



Wichman Family Establishes New **Election Ambassador Scholarship Program**

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Tonya and Rodney Wichman recently established The Election Ambassador Scholarship Program. The Election Ambassador program is set up to assist students to learn about their local government, how elections are run and participate in the election process.

The Election Ambassadors will work with already engaged teachers at each local high school in searching for student poll workers, assisting in voter registration and work with the office in providing an election in Defiance County. High school juniors and seniors that participate will be eligible for a \$250 scholarship to a university or trade school.

"The program came from searching for a silver lining in all of the election information being shared over the past few years. A realization arose that we were missing an opportunity to educate the community on how elections are actually run, especially at a local level," said Tonya.

"We hope that this program will also engage the Ambassadors classmates, friends and family in the learning process. This is an opportunity for our Ambassadors to experience what will be needed to become a future leader of the community while gaining a resource to further their education."

For more information about the scholarship, contact Chris Yoder at (419) 782-3130.



Upcoming Dates

Finance Meeting
February 18 at 10 AM

Exec Meeting
February 18 at 11 AM

YELP Meeting
February 25 at 9 AM

WGC Member Meeting
March 3 at 5:30 PM

**Aly Sterling Non-Profit
Fund-Raising Seminar**
March 4 at 8:30 AM
Contact Chris for more info!

Scholarships Deadline
March 31

Grant Application Deadline
March 31

Scholarships *Apply by 3/31!*



If you know a high school senior that could benefit from a scholarship for college or trade school, go to our NEW Scholarship page on our website to explore what's available. *You can now view scholarships available by school!*

- Audrey Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Ayersville Education Foundation Scholarship Funds
- Ayersville Athletic Boosters Scholarship Fund
- Cody Rahe Scholarship Fund
- Defiance Area Chamber of Commerce (DACC) Scholarship Fund
- Defiance City Schools Scholarship Funds
- Defiance High School Girls Tennis Scholarship Fund
- Defiance Metal Products Scholarship Fund
- Erica J. Strausbaugh Scholarship Fund
- Fairview Football Scholarship Fund
- Fairview Schools Fund
- Lisa Yoder Scholarship Fund
- Melton Family First Generation Scholarship Fund
- The Cletus Vetter Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Virginia Lenhart Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Women's Giving Circle Scholarship Fund



Chris recently took a road trip across the U.S., and to the Grand Canyon, with her son, Austin.

A message from the Executive Director

*As I reflect back on 2021 – the first word that comes to mind is **gratitude** – for so many reasons. Good health, family, friends, and a supportive and generous community. It is through your giving that we are able to touch thousands of lives and assist with so many programs in our community.*

*As I look ahead to 2022, I think of **intentionality**. How can we help our friends and neighbors? What are the unmet needs in our community and how can we support those efforts? As we walk together this next year, please let us be mindful of what we can do to help others and how The Defiance Area Foundation can do be more impactful in our community. If you have information or a passion to impact an area of our community, I would love to meet with you to discuss your ideas.*

Be well friends, Christine Yoder

Thank you to Tisha Rau (YELP), Chelsie Schroeder (Project 2030), and Drake Jimenez (Holy Hill Media) for facilitating a Design Thinking Session to get Yelp students thinking more about the future of Defiance this past November.



To Enhance, Enrich, Encourage, and Support the Defiance County Community