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Connecting People Who Care With Causes That Matter

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**For Immediate Release**

**Sandusky County Communities Foundation**  
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**SCCF Relocates, Reflects on the past 6 months, and Looks Forward to Future Growth**

**Fremont- Sandusky County** – The Sandusky County Communities Foundation (SCCF) Board of Trustees and staff are excited to share that the Foundation office has relocated to the County Office Building located at 2511 Countryside Drive in Fremont. The Foundation office number has also changed to 419.334.6299.

This decision comes as part of our ongoing efforts to optimize our operations and better serve our fund holders, donors, nonprofits, and the Sandusky County community. The new location provides an opportunity to grow with additional office space furthering our work and strengthening our connections with businesses, nonprofits, and individuals in a central location.

2024 has been a year of growth for the Sandusky County Communities Foundation. “When I reflect back over the past 6 months, I am astonished at everything the Foundation has accomplished in such a short amount of time” stated Andrea Gibson, SCCF Executive Director. “The SCCF marketing committee decided early this year that our internal theme should be ‘Growing Together’ in 2024, and we have done just that with our new fund growth, grant and scholarship disbursements, and nonprofit collaborative events”.

**Fund Growth.**

SCCF has announced three new funds so far in 2024: The Fred Dafler & Rick Haddix Scholarship Fund; the Matt McCabe Memorial Fund; and most recently the Crown Battery Manufacturing Company Fund.

The SCCF enhances the well-being of the people and communities of Sandusky County by managing permanent investments for philanthropic goals. The mission of the Foundation is accomplished by: Identifying community needs; Building permanent endowments to address these community needs; Administering grant and scholarship programs; Educating private, corporate and non-profit sectors about the power of endowed philanthropic giving; Providing individuals and non-profits with a tax-exempt option for donations; and Funding projects that directly benefit the youth of our communities through our youth division, Building Communities Together (BCT).

**Grant and Scholarship Disbursements.**

“It is important that we continue to grow the number of funds that are with our organization to continue to make a greater impact within our Sandusky County communities and beyond through grants to organizations



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and individuals” stated Gibson. “Within the first 6 months of 2024 alone, the SCCF Board of Trustees has approved a total of \$450,995.10 in grant and scholarship disbursements through our component funds. These disbursements are supporting local individuals and organizations in their efforts to enhance the Sandusky County community, and the organizations that the fund holders care about”. In comparison, the Foundation had around \$277,000 approved disbursements throughout all of 2023. To date, 47 grants totaling \$396,495.10 have been awarded to organizations from a majority of the component funds of the Foundation and 49 Scholarships totaling \$54,500 have been awarded to individuals furthering their education throughout 2024. These numbers also include the grants that have been awarded through the Foundation’s youth division *Building Community Together*. BCT also continues to grow as the group reached a full capacity of 23 students!

### **Nonprofit Collaborative Events.**

The Foundation prides itself on *Connecting People Who Care with Causes That Matter*. In June of this year the Foundation held a small gathering for the student scholarship recipients for the Dick and Barb Berger Athletic Scholarship and Charitable Fund of the Foundation. “Mr. and Mrs. Berger started their fund with the Foundation in January 2021. After disbursing the scholarships to the Class of 2024 recipients, the Bergers granted \$117,450.00 to students and organizations throughout Sandusky County through their fund with the Foundation” shared Gibson. “We wanted to make sure that we were connecting the Bergers with the cause that was most important to them, which in this case was the education of the student recipients of their scholarship. Being able to give the students a chance to meet Mr. and Mrs. Berger, and for Mr. Berger to share with the students their ‘why’ for starting the fund and providing so many scholarships each year, will forever be one of my favorite memories as the Executive Director of the Foundation”.

The Sandusky County Communities Foundation has been collaborating on events for nonprofits throughout this year inspiring Sandusky County organizations to grow together. The Foundation along with Sandusky County United Way held a *Strategic Planning 101* class for nonprofit organizations. Most recently SCCF along with Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums, Habitat for Humanity Sandusky County, Saint Joseph Central Catholic School, and Camp Fire Sandusky County held a *What is Planned Giving* event for nonprofit organizations.

### **Looking Ahead.**

The Community Grant Program will kick off on July 17<sup>th</sup> with the Mandatory Grant Seekers meeting for Nonprofit Organizations. The meeting will be held at Birchard Public Library beginning at 10:00 a.m. Registration is required and can be done on the SCCF website. “The Foundation has allotted \$81,000 in disbursements through the 2024 Community Grant Program. This is about \$10,000 more than what was granted last year” shared Gibson. “Grants that are approved will be awarded at the Foundation’s first *Celebration of Philanthropy* event on October 10<sup>th</sup>”. The Celebration of Philanthropy event will honor SCCF Fund Holders, Donors, and Sandusky County Nonprofits.

Throughout the remainder of 2024, you should expect more collaboration on events, continuing site visits with nonprofits, and holding Coffee and Community events throughout Sandusky County.

The Sandusky County Communities Foundation values meaningful, lasting connections between donors and the causes that matter most to them. Giving back is what we are all about. “We are committed to helping our



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fund holder and donors' contributions do more. Reach further. Last longer. And make a lasting impact on our region for generations to come to ensure that all residents have an opportunity to thrive". Gibson added "I am looking forward to continuing to foster relationships with individuals, families, and businesses throughout Sandusky County to connect people who care with causes that matter".

Individuals, Families, Organizations or Businesses are encouraged to reach out to the Foundation to learn more about how to open a fund now and create a strategic giving plan to the causes that they care about, or develop a legacy giving plan, choosing nonprofits to impact for years to come, and establishing their legacy.

**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 \$1,000,000.00 has been awarded to non-profit organizations through the Community Grant Program. To learn more, or to donate, visit our website at [www.sanduskyccf.org](http://www.sanduskyccf.org) or contact Andrea Gibson at 419-334-6299 or [director@sanduskyccf.org](mailto:director@sanduskyccf.org)

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Picture: Mr. and Mrs. Berger take a photo with some of the scholarship recipients of the Dick and Barb Berger Athletic Scholarship and Charitable Fund of the Sandusky County Communities Foundation.



Sandusky County  
**COMMUNITIES  
FOUNDATION**  
Celebrating **25** years

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