

The Darke County Foundation is a community foundation dedicated to improving the lives of Darke County residents by receiving, managing and distributing charitable gifts.

Corporate Gift-Matching Multiplies Donation

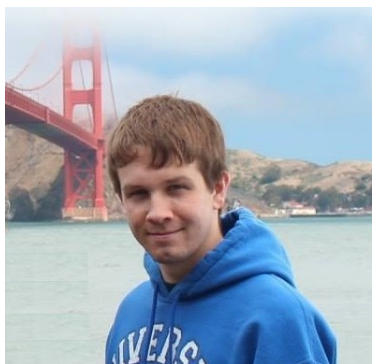
Versailles native Alex Cordonnier received a scholarship from the Darke County Foundation in 2013 and earned a degree in computer science from the University of Illinois in 2017. Armed with talent and motivation, the young professional moved to California to start a job in software engineering, launching a promising career with west-coast style.

Not one to forsake his roots, Alex expressed his allegiance to his home community by making a generous donation to the Darke County Foundation.

"I'm glad to be able to give back not only to my hometown but to all of Darke County," said Alex. "The community is incredibly

supportive, engaged, and passionate about helping people excel. There's no place quite like it."

Upon graduating from Versailles High School in 2013, Alex received a scholarship from the Darke County Engineering and Science Fund of the Darke County Foundation, established by Greenville residents Dennis and Shirla Neff. His gratitude in receiving the award prompted Alex to make a donation



Alex Cordonnier

to the same fund, a gesture the Neffs hoped would happen when they set up the scholarship in 2007. The Neffs wanted other donors to follow their lead and add to the fund that encourages Darke County students to pursue careers in engineering and science.

Another factor in Alex's decision was the gift-matching program his employer offered. The company contributed *two times* the amount its employee donated, effectively tripling the gift amount.

"When I found out about my company's charitable giving program, my first thought was the Darke County Foundation," said Alex. "I wanted to pay forward the scholarship that helped me to pursue my dream in order to give future students the opportunity to pursue theirs."

Continued on back page



Wilbur (Bud) and Alice Frantom

Former Franklin-Monroe Teacher Donates \$1 Million

Alice McKibben Frantom graduated from Ansonia High School in 1949 and Miami University in 1953. Alice taught at Franklin-Monroe schools for 25 years, where her husband, Wilbur (Bud) Frantom, also taught agriculture and served as principal. Alice and Bud earned a modest living and were careful stewards of their finances.

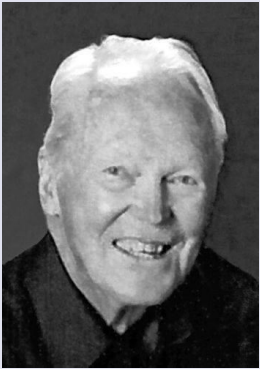
Having no children of their own, the couple dedicated themselves to helping others in the community. They provided generous financial assistance to college students in need and to families with large medical expenses. After retiring, the couple moved to Florida, where Bud died unexpectedly in 1996. Alice went on to volunteer for 25 years at Cape Coral Hospital in Florida, accumulating 10,000 hours of service. When Alice died in 2018, she left over \$1 million to the Darke County Foundation for scholarships to Darke County students.

The Frantoms' humble lifestyle, wise money management, and overflowing hearts are an inspiration to others wishing to enrich the Darke County community after they are gone.



Mike Thieme Leaves Generous Bequest

Long known in Darke County as a successful businessman and generous community leader, Walter (Mike) Thieme bequeathed over \$800,000 to the Darke County Foundation upon his death in September 2018. The fund, named after Mike and his wife, Jean Louise, who died in 2009, will provide community grants to local non-profit organizations. This is the second fund the Thiemes established at the Founda-



Walter (Mike) Thieme

tion; the first was the Jean Louise Thieme Children's Theatre Fund set up in 1987.

An Army officer, engineer and test pilot, Mike earned degrees from Montana State and Harvard University. He spent 40 years with Greenville-based American Aggregates and served on the boards of Wayne Hospital and Dayton Children's Hospital. Mike and Jean Louise contributed to many community improvement projects and were active at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville.

After retiring, Mike and Jean Louise lived part-time in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and were major supporters of Jackson Hole Center for the Arts. Among his many hobbies, Mike climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, four times between the ages of 71 and 80. He went around the rim to the highest point (19,341 feet) at age 74, making the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest climber to achieve the feat at that time.

Throughout his life, Mike reached great heights, but it is his generosity to his community that will be remembered through this community fund at the Darke County Foundation.



Rodney Oda (left) and Vern Rosenbeck, principal of St. Mary's Catholic School in Greenville.

Rodney Oda Provides Long-Term Support for St. Mary's Catholic School

St. Mary's Catholic School in Greenville has always held a special place in the heart of Greenville resident Rodney Oda. He attended the school in the 1960s and currently serves as chairman of the school's finance and operations committee. Oda says the school offers a strong academic and spiritual environment, and has a genuine commitment to the overall development of each student.

Because of his allegiance to the school, Oda established the Principal's Fund for St. Mary's School at the Darke County Foundation. Each year, investment income from the fund will provide a distribution to St. Mary's School for student tuition assistance or school needs. Oda's original gift amount is intended to remain intact.

St. Mary's School is one of over 500 non-profit organizations in Darke County. Most of these groups are eligible to receive grants from funds that donors set up at the Darke County Foundation. The fund can provide annual distributions to the organization, preserving the original gift amount, or it can distribute the entire gift amount over a shorter period. Either way, the donor receives a tax benefit for the charitable contribution to the Foundation.

For more information about starting a community fund, contact the Darke County Foundation at (937) 548-4673 or dcf@darkecountyfoundation.org.



Second National Bank provides ongoing support for local scholarships and community grants through the Darke County Foundation. Pictured (left to right): Christy Praker, executive director of the Foundation; Todd Durham, SNB vice president and trust officer; Antonia Baker, SNB assistant trust officer and financial advisor.



Pohl Transportation Starts Scholarship Fund

With an abundance of job opportunities in the transportation industry, Pohl Transportation in Versailles established a fund at the Darke County Foundation to encourage students to pursue transportation-related careers. The company hopes the scholarship will motivate graduates to bring their talent back home and work for local transportation businesses.

Brian Pohl, President of Pohl Transportation, said about the supply chain industry, "Transportation and logistics have become very technical, data-driven fields, and the 18-wheeled trucks one sees going down the road are computers with wheels. We need young people who enjoy studying logistics, computer science, and diesel mechanics to join the growing supply chain industry."

The 2018 scholarship recipients were Ryan Bruening, St. Henry, and Colleen Jutte, Minster, both studying supply chain management.

The Pohl Transportation Scholarship Fund was set up as an endowment, which means the gift amount is invested long-term, with annual scholarship payments coming from investment income. This method allows the principal gift to stay intact while awarding scholarships every year in perpetuity.

The annual scholarship is open to high school seniors or post-high school students studying logistics, supply chain management or diesel technology. Applicants may attend 4-year colleges, 2-year technical schools, or shorter certificate programs. Eligible counties include Darke, Mercer, Shelby, Miami and Auglaize.

Deadline to apply for the Pohl Transportation scholarship is March 31, 2019. Applications are available at www.darkecountyfoundation.org.



Ryan Bruening



Colleen Jutte

Foundation Awards over \$400,000 in Scholarships and Grants

Thanks to the generosity of our annual donors, plus income from over 90 established funds, the Darke County Foundation awarded over \$400,000 in 2018. Scholarships worth \$147,000 went to 95 local students. Community grants totaling \$265,000 were awarded to 97 non-profit organizations that provide valuable programs and services to our community. The following funds provided the grant awards:

Scholarship Funds:

Ansonia Area Jaycees Fund
Velma and Merlin Applegate Fund
Pauline Winbigler Bales Fund
Tim Best /Ronnie Kreitzer Fund
Irene Bolen Fund
Robert and Iris Bolen Fund
Harold and Betty Brewer Fund
Joyce Bruns Nursing Fund
Darke Co. Engineering/Science Fund
Brian and Regina Delk Fund
Millie Kiger Dunaway Fund
Nils and Collette Eikenberry Fund
Howard and Eva Fisher Fund
Kenneth and Virginia Flory Fund
Galen and Blanche Fourman Fund
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Kenneth J. Gibboney Fund
Richard Graeff Family Fund
Greenville National Bank Fund
Jeanie and Jeff Hawley Fund
Eleanor J. Hughes Fund
Ami McClurkin Fund
Joseph R. Mills Fund
Fred Miltenburger Fund
Virginia Nischwitz Fund
Susan North Art Fund
North Deaneries Seminarian Fund
Norton Family 4-H Fund
James B. Phelan Fund
Pohl Transportation Fund
Road Less Traveled Fund
JC & Alice Schafer Fund
Schipfer Family Fund
Lois E. Snyder Fund
John E. and Ella M. Stevenson Fund
Edwin, Mac & Marguerite Stoltz Fund
Steven Stucke Fund
Jan and Jim Thomas Fund
Ira J. Troutwine Fund
J. Howard Trump Art Fund
Versailles Masonic Lodge Fund
Paul C. and Helen D. Warner Fund
Sarah Whittaker Fund
Lori Michelle Williams Fund
Matt Wuebker Fund
Ryan Wulber Fund

Community Funds:

Elaine Bailey Memorial Fund
J. Michael Beard Community Fund
Harold & Betty Brewer Fund for
Darke Co. Humane Society
Harold & Betty Brewer Fund for
Wayne HealthCare
Michael Crawford Teacher Mentor
Darke County Special Olympics Fund
Darke County United Way Fund
DeColores Montessori School Fund
Zachary Garbig Fund
Tom and Julie Graber Fund
Ruth Elaine Furlong Fund
Grace Resurrection Community
Center Fund
Helen Hawkey Music Project
Hope Chest General Fund
Jan Johns Memorial Fund
Jetter Family Fund
Kremer Family Farms Fund
Low Vision Support for FAME
Ami McClurkin Community Fund
William Michael & Caleb Knick Fund
John & Miriam Knick Fund for
Darke County Center for the Arts
John & Miriam Knick Fund for
Darke County Historical Society
Neff Fund for Darke County YMCA
Oliver Family Fund
Partnering for Progress Fund
Will Robertson Fund
Greyson James Steyer Fund
Alice K. Swinger Travel Fund
Jean Louise Thieme Theatre Fund
Dr. Marlin Thompson Fund
Ella VanDyke/St. Clair Home
Fund for BRC
Beth Warner Fund for Darke County
Humane Society



Thank You, 2018 Donors to the Darke County Foundation

The Darke County Foundation expresses its deepest gratitude to the following donors who made gifts during 2018. You may have made a donation to our Friends of the Foundation Fund or to one of our 91 scholarship funds or community funds that assist non-profit organizations in our area. Perhaps you made a memorial gift in honor of a loved one. Because of your generosity, the Foundation is enriching our community through education, the arts, social service, community projects, animal welfare and more.

John and Tara Adams
Bill and Barbara Ahrens
R.J. and Nita Allread
Doug and Kim Amspaugh
Steve and Julie Amspaugh
Matt and Angie Arnold
Jim and Liz Atchley
Edward and Gloria Ault
Dennis and Cathy Baker
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Ted and Jennie Baltes
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Jerry and Diane Barga
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Ron and Jessica Barga

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Derek Broering
Tom and Suzie Brown
Vanis L. Brumbaugh
Bruns Animal Clinic
Laverne and Catherine Brunswick
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Donald and Lucille Hosfeld
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Steve Kerns and Karen Funk
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Joe and Betty Mescher
Jeffrey Mills
Sue Mills
MJS Plastics
Montage Cafe
John and Fran Montgomery
Mote & Associates
Kent and Melinda Myers
Roger Myers
Matt and Meghann Naveau
Denny and Shirla Neff
Linda K. Newbauer
Herb and Ginny Nieport
Rodney Oda
George and Kathy O'Dell



The Darke County Foundation awarded a grant to the Anna Bier Gallery for the Elementary Art Exhibit that featured artwork from Darke County students.

Barga Farms, Inc.
Jeff and Susan Barker
Clyde and Chris Bateman
Ty and Bill Baumann
Jeni Berger
Brian and Lisa Bergman
Kurt and Jamie Bergman
Fred and Joice Bernhard
Dave and Cyndi Bey
Tom and Marilyn Blakeley
Leo T. and Hazel Blanchard
Nancy Bohman
Ron and Mary Bonfiglio
Tim and Sandy Booher
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Rick and Julia Bowlin
Eric and Tanya Brand
Randy Breaden

Aliana Clymer
Bill and Judy Collins
Alex Cordonnier
Ryan and Chrissy Cox
Stan and Carol Cox
Ed and Kay Curry
Catherine Custenborder
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Todd and Elizabeth Dammeyer
Darke Co. Council for Nursing Ed.
John and Marty Davis
Bob and Nancy Dean
Tonya Deeter
Dave and Barb Dent
Diane Evans Insurance
Dick Lavy Trucking
Rick and Lisa Diemler



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Kent and Melinda Myers
Roger Myers
Matt and Meghann Naveau
Denny and Shirla Neff
Linda K. Newbauer
Herb and Ginny Nieport
Rodney Oda



Volunteers deliver groceries to the food pantry at Grace Resurrection Community Center, which receives an annual distribution from the Darke County Foundation.

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Dr. Craig and Susie Leland
Ken and Deb Liette
Tom and Sharon Link
Steve and Eileen Litchfield
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Premier Health
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Ramco Electric Motors
Keith and Jennifer Rawlins
Michael and Kathy Re
Rebsco, Inc.



The Harold and Betty Brewer Fund of the Darke County Foundation provided a grant to the Darke County Humane Society to help complete a building expansion to care for more animals. Left to right: Brie McCown, Dustin Wills and Megan Wills of the Humane Society.

Donors Give to Existing Funds

The Darke County Foundation assists donors in setting up funds for causes they believe in, such as scholarships for Darke County students or grants for non-profit organizations. Once a fund is established, any donor may make contributions, small or large, to that fund. Some funds at the Darke County Foundation receive additional donations every year, building the investment balance and generating a greater distribution for a common cause. The following funds recently received significant donations on top of the original gift:

- Faith + Justice Initiative
- Velma and Merlin Applegate Scholarship for Ansonia High School
- Neff Family Fund for Darke County YMCA
- Jan and Jim Thomas Scholarship for Greenville High School
- North Deaneries Seminarian Scholarship
- Steven Stucke Scholarship for Versailles High School



The Jetter Family Fund supported the construction of the new Marling Band Shell in Greenville City Park. Pictured (left to right): Wes and Patti Jetter; Christy Prakel, DCF; J.R. Price and Brian McKibben, directors of Greenville Municipal Band.

Community Leaders Join Foundation Board

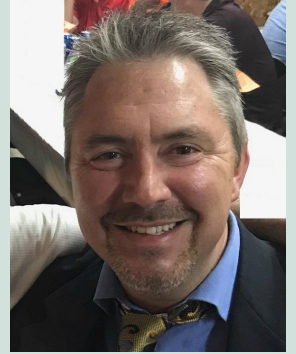
The Darke County Foundation Board of Trustees welcomes Diane Evans as a new member. Diane recently retired after owning a local business for 38 years. Community involvement has always been a priority for Diane. Over the years, her leadership roles have included Darke County Chamber Ambassador, President of the Chamber of Commerce board of directors, State of the Heart Hospice board, and Garst Museum board. Diane has also been on the planning committee for the Garst Gala and Gathering at Garst, and she is a long-time supporter of the Darke County 4-H Junior Fair. Diane resides in Greenville and enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.



Diane Evans

Keith Rawlins has served the community through his love of the arts, including 14 years as Artistic Director for Darke County Center for the Arts. He was on the board of the Ohio Arts Professionals Network and is a past president of that organization. Keith developed a passion for the arts

at a young age through dance lessons, instrument lessons and his lifelong involvement in musical theater. He received his music degree from the University of Dayton with a vocal primary. Keith was recently honored as a nominee for the 2019 Ohio Governor's Award for the Arts. He and his wife Jennifer live in Versailles and have 3 children.



Keith Rawlins



**Darke County
Foundation
Sunshine 5K**
Sat., Sept. 14, 2019
Benefiting Local
Non-profit Organizations

Register at
www.darkecountyfoundation.org



Greenville National Bank donated to the Darke County Foundation in support of its scholarship and community grant programs. Pictured (left to right): Kent James, president and CEO of GNB and trustee of the Darke County Foundation; Christy Praker, executive director of the Darke County Foundation.



Men and women from the north deaneries of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati who are studying for religious vocations received scholarships from the Darke County Foundation. Seated center are the fund's founders, Melvin and Mary Ann Stucke of Versailles.



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(Gift-matching cont. from p. 1)

Corporate gift-matching has become common among large companies, inspiring employees (and often retirees) to support a wide array of charitable causes and non-profit organizations like the Darke County Foundation. Employees and retirees should check with their company's human resources department about gift-matching opportunities.

Awarding scholarships to students like Alex has been a function of the Darke County Foundation since 1986. Receiving gifts back from these recipients – and their employers – reinforces the long-term mission of the Foundation to enrich the lives of Darke County residents through donations from generous individuals who once were enriched themselves.



The Ruth Elaine Furlong Fund awarded a grant to the Arcanum High School Band. Pictured left to right: director Heather Marsh, Elora Sudduth, Sydney Brumbaugh, Abigail Garrison, and Paul Rammel.

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