Brown's daughters, Liz and Emily, were at Mansfield Senior High School recently to discuss ways to bolster the fund as well as strategies to help students earn a college education.

Emily was born in Mansfield, making her a sixth-generation of the Brown Family born in Richland County; she is an attorney in Columbus. Liz is a member of Columbus City Council.

Emily said growing up; education was always stressed in her family. My grandmother felt there were so many bright students in Mansfield that needed a chance.

Liz Brown asked the group to discuss the barriers students face when applying for school.

Leona Smith, a first generation to college student and North End Community

Improvement Collaborative Operations Director, said her parents are older and did not attend college. So they did not understand the application process. Leona credited her academic advisor for getting her into college.

"She kept her hands on me and reminded me of all the deadlines. All of my friends did not receive the same attention. You need an adult to help you get there," said Leona.

Renda Cline, Mansfield School Board President, said some parents are hesitant to apply for scholarships because they do not want to share their financial information and are fearful of losing social agency benefits. Cline said we need to explain to parents in bite sized chunks about the process and financial implications.

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Brian Garverick, Mansfield City Schools Superintendent, a first generation to college student, suggested a few solutions to the problem could include college field trips for parents and a scholarship information session for parents and students.

Since its inception, the Emily Campbell Brown and Dr. Charles Gailey Brown First Generation to College Scholarship Fund has awarded 32 scholarships totaling over \$32,500. This fund will be partnered with the Sarah B. Thomas Scholarship Fund at the Richland County Foundation to offer African-American students majoring in education up to \$8,000 in scholarships over four years.

A goal of pairing the two funds is to have more African-American teachers available for hire by the Mansfield City Schools so the faculty better reflects the student population.

**The Richland County Foundation awarded close to \$355,400 in scholarships to Richland County students this year.**

**RCF Scholarship Committee Chairman Chan Stevens reported 276 students received scholarships from various funds. The average scholarship amount was \$1,343.**

**Total scholarships awarded by students' year; 132 freshmen, 69 sophomores, 39 juniors and 33 seniors. Five people were awarded trade school scholarships. Sixty two students will attend local schools including Ashland University, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, North Central State College and Ohio State Mansfield.**

## Richland County Foundation funds business attraction and expansion efforts



### Making Strides on a 5-Year Economic Development Strategy

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees recently approved funding for economic development projects.

As part of the Foundation's \$1.1 million, five-year economic development plan, the board approved two scale-up loans to be managed through Braintree Business Development Center. The Phoenix Brewing Company received a loan to purchase additional equipment and supplies to maximize the productivity of its brewing systems. Market Brothers, a local brokerage firm, received a loan to add an executive sales director to its team.

The scale-up evergreen fund is a pool of money to help minimize a local company's risk by fronting part of the cost of external services. Scale-up companies typically are at least three years old, make \$2 to \$50 million in annual revenue and employ 10-99 people. Target outcomes for the funding include

increasing jobs, payroll and fixed asset capital investment in the region.

In addition, the board approved a grant request for a business attraction plan from the Richland Community Development Group. The plan includes training for the RCDG staff, data collection, architectural master plans of high priority business sites and fees to display at business attraction trade shows and events.

Foundation President Brady Groves said "Richland County is at a pivotal point in its economic evolution. The groundwork has been laid, key people have been hired, organizations are working together and we are now poised to make significant strides."

A Strategic Review Committee comprised of Foundation board members and community leaders are tracking the progress and monitoring metrics of the economic plan to ensure positive outcomes in the county. The project will evolve and be adapted as the plan's objectives are met, or not, over the next couple of years.

### Richland County Foundation supports children's summer activities

A committee of Foundation Board of Trustee and community members awarded 20 Summertime Kid grants totaling \$39,416.



The grants of up to \$2,500 were given to support creative, educational and fun-filled activities. Photos L-R: Mankind Murals, Renaissance Theater Camp, and Shelby Safety Town children.

## Richland County Foundation awards over \$684,000 in grants

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees approved over \$684,000 in grants to area nonprofit organizations during its June meeting.

Projects at area nonprofit organizations that received grants from a combination of unrestricted, donor advised and field of interest funds include:

- **American Red Cross**, Volunteer Recruitment
- **Flying Horse Farms**, Camp for children with serious illness
- **Foundation Center**, Nonprofit Programs at the Mansfield Richland County Public Library
- **Friendly House**, Activities for Everyone including a lift for the swimming pool

- **Mansfield Area Y**, Water Splash Park
- **Mansfield City Schools**, Guided Reading Text Books
- **Mohican School in the Out of Doors**, Farm to Table
- **Richland Academy of the Arts**, Music Department expansion
- **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio**, Helping Hands for Richland County residents
- **Team Focus Ohio Chapter**, Summer Leadership Camp for Richland County boys

The Board of Trustees approved grants from donor advised funds to meet emerging needs to 42 organizations.



Next Generation Films Inc. presented a \$1,000 donation to the Mid Ohio Drug Prevention Fund at the Richland County Foundation as part of its Drug Free Workplace event. Pictured left to right are Claire Gillum, Brandon Hall and Mark Cacchio of Next Generation Films, Jessica Hiser of Spherion and Spherion Mid Ohio 13er Committee, Brady Groves, President Richland County Foundation, Dave Bubar of Next Generation Films, and Tim Hilterman of Merrill Lynch and Spherion Mid Ohio 13er Committee.

Proceeds from the Spherion Mid Ohio 13er half marathon in September will be donated to the Mid Ohio Drug Prevention Fund. For half marathon registration and details go to [midohio13er.com](http://midohio13er.com).

## A Lexington Church continues its legacy



The church no longer exists but its legacy will live on.

Mary Wise and Sue Welch, on behalf of the Lexington First Congregational Church, invested the church's remaining resources into a fund at the Richland County Foundation.

They established a field of interest fund called the Lexington First Congregational Church Legacy Fund. Earnings

from the fund will be used for the benefit of programs and projects in the Village of Lexington. The church decided to fold because of declining membership. The congregation gifted the church building and land to another church, Fusion, earlier this year. The property must always be used as a church.

Mary, the former church treasurer, said she began to attend the church over 30 years ago when a friend invited her to a service. She stayed because of the people.

Sue said her husband grew up in the church and she enjoyed the church because it was family oriented.

They both fondly reminisced about previous pastors, church members, ice cream socials, soup suppers and community projects.

Mary and Sue still attend service at the same church on Sundays. But now they listen to the new pastor, Jeff Robertson, lead a new congregation.

### History of the Lexington First Congregational Church:

The church began as the First Congregational Church in 1862. Prior to that, they met as a group of worshippers of Presbyterian Theology, in a meeting place north of the old Lexington School House on Frederick Street. Rev. Adam Torrence accepted the call March 29, 1832.

Because of the Civil War there was a split in the congregation in 1844 and Rev. Evan Evans left with a small number of members known as the "New School" Presbyterians. The small group would later become the First Congregational Church led by Rev. Samuel Kelso.

The church on Delaware Street was built in 1846 at the cost of \$835.

Major building projects over the years added stained glass windows, vestibule, steeple, offices and a basement.

A bronze bell was donated by friends Bloomer and George Sowers from New York. The bell was cast by John Benson of the Brooklyn Brass Bell Foundry in New York. The bell weighs about half a ton and is 20 inches high and 28 inches in diameter.

A special acknowledgment was given to the church's Ladies Fellowship. Pastoral leadership was provided by many and included Rev. Guy Chapin who served the congregation on two separate pastoral calls and the Rev. Donald Rinehart who served the longest.

Anyone can donate to the Lexington First Congregational Church Legacy Fund online and receive a tax deduction at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org) or by writing a check and noting the fund on the memo line.



## Donors support law enforcement

Merris and Jean Welge established a designated fund to benefit the Ontario Police Department at the Foundation. The first project to receive support from this fund was a memorial to law enforcement in front of Ontario City Hall. Pictured from left to right are Ontario Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Jean Welge, Merris Welge and retired Ontario Police Chief Rodney Smith.

The donors said police are an integral part of our society and it is important to recognize, respect and support the police. People in the community are welcome to make a donation to this fund and receive a tax deduction. Donations can be made online at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org) or by check with the Ontario P.D. Fund specified on the memo line.

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## Registration for Richland Gives Opens in August

Richland County nonprofit organizations (501c3) must register each year for Richland Gives at [richlandgives.org](http://richlandgives.org). Registration will open on August 17. Nonprofit staff members can learn more about the event during a training webinar Thursday, September 21, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Richland Gives is a 12-hour online day of giving set for November 28. It is designed to encourage everyone to contribute to Richland County nonprofits through a single online giving platform. The Richland County Foundation will host the day.



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



[RichlandCountyFoundation.org](http://RichlandCountyFoundation.org)

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## Women's Fund awards \$9,000 in scholarships



L-R: New members welcomed to the Women's Fund Committee include Lori Sjostedt, Kristine Lindeman and Ashley Benson. Not pictured is Linda Smith.



L-R: About \$9,000 in scholarships was awarded to Crystal Eldridge, Leona Smith and Jessica Morgan. Not pictured but received scholarships were Chantelle Negrete and Keri Myers.

Women's Fund scholarships were awarded to Jessica Morgan, nursing student at Knox County Career Center, Keri Myers nursing student at Knox County Career Center, Chantelle Negrete, nursing student at Knox County Career Center, Crystal Eldridge, business administration major at Mount Vernon Nazarene College, and Leona Smith business administration major at Mount Vernon Nazarene College.

The Women's Fund scholarships are given to non-traditional female students attending area colleges.

In other business, the Women's Fund Advisory Committee named Jill Haring as chair and

Kristie Massa as vice-chair. Paula Cohen was thanked for her service as the previous year's chair. Charma Behnke, Carolyn Carto, Lynn Fahmy and Erin Fain were thanked for their service as they retired from the committee. New members welcomed to the committee were Ashley Benson, Kristine Lindeman, Lori Sjostedt and Linda Smith.

The fund has granted over \$316,000 in Richland County since 1998. Its mission is to promote philanthropy among women, and to establish a permanent fund to empower women to achieve their full potential.

For more information or to donate to the Women's Fund go to [rcfoundation.org](http://rcfoundation.org).