



Sandusky County
COMMUNITIES
FOUNDATION
Established in 1998

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



■ MESSAGE

FROM BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024, we are proud of the incredible progress made by the Sandusky County Communities Foundation and grateful for the continued generosity of our community. The Foundation Board of Trustees, staff, and community advisors kicked off the year with the creation of a new strategic plan for 2024-2026, aiming to double our asset size.

This year saw remarkable growth in both our assets and our ability to serve. Our assets grew from \$7.4 million to \$9 million, and we added 6 new funds, bringing our total to 44. The year was also one of collaboration and learning for our nonprofit partners. Through our Nonprofit Collaborative, we hosted meaningful roundtable discussions, educational events, and a board and volunteer fair. These initiatives fostered deeper connections within our community, helping nonprofits build capacity, share resources, and address challenges together.

The Foundation changed office locations to the county office building providing space for future growth. In October, we combined our annual Fund Holder update with our grant awards to create a Celebration of Philanthropy. This allowed the Foundation to better connect the people who care, like our fund holders, to causes that matter, like our local nonprofit organizations. In an exciting partnership, SCCF has teamed up with Chateau Winery & Vineyard to introduce "Foundation Red," a special wine that embodies the spirit of giving back. This collaboration is a unique opportunity for supporters to enjoy a local product while contributing to the betterment of Sandusky County.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are committed to building on these successes, expanding our educational offerings for nonprofits, and continuing to grow our planned giving program.

We remain dedicated to fostering philanthropy that transforms lives and enriches the future of Sandusky County. With your support, we are confident that we will continue to make a lasting impact, growing stronger as a community. Thank you for believing in our mission and for being a part of our shared journey.

Sincerely,

Andrea J. Gibson
Executive Director

Angie Morelock
2024 Board Chair

■ BY THE NUMBERS

6

new funds were added,
bringing the total
number of funds to 44



\$8,933,203.97
market value of all funds

28

nonprofit site visits in 2024



\$704,541.82
board approved grant &
scholarship distributions

178

number of grant and
scholarship awards



\$5,234,945.77
invested back into our communities
made possible by our generous donors
(since the inception of SCCF)

23

youth in in Building Community
Together from six local schools



Ready to learn more
about the Sandusky
County Communities
Foundation?

Let us treat you to
coffee or lunch for a
one-on-one meeting
OR schedule us for an
upcoming speaking
engagement!

419.334.6299
director@sanduskyccf.org
www.sanduskyccf.org

FUNDS

If you would like to donate to an existing fund, visit our website or contact us.

Pictured are Dick and Barb Berger with recipients of their Field of Interest Scholarship Recipients.



DESIGNATED FUNDS

Flexible giving tool for individuals, families, or businesses who want to help fund nonprofit organizations.

- Christy Farm Nature Preserve
- Clyde Grange #364
- Foster Children Independent Living
- Fremont Kiwanis Play Park
- Goodwill Industries of Erie, Huron, Ottawa, and Sandusky Counties
- Pamela Graver-Koenig Memorial
- Sandusky County Park District Nature Center
- SCCF Discretionary
- SCCF Emergency Relief
- SCCF Operating

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donors may provide financial assistance to local students who are pursuing academic and career goals.

- Building Community Together
- Charles and Donna Foss Charitable
- Crown Battery Manufacturing Company
- Lee N. Koenig Family Foundation
- MTA Plan
- Sarah Jean Luse Memorial

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Donors may support one or more nonprofit organizations or interests.

- Dick and Barb Berger Athletic Scholarship and Charitable
- Mary Brady Scholarship and Continuing Legal Education
- Matt McCabe Memorial
- Mike Piero Scholarship Teamwork Athletic Recreation (STAR)
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church Family Faith Formation
- Sandusky County Park District

ORGANIZATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS

This fund type holds assets for a named charitable organization and generally distributes investment income to that organization on a semiannual or annual basis.

- Fremont Kiwanis Club
- Fremont Pickle Growers Association
- Sandusky County AG Society
- SJCC Athletic Booster Club
- United Way of Sandusky County

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Allows donors to support a broad area of concern and opportunities in a specified area of interest to donors.

- The Big Nut Scholarship - Terese Marie and Jon Paul Peters
- Black Swamp Conservancy - Dr. Donald R. Knepper Memorial Scholarship
- Building Community Together Scholarship
- Earl E. Warnke Scholarship
- Fred Dafler and Rick Haddix Scholarship
- Fremont Ross Alumni and Friends Scholarship
- Fremont Sesquicentennial Scholarship
- Lakota Music Boosters Scholarship
- MJ Scholarship Fund - Bellevue Rotary STRIVE Scholarship
- Sara M. Barbour Memorial Scholarship
- The Art & Lisa Bucci Swimming & Diving Scholarship
- The Billy Stierwalt Memorial Scholarship
- The St. Francis Care Centre Foundation of Green Springs Scholarship
- Deacon Tim and Lilly Walters Catholic Skilled Trade Scholarship
- Tim and Lilly Walters Skilled Trade Scholarship
- William Krumnow Scholarship

*** The Sandusky County Communities Foundation has several funds that are not listed because the fund holders wish to remain anonymous.*

NEW FUNDS



**MATT MCCABE
MEMORIAL FUND**
Established January 2024

The Matt McCabe Memorial Fund seeks to support students at Sandusky County Schools and Colleges in easing the required costs of non-classroom experiences. The fund will provide money to education institutions to allocate to students in need.



**FRED DAFLER & RICK
HADDIX SCHOLARSHIP**
Established January 2024

This scholarship was established to support a full-time student enrolled in higher education or career and technical educational. The candidate must be a member or a relative of a member of the Ohio Track and Field and Cross Country Officials Association.



**CROWN BATTERY
MANUFACTURING
COMPANY FUND**
Established May 2024

This fund represents a powerful way for corporations like Crown Battery to streamline their charitable contributions, setting a clear philanthropic strategy for the year while supporting causes that align with their values.



**DR. DONALD R.
KNEPPER MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
Established July 2024

This scholarship will help future generations continue the spirit of the work Dr. Knepper did for conservation as they traverse their own path in the environmental field.



**SJCC ATHLETIC BOOSTER
CLUB ORGANIZATIONAL
ENDOWMENT FUND**
Established December 2024

SJCC Athletic Booster Club was established to provide ongoing financial support to enhance athletic opportunities, improve facilities, and ensure the success of student-athletes on the junior high and high school level at Saint Joseph Central Catholic School in Fremont, Ohio.

ANONYMOUS FUND
Established December 2024

The donor-advised fund is a testament to the ongoing generosity of local donors who believe in making a difference in our region. Creating a fund with the Foundation offers flexibility, including the option to give anonymously. Whether through a donor-advised, scholarship, or a designated fund, individuals can support the causes that matter most to them without revealing their identity, allowing for a meaningful but private philanthropic experience.

■ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?

The Sandusky County Communities Foundation partnered with local nonprofits to host a "What is Planned Giving" event, featuring Nick Kulick from the University of Toledo Foundation. Nonprofit leaders and donors learned about the importance of planned giving programs and estate planning through presentations and a Q&A with local professional advisors.



STRATEGIC PLANNING 101

The Sandusky County Communities Foundation and United Way of Sandusky County hosted a successful "Strategic Planning 101" class for over 40 nonprofit leaders. Thanks to Brant Duda of Strategy Design Partners, participants gained actionable insights to enhance long-term growth and strengthen their operations and mission.



NONPROFIT SITE VISITS

The Sandusky County Communities Foundation conducted 28 nonprofit site visits, deepening partnerships, sharing resources like grants and connections, and featuring organizations on social media to celebrate their impact and encourage community involvement. These visits strengthen our understanding of each nonprofit's mission and the residents they serve.



NONPROFIT BOARD AND VOLUNTEER FAIR

The second annual Sandusky County Nonprofits Board and Volunteer Fair, hosted with Sandusky County Young Professionals and Leadership Sandusky County, connected community members with local nonprofits. Attendees learned about missions, discovered ways to get involved, enjoyed complimentary appetizers, and entered to win a tailgate-themed raffle basket!



COFFEE + COMMUNITEA

In 2024, we launched COFFEE + CommuniTEA, a casual event to connect with Executive Director Andrea Gibson to learn about the Foundation's impact through grants and scholarships, and discover ways to get involved. Attendees enjoyed their favorite morning beverage on us, while exploring how philanthropy is strengthening Sandusky County.

■ CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY

On October 10, 2024 the Foundation welcomed over 100 attendees to the first annual Celebration of Philanthropy. With the purpose of the event to honor the Foundation's fund holders, donors, and supporters, provide important updates, and celebrate community grant recipients. The event symbolized the Foundation's



motto of "Connecting People who Care with Causes that Matter". Since the launch of its community grant program in 2009, SCCF has awarded \$1.15 million in discretionary funds to non-profits throughout Sandusky County.

2024 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Bellevue Society for the Arts	\$816.19
Boy Scouts of America	\$3,750.00
Campfire Sandusky County	\$10,000.00
Flat Rock Homes	\$5,000.00
Heartbeat Hope Medical	\$3,158.71
Humane Society of Sandusky County	\$5,616.00
Liberty Center of Sandusky County	\$6,450.00
Lindsey Volunteer Fire Department	\$9,529.73
Pontifex, Inc	\$5,820.09
Sandco Industries/ Sandco's Sweeties	\$563.21
Sandusky County Agricultural Society	\$4,875.00
Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation	\$2,256.24
Sandusky Township Fire Department	\$9,511.89
Stemtown Historical Society	\$582.02
Village of Green Springs	\$6,690.00
Woodville July 4th Celebration	\$1,500.00
YMCA of Sandusky County	\$10,000.00
TOTAL AWARDED IN 2024	\$86,119.08

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



\$323,605.54

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



\$303,891.73

ARTS & HUMANITIES



\$202,962.01

EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIPS



\$156,192.76

YOUTH SERVICES



\$119,276.43

ENVIRONMENT



\$49,633.20

\$ 1,155,561.67
awarded since inception

■ BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

BCT continues to grow and be such a fun and educational group to be a part of!

We kicked off this year with our annual retreat, where we elected new officers, reviewed the past year, and set new goals for the upcoming year. Our retreat really helps us to grow as a group, and have lots of fun as well.



Youth Division of Sandusky County Communities Foundation

We continued our famous Buckeye Sale fundraiser and the Pennies by the Pound collection that we do in partnership with United Way of Sandusky County. These efforts, along with restaurant fundraisers were very successful and allowed us to distribute six grants, totaling \$4,924, which is a significant increase from the previous two years. With those grant awards, we surpassed more than \$50,000 that we have distributed to youth-driven service projects. Many of us were honored to attend the SCCF Celebration of Philanthropy event as well.

Lastly, as a group, these past few years we have seen such a growth in BCT. We have been at full capacity according to our bylaws, and being selected as a youth member is now a competitive application and interview process. Each member has shown tremendous hard work and dedication to the group, leading to a very successful year!

We are so grateful to have the opportunity to serve as the youth division of the Sandusky County Communities Foundation. Being mentored by the board members, attending the SCCF Celebration of Philanthropy, and raising money to further give back to our community is a privilege.



BRYCE ESTEP
BCT President



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



ANGIE MORELOCK
Board Chair



AARON WILSON
Vice Chair



JERRI MILLER
Secretary



JASON CONKLIN
Co-Treasurer



KEN FROST



ASHLEY GAMBLE



BARRY LUSE



DAVID THORNBURY



MIRANDA HOFFMAN
Co-Treasurer



ANTHONY CAPRARA



MARC GLOTZBECKER



DENICE HIRT



**PAUL
WANNEMACHER**



ANDREA GIBSON
Executive Director

COMMUNITY ADVISORS

Kasey Back
Renae Bair
Natalie Biddle
Alex Binger
Tom Bowlus
Lindi Cahill
BJ Duckworth
Dian Franks
Maria Garza
Ruthann House
Tyler Kneeskern
Taylor Knight
Kyleigh Lash

Rob Ledwedge
Rachel McCoy
Peggy McQuiston
Dean Miller
Angela Natole
Kerri Pollock
Janet Quaintance
Abbie Rogish
Amanda Sears
Dave Shelton
Judge Brad Smith
Tim Wasserman
Kristine Weiss

SUPPORTERS

With heartfelt appreciation, we thank you for making a meaningful difference and for being the driving force behind positive change. Together, we are creating a brighter future for all.

\$20,000+

Black Swamp Conservancy Dr. Donald R.
Knepper Memorial Scholarship Fund 🍀
Charles and Donna Foss Charitable Fund -
Charles Foss 🍀

Crown Battery Manufacturing Company
Fund 🍀

Dick and Barb Berger Athletic Scholarship
and Charitable Fund - Dick and Barb
Berger 🍀

Kridler Family Fund

MTA Plan Fund - Tracy and Heather
Baughman 🍀

Sandusky County Park District Fund -
Barbara Brooks 🍀

SJCC Athletic Booster Club Organizational
Endowment Fund - SJCC Athletic
Boosters 🍀

\$10,000-19,999

Anonymous 🍀

Anonymous 🍀

Brian, Pam, and Family Fund of GTCF 🍀

Matt McCabe Memorial Fund - Neil
McCabe 🍀

Ohio Track & Field & Cross Country Officials
Association - The Fred Dafler & Rick
Haddix Scholarship Fund 🍀

Sarah Jean Luse Memorial Fund - Barry and
Jan Luse 🍀

\$1,000-9,999

Jacob and Erin Barbour

Dean Beck

Janet Gardner Broske

Carbo Forge

David and Gail DeFrance

Lynn and Michael Fink

Gordon W. Johnston

Daryl and Cate Knipp

Lang Family Charitable Fund
Mary Christine Paxson
Stephen Shaffer

\$500-999

Brandon J. Blair

Kimberly Haddix

Roger Hosler

Lakota Music Boosters 🍀

Angie and Jeremy Morelock

Motion Controls Robotics

Christine Schneider Smith

Stephen Younker

Walmart

\$250-499

Patricia Appold

Tracy M. Cahill

Barbara Davenport

Ken Dumminger

William Duckworth

Foster Auto Body

Fremont Lions Club Inc

Kuns Northcoast Security

Roberta Moyer

Rod and Barb Opelt

Robert and Dawn Stierwalt

David R Thornbury

Paul J. Wannemacher

Whirlpool Foundation

Aaron Wilson

\$100-249

Joseph Albrechta

Christina Baker

Steve and Roni Blue

Gail Bowers-Craig

Kristie Briggs

Michael and Patricia Brown

Georgia Bruce

Community Hospitals - Pharmacy
Dept.

Countryside Veterinary Clinic

John Daubenspeck

Eye Centers of Northwest Ohio

J. Conklin Consulting

James Fox

Fremont Federal Credit Union

Fremont Rotary Foundation

Ashley A. Gamble

Don and Ann Gerry

Charles Gibbs

Gregory Gilbert

Marc Glotzbecker

Gary and Joan Godfried

Michael and Shirley Haaser

Hal and Diane Hawk

Denice M. Hirt

Miranda R. Hoffman

Tom Hoffman

Hollister Wines, LLC

Bertha Ihnat

Garrett and Nicole Kamstra

KG Myer Construction

Richard and Patricia King

Jill Kinser

VP and CT Kline

Nanci Kosanka

Paul Lieber

Donald W. Maurer

Lawrence and Jenny Mears

Jerri and Charles Miller

Thomas and Lisa Morrison

James and Kimberly Moyer

Parkview

Andrew Peterson DDS

Claudia Plumley

R. Thomas Plummer

Jeffrey Polhemus

Dale and Kay Reiter

Become a Supporter



We invite you to become a supporter of the Sandusky County Communities Foundation and help us continue fulfilling our mission of creating lasting impact in our community. Simply scan the QR code to make a donation and join us in making a difference today!

Rodney Russell
Dennis Sabo
Marc and Patricia Schulz
Sheryl and Bruce Schneider
Norman and Kendra Solze
James and Kellye Stierwalt
Shawn Tooman
Carol Wasserman-Farizel
Tim Wasserman
Cheryl and Craig Wendt
Wilhelm Auto Parts
Joseph and Sharon Wilson
YMCA of Sandusky County
Bob Youngblood
Zimmerman Building Company
Penny Zuber

\$1-99


David Ahner
Daniel Beaston
William and Cynthia Bork
Gaylord and Rose Bowden
Jonathan Brough
Art and Lisa Bucci
Richard Campbell
Kristin and Brandon Caylor
Michael and Donna Cominski
Jeff Corn
Jefferson and Holly Cronau
Karen Darr
Estelle Diehl
Ronald Dodds
David Dorobek
Brian and Karen Fiske
Cynthia Gabel
Jeff and Mary Kay Gabel
Judy Gangwer
John and Catherine Gase
Andrea Gibson
Marsha Guffey

Harold and Marcia Grice
Patrick Haynes
Jeff and Theresa Heaton
Thane Hecox
David Hershey
Mariah Hohman
Phil Horvath
William and Lynda Hotz
Cynthia Hotaling
Janice Johnson
Richard and Mary Keiser
Kroger
Joe and Jeanne Lajti
John Lauer
Amy and Mark Lejeune
Ludlow Composites Corporation
Linda and Lynn Martin
Terri McDougall
Gregg Mehling
Maureen Meyer
Vince and Karla Militello
Wayne and Nancy Morroney
Diane S. Molyet
Walter and Karel Oxley
David and Rebecca Prasuhn
Mark and Linda Pickett
Barb Reineck
Richard and Wendy Ritzman
John and Constance Riley
Stephen and Carol Rusch
William Sanford
Gary and Pat Schaaf
James Sellers
Steven and Rebecca Shively
Deborah Smith
Vincent and Charlene Snyder
Philip and Marsha Spicer
Eugene Stamos
Neil and Leslie Staib
Bill and Cindy Stierwalt

Ann Stiger
Christopher Swartz
Kenneth Vogt
James and Constance Warner
Dave and Sue Weber
Roy and Martha Wilhelm
Chris and Becky Whitcomb
Albert and Martha Zamora

Donations were made to the Foundation in honor/ memory of:

Tom Stierwalt
Lee Koenig
Gerald Menkhoff
Fred Dafler
Kathryn Faye Jenkins
David Ward
Rogelio Perez
Cathy M. Sloan
Ellen Beier
Judy (Hoffman) Fox
Karen K. Balduf
Christine Schneider Smith
Al Voggenthaler
Jill Simpson's Birthday
Lendell Wheatley
George F. Wolfie Broske
Thomas Zimmerman
Rosalyn Dumminger
Jim Sellers
Joe, Avie, and Rick Lotycz

 denotes that the donor started a fund or donated to their current fund

2511 Countryside Dr. Suite C
Fremont, OH 43420

Save the Dates



Succession Planning Workshop

May 7, 2025
5:00-7:00pm
The Neeley Center



Driving Philanthropy Golf Outing

June 20, 2025
9:00am-3:00pm
Sycamore Hills Golf Course



Grant Seekers Meeting

July 16, 2025
10:00-11:00am
Birchard Public Library



Celebration of Philanthropy

October 15, 2025
5:00-7:00pm
The Neeley Center

Sip and Support

Exciting Partnership Announcement

We're thrilled to announce that Chateau Winery & Vineyard has partnered with the Sandusky County Communities Foundation to create a special wine, Foundation Red—a bold and rich Cabernet Sauvignon!

For every bottle sold, \$4 will go directly to supporting the Foundation's mission by Connecting People Who Care with Causes That Matter.

Support local and sip with a purpose! Get your bottle of Foundation Red at Chateau Winery today, and make a difference with every pour.

