

FOUNDATION CONNECTION



IMPORTANT UPDATES & DEADLINES



- Youth Advisory Committee Grants Due: January 31, 2022
- Scholarship Preliminary Review Deadline: February 21, 2022
- Women's Giving Circle Meeting: February 23, 2022
- Scholarship Application Deadline: March 11, 2022

GET TO KNOW OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Fairfield County Foundation Welcomes New Board Member, Announces New Officers

The Fairfield County Foundation has recently welcomed Debra Smith to its Board of Trustees and announced new officers for 2022.

"The Foundation is excited to welcome Debra to our Board of Trustees," said Amy Eyman, Executive Director of the Fairfield County Foundation. "She brings a wealth of unique experience to our Board and we're looking forward to her contributions to our Foundation and our community."



Debra Smith has earned multiple degrees over the years, including a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Ohio University, a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of Minnesota, and Master of Arts in Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Debra retired from Ohio University Lancaster Campus (OU-L) in 2013, where she served as the Assistant

Professor of Health Technology for five years. After retiring, she continued to serve at OU-L for another four years as an Adjunct Instructor with responsibility for curriculum development and teaching Health and Aging, Consumer Health, Stress and Tension, and Women and Health courses. Prior to working at OU-L, Debra was a physical therapist at AlternaCare Home Health Agency; served in multiple faculty roles as well as CIO for Ohio State University Newark Campus and Central Ohio Technical College; and worked as a physical therapist and lecturer on

rehabilitation at a number of healthcare facilities and clinics. Debra is a strong supporter of the local community, serving on the Sharing Hope Leadership Team, Recovery Center Board of Directors (Chair), Fairfield Medical Center Board of Directors (past member and chair) and as an instructor for Bridges Out of Poverty.

"I am honored to be able to serve on the board of such an integral part of our community," said Debra Smith. "The Fairfield County Foundation allows donors to create and support legacies of intentional giving that make this a better place for all."

In addition to approving Debra Smith as a new member, the Board of Trustees also elected new officers during the November 18, 2021 meeting:

- Aundrea Cordle, Chair
- Mike Lieber, Vice Chair
- Woodson Winfree, Treasurer
- Eileen Competti, Secretary
- Molly Bates, Past Chair

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE



Scholarship Preliminary Review Opportunity

The Fairfield County Foundation is offering a preliminary review of your general scholarship application. What does that mean? If your application is fully submitted by Monday, February 21, we will review your application for completeness.

A staff member will contact you at the email address you use to log on with to let you know of any issues by March 1st. You will have the opportunity to make any needed corrections before the final deadline on Friday, March 11. Taking advantage of this opportunity does not increase your chances of receiving a scholarship, but provides an opportunity for mistakes to be corrected before the deadline and decreases the possibility of your application being ineligible.

What types of mistakes would make your application ineligible?

- If your application does not have an OFFICIAL transcript, it will be marked ineligible. High school students need to confirm that their counselors upload their transcript before the deadline.
- If your application does not include the first page of your SAR that shows your EFC (obtained from completing the FAFSA) for the 2022-2023 year, it will be marked ineligible.

We are often asked, "Without letters of recommendation, how do I make my application stand out?" Here are a few tips on what to include in your personal statement that will help reviewers see the whole picture:

- Give personal insight as to why you have chosen your school and/or field of study. Do you have a passion, focus or personal story that makes this path your destiny?
- Address any extenuating circumstances that will make financing your education difficult. Sometimes, the numbers don't tell the full story. Use your personal statement to elaborate on your situation.
- Focus on quality more than quantity in your writing. Expand beyond including your hopes to find gainful employment and become a productive member of society. Tell us more about your unique story.
- Lastly, have someone proofread your work! Sometimes, the meaning can be lost if the thoughts are jumbled or the grammar is incorrect.

You can find example documents and tips in the [FAQs section](#) of our website.

GRANTS UPDATE



Youth Advisory Committee Grant Application is Now Open!

The 2021-2022 Youth Advisory Committee is now accepting grant applications for the 2022 year! The current committee has met twice, with over 20 students participating from schools throughout the county. During these two meetings the Foundation staff has 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 Connexion West and AHA! Children's Museum, who have graciously hosted meetings at their space.

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, 2022. Please visit our website for more details and access to the [online application](#).

If you have further questions, contact Program Officer, Abby King at aking@fairfieldcountyfoundation.org or 740-654-8451.



FUND SPOTLIGHT



Young Professionals of Lancaster Community Fund



The Young Professionals of Lancaster organization strives to aid this generation in developing a sense of ownership in Lancaster and Fairfield County. The organization was founded in 2011 as a subsidiary of the Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce. Since that time, the group has evolved and grown in many ways with a focus on the following:

1. Learning and development seminars
2. Special speakers from our community
3. Providing networking and volunteer events

The current steering committee felt it was important to develop a way to give back in a monetary way to endeavors in our community, and the Foundation was the natural choice for bringing that vision to reality. Therefore, the Young Professionals Community Fund was born in 2021. By donating to this fund you are not only investing dollars in your community, but simultaneously inspiring younger generations to get involved in projects where they can make a difference.

The purpose of this fund will allow the Young Professionals of Lancaster to provide support and monetary assistance to various community endeavors as the Board sees fit, and to allow for the next generation of givers to learn the importance of investing time and dollars into the place they call "home." As new generations rise up and become active in the community, the hope is this fund will grow and be a resource used to make an impact in Fairfield County. Generations change, needs

change, and passions evolve, but with your help we can set up the future young professionals to take up the torch and shine in their own unique way in and around the Fairfield County community.



OUR MISSION...

Building a legacy through philanthropy and stewardship to strengthen our community.

Since 1989, the Fairfield County Foundation has helped donors create lasting charitable legacies that carry on their names, their values and their priorities. Within the Foundation are more than 390 individual charitable funds, each created by donors to address those local causes they are most passionate about. Today, Foundation grants support the arts, children's programs, health and wellness projects, community development, academics and much more. From scholarships for deserving Fairfield County youth and equipment to keep people fit and healthy, to improvements to green spaces throughout our county and grants to feed the hungry, the Fairfield County Foundation touches every member of our community in some way.

SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP »



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](#), Executive Director
[Kerry Sheets](#), Financial Officer
[Abby King](#), Program Officer
[Sarah Stoughton](#), Donor Services Officer
[Stephanie Herman](#), Administrative Assistant

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