

## Arcanum Man Inspires Scholarship

The Mills family of Arcanum created a scholarship fund at the Darke County Foundation in loving memory of their son and brother, Joe, a 1995 Arcanum High School graduate who died in December 2014. The son of Mark and Sue Mills, Joe was diagnosed as an infant with an incurable progressive neuromuscular disease. He lived his entire life in a wheelchair and was totally dependent for all his physical needs but possessed a bright, academic mind. Joe inspired his family and community by obtaining a college degree and working as a software engineer at a large Dayton firm.

“Joe’s outstanding character, perseverance, compassion and witty sense of humor endeared him to everyone,” said Joe’s mom, Sue. “Education was a top priority for Joe, so we thought it would be a nice tribute to offer an annual scholarship to a graduating senior from Arcanum High School. Because Joe graduated from Wright State and was also a huge Ohio State fan, we prefer that the recipient attend one of those schools,” said Sue. Applications are available at [www.darkecountyfoundation.org](http://www.darkecountyfoundation.org) and due April 1, 2016.



*Joseph Mills*

## Family of Mike Beard Honors Legacy



*Mike Beard*

J. Michael “Mike” Beard was a long-time Greenville resident and employee of the Darke County Highway Dept. who passed away in September 2013. Mike left behind a rich legacy of devotion, honesty, and love, inspiring his family to create the J. Michael Beard Community Fund at the Darke County Foundation. The fund will provide annual grants to local non-profit organizations that support spiritual/church-related activities, outdoor recreation, and arts/cultural experiences.

“We wanted to create opportunities that foster curiosity, reverence and gratitude,” said Beard’s children. “Dad was so fond of being outdoors, particularly at county or state parks, where he enjoyed hiking, fishing from the family boat, and camping. Dad dedicated himself to his family, friends, and church, and he gave generously to those in need and to his community.”

The Darke County Foundation is pleased to help the Beard family carry on a legacy that will touch the lives of local residents for years to come.

## Versailles Masonic Lodge Starts Scholarship Fund

The Versailles Masonic Lodge is showing its support for Versailles High School students by establishing a permanent scholarship fund through the Darke County Foundation. The fund will provide two scholarships each year to graduating seniors from VHS.

“The Versailles Masonic Lodge has had a presence in Versailles for over 100 years,” said Dave Keiser, lodge member, “and our lodge wanted to carry on its tradition.”

“With a strong interest in education, the Masons thought it was fitting to start this scholarship fund,” added Keiser. “We wanted to support high-achieving students, and also students who work hard but may not have the highest grades.”

One scholarship is for students with a high school grade point average of 3.25-4.00, and another scholarship is for students with a grade point average of 2.75-3.24. Students in VHS class of 2016 are eligible to apply for the scholarships by April 1, 2016. Applications are available at [www.darkecountyfoundation.org](http://www.darkecountyfoundation.org).



*Members of Versailles Masonic Lodge present a check to the Darke County Foundation. Front (from left): Dave Keiser, Christy Praker (Foundation director), Mike Snyder, Mark Heft, Larry Reed. Back (from left): H.B. Hole, Bryan Grice, Brad Horsley, Michael Brown, Jim Kelch. Not shown: Dave Nixon, John Harman.*



*A student at the ACES program created this painting inspired by Van Gogh's "Starry Night."*

## Art Class Enhances School Experience

The ACES (Achievement Center for Educational Success) program in Greenville helps Darke County students graduate from high school by providing extra assistance in required classes. ACES' budget doesn't allow for art instruction, so the Ami McClurkin Community Fund of the Darke County Foundation provided the funds needed to hire an art teacher for two hours each week.

"Allowing the students to express themselves and realize the masterpieces they can create adds a sense of accomplishment that a math or language class cannot teach," said Jeff Vaughn, ACES director.



*Students from the ACES program participate in a weekly art class provided by a grant from the Ami McClurkin Community Fund.*

## Grants Enrich the Community



*Local non-profit organizations gathered to receive grants from the Darke County Foundation. Pictured are representatives from the Humane Society, Brethren Retirement Community, Community Unity, United Way, Worch Library, Arcanum H.S. Band, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Ansonia Methodist Church, Cancer Assoc., Darke County Center for the Arts, Grace Resurrection, Special Olympics and Tasks, Inc.*



**Ruth Elaine Furlong Fund.** Carolyn and Keith Furlong present a grant to the seniors of the Arcanum H.S. marching band.



*DCF's Christy Praker, left, receives a generous donation from Joy Greer of Second National Bank.*



**Ami McClurkin Community Fund.** Ami (left) and her parents, Verd and Gini Stuckey, present a grant to Ansonia Elem. music teacher, Leslie Rhoades, and students.



**England Travel Award.** Donor Alice K. Swinger stands with award recipient Lewis Kremer of Versailles.



**Nils and Collette Eikenberry Scholarship.** Eikenberry family presents scholarship to Greenville graduate. From left: Gretchen Eikenberry Davis, Ellie Light, Tara Guillozet (recipient), Chloe Light and Jenny Eikenberry.



**Richard Graeff Family Scholarship.** Recipient Collin Habel of Arcanum H.S. receives award from Marilyn Graeff.



**Lori Williams Scholarship.** Bruce and Mary Williams present check to Brooke Wehrkamp of Versailles.

## Find it on our Website!

[www.darkecountyfoundation.org](http://www.darkecountyfoundation.org)

Become a member of the Friends of the Foundation Fund! This fund strengthens the core of the Darke County Foundation and provides support for community grants and scholarships. Make an online donation at [www.darkecountyfoundation.org](http://www.darkecountyfoundation.org). See the complete list of Friends members in our next newsletter!

Apply for scholarships! Darke County students from the class of 2016 (plus current college students) can find scholarship information at [www.darkecountyfoundation.org](http://www.darkecountyfoundation.org). High school deadline is April 1, 2016.



**Sarah Whittaker Scholarship.** From left: Karen and Allen Whittaker, recipient Katelyn Goettemoeller of Versailles, parents Gary and Pam Goettemoeller.

## William Michael/Caleb Knick Fund Supports Special Olympics



Slammers basketball team and cheerleaders say 'Thank You' to the Darke County Foundation for its annual gift from the Michael/Knick Fund.



Darke County Special Olympics receives a grant from the Michael/Knick Fund of DCF. From left: Jamie Knick; Cindy Rose, Special Olympics coordinator; Caleb Knick, Special Olympics athlete; Susan Barker, DCF trustee.

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*Funds from the Greyson James Steyer Fund supported the Greenville Public Library's summer reading program. Above, musician Jim Gill gets the audience moving during his concert.*



*Over 400 people participated in the Foundation's annual SUNshine 5K in Greenville City Park. The event raised over \$12,000 and benefited six local non-profit organizations.*

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