

FOUNDATION CONNECTION



IMPORTANT UPDATES & DEADLINES



- **Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** Jan. 15
- **Scholarship and FAFSA Night:** Jan. 18, 5-7 p.m. at the Main Library, 219 N. Broad St., Lancaster
- **Cycle 1 Grant Application Due:** Feb. 12
- **Preliminary Scholarship Application Deadline:** Feb. 16
- **Women's Giving Circle:** Feb. 21, 5-7 p.m. at Outerbelt Brewing, 3560 Dolson Ct., Carroll
- **Scholarship Application Deadline:** Mar. 8

FUND SPOTLIGHT



Chase Haley Project Fund

The Chase Haley Project Fund was started by Chase's mother, Sarah Haley. The cheerful guy in the photos is Chase, who was born in June of 2001 and tragically took his own life on September 10, 2022.

Chase was a highly successful and goal-oriented individual. He was well-liked, had numerous friends and girlfriends, played sports, and always held a job. His constant happiness was evident, and he went out of his way to bring joy to others.



When he decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology at OU, it seemed like a natural choice. Chase had a genuine desire to help people, a sentiment he expressed often. Three months shy of graduation, something went terribly wrong. To this day, his parents are without answers.

What his parents have learned in the last year is that they are not alone in this heartbreaking situation. Importantly, Chase is not the only one who has felt trapped and saw no way out. Sarah noticed a lack of focus on prevention in the aftermath of suicides. She felt called to take initiative to do better. She has since committed to doing everything she can to spare another parent the unbearable pain they suffered and prevent others, like Chase, from experiencing the pain he concealed.

In the first year of the Chase Haley Project Fund, the focus will be on achieving two of many goals: providing education for suicide prevention and creating a support group for those navigating the grief of being a survivor of suicide loss. All funds given to this project will go directly back to the community to support initiatives related to promoting mental wellness and create opportunities for those grieving to gather for support.

In Chase's final message to his parents, he apologized, stating that this was the only time he ever made a selfish decision, emphasizing his desire to help. That sentiment is entirely accurate. Sarah simply wants to continue what he started and prevent this tragedy from befalling another family. Let's Chase Life Together!





GRANT SPOTLIGHT



Foundation Provides \$50,000 in Grants to Local Food Pantries

The Fairfield County Foundation is pleased to announce that we were able to provide grants totaling \$50,000 to 15 local food pantries in advance of the holiday season.

“The Fairfield County Foundation is proud to support the critical work of our local food pantries. They are a vital resource for individuals and families across our community, providing essential support and connection during what can be a difficult time for many,” said Amy Eymann, CEO of the Fairfield County Foundation. “Thanks to the generosity and support of our community, we were once again able to make this donation using proceeds from our annual 250 Plates Community Meal, which had 320 attendees this year.”



Donations were distributed to the following food pantries:

- Baltimore Food Pantry
- Bremen Food Pantry
- Canal Winchester Human Services
- Connexion West (Victory Center Food Pantry)
- First United Methodist/Community Kitchen
- Foundation Dinners
- Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency Food Pantry
- Lancaster Vineyard Food Pantry
- Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry
- Maywood Mission
- Pickerington Food Pantry
- Rushville Community Food Pantry
- Salvation Army
- Shalom UMC Pantry Mission/Bloom Carroll



Youth Advisory Committee Grant Application is Now Open

The 2023-2024 Youth Advisory Committee is now accepting grant applications for the 2024 year!

The current committee met twice in 2023, with 21 students participating from schools throughout the county. During these two meetings, the Foundation staff discussed the purpose of a community foundation, how they operate and how they support nonprofits in the area through grants. The committee has also heard from leaders at the Ohio Glass Museum and the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, who graciously hosted meetings in their space. During our next two meetings, students will hear from the Pickerington Public Library and the YMCA of Lancaster and Fairfield County about ways their nonprofit organizations serve our community and how youth can get involved.

This grant cycle will provide hands-on experience to educate committee members about how grants are collected, evaluated, and funded. Any nonprofit serving Fairfield County with a youth-related project can apply for up to \$2,000 through this committee. The deadline to submit applications is January 31.

Please visit our [website](#) for more details and to access the online application. If you have further questions, contact Program Officer Andrea Spires at aspires@fairfieldcountyfoundation.org or 740-654-8451.



SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE



NEW 2024-2025 FAFSA Form is Now Available

A Better 2024-25 FAFSA Form

The FAFSA form is available for short periods of time while we monitor site performance and update the form to provide you with a better experience. Learn more about the 2024-25 FAFSA form.

2024-25 FAFSA® Form

Start New Form

Access Existing Form



The FAFSA for 2024-2025 is now open! Completion of the FAFSA form is required for all Fairfield County Foundation scholarship applications. You can complete the FAFSA form at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa>.

Once the FAFSA is completed, you may submit your scholarship application by Friday, February 16 for the optional preliminary review. The Foundation staff will review your application for completeness and email you with any issues by March 1. This will allow applicants to correct any problems before the final deadline on Friday, March 8. You will not receive an email if everything is filled out correctly.

You may submit your application without the third-party documents (transcripts or letters of reference). High school counselors are asked to wait until after the first semester grades are posted to submit

transcripts for graduating high school seniors. If you have changes to your information (i.e. school, major or other scholarships received) after you submit the application, you can email us directly and we will update that information for you.

If there are any questions about completing the FAFSA or the scholarship application, please contact Andrea Spires, Program Officer, at aspires@fairfieldcountyfoundation.org or 740-654-8451.

GET TO KNOW OUR BOARD



Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

The Fairfield County Foundation is pleased to welcome three new members to the Board of Trustees: Martin Barker, Cheri Russo and Jennifer Sitterley. This month, we are excited to share a little information about Cheri Russo.

Cheri Russo is a proud Ohio University alumna, where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism. She started her career as a journalist, serving as a reporter, producer and digital content manager, then transitioned to more of a communications and marketing role at Ohio University Lancaster and then The Ohio State University. She found her way back to WOUB Public Media at Ohio University in 2019, where she currently serves as the community engagement and membership manager. A Lancaster resident for 20 years, Cheri is married to Tom Russo and has two sons, Ryan (18) and Alex (14).



FUNDS



DONATE



GRANTS



SCHOLARSHIPS



**FAIRFIELD COUNTY
FOUNDATION**

Building a Legacy in Our Community

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Fairfield County Foundation
162 East Main Street, Lancaster, OH 43130
PHONE: 740.654.8451
FAX: 740.654.3971

STAFF:

[Amy Eyman](#), Chief Executive Officer
[Kerry Sheets](#), Financial Officer
[Abby King](#), Senior Program Officer
[Andrea Spires](#), Program Officer
[Sarah Stoughton](#), Donor Services Officer



[Stephanie Herman](#), Administrative Assistant

Click on staff member's name to send an email.

Fairfield County Foundation | 162 East Main Street, Lancaster, OH 43130

[Unsubscribe angela@krilecommunications.com](mailto:angela@krilecommunications.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by yaeyman@fairfieldcountyfoundation.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!