



Supporting Outdoor Education at Morgan Elementary

In its first few years, the Ross Community Foundation has granted an incredible \$48,000+ to support our community's schools and nonprofits. This remarkable achievement is made possible by our generous donors who steadfastly support the Foundation's mission.

In 2024, one of the fortunate grant recipients was Morgan Elementary, which received support for their Outdoor Learning initiative. This project includes the creation of a pollinator/butterfly garden and an outdoor classroom which is expected to be completed later this year.

Designed by White Oak Garden Center, the garden will offer students hands-on experiences with life cycles and native plants. The outdoor classroom will feature benches arranged in a miniature amphitheater, providing an immersive learning environment. This initiative will engage students and community members alike, fostering a deeper connection to nature and outdoor education. ■

“*We're excited to see our students engage with nature right on our school grounds, thanks to the support from the Ross Community Foundation. This project will benefit our entire community.*”

Tom Perry, Principal,
Morgan Elementary School

Jump Start Band Hits a High Note

The Ross Community Foundation has awarded a grant to Ross Middle School for their Jump Start Summer Band Camp, which helps new students join the band. ■

35+

STUDENTS

6

INSTRUMENTS
TO LEARN

"Last year, every student who participated in the Jump-Start camp continued in band for 7th grade. This group is one of the best I've had in my career, and the camp plays a large role in their success."

Andrew Morelock
Ross Band Director

Scholarship Highlight

The Next Generation of Leaders

Hallie Halcomb, one of the Ross Community Foundation's scholarship recipients, is majoring in Biology and Pre-Med at Miami University. Her dedication to scholastic achievement and commitment to making a positive impact on society set her apart as a shining example of ambition and altruism.

Hallie was involved with many extracurricular activities that shape her identity, she was involved in the Ross Band of Class marching and concert band for 4 years, where she served her peers by holding an officer position.

"Additionally, I have been actively involved in the National Honor Society for 3 years, where I held an officer position. These leadership positions and involvement have allowed me to gain skills that will be beneficial in my future career," Hallie shared. We are excited to see how Hallie's leadership skills continue to shine as she steps into this new stage of life.

Annually, the Ross Community Foundation, in collaboration with Hamilton and Fairfield, awards more than \$1 million in scholarships, significantly supporting nearly 300 area students. Through our scholarship program, we support numerous students from Ross, investing in their education and dreams. This commitment empowers individuals and ensures a stronger, more vibrant future for students like Hallie. ■

"These leadership positions and involvement have allowed me to gain skills that will be beneficial in my future career."

Hallie Holcomb
Ross Community Foundation
Scholarship, Alberta Pratt
Memorial Scholarship



In Memory of

Trustee Emeritus Dana Mehl

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Dana Mehl, co-founder of the Ross Community Foundation, earlier this year. We are eternally grateful for his countless contributions. Dana was a caring and giving person whose legacy will live on through the gifts of the Ross Community Foundation. His love for helping others and mentoring youth at church and in schools will continue to inspire us all.

As a beloved community member and longtime Ross resident, Dana worked at Champion International Paper for 36 years. After retiring, he dedicated his time as a substitute teacher at Elda, Morgan Elementary, and Ross Intermediate schools. ■



Personalized Philanthropy:

Make Your Impact with Ross Community Foundation

When it comes to strategic philanthropic giving, many people aren't sure where to begin, but they have a passion or cause that drives them.

At Ross Community Foundation, our philanthropic advisors guide donors through the giving process, leveraging their deep understanding of the nonprofit landscape and effective gifting strategies.

Katie Braswell, Vice President of your community foundation, explained, "We act as advisors on charitable giving, offering personalized service. We help donors clarify their values, mission, and goals for their philanthropy. By understanding what they are passionate about, we can match them with organizations that align with their interests, making their philanthropy more strategic."

The Ross Community Foundation allows donors to give locally or globally through their funds. Philanthropic advisors provide a comprehensive understanding of Ross's needs and how donor contributions can make a significant impact, potentially launching major new initiatives. ■



Meet your Donor Services Team

*From Left to Right:
Jacob Stone-Welch, Katie Braswell,
and Alex Johnson*

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CFNS

ACCREDITED
FOUNDATION

Save the Date

Hamilton Community Foundation and Affiliates Annual Meeting | October 22, 2024

Holiday Open House at the Lane Hooven House | December 5, 2024 | 4-6pm



Find us on OUR NEW Facebook page @RossCommunityFoundation

New Faces, New Places



Tracy Eads

*Community
Investment Officer*

Tracy is a Ross resident who is kindhearted and passionate about helping others. Tracy is the lead on non-profit grants for our foundation. In her role, she creates strong relationships with non-profit groups within the community.



Alex Johnson

*Donor
Services Officer*

A Hamilton native and a natural people person with deep community roots, Alex is a perfect fit for this role. A graduate of Badin High School and Miami University, she will work closely with our donors and prospective donors.



Kasey Rouse

*Director of Scholarship
& Youth Programing*

Kasey's role at the Foundation has expanded and now encompasses youth programming, including the Youth Philanthropy Committee and TAP Scholarship Program.

