Strength Through CommUNITY

the YellowSprings Community Foundation

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Dear Yellow Springs Community,

You may be a eight-generation resident, just moved in, a grandparent whose family has put down roots here, a person with a college connection, or a neighbor who simply cherishes time spent in our village. You contribute to what makes Yellow Springs unique among Ohio communities, and **we appreciate you.** Your presence helps sustain our shared values and historically progressive, community-oriented village.

True to our nature, we overly embrace spirited debate. We may not always approach each other with appropriate niceties, yet at the end of the day, we unite in our values with a fundamental commitment to social justice.

Yellow Springs stands at a pivotal moment of opportunity. This is our time to come together, recognize the organizations and businesses who help define our community, form meaningful

Mission

Entrusted with the responsibility of enhancing community life, we are a catalyst and resource for local charitable giving and grant making.

Staff

Brianna Ayers, Chloe Manor, Kim McCarthy, Melissa Heston, Mychael Roberts, Sara Gray, and Jeannamarie Cox, Executive Director partnerships, and truly commit to our shared values. While we each champion our individual organizations' missions, let's acknowledge the consistent core values that connect us all. Our community thrives precisely because of our diversity—and importantly, diversity paired with genuine inclusion has remained central to our village's identity throughout its history.

In the coming months, we'll be creating more opportunities for community dialogue and action. We invite you to participate in shaping Yellow Springs' future. Your voice matters in this conversation. Let's recognize this moment as a chance to build on what makes Yellow Springs special.

Strength Through CommUNITY.

Proudly, Jeannamarie Cox, Executive Director

Vision

Helping build an extraordinary community. Together we can do more. Join Us!

Board of Trustees

Art Boulet, Rich Bullock, Steve Conn, Matt Denman, Terry Graham, Angie Hsu, Artie Issac, Joanne Lakomski, Jalana Lazar, Todd Leventhal, Joshua Mabra and Lisa Abel, Emeritus Trustee

Thank you to our 2024 Annual Report Contributors and the YSCF Staff, Pam Geisel, Rich Bullock, Susan Miller, Harvey Curran, and YS News

Together we can do more. JOIN US!



YELLOW SPRINGS NEWS

An INDEPENDENT IO

Youth Advisory Board

W/W

Scholarships 2024

114 Scholarship Applications

> **30** Scholarship Funds

40+ Scholarship Committee Members

> 155 Donor Gifts

\$29,871 Donated To Funds

\$35,000+ Awarded **Youth Action Board 2024**

4th Program Year

18 Youth Board Members

7 Experts On Community Panel

32 Impact Partners Donated

> \$7,725 Raised

1 Grant Awarded – Community Kitchen Project

> \$20,000 Foundation Match Grant Awarded

"100% of participants said YAB improved their ability to identify an issue and take action."

"This [scholarship] completely shaped the life I live now and the life I will lead in the future, just as the Yellow Springs community has shaped me."

- Cheyan Sundell-Turner YSHS 2023



Competitive Grants

Not through deliberate design but rather as a natural expression of our community values, in 2024 more than 80 percent of YSCF's Standard and Directed Grants supported organizations or projects that prioritize social justice, equity, and inclusion in our community. We remain committed to funding initiatives that make Yellow Springs a place where everyone can thrive, and will continue to move funding toward social justice and equitable projects tailored to our local population.

We've also been diligently moving toward a more trust-based approach to philanthropy, which helps strengthen our relationships with nonprofits and frees up funding for the things that organizations need the most.

Our 2024 grants supported diverse community needs, including an ATV at the Riding Centre for disabled participants, kitchen renovations at the Community Children's Center, startup accounting for the BIPOC Food and Farming Network, and upgrades to Home, Inc's Glen Cottage neighborhood.

Additional funding went to the Iden Film Fund, Fairborn Scholastic Chess Club's free after-school programming, WYSO's experimental music series, and Who's Hungry, which now operates a free soup kitchen twice weekly in downtown Yellow Springs.

Our Grants Review Committee continues to direct resources toward our community's most impactful projects.

Yellow Springs Endowment for Education

Established in 1995, the Yellow Springs Endowment for Education became a part of the Foundation as a committee in 2009. Through grant funding, YSEE supports continued excellence, distinctiveness, and diversity of curriculum and programs for all students at Yellow Springs Exempted Village Schools. In this academic year, the YSEE Committee has awarded seven YSEE grants totaling \$18,525 to the schools.

- Yellow Springs Arts Council High School Art Exhibition
- "Say Something" Suicide Prevention Assemblies
- Muse Machine Theater Residency for K-2
- Ride and Thrive: Mills Lawn PE Bicycle Journey
- 8th Grade Trip to D.C.
- Non-fiction Update to Mills Lawn Library

Ride & Thrive: "In our first spring of biking at Mills Lawn, 37 Kindergarten and first grade students learned to balance and pedal on Strider bikes. This biking curriculum supports third and fourth graders' preparation for annual bike hikes and inspired a new 6th grade field trip to Great Council State Park. Our students' increased bike riding skills have increased biking outside of school and boosted bike bus participation, fostering stronger connections among students, school, and community."

– Emily Berlo, Physical Education, Mills Lawn Elementary School

Committee Grants Awarded: \$735,000

Food Security and Wellbeing

Our community is generally considered to have reasonably good food security compared to many other rural communities in Ohio. We are lucky to have several key food access points, surprising for a village of our size, with both a centrally located grocery store (Tom's Market) and a year-round farmers market.

Yet the number of those seeking food support has risen over the last few years without signs of relief. Our Food Pantry, the Little Food Pantries, Beloved Community Project (which provides a free monthly meal at the Presbyterian Church and groceries) and Who's Hungry?* (which provides free meals on Mondays and Wednesdays currently from Mazu) have all seen an increase in those in need of their services. The Foundation's Youth Action Board identified food security as the main concern particularly pressing for our youth. This past year they funded the Community Kitchen Project, which is focused on updating the kitchen at the Presbyterian Church to be used by our food security organizations serving the community.

Through your funding of the Food Security and Wellbeing Fund we have released over 2,000 coupons for Tom's Market which are provided to individuals through the schools, Community Outreach, the Senior Center and Who's Hungry? and grants for those organizations supporting food security. Together we are helping our community members in need.

90+ Individuals served regularly*



"Our Community Working Together" Redeem this coupon for \$25.00 at Tom's Market For Immediate Use This coupon is funded by the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, Food Security and Wellbeing Fund, and is not transferable. This coupon is valid for food and personal health supplies, not included recreational products. Not redeemable for cash or change. www.yscf.org Valid Nov/Dec 2024 Little Free Pantry #

Community Food Support

YSEQUITY.

YSEQUITY marked its 2-year anniversary in 2024, having already begun providing 55 local low-income and moderate-income Yellow Springs/ Miami Township residents \$300 monthly unrestricted cash payments for two years. We hosted a screening of the moving documentary "It's Basic" (Mayors for Guaranteed Income (MGI); Founder Mayor Michael Tubbs) at the Little Art Theatre in April, featuring a panel of YSEQUITY participants, moderated by Mayor Pam a long-term member of MGI. Over 70 people showed up to the event. One participant in the panel noted:

"Having a little extra (money) takes some stress off, which affects my mood and anxiety."

Research reports from OSU and UPenn Center for Guaranteed Income will be published in 2025. We will report these findings along with a photo exhibit by YSEQUITY Participants in May. Mark your calendars – May 3, 2025 at 2 pm at the Foundry Theater. Early results already indicate that guaranteed income is working for Yellow Springs. We can't wait to share the data and to grow the program. YSEQUITY is a testament to how taking care of each other really benefits all of us in this community.







Mayor Tubbs and YSCF

Q: What's the solution to poverty? A: Money



from executive Michael Tubbs a film by Marc Levin

Free! Tonight at 7 pm – Little Art Theatre

CFLeads

In June 2024, YSCF staff submitted a grant application to CFLeads to participate in the Economic Mobility Action Network, an innovative project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

This initiative brings Community Foundations together from across the country for a year to help each Foundation develop their skills and create a plan to improve long-term economic mobility while reducing racial disparities in local communities. Despite the highly competitive selection process, we were thrilled to be selected as one of just ten foundations to participate in this cohort. We were the only small-town Foundation selected to take part in this prestigious opportunity.

The grant award includes travel support for in-person meetings, professional consulting services for data collection, communication and messaging, and public policy work. Additionally, YSCF received a \$50,000 grant to launch programming in Yellow Springs related to the cohort's work. In 2025, a local team will travel to San Diego, Atlanta, and Boston to develop our strategic approach around economic mobility. We look forward to engaging you in our work in the community!



Together we can do more. JOIN US!

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Our greatest appreciation for your continued support



Giving over the Years (past and present)

35+ Years of Support

Vicki & Lee Morgan Aida Merhemic & Bob Barcus Perry Stewart George & Toshiko Asakawa Cy and Ilse Tebbets Jim & Mary Agna

30+ Years of Support

Joy & Fred Bartenstein Evelyn & Tom LaMers Carol Cottom & Bruce Bradtmiller Tia & Bob Huston Maureen Lynch & Richard Lapedes Dorothy O. & William Scott Gene & Hardy Trolander Carl & Lorena Hyde Jane & William Baker Ken & Peggy Champney Marvin & Mary Lamborg

635 Donors in 2024 272 First Time Donors

25+ Years of Support

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20+ Years of Support

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Thank You! Together we can do more. JOIN US!

