

FOUNDATION CONNECTION



IMPORTANT UPDATES & DEADLINES



- **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

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE



Guidance for Scholarship Application Completion Amidst FAFSA Challenges

The FAFSA form underwent significant changes this year, causing challenges for users across the country. Completion of the FAFSA is required for the Foundation's scholarship application and with our deadline of March 8 fast approaching, we wanted to share some guidance on the expectations for our application and the steps we've taken to eliminate as many barriers as possible.

We are aware that some of you have not received an **Estimated SAI** after submitting your FAFSA. At this time, we are encouraging you to be patient and focus on other areas of your application. If you still have not received your SAI by the end of February, please contact Andrea, Program Officer, at: aspires@fairfieldcountyfoundation.org.

If you have received an Estimated SAI, please save that as a pdf and upload to your application. If for some reason your SAI changes after submitting the scholarship application, you can [email Andrea](#) with the changes.

Please know we are keeping up to date with everything going on with the FAFSA to ensure you have the ability to submit your application for our scholarships on or before March 8.

Because our preliminary deadline is coming up on February 16, we are asking that those applicants who have all parts of their application complete *except* for the FAFSA information to fill out this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnplGHhHo85B4-VKTKl-CSMJePixXeeK0SSko1igJlQGviag/viewform?usp=sf_link and upload a screenshot to your application showing that your FAFSA is pending.

If you have questions, please [email Andrea](#).

GRANT SPOTLIGHT



Grant Allows Foundation Shelters to Serve More Individuals this Winter

In 2023, Foundation Shelters was awarded a grant from the Richard L. Roundhouse Fund to help complete much needed facility updates to support its increasing demand. As one of only two emergency shelters in Fairfield County, Foundation Shelters provides a basic need for some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. The organization strives to provide a dignified and comfortable place for these individuals to lay their heads and begin their journey towards a positive life. The grant provided funds to purchase new bunks



and lockers, repair a portion of ineffective perimeter fence, install an awning over the women's area of the shelter, and provide six security cameras and monitors. These items will greatly improve both the shelter environment and the safety of all visitors.

“Thanks to the additional bunks and lockers, we did not have to turn anyone away in the very recent severe weather,” said Jerry Waits, Executive Director of Foundation Shelters. “The additional beds have allowed us to increase the maximum number of homeless we can accommodate. There have been nights when there would not have been enough bunks without this provision.”



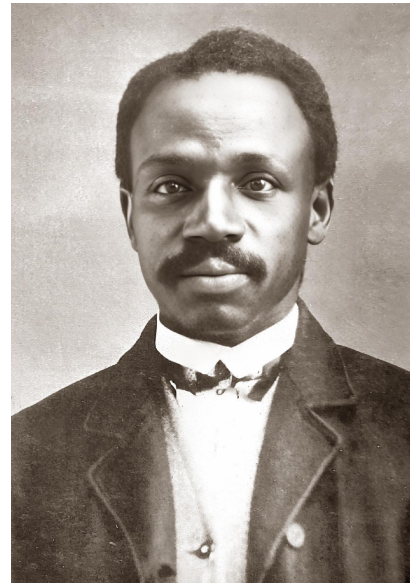
FUND SPOTLIGHT



Fund Created to Build Statue of Lancaster's First Black Businessman

The Scipio Smith Statue Fund is a project being spearheaded by the Fairfield County Heritage Association to celebrate Scipio Smith, the first black businessman in Lancaster, Ohio.

Born a slave in 1796 in Virginia, Scipio was brought to Lancaster in 1810 and received his freedom on May 29, 1810. He founded the A.M.E. Church (now known as the Allen Chapel) in 1825 and became its first preacher. The church provided worship and education services to the black citizens who were not allowed to attend white churches or schools. Beyond his services at the church, Scipio would take people who had nowhere else to go into his home. Scipio was known for his kindness to all and his booming voice, which he used when singing at the church.



In 1827, Scipio Smith opened his own tinsmith shop in downtown Lancaster, making him the first black businessman in the city. He learned this trade from Samuel Effinger, a prominent Lancaster resident.

Scipio had a wooden leg due to an injury suffered in his childhood and proudly stood at 6'4" tall at a time when very few people reached 6'.

The Scipio Smith Statue Fund is accepting donations to fund a Scipio

of the Year by the Rotary Club of Lancaster, where he is a long-time member. Martin currently serves on the Lancaster Festival Board and the United Way 5k Organizing Board. He has previously served on the New Horizons Mental Health Services Board, Frontier Players Board, Fairfield Medical Center Community Advisory Board, the Fairfield Affordable Housing Board and the Rotary Club of Lancaster Board. Martin is married to Juliana and has two grown children, Meg and Erin.



A lifelong Fairfield County resident, **Jennifer Sitterley** graduated from Fairfield Union High School and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration – finance from The Ohio State University in 2002. She received her Master of Business Administration in 2006 and completed her Juris Doctorate at the University of Akron C. Blake McDowell School of Law in 2009.

In 2018, Jennifer became one of only 38 Certified Elder Law Attorneys in Ohio and one of only 26 Specialists in Elder Law by the Ohio State Bar Association. Jennifer was named 2022, 2023 and 2024 Best Lawyer in America in Trusts, Estates and Elder Law. Jennifer served as an at-large Lancaster City Council member, is past president of the Fairfield County United Way, and former secretary of the Fairfield County Republican Executive Committee. She also serves as a trustee for Meals on Wheels of Fairfield County, is a member of the Small Business Committee of the Ohio Chamber, a member of the Lancaster Rotary and past president of the AHA Children's Museum in Lancaster. Jennifer is married to Brad Hutchinson, and they reside in Lancaster with two daughters.



FUNDS



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GRANTS



SCHOLARSHIPS



**FAIRFIELD COUNTY
FOUNDATION**

Building a Legacy in Our Community

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