

## Rotary Club Celebrates 100th Anniversary with a New Scholarship

**The Rotary Club of Mansfield** celebrated its 100th anniversary by setting up a scholarship fund at the Foundation. It is called the Mansfield Rotary Centennial Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship will be awarded to nontraditional students to attend Ohio State University at Mansfield or North Central State College. The fund is designed to help returning Richland County adult students over the age of 25 who want to pursue a certificate or a degree.

“This scholarship could help address local workforce demands,” said Mansfield Rotary President Cynthia Wood.

Both colleges have students with families who enroll in their 20s and 30s. They want to go back to school but the tuition is a financial burden. The scholarship will be paid directly to either OSU-M or NCSC and can be used for tuition, books, fees, or student needs.

Other projects funded by the Rotary Club to observe its anniversary were an old-fashioned street clock in the Carrousel District and a patio and furniture for addiction recovery patients at Catalyst Life Services.

The Rotary Club of Mansfield has three other endowed funds at the Richland County Foundation to ensure a long-term, stable source of funding.

The first fund, the Walter Willis Scholarship Fund, was created in 1984. It was named to honor Walter Willis who served as the club’s secretary/treasurer for 53 years. He also was a major initial contributor to the fund. His interests in economics, forestry, and natural resources are the focus of the college scholarship.

The McGowan Courage Award Fund was established in 1990 by an anonymous donor and was generously supported by Earl Goetz. It provides funding for \$1,000 grants awarded annually to the recipients of the McGowan Courage Award. The award honors high school students who despite facing significant physical,



Mansfield Rotary Club members establish a new scholarship fund at the Foundation from left to right: Cynthia Wood, Brady Groves, Scott Young, Chris May, Pat Chilcote, Chris Copper and Dave Crawford.

psychological, family, or other challenges manage to succeed in school. The students are nominated by teachers and staff at Richland County high schools. The fund and award are named in honor of Salvation Army Brigadier Bill McGowan, who was a long-time Rotarian and one of the award’s originators in 1968.

1991-92 Rotary Club President Tom Doty set a goal to start a fund to financially support various Rotary Club community projects. Tragically, he died in office. Club members responded by supporting his dream and in 1993 established the Rotary Club of Mansfield Tom Doty Community Fund. The donor advised fund has grown over the years and funded several local projects including a playscape at North Lake Park.

*Anyone can donate to the fund online at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org), click the donate button and select the Mansfield Rotary Centennial Scholarship Fund. Or you can write a check to the Richland County Foundation and note the fund on the memo line.*

## Honor someone special for Mother’s Day

**The Women’s Fund** of the Richland County Foundation is offering people a way to honor special women in their lives with a Mother’s Day gift to benefit women and girls in this community.

Donors can make a gift to honor a special woman or in memory of a loved one. Donations will support the Women’s Fund’s grant-making.

To make a Mother’s Day gift mail a check made out to the Richland County Foundation and note Women’s Fund on the memo line. Or you can donate to the Women’s Fund at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org).

The Women’s 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.





## Nurturing the Parks of Richland County

**Many people, including Ray and Rani Piar**, are passionate about the Richland County Park District. To make sure it thrives, the couple set up a donor-designated fund at the Foundation called the Friends of the Richland County Park District. Avid cyclists, the B&O Bike Trail is especially close to their hearts. However, the fund will provide grants to improve and nurture all the Park District's assets which include the bike trail, Gorman Nature Center, Clear Fork Valley Scenic Trail, and Fleming Falls Preserve.

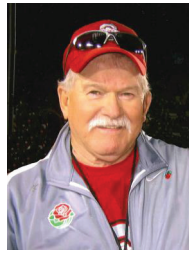
Ray and Rani established a second fund and they named it the B&O Trail Capital Fund. Its purpose is to maintain the bike trail that runs from Mansfield to Butler. Plans are underway to build a maintenance building next to the trail in Lexington. The project also includes a picnic pavilion to be enjoyed by walkers, runners, and bicyclists.

Ray said the building will be very beneficial to the volunteers who work on the trail. It will be located midway on the trail and will store mowers and other equipment used by the volunteers.

Ray and Rani Piar



## New Scholarship Honors Legacy of Mansfield



**Doug Castle** was a local educator whose 50-year career spanned all aspects of education in Richland County. He had a special place in his heart for the underdog. When he died of brain cancer in 2018, his family established the Doug Castle Legacy Fund at the Richland County Foundation to carry on his work and honor his life. His wife, Liz; son, Michael, and daughter, Beth, want the fund to help in many areas including education, racial equity and inclusion, mentorship, and community building.

Doug began his teaching career in 1965 at John Simpson Junior High School and took an active role in coaching football, basketball, and track. Castle retired from Mansfield City Schools in 2000 after years of leadership including as principal of Simpson, and then worked as the Galion Middle School principal for the next five years. For many years he was also the director of the Mansfield Mehock Relays and then the Gorman Wrestling Tournament. Ohio State University Football Coach Jim Tressel hired Castle to work as an Academic Encourager for the young men on the football team.

Castle developed an administrative philosophy based on being fair and keeping a sense of humor. He was a staunch believer in disciplining children in a way that would not destroy their dignity or self-respect. He valued every student.

The first grant from this fund will be a \$2,000 scholarship to a Mansfield Senior High School senior. The scholarship will be awarded annually at the discretion of the Doug Castle Legacy Project Advisory Committee. The scholarship will acknowledge and celebrate a student who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to community involvement through education, racial equity, and social justice. Priority will be given to a student interested in pursuing a degree and career in K-12 education.

The members of the scholarship selection committee are Liz and Beth Castle, Brigitte Coles, Donna Hight and Effie James. Applications for the scholarship are available through the Mansfield Senior High School Guidance Counselor Office. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2021.

*Anyone can donate to the Doug Castle Legacy Fund online at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org), click the donate button and select the Doug Castle Fund. Or you can write a check to the Richland County Foundation and note the fund on the memo line.*

## The University Club of Mansfield Offers Scholarships

**The University Club of Mansfield** was founded in 1922 by J.C. Gorman as a social club for college educated professional men and to promote higher education among high school students. In its early years the Club, met only twice a year for dinner meetings with notable speakers. Its social activities, such as card parties, bus trips to Blossom Music Center, golf outings and the annual Corn Roast helped fund the \$500 scholarships for students at Mansfield Senior, Malabar, and St. Peter's high schools.

In 1990 the club established the Mansfield University Club Educational Foundation to further expand its scholarship offerings. In 2008 the estate of Jim Weldon bequeathed over \$2.3 million to the Educational Foundation as an endowment to support the scholarships. The Mansfield University Club now provides a \$2,000 renewable scholarships to a senior at each of the 10 Richland County high schools annually.

While its membership has dwindled from over 400 in the 1970's, the Club is still viable after 98 years. What started as simple social club has evolved into one of the most significant philanthropic organizations in Richland County.

Initially, membership in the University Club was limited to male graduates of a four-year college or university. Membership has been expanded to include women and those with a two-year degree.



## Progress on the Mansfield Rising Project



In 2018, the Richland County Foundation leadership took an unusual track to develop an investment strategy for downtown Mansfield. Instead of hiring a professional consulting firm, it had a citizen-led group create the plan.

This is a plan for any organization, business, citizen, or group looking to get involved. To be successful, this must be a comprehensive effort.

Costs range from sweat equity to millions of dollars. The Foundation will continue to lead, convene, guide, and fund efforts that support this plan. It will be implemented at various speeds and through various organizations with a result of a better downtown.

To read the plan go to [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org), click "Community Impact" then the "Mansfield Rising" tab.

### Upgrade the City's Main Arteries

Mansfield City Council approved a design plan to improve Main Street. It aligns with the Mansfield Rising Plan to upgrade the city's main arteries. None of the main arteries leading to downtown Mansfield are beautiful. They are car-focused pathways through industrial centers, distressed neighborhoods, and business-zoned urban centers. Objective beauty and walkability must be a priority. The North and South Main Street, East and West 4th Street, Park Avenue East and West, must be improved and maintained as key entrances to downtown. They are the front door to our downtown. In 2019, the city converted Mulberry Street to two-way traffic. Mansfield City Council also approved a plan to convert Diamond Street to two-way traffic in 2021. These changes will create a more walkable downtown..

### Improve the Look of Businesses in Downtown

The Downtown Mansfield, Inc. Facade Improvement Fund received grant funding from the Foundation and Mansfield City Council. The matching grants will be awarded to building owners to make improvements. This will assist economic development and the rehabilitation of historic properties in downtown Mansfield. The funds will be administered by a committee consisting of

individuals from the historic preservation commission, architects, designers, and community members to provide guidance and resources on facade improvements. The resources provided in conjunction with the grants will make for quality restorations and renovations consistent with community standards.

### Public Art Project

The Richland Community Development Group Art Sector is leading a public art initiative in downtown Mansfield.

During this public art initiative in downtown Mansfield, up to \$50,000 in matching funds will be made available to businesses, nonprofits, and sponsors to help in funding the creation of art in a variety of methods, including traditional painted murals, installed artistic wallscapes, window art, as well as temporary and permanent public art on visible walls and surfaces.

### Branding

The Branding Committee began work to create a brand for the community in 2019, but it was halted due to the pandemic. The Committee hopes to continue its work in 2021. The purpose of branding Mansfield is to weave a powerful and positive story to raise awareness about why this is a great place to live and conduct business.

## Cardinal District Civitan Scholarship Fund

The Cardinal District Civitan Club established a new scholarship fund at the Richland County Foundation. It is for members or relatives of a member of Cardinal District Civitan Club with a focus on service.

Foundation President Brady Groves said when the Mansfield Civitan Club ceased its operations last year, members of the Cardinal District approached him about a setting up a scholarship fund.

"This fund is a great way for Civitans to continue their community service," said Groves.

The Cardinal District supports Civitan Service Clubs in Ohio and West Virginia. Each Civitan Club helps their own community when a need arises. Civitans have been helping people since the organization was founded in 1917 by a group of businessmen determined to make a difference in their community.

In the 1950s, the service club adopted a special emphasis to assist people with developmental disabilities. Civitan was one of the major supporters of Special Olympics International and thousands of Civitans continue to support local events. Civitan clubs also fund and organize camps and events for people with developmental disabilities.

To learn more about the Cardinal District Civitan club: <https://www.civitancardinaldistrict.org/>



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## Protect What Matters Most

**Our work to improve and enhance the quality of life in Richland County through strategic philanthropy and community leadership is of vital importance. And while you may be unsure of a way to support the Foundation, creating a planned gift is a powerful way to make a lasting impact and legacy with us that will not cost you anything today.**

We hope you will join the many people who have included the Foundation in their will, trust, or beneficiary designations. Writing a will is one of the most important steps to take, though understandably scary or uncomfortable. But now more than ever, it is important to protect what matters most to you and have a plan in place.

If you would like to discuss adding the Foundation to your will or trust, please contact Foundation President Brady Groves at 419-525-3020 or [bgroves@rcfoundation.org](mailto:bgroves@rcfoundation.org).



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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.



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## Annual Meeting to be Via Video Conference

The Richland County Foundation will conduct its annual meeting via a video conference at 12 p.m. Wednesday, May 19.

A link will be added to the events page on the website [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org).

During the meeting Chairwoman Julie McCready and President Brady Groves will review the Foundation's work in 2020 and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Charities Awarded Almost \$1.8M in Grants

**The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees approved \$1,775,600 in grants during its February meeting.**

Two competitive grants were approved by the board. One was awarded to the Domestic Violence Shelter to purchase a building to increase its bed capacity from 30 to 50 beds. Another grant was awarded to the Ronald McDonald House of Central Ohio to house Richland County families with a seriously ill child hospitalized at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Two career technical education scholarships were approved for students to earn certifications and credentials at technical institutions. The Scholarship Committee implemented a rolling deadline for CTE scholarships to meet various enrollment deadlines. In aligning with Ohio's Attainment Goal, the Foundation wants to help fill the gap between job openings and certified employees as well as lead the way to support workforce development through CTE scholarships.

Graduating high school seniors and current college students from Richland County are eligible to apply for college and career technical education scholarships.

The Board of Trustees approved grants from donor-advised and donor-designated funds. For a complete list of grants go to [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org)