



Defiance Area FOUNDATION

Serving
Defiance County

“TO ENHANCE, ENRICH, ENCOURAGE, AND SUPPORT THE GREATER DEFIANCE AREA”

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Did You Know?

The Defiance Area Foundation received gifts and pledges of nearly \$1 million in the last fiscal year? Through the creation of several new funds, commitments of board members and the generous gifts from the community, the Defiance Area Foundation has net assets of approximately \$3.6 million.

E-Mail Alert!

If you did not receive this newsletter via e-mail, or know of someone who might like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send us an address at defoundation@defnet.com.

November 2011

Building Strong Foundations

If you want something to last, start with a strong foundation. That is the Defiance Area Foundation's theme for this year, and is directly reflected in the most recent grants we awarded.

Ground was recently broken on **Kaitlyn's Cottage** on the campus of ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital. The Defiance Area Foundation awarded its *largest grant ever* to help with the construction of the cottage. We will be a part of this place of respite for families of special-needs children from its inception.

Education is imperative for a strong tomorrow. To help with the educational needs of children and adults in the community, the Foundation awarded a grant to **New Heights Educational**

Group, Inc. to help with the cost of online software.

Grants were also awarded from three restricted funds:

* **First Presbyterian Church** received a grant from its Capital Improvement Fund to rebuild its Washington Avenue exterior doors.

* **Defiance Public Library** received a grant to assist with ongoing renovations.

* **Defiance Elementary PTO** received a grant from a donor-advised fund to provide scholarships for fifth grade students to attend Camp Storer.

We are building strong foundations today to ensure a better tomorrow in Defiance County.

Member Spotlight: Mike Steyer

(Partner, Steyer & Co. and DAF Vice President)

I am a firm believer in the idea that everything I have is because of God. My parents stressed this to me growing up and my wife, Sheri, and I have continued to build upon this with our children. This is why I joined the Defiance Area Foundation. The Foundation's mission to enhance and enrich the quality of life for those around us enables me to give back and support others.

I remember as a young child being dragged to various nursing homes to pass out punch and cookies to the residents. I hated going, and at the time did not understand why this was so important. Just spending a few minutes with a resident would really brighten their day, my mom said. My parents taught me, even at that young age, that you have to set your priorities and make time for giving back. Sheri and I have chosen to give back through the Defiance Area Foundation.

There are many ways in which one can donate to the Foundation. Whether a restricted or unrestricted fund is chosen, it is reassuring to know that all funds will be managed efficiently and effectively to make the greatest gains for our community. Unfortunately I have seen all too many times a non-profit with great ideas and volunteers get off course with embezzlement or governmental filings. I believe the organizational makeup of the foundation with a full-time director handling the day-to-day activities allows the volunteers to concentrate on the important aspect of the Foundation, which is making a better community for all of us to live in.

There are not too many organizations in our community that positively effect as many people as the Defiance Area Foundation. When a community pulls its funds together, great things can happen for all; this includes those receiving the funds as well as for those giving.



Board Welcomes Three New Members

The Defiance Area Foundation welcomed Mike Klein, Anne Murray and Steve Snavelly to its Board of Trustees during the annual meeting in September.

Mike Klein is the retail district manager at Huntington Bank. He has been a member of the Defiance Area Foundation since 2007. Mike currently serves as the chair of the DAF Donor Development Committee.

Anne Murray has been a full-time realtor with Welles Bowen Realtors since 1989. She joined the Defiance Area Foundation in 2009 and currently serves on the DAF Grants Review Committee.

Steve Snavelly has been an attorney since 1973 and operates his own law office, Stephen K. Snavelly, Co., L.P.A. He has been a member of the Defiance Area Foundation since 2007.



Mike Klein



Anne Murray



Steve Snavelly

Thank you to retiring Directors **Bill Small**, **Karen Tubbs** and **Steve VanDemark** for their years of service to the Foundation and our Community.

Fund Spotlight:



Fairview Football Scholarship Fund

In 2009, the Fairview Football Scholarship Fund was created through the Defiance Area Foundation.

Since the creation of the fund, four Fairview High School students have received scholarships: Tyler Cooper, Tyler Merillat, Nathan Yoder and William Flanary. The people who started and have supported the fund wanted to ensure that more Fairview football players could further their post-high school educations with this scholarship.

On October 22, many past Fairview High School football players, coaches and their families attended a dinner to help grow the fund.

Generous gifts were received that night from those in attendance, and numerous other gifts were received by friends who were unable to attend the event. Over \$9,000 was raised!

Everyone had a wonderful time and great memories of football days of the past are still being shared!

The event was such a success that committee members are considering holding a Fairview Football Scholarship Fund event annually.

The generosity of past Fairview football players, coaches and families will ensure a bright future for more Apache football players.

This fund was established by Fairview Alumni who realized the importance of higher education. This scholarship is awarded annually for a senior varsity football player who is going on to college (full-time). The amount will be determined annually based on the fund balance and investment return. There were two \$250 scholarships awarded for the 2011-2012 academic year. The scholarship will be payable directly to the college or university of the student's choice.

Changing of the Guards

During the Defiance Area Foundation's Annual Meeting in September, the members approved the following officers:

Moving from President to **Past President** is **Chad Peter**.

Moving from Vice President to **President** is **Joe Howard**.

The new **Vice President** is **Mike Steyer**.

Terry Melton was voted to continue as **Secretary** and **Bill Koester** was voted to continue as **Treasurer**.

The membership also gave a big thanks to outgoing **Past President Bill Small** for his years of leadership to the Foundation.

New Funds:

The Defiance Area Foundation has a new Sherwood Memorial Park Fund. The partnership between the Village of Sherwood and the Defiance Area Foundation will help promote the fund, combine assets for greater return on investment, and grant funds back to the community for park maintenance.

Our Wish List

Postage scale
Paper cutter