

Richland Gives Celebrates its 10th Anniversary



The Richland Gives donation period is from November 18 at 7 a.m. through December 3 at 7 p.m.

Kelly Blankenship, former executive director of Wayfinders Ohio, celebrates a donation during Richland Gives last year.

This is the 10th anniversary of **Richland Gives**, an online giving event hosted by the Richland County Foundation (RCF). Donors will pay much lower fees this year. The RCF Board of Trustees voted to cover the 4% Mighty Cause platform fees so donors will only be charged a credit card fee.

Since its inception, Richland Gives has raised almost \$3M for hundreds of local nonprofit organizations. Thanks to the generosity of donors of the Foundation, \$80,000 in incentives will be awarded as grants to participating organizations, beyond what they raise from online donations.

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

Leading up to the event the Foundation provides an online toolkit, webinars, mass media and social media coverage to make it easier for nonprofit organizations to participate.

For more details or to donate go to richlandgives.org.

Celebrating Donors with a thank you event at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary



Judy Bemiller



Ellen Boll, Gail Laux, Chris Brakenbury, Peggy Anderson and Fred Boll



Scott & Kayla Heimann



RCF Chairman Chris Hiner, Chriss Harris & Women's Fund Vice Chair Amy Hiner



Mimi & John Fernyak



President & CEO Allie Watson



Recent Grants

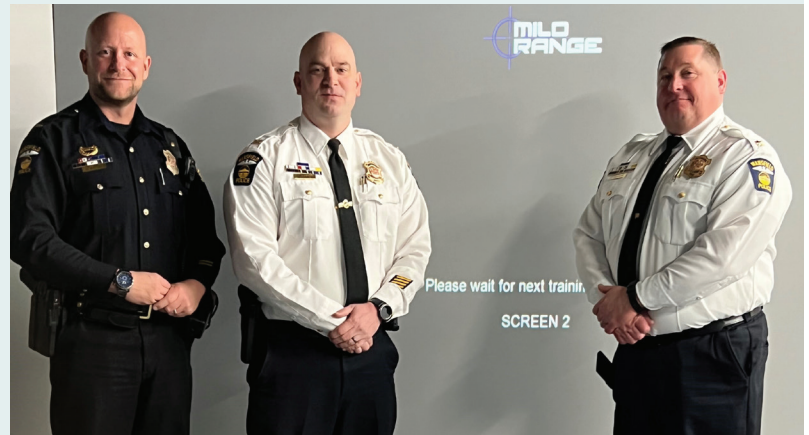
- The board approved **\$789,086 in scholarships** to Richland County students. Scholarships are awarded based on a student's financial need and grade point average. The average scholarship amount this year was \$3,000.
- RCF also awards career technical education scholarships throughout the year. The board approved **\$33,500 in CTE scholarships** this year.

- The board approved **education grants totaling close to \$66,000**. Funding was provided from the unrestricted grant budget as well as field of interest funds. Education grants are selected by a committee made up of board members and people from the community for creative and innovative supplemental programs not covered by school funding. The grants are given to K-12 teachers in public or private Richland County schools to encourage them to develop new programs for their classrooms.

To view more recent grants, go to richlandcountyfoundation.org



Over 700 Richland County 4-H and FFA members enjoyed the new show arena at the Richland County Fairgrounds. Many donors made the project a reality, including the Richland County Foundation.



A donor has offered a challenge match of up to \$10,000 to benefit the Mansfield Police Department Fund. That means your donation will be doubled through December 3. The proceeds will be used to renovate a break room for officers. To donate go to richlandcountyfoundation.org and click the donate button. Or write a check to Richland County Foundation and note the fund on the memo line.



The Women's Fund held outreach events at parks around Richland County this fall. The children played while the parents learned more about how the Women's Fund supports women and girls.



Vinyl Marketing President Colleen Cook discussed marketing strategies with Osborne Meese Academy participants. She stressed storytelling is the best way to share information. OMA was established out of a need within the community to build capacity, serve as an informational resource, and act as a catalyst to encourage stronger collaboration among nonprofit organizations.



Community Investment Officer Bobby Rhea recently led his first grant writing workshop. If you need help applying for a Richland County Foundation grant, please contact Bobby at brhea@rcfoundation.org.



Deborah Willhelm and Carol Ramsey

A retired educator makes plans for a scholarship fund

Carol Ramsey and her good friend, Deborah Willhelm, were dedicated educators for 30 years and were best friends.

Carol taught sixth and seventh-grade science. Deborah taught third grade before she became a guidance counselor and then principal. Both worked at Ontario Local Schools.

Deborah sadly died in 2022 from heart complications.

Carol has been contemplating her estate plan with a financial planner. She decided to set up a scholarship fund upon her death to honor their education careers.

The fund will be opened with assets from Carol's IRA. The scholarship, named the **Carol Ramsey and Deborah Willhelm Scholarship Fund**, will provide scholarships to Richland County students. The first preference will be given to those students pursuing a scientific degree and the second preference to those pursuing a degree in elementary education.

Carol is now listed as a **Legacy Society member**. It is a way to recognize individuals during their lifetime who have made plans to leave a gift to this community in partnership with the Foundation. The gifts may be made through an estate plan, written in a will or trust, including the Foundation as a future beneficiary of an IRA, insurance policy, remainder trust, or other similar planned gifts.



Marcia Baer

An educator and coach leaves a legacy

Ontario Local Schools former Health and Physical Education teacher Marcia Baer continues to help students even after her death.

Marcia died earlier this year at her home in Ft. Myers, FL. She left money in her trust to establish two new funds at the Richland County Foundation.

She set up a **scholarship fund for Ontario graduates pursuing a four-year or higher degree in teaching**. She set up another designated fund for the **Athletic Department to buy equipment for girls' sports**.

Marcia taught for 30 years and was a successful volleyball, basketball, softball, cheerleading, gymnastics, drill team, and track coach for Ontario.

After her retirement in 1996, she was an EMT for Mansfield Ambulance Service for 14 years and served as a bus driver for Ontario Schools for 10 years. She worked with the American Red Cross and American Heart Association as a CPR and WSI instructor for 60 years.



Linda Frary

Former Clerk of Courts memorialized with a fund

The family of Linda Frary set up a donor advised fund at the Richland County Foundation to memorialize her. Her husband, Richard, created the **Linda Hansen Frary Memorial Fund** with the help of his sister-in-law, Laura Hansen Dean. Once it was set up, Laura was the first donor to the fund. Laura has a professional background in community foundations and understands the value of a donor-advised fund.

The fund will be used to make grants to nonprofit organizations that Linda would have supported.

Linda was diagnosed with ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, in 2022. Linda, who served as the Richland County Clerk of Courts from 2004 to 2023, was well known and respected in the community. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 25, 2024.

The first symptom Linda noticed was slurred speech and later, it was problems with her leg and foot. The diagnosis was confirmed by an ALS neurologist in Columbus.

Richard said his wife was devoted to her family and to the citizens of Richland County and he wanted a way to honor her. With the new fund, he would like to support various nonprofit organizations including hospice since they were so helpful in taking care of Linda. Another area of charitable interest is nursing education because Linda's mother was a nurse.

Anyone can donate to these funds; 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.

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Richland County youth to learn about agriculture



Abra Dunn and Breanna Smith of the Richland County Farm Bureau, Theresa Sutter of Richland Soil and Water Conservation District, Allie Watson, Richland County Foundation President and CEO, and Katie Gatten of the Mansfield Richland County Public Library discuss the new agricultural kits.)

The **Richland County Foundation Gift of Grain Fund Committee** has awarded a grant to support the Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District (RCSWCD).

The grant will fund a collaborative project called Cultivating Minds that brings together RCSWCD, Richland County Farm Bureau, and the Mansfield Richland County Public Library. It will provide three agricultural and environmental literacy kits to every elementary school in Richland County and at the main branch of the library. The goal is to teach elementary youth about agriculture, food, and natural resources. The agricultural kits include a children's book, a teacher's guide, and all items needed for a classroom activity. A total of 75 kits will be distributed throughout the county.

The Committee members are Brian Alt, Shelby farmer, Donnie Clark, owner of Elzy Milling and Trade, Jess Ashby, Ohio Department of Agriculture Meat Inspector, Christy Keith, Richland County Fair Board member, and Adam Staley, Clear Fork High School vocational agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor.

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees established the Gift of Grain Fund in 2021 with \$15,000 to support local agricultural nonprofits. The fund can accept grain, cash, stocks, bonds, marketable assets, or a transfer from an IRA account from farmers, companies, and individuals. The charitable gift qualifies for the maximum tax advantage available by law.

For instructions on how to make a Gift of Grain, go to the "Ways to Give Smarter" tab on richlandcountyfoundation.org.