

Devoted to Caring for Animals

The mission of the **Humane Society of Richland County** is to advocate and compassionately care for the abandoned, abused and neglected animals in the community and to find them loving homes.

To help further its mission, the Humane Society established an agency designated fund at the Richland County Foundation.

The fund will help sustain the Humane Society through investments made by the Foundation and additional donations from generous individuals and organizations. The fund will produce an annual income for the Humane Society.

Stability is the main reason nonprofit organizations set up a fund at the Foundation. It allows an organization to diversify its income and reduces dependency on annual fundraising. It also provides donors with an option to make gifts now or in their will.

In 2019 the Foundation awarded a grant to the Humane Society to assist with a reorganization plan for sustainability. The plan included a newly created position, managing director, to provide leadership in operations, including budgeting and fundraising.

“The new fund is exciting for us, and things have come full circle. Thank you for taking a chance on us when the shelter was on the verge of closing. It was an investment in us, and I am proud we turned things around,” said Humane Society of Richland County Managing Director Linda Chambers.

“Investing through the Foundation is the most meaningful type of investment for us. You believed in us, and we believe in you,” said Chambers.

“The Humane Society is a success story and you have paved a path for others to follow,” said Richland County Foundation President Brady Groves.

The Humane Society rescues and protects mostly cats and dogs; however, it also cares for an occasional goat or horse. The Humane Society serves three to four times the number of cats versus dogs. A typical census is 15 dogs and 30-50 cats.

The Humane Society hosts three fundraisers a year. In the spring, a gift appeal letter is sent to raise funds for the annual influx of kittens. In the summer, iHeart Media Vice President of Programming and Humane Society Board Member Chris Kelly conducts a “Paws-a-thon” on the radio. In the fall, “Dogs, Drinks and Donuts” is held at the Phoenix Brewing Company which was a huge success.

The organization posts social media campaigns to meet a specific need such as a costly surgery.



Richland County Foundation President Brady Groves and Humane Society of Richland County Managing Director Linda Chambers.

About the Humane Society

The Humane Society of Richland County opened the doors at a new shelter at 3025 Park Avenue West in Ontario, Ohio in 2009

FACILITY

- 8 dog runs for large breed dogs, with inside/outside access and room to move.
- 16 full size dog cages
- Two fenced in dog play areas
- 100 cat cages and a large free roaming cat area
- Welping room – for pregnant or nursing dogs
- A playroom for potential pet adopters to privately get acquainted with our shelter pets.

HISTORY

- Established in 1884, the Mansfield Humane Society was originally created

for the protection of animals, seniors, and children.

- As other programs became available for people, the Humane Society turned its focus solely on the care and protection of animals.
- Received its 501c3 non-profit status in 1971.
- Name was changed to Mansfield-Richland County Humane Society in 1984, and later filed to “do business as” The Humane Society of Richland County in 2005.
- Two humane agents were appointed in 2006 to investigate animal cruelty and neglect cases and to prosecute offenders.

Learn more at adoptourstrays.com

“It is amazing how quickly people help. They can see the immediate impact of their gift through a healthy animal,” said Chambers.

Two projects planned for this year are the installation of a generator and a Catio, the Humane Society’s version of a three-season room. The space will allow cats to roam free and get fresh air.

Anyone can make a tax-deductible donation to the fund at richlandcountyfoundation.org by clicking the donate button and selecting the Humane Society of Richland County Fund or writing a check payable to the Richland County Foundation with the fund noted on the memo line.



Hospice of North Central Ohio Memorializes Local Couple



Richland County Foundation President Brady Groves and Hospice of North Central Ohio Chief Development Officer Ralph Tomassi

Damon Mauk Memorial Fund

The **Damon Mauk Memorial Fund** was recently established by his mother Andrea and stepfather Edward with the primary goal of providing resources to schools in Richland County, starting this year with the Lucas Local Schools Special Education Department. This fund aims to bolster programs and initiatives that assist students and teachers in the classroom of neurodivergent minds, addressing their unique educational needs.

Damon Mauk faced challenges throughout his school journey, leading to an early adoption of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). His

barriers included obstacles like sensitivity to fluorescent lights and challenges in test-taking. To support his academic needs, Damon required specific accommodations such as noise-canceling headphones, a standing desk, and additional tutoring in quiet places. Damon's mother, Andrea Mauk, feels that many people lack an understanding of neurodivergent minds but that accommodations from an IEP can lead to both academic and personal success.

Andrea's vision for the Damon Mauk Memorial Fund is to create an initiative that ensures all children have the resources to learn and grow by supporting them in how they best learn. She also wants to raise awareness about IEPs and the challenges that teachers, parents, and students face when adapting to learn how children think differently in the classroom.

Despite Damon's own academic struggles, he showed compassion by actively assisting fellow classmates by not being ashamed of his differences, which helped foster inclusivity within the school community. This year, Damon graduated on the Honor Roll from Pioneer Career and Technology Center (PCTC) and Lucas High School. He was employed by Adena Construction through the Home Remodeling program and enrolled in real estate certification before he tragically lost his life in a car accident in June 2023. Andrea expressed gratitude for the teachers who provided support during Damon's time at PCTC and Lucas Schools.

What is an IEP?

An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is a personalized program developed to ensure that a child with an identified disability, attending elementary or secondary school, receives specialized instruction and related services tailored to their unique needs.

Resources

For more information about IEPs, resources can be found at individual school districts and on the websites of Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center and the Ohio Department of Education. To learn about Damon's story, visit damonmauk.org

Anyone can make a tax-deductible donation to the fund at richlandcountyfoundation.org by clicking the donate button and selecting the Damon Mauk Memorial Fund or writing a check payable to the Richland County Foundation with the fund noted on the memo line.

Following a legacy estate gift, Hospice of North Central Ohio established the **Charles A. & Doris G. Farina Memorial Endowed Fund** at the Richland County Foundation.

The fund will provide an annual income to HNCO through investments made by the Foundation.

Another portion of the estate gift will support end-of-life, palliative care, and bereavement services provided by HNCO.

Married for 47 years, Charles and Doris Farina were longtime Galion residents who were employed in various capacities in Richland County. Charles was a retired police officer, businessman, and a veteran of the United States Army, where he was a championship boxer. Doris was a realtor and a volunteer. Both were members of Grace Episcopal Church in Mansfield.

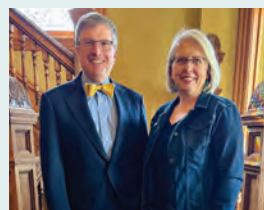
The gift from Charles and Doris validates the power of planned giving.

"By designating HNCO in their estate, the Farinas will support current needs while assuring the long-term viability of our nonprofit organization," said HNCO Chief Development Officer Ralph Tomassi.

"They lived extraordinary lives and possessed charitable hearts. We will be good stewards of their generosity and perpetuate their names in a place where they were well known and respected."

HNCO has provided compassionate care for patients and families wherever they call home since 1988 regardless of their ability to pay. HNCO recognizes legacy estate gifts in perpetuity in its Heritage Society.

To learn more go to myhnco.org.



Sherrilyn R. Wilson Languages Scholarship Fund

Richland County Foundation President Brady Groves and Sherrilyn Wilson.

A teacher gave Sherrilyn Wilson the nudge she needed to find her career path.

"My high school Spanish teacher, Renee Zody, nominated me for a scholarship at The Ohio State University at Mansfield. That led me to major in Spanish and to my career with the U.S. government as a Spanish linguist."

"Before that, I never contemplated a career and thought I would be a secretary just like my mother," said Sherrilyn.

She wants to return the favor and help other students.

To that end, Sherrilyn set up a scholarship fund for Richland County students. Primary preference will be given to those who major or minor in a foreign language and secondary preference will be given to those who major or minor in foreign affairs, international relations, or political science.

Sherrilyn said it is important to be bilingual and have a worldview. There are so many career options for a person who studies languages.

She is a graduate of Lexington High School and The Ohio State University. Her 33-year federal career included assignments with the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the Department of State. She spent 12 of those years living and working in Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, and Panama.

Anyone can donate to the Sherrilyn R. Wilson Languages Scholarship Fund, go to richlandcountyfoundation.org, click the donate button and select the fund from the drop-down box or write a check payable to the Richland County Foundation and note the fund on the memo line.



Steve and Michael Frampton visit the Warren Rupp Observatory.

The Warren Rupp Observatory



In the 1970s Warren Rupp sat at his dining room table listening to Bruce Scodova talk about building an observatory. Bruce was so excited to present Warren with this idea that he did not notice a teenager lounging on the couch in the next room. That teenager was Steve Frampton, grandson of Warren, and current advisor to the **Fran and Warren Rupp Fund** at The Richland County Foundation.

This past summer Steve and his son, Michael, visited the Warren Rupp Observatory at Hidden Hollow Camp and swapped stories with Bruce about the beginnings of the observatory. The Fran and Warren Rupp Fund continues to support projects and programs in Richland County that are important to the Rupp and Frampton families.

The Warren Rupp Observatory has grown into one of the largest outreach astronomical organizations in the country.

Besides the Richland Astronomical Society, the Fran and Warren Rupp Fund supports many other organizations such as the Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield City Schools, North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Renaissance Performing Arts and Wayfinders Ohio (formerly known as Harmony House). It also has funded internships at local nonprofits since 2015. Please see the internship story below.

Internships Lead to Careers *By Buckeye Imagination Museum Public Relations Coordinator Brenna Koch*



Brenna Koch

A pilot, pharmacist, and public relations coordinator are three of the careers former Buckeye Imagination Museum interns have pursued.

The Fran and Warren Rupp Fund at the Richland County Foundation began

supporting internships at local nonprofits in 2015. Each year the Rupp Fund invests approximately \$150,000 between summer and winter internships to further the education of students and increase capacity at local charities.

Over the years, many interns walked through the doors at Little Buckeye Children's Museum, now Buckeye Imagination Museum. Each one was unique, but all have proven to be successful in their lives after their internships. Here are some examples of success at the Buckeye Imagination Museum.

Natalie Tasseff was one of the first interns, she worked at Little Buckeye Children's Museum while she was a student at Ohio Northern University, studying Pharmacy. She went on to get her degree and become a licensed pharmacist.

Another well-known intern was Suzanna Hammond. She studied Child & Youth Studies at Ohio State University at Mansfield. After she received her bachelor's degree, she

worked full-time for the organization for over seven years. Suzanna is now pursuing her master's degree.

Katie Volz studied Aeronautics at Kent State and went on to complete her courses and recently became a pilot.

Finally, the most recent intern success story was Brenna Koch. She was a long-term intern for Buckeye Imagination Museum. She majored in Marketing & Business Administration at North Central State College. After graduation, she was hired full-time as the Buckeye Imagination Museum Public Relations Coordinator. She is happy working for the museum and is very grateful for the opportunity provided by the Foundation.

This past summer, the museum had two interns: Liz Zerby, a Public Relations & Business Administration major from Ohio Dominican University, and Shelby Keever, a Child Psychology major from St. Norbert College.



Recent Grants

Community Projects

- Richland B&O Connector Trail Tunnel
- Sterkel Park

Mansfield Rising Projects

- Main Street Improvement Plan
- Wayfinding for Main Street

Raemelon Therapeutic Equestrian Center

- Equine-based therapy scholarships

Taking Root Farms

- Field of Opportunities Capital Campaign

Wayfinders Ohio, Inc.

- Rapid Rehousing Program

For more details go to richlandcountyfoundation.org

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For good. For ever.®

Make a Gift of a Lifetime

Individuals aged 70 ½ and older can transfer assets from an Individual Retirement Account to a charity such as the Richland County Foundation without being federally taxed.

This law is important to local charities operating as agents of philanthropy in order to continue to build community and improve social service programs that benefit people every day.

If you want to discuss a gift from your IRA to the Foundation, please contact Foundation Chief Advancement Officer Maura Teynor at mteynor@rcfoundation.org.



181 South Main Street
Mansfield, OH 44902
419.525.3020 phone
419.525.1590 fax



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

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Connections Fund Awards Grants

The Connections Fund of the Richland County Foundation recently announced this year's grant during a brunch held at Kingwood Center.

Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio received the 2023 Connections Fund grant for its program "Destination Career: Richland County." The collaborative partnership between JANCO and LeaderRichland will provide in-class career exploration or financial literacy to 7th and 8th grade students who stay at their home campus as their fellow classmates visit the Ohio State University at Mansfield and North Central State College campus.

The Connections Fund was established in 2004. To make a gift to the fund go to richlandcountyfoundation.org, click the donate button and select the Connections Fund from the dropdown menu.



Richland Gives

Richland Gives is designed to encourage people to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving website. The Foundation hosts the day to build capacity, grow philanthropy and make the community stronger.

Each charity registered for the event will have an individualized web page to promote their cause. The success of the event will depend on our collective enthusiasm and implementation.

The Richland Gives donation period is from November 13 at 7 a.m. through November 28 at 7 p.m. For more details or to donate go to richlandgives.org.