

## School establishes an endowed fund to continue its mission

For 55 years, Mansfield Christian School has been a steadfast leader in Christian education. The school boasts over 2,000 alumni whose education was based on a Christian worldview.

Today the school, located on Logan Road in Mansfield, is ranked as "One of the 50 Best Christian High Schools in America" by the BestSchools.org.

In order to continue its mission of teaching the next generation with a Biblical philosophy, the school recently established an endowed agency fund with a \$10,000 gift to the Richland County Foundation.

MCS Superintendent Dr. Cy Smith said the school is excited to work with the Foundation through a local fund for the first time. He wants philanthropists to know that Mansfield Christian School offers a quality education and is a good investment.

**"It was time for Mansfield Christian School to partner with the Foundation in order to have a greater impact in the community as well as become a greater asset for families.**

"It is an opportunity for us to be even more involved and to expose local businesses to our students and our mission," said Dr. Smith.

Enrollment decreased at area private schools when the 2008 recession hit and the Ontario General Motors plant closed. Since 2014 enrollment at MCS has increased by about 20 students each year.

During the recession, tuition costs were never decreased, but were incrementally increased to reflect the value of the education provided.



Dr. Cy Smith, Mansfield Christian School Superintendent

Additionally, in order to become financially stronger, MCS made strategic cuts. The school is realizing the benefits of its fiscal responsibility, is back in the black, and now able to invest in a fund at the Foundation.

Because enrollment is trending upward, Dr. Smith said the new endowed fund will help capitalize on that momentum.

More about Mansfield Christian School:

Mansfield Christian School began as a vision of a small group of people in 1961. The school started in the lower level of Marion Avenue Grace Brethren Church with 35 students and three faculty members. For a little over two years, the school operated at this location. These first parents and staff members held to the conviction that parents were given the responsibility by God to teach and train their children.

In 1963, the school received a gift of 40 acres on Logan Road. The first building was constructed and the school moved into the new facility. In subsequent years, the school experienced four building expansions that included additional classrooms, a gymnasium, athletic fields,

and radio station WVMC. In 1972, 19 students represented the first class to graduate.

MCS soon received its charter from the State of Ohio, became an accredited member of the Association of Christian Schools International, earned accreditation through AdvancEd, joined the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and obtained federal licensure for its radio station from the FCC.

Students can be a part of the pre-kindergarten through 12th grade program by being on campus five days a week or educated through the independent studies program (home schooled).

Today, unaffiliated with a church or denomination, the school currently employs about 75 faculty and staff members and has an enrollment of 545 students. Dr. Smith, an alumnus of MCS, has been at the school for 24 years and can be reached at 419-756-5651, ext. 218, or [smith.cy@mcsflames.org](mailto:smith.cy@mcsflames.org).

You can donate to this fund online at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org) or by writing a check to the RCF with the fund noted in the memo line.

### Annual meeting

The Richland County Foundation will conduct its annual meeting Monday, May 2 at the Mid Ohio Educational Conference Center, 890 West Fourth Street, Mansfield at 11:30 a.m.

The Foundation invites anyone in the community who is interested in attending the luncheon to call for a reservation and cost information by April 27 at 419-525-3020.

Or you can register for the event online at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org).



## We can help you leave a charitable legacy

### Five easy steps to establish a charitable fund at Richland County Foundation.

1. Determine your charitable interests and intent.
2. Pick the type of fund that best meets your purpose. When you choose to establish an endowed fund your original gift remains intact and is invested for growth. A portion of the earnings, as defined by the spending policy, can be granted to public charities.
3. Choose a name for your fund. You may use your name or the name of a family member, a name representing your favorite cause, as a memorial, or a name that allows you to be anonymous.
4. Decide on a timeline for giving. Funds can be established immediately or as a deferred gift or bequest through your will.
5. Review the many types of contributions available to make an initial gift. You can contribute cash, marketable securities, or other property. Charitable distributions from IRAs are an especially tax effective type of gift.

A separate named fund can be established with a gift of \$10,000 and a scholarship fund can be established with a gift of \$20,000. A fund can accept additional donations at any time.

#### Services to Donors

- Managing the fund and overseeing its investment.
- Providing the services of our experienced grant making staff
- Assuring that grants follow the fund directions and are always awarded in the name of your fund, to ensure a lasting symbol of your caring.
- Providing regular financial reports regarding activity of the fund and regular information about foundation activities.

#### Benefits of a fund with the Richland County Foundation

**Permanence:** Gifts can give forever because the Foundation invests the charitable capital to make certain there are resources for the future. The donor may direct the fund to be granted out over a specified number of years.

**Flexibility:** The Richland County Foundation offers unique flexibility, making it possible for donors to benefit a variety of philanthropic purposes.

**Tax Benefits:** As a public charity, the Foundation offers maximum tax benefits.

**Financial Management:** Maximizing returns while minimizing expenses, the Foundation has a diversified investment portfolio.

**Security:** A volunteer Governing Committee of experienced community leaders oversees Foundation management and use of funds.

**Anonymity:** If desired, the identity of the donor can be protected.

To create a new fund or more information contact Maura Teynor, director of donor services and communications at 419-525-3020 or mteynor@rcfoundation.org

## Foundation hosts nonprofit capacity building program



Court Sturts, Pediatric Development Center, explains his action plan during a session of the Osborne Meese Academy.

The Foundation has kicked off its second year of the Osborne Meese Academy. The program is designed to build and support nonprofit organizations and to act as a catalyst to encourage stronger collaboration in the community.

The Osborne Meese Academy encompasses three key components: education, professional support and grant writing assistance. The initiative was named the Osborne Meese Academy to honor the Foundation's founding father.

Half-day educational workshops will be held through November at the Foundation. Topics such as developing a marketing and fundraising plan, engaging in collaborations and building an effective board and identifying outcomes and measures will be explored.

The nonprofit organizations were selected by an application process to participate based on the following criteria: willingness to collaborate to address community issues, willingness to embrace organizational change and growth, current strength of an organization with regards to programming, governance, staff leadership, financing, administrative, staffing and marketing.

The organizations participating are: Discovery School, Linden Road Presbyterian Church, Mansfield Memorial Homes, Mankind Murals Inc., North Central State College Foundation, North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Ohio Genealogical Society, Parent Aide Program, Pediatric Development Center, Richland Carrousel Park, Richland County Historical Society, Richland Public Health, Shelby YMCA, Starfish Project of Richland County and Three C Counseling.

## Board of Trustees approve grants

The Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees approved grants totaling \$1,767,696 during its February meeting.

Eight grants totaling \$279,475 from unrestricted funds were approved for the following programs:

- City of Mansfield, Music in the Parks
- Community Action for Capable Youth, Richland County Private Partnership Prevention Program
- Domestic Violence Shelter, annex building
- Mankind Murals, mural on the Richland B&O Bike Trail

- Mansfield Art Center, Lego Art of the Brick Exhibit
- Mid-Ohio Opera, master class concert
- Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center, restoration project
- Renaissance Performing Arts, Integrated Theatre Company

The Board of Trustees also approved grants from donor advised, field of interest, donor designated and agency funds to meet emerging needs to numerous organizations.



Elec Simon spent a week in March to visit students in the Mansfield City School District. He teaches through music a lesson of tolerance and team work. He is dedicated to erasing bullying from our society. His local program was funded by a grant from the Fran and Warren Rupp Fund.





Richland Bank, The Gimbel Foundation, Joyce Buick, Startek and the Richland County Foundation teamed up to make an inviting and comfortable library at Malabar Intermediate School. Literacy Coach Susan Johnson, students, Richland Bank Marketing Manager Kristie Massa and Foundation Program Officer Allie Watson enjoy the renovated library.



## Grant applications from teachers are being accepted

Local educators are invited to submit a grant application for a Teacher Assistance Program grant.

Grants are selected by a community committee for classroom projects not covered by school funding. The grants, up to \$1,500 each, are given to K-12 teachers in public or private Richland County schools to encourage them to develop new programs for their classrooms.

Last year the Richland County Foundation Board of Trustees awarded over \$13,000 in Teacher Assistance

Program. Since its inception in 1998 the Foundation has granted 622 TAP grants to total over \$482,000.

A grant writing workshop is set for June 14 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Foundation, 181 South Main Street, Mansfield.

Applications are at [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org). The deadline to apply for a TAP grant is Friday, July 8.

To RSVP for the grant writing workshop or for more information call the Foundation at 419-525-3020.

## New scholarship fund to help nursing students



The Eugene and Ruth Oestreich Harsch Scholarship Fund recently was established at the Foundation.

The scholarship will be awarded to a student attending college to become a registered nurse who has earned at least a 3.0 grade point average. First preference will be given to Mansfield Senior High School graduates who attend either Capital University School of Nursing or Case Western Reserve University School of Nursing. Second preference will be given to Mansfield Senior

High School graduates who are enrolled in a nursing program at an accredited college or university. If there are no students who meet these requirements the scholarship can be awarded to a student who graduated from any Richland County high school enrolled in a nursing program at an accredited college or university.

Eugene said he established the fund in honor of his wife, Ruth, and to recognize her nursing career.

Eugene said Ruth was known by coworkers as a tough but fair RN. He added she was always concerned about the serving and caring for the patient.

She worked at Mansfield General Hospital, Peoples Hospital and Ohio Nurses Association. She also taught nursing at Mansfield General School of Nursing, North Central State College and Case Western Reserve University. In addition, Ruth served eight years on the Mansfield School Board.

Eugene is a retired chemist. He worked at Ohio Brass and Thermodysc before he retired from Wooster Brush. Eugene and Ruth were lifetime members of the First English Lutheran Church and taught Sunday school and served on the Church Council. Eugene also served on the Finance and Personnel Committees.

They had two sons, John and Stephen. John is retired as the Chief of the Mansfield City Fire Department and Stephen works for Gold Key Processing Ltd., a Cleveland area company.

## Make the Gift of a Lifetime

### Turning IRAs into Charitable Good

There is good news for community foundation donors in their 70s—and for the communities and causes they care about. A recently made permanent law makes it possible to give individual retirement account (IRA) assets to charity, free from federal tax, annually. Prior to 2006, all lifetime distributions from IRAs were taxed—even those given to charity.

As such, our donors can give far more with less! This may be an attractive giving option for you if you are:

Over 70½ and now receiving required minimum IRA distributions—but do not need the extra income.

Interested in making a significant lifetime gift to impact your community.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 permitted individuals to transfer up to \$100,000 from an IRA directly to a qualifying charity without being taxed. On December 18, 2015 Congress passed the PATH Act, making permanent this unique charitable giving opportunity.

Single and married individuals 70½ and older are eligible to give in this way from their individual retirement accounts.

Using IRA assets to make a gift during your lifetime, as opposed to giving via bequest in your will, enables you to experience the joy of making a major gift.

“The Richland County Foundation is ready to help our donors take advantage of this legislation and make gifts during their lifetimes. Our personalized service and local expertise helps donors address the issues and causes most important to them,” said Foundation President Brady Groves.

For more information on the charitable giving legislation and the Charitable IRA opportunity please call Bob Barrett, CFO, at 419-525-3020 or [bbarrett@rcfoundation.org](mailto:bbarrett@rcfoundation.org)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pat Addeo	*Mark Masters
Michael Bennett	Julie McCready
Glenna Cannon	Gunther Meisse
David Carto	Jason Murray
Michael Chambers	*John C. Roby
*Bruce Cummins	Chandler Stevens
*Beth DeLaney	Cathy Stimpert
Chriss Harris	Sam VanCura
Dr. Bruce Jackson	
Justin Marotta	*Denotes officers

## STAFF

Bradford Groves
President
Robert Barrett, C.P.A.
VP for Finance and Operations
Maura Teynor
Director of Donor Services & Communications
Allura Watson
Program Officer
Jaclyn Schag
Administrative Assistant



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

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



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)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
MANSFIELD, OH  
PERMIT NO. 193

The Women's Fund  
RICHLAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

## 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. An acknowledgement card will be mailed to the honoree(s) before Mother's Day if the gift is made by April 30.

To make a Mother's Day gift to go [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org) and click the donate now button or call 419-525-3020.



## Join Connections for a night on the town

The Connections Fund is hosting a Progressive Dinner with a Kentucky Derby theme in downtown Mansfield on Saturday, April 30. Attendees are encouraged to wear Kentucky Derby style hats and apparel.

Tickets are \$30 per Connections Fund member. If you are not a member yet and wish to join, visit [richlandcountyfoundation.org](http://richlandcountyfoundation.org) and click the donate now button.

Connections Fund Co-Chair Krista Schmidt, Heart of Ohio Boy Scouts of America Kim Messersmith, Connections Fund Co-Chair Carrie Fanello, Heart of Ohio Boy Scouts of America Amy Heller and United Way Executive Director and Heart of Ohio Boy Scouts of America board member Dan Varn accept a grant during the Connections Fund grant reception.

The Connections Fund of the Richland County Foundation announced its 2016 grant recipients during its annual reception. Five grants totaling more than \$6,000 were awarded to the following Richland County nonprofit organizations.

- Catalyst Life Services to purchase smoke and carbon monoxide alarms outfitted with strobe lights to help notify local deaf and or hard-of-hearing residents of an emergency in their homes.

## Connections Fund awards over \$6,000 in grants

- Ontario School District Substance Abuse Prevention program to purchase an iPad and digital camera. The equipment will be used for video production and social media communication.
- Heart of Ohio, Boy Scouts of America to fund an after-school scouting program at Woodland Elementary School and the Friendly House.
- United Way of Richland County to fund a program at Community Action for Capable Youth.
- Richland Community Development Group Beautification Sector to purchase flowers for downtown Mansfield planters.

The mission of the Connections Fund of the Richland County Foundation is to foster and retain leaders and professionals in Richland County and to promote a philanthropic identity and involvement in the community.