



Connecting People Who Care With Causes That Matter

For Immediate Release

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Sandusky County Communities Foundation Celebrates Philanthropy and Community Impact at Annual Event

Fremont- Sandusky County – The Sandusky County Communities Foundation (SCCF) hosted its annual Celebration of Philanthropy on Wednesday, October 15, at The Neeley Center at Terra State Community College. The evening brought together community members, fundholders, and nonprofit leaders to celebrate generosity in action and the organizations making a difference throughout Sandusky County.

Under the theme “Connecting People Who Care with Causes That Matter,” guests reflected on a year of remarkable growth, inspiring partnerships, and meaningful impact. The Foundation highlighted \$82,850.42 in community grants awarded in 2025, bringing the total distributed since 2009 to more than \$1.23 million.

An Evening of Connection and Celebration

The event began with networking and warm conversation, followed by opening remarks from Board Chair Aaron Wilson who kicked the night off with a toast to generosity. Followed by a “Year in Review” presentation by Executive Director Andrea Gibson, who reflected on the Foundation’s growing impact, community collaborations, and shared vision for the future.

The invocation was led by SCCF’s Youth Division: Building Community Together (BCT) member Luke Jenkins. Following dinner the program transitioned to a powerful presentation from Aidan Autullo, Chair of BCT, Vice Chair Hunter Pollock, and Drew Pearson, BCT Grant Master. They shared history and information about BCT and grants that were provided throughout the year. They also had the honor of presenting Fremont City Schools \$1,500 for art panels to be used throughout the district and for a new Art Showcase event. Student Eleanor Boroff wrote the grant and was there to receive the award along with Art Director Bradley Scherzer and Superintendent Denice Hirt.

Grant and Scholarship Committee Chair Denice Hirt and Wilson then took the stage to present the 2025 Community Grant Awards, recognizing 17 nonprofit organizations and public entities whose work continues to strengthen Sandusky County.



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The evening also featured a special check presentation by “Big Nut and First Lady” Jon and Terese Peters, who shared a \$10,000 gift to the Foundation on behalf of Beck Suppliers/Friendship Kitchen for the Big Nut – Jon Paul and Terese Marie Peters Scholarship Fund of the Sandusky County Communities Foundation. The heartfelt presentation embodied the evening’s spirit of giving and community pride.

The event concluded with closing remarks and group photos led by Gibson, who reminded guests that philanthropy is not defined by the size of a gift but by the intention behind it, an act of love and belief in a brighter future for Sandusky County.

2025 Community Grant Recipients and Projects

The Sandusky County Communities Foundation proudly awarded a total of \$82,850.42 in grants to the following organizations and projects:

Anthony's Villa – Mind Matters: School-Based Support for Students (\$3,100.00)

Bellevue Soccer Club – Youth Soccer Goals (\$6,419.98)

Connections & Hope of Northwest Ohio – Supporting Supervised Visits with Essential Tools (\$4,418.06)

Friends of the Chippewa School – Tuck-Pointing Project (\$10,000.00)

Goodwill Erie, Huron, Ottawa & Sandusky Counties – Program Development, ERN, and CHW Supervisor (\$6,000.00)

Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) – Silver Cycles (\$2,590.50)

Hayes Ohio Star Quilters' Guild – KwiLts 4 Kids (\$500.00)

Justice for Migrant Women – J4MW's Free Farmers Market (\$3,600.00)

Lindsey Firefighters Association – From Prevention to Response: Empowering Residents with Lifesaving Resources (\$3,539.95)

Lindsey Tree and Beautification Commission (Village of Lindsey) – Remove and Replace Diseased Trees (\$7,583.38)

Madison Township Gibsonburg Volunteer Fire Department – Off-Road Rescue Vehicle (\$5,378.02)

Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums – Purchase of AEDs for Site (\$7,070.53)

Sandco Industries – Awning Replacements (\$2,740.00)

Sandusky County Family & Children First Council – Wraparound Program (\$9,680.00)

Sandusky County Habitat for Humanity – Safety Upgrades through Tools and Equipment Improvements (\$2,000.00)

Sandusky Township Fire Department – Automated External Defibrillator (AED) (\$3,900.00)

Village of Green Springs – Tennis & Pickleball Courts (\$4,330.00)

Inspiring Words from the Foundation

“Tonight reminds us that philanthropy isn’t about writing checks, it’s about writing a better story for our community,” said Andrea Gibson, Executive Director. “Every organization recognized tonight represents hope, collaboration, and the belief that when we invest locally, we build a stronger Sandusky County for everyone.”

“Our grant recipients embody what it means to serve with heart,” added Aaron Wilson, Board Chair. “The Foundation is proud to connect people who care with causes that matter—and together, we’re seeing that generosity truly changes lives.”



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About the Sandusky County Communities Foundation: The Sandusky County Communities Foundation was established in 1998 to enhance the well-being of the people and communities of Sandusky County by managing permanent investments for philanthropic goals. The Foundation provides an efficient, effective structure for linking charitable interests with important programs and services and offers several options through which gifts can be made to benefit Sandusky County communities and organizations. Since 2009 more than \$1.238M has also been awarded to non-profit organizations through the Community Grant Program. To learn more, or to donate, visit our website at www.sanduskyccf.org or contact Andrea Gibson at 419-334-6299 or director@sanduskyccf.org

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