



United Way Leads the Way

The HOPE Foundation is excited to partner with the Darke County United Way and invites other local nonprofits to join in the future of the social service world. The Darke County United Way has taken a huge step forward by opening an endowment account within the HOPE Foundation. Supporters of the United Way can now donate to the United Way Endowment account through the HOPE Foundation. The HOPE Foundation will invest those funds and yearly send a check representing the interest to the local United Way. The United Way may use these unrestricted funds for their campaign or other operational needs. This is the beginning of a new revenue stream for the United Way. At a time when companies are tightening their charitable gifts, this account will only continue to grow to assist the United Way to carry out their mission in Darke County.



There are two easy ways to make a donation to the United Way Endowment account. One way is to send the HOPE Foundation a check. Be sure to put United Way in the memo and send it to the HOPE Foundation, P.O. Box 438, Greenville, OH 45331. You will receive a receipt for your taxes in return along with knowing your gift will join countless others that will continue to support our local United Way forever. The second way to donate is to leave a charitable gift as part of your estate. You may put the HOPE Foundation/United Way account in your will for a certain amount or even a percentage of your estate. It may be a direct bequest, a gift of stock and even proceeds from an insurance policy. Your attorney can help you arrange it or for more information, contact Patty Lavy, President of the HOPE Foundation, for more information. Her phone number is 548-9700 or her e-mail is hopefoundation@woh.rr.com.

Charities must have reliable steady streams of funding to further their mission and support our community. There is no reason for them to reinvent the wheel and form their own foundation when that is why the HOPE Foundation—Darke County's community foundation—exists. This way only one set of internal revenue fees are paid and it leaves more money in our community for our community. The United Way and the HOPE Foundation look forward to growing together for the good of Darke County.

An End and A Beginning

Sometimes an organization that has done spectacular things for many years, decides it is time to end. This is what has happened to the Darke County Low Vision Support Group (DCLVSG). After being in existence for nearly two decades and helping thousands of low vision patients in our community, they have decided to disband. However, DCLVSG has found a way to provide for the future of low vision support in Darke County even after they are gone.

Through a partnership with the HOPE Foundation, DCLVSG has donated \$15,973.88 representing the remains of their funds and established a Designated Fund from which the HOPE Foundation will issue a \$1,000 check annually to FAME (Financial Assistance for Medical Emergencies). Up to this point, FAME helped individuals pay for eye exams and DCLVSG paid for their eye glasses. Now, until all the funds have been distributed, FAME will be able to provide both services.

Some of the key individuals responsible for DCLVSG and its services to the community over all these years include Dr. Daryl Parker, Sondra Crothers, Pauline Horner, Kathleen Harley, Carmen Skiles, and Betty Via.

Dr. Daryl Parker, a resident of the Brethren's Retirement Community (BRC) and ophthalmologist, felt there was a need for this type of group. He started a steering committee and monthly meetings at BRC. They had programs with speakers, such as physicians, or other visually impaired persons to provide tips on how to handle difficult situations, or just have sharing meetings offering support for each other. Other functions of the group were to go to local civic organizations, health fairs and nursing homes to show what equipment was available to those with low vision; teach Sighted Guide Techniques; hold an annual all day symposium with several physicians as speakers where Continuing Education credit was offered for nurses, counselors and social workers; and operate and manage an office/store.

The store was located at Brethren Retirement Community. It was a non-profit store that sold magnifiers not available in other stores, talking watches, bold writing pens, check guides, letter and envelope writing guides and closed caption units for televisions. Sondra Carothers, their President, remarked, "We also guided people to sign up for the 'talking books' program and to get the player to use those books." In the office, they also provided a service to residents in that they would change batteries, set clocks and set talking watches for individuals.

Sondra Carothers has served on the board for over four years and recently as President. Pauline Horner has been on the Board since close to its inception and as Treasurer almost as many years. All of the Board and its Officers were volunteers.

Pauline Horner commented that seeing people come in to DCLVSG meetings scared and emotional and saying they had no idea there was help was the most gratifying part of her volunteer work. "People would say that they didn't know the store existed and when they would try one of the



(L to R) Sondra Carothers, President and Pauline Horner, Treasurer

New Board Members Welcomed by HOPE

HOPE Foundation Board of Trustees welcome Tim Hissong and Ray Laughlin as newest members.

Tim Hissong has been the President and CEO of Brethren Retirement Community for the past two and one half years having been employed there for the past 15 years. He resides in Greenville with his wife, Dawn. They have a son, Bryan, who lives in Maryland. Tim is involved in service work with other organizations also. Since 1992 he has been a board member for "A Learning Place." He is also involved with the Community Board for the Darke County Association for the Arts. Tim also is active in various organizations in the Brethren Organization.

Ray Laughlin is no stranger to Darke County. Recently retired, Ray has been President and CEO of Wayne Hospital the past twenty years. He has served the Ohio Hospital Association as a member of the small and rural hospital committee. He is past President of the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association and a member of the Area Health Planning Council and the Greater Dayton Area Council on Aging. In June he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio Hospital Association for professional attainment as a leader in the community.

Ray tells us that when HOPE Foundation was first being organized Dr. Marlin Thompson made him aware of the importance of establishing a community foundation to enrich the lives of Darke County residents. Now he is very proud to serve on the HOPE Board. Ray and his wife, Bettye, reside in Greenville and have a daughter, Marya, and son-in-law, Mark, as well as Granddaughter, Emily.

Thank You – to Two Long-time Board Members

The HOPE Foundation would like to extend a sincere thank-you to Tom Graber and John Montgomery for sharing their talents and dedicated service to the HOPE Board of Trustees.

Tom Graber served the board tirelessly for approximately six years as Chairman of the Bequest Committee, defining the scope of many of the Funds the HOPE Foundation make available.

Tom is a member of the law firm Hanes, Schipfer, Cooper, Graber, Guillozet and Detling Limited. He has been practicing law for the past twenty-seven years.

Attorney Graber also serves the community by serving as board member of the Darke County Center for the Arts and is active with the Darke County Endowment for the arts.

John Montgomery, as Superintendent of the Darke County Educational Service Center, served on the board of HOPE Foundation approximately seven years starting in 1998 and ending 2005. During that time he provided leadership as President and Vice-President of the board and was active with the Scholarship and the Publicity committees

Now retired, after 35 years of active service in educational administration, John continues his service to the community on the the boards of the Darke County United Way and the Darke County Mental Health Clinic. He also volunteers his time to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville and to the Council of Rural Services Gateway Youth Programs as a tutor, in addition to educational consulting in the region.

As a side note, John says he was originally approached to become a board member by Dr. Marlin Thompson, one of the founders of HOPE. Dr. Thompson felt strongly that the current Darke County ESC Superintendent should be on the board because of the supportive role that the ESC had played in the life of HOPE from the founding of HOPE.

HOPE Foundation has been fortunate to have these two gentlemen on the Board of Trustees.

"End and Beginning" Continued...

special magnifiers would comment that they could see," she said. "That was very satisfying work as well as eye doctors referring their patients to the store to get items."

Kathleen Harley, a founding member of the steering committee, now a resident of the BRC volunteered for many years working in the office/store located at the BRC and supervising the work of the organization. She retired in 2002.

Another founding member, Carmen Skiles, was a great contributor to the group. "As a severely visually impaired person, she offered great tips and support," Sondra commented. She added, "Mrs. Skiles had so many good hints. I learned so much from her." One of the practical comments Mrs. Skiles offered when asked by a visually impaired individual having difficulty putting toothpaste on her toothbrush, "Get your own tube and squirt it in your mouth!" Mrs. Skiles also helped the organization by encouraging others to see what visual impairments were like. She would invite school children to her home and cook for them. They had to eat blind-folded. She would tell them that she wanted them to eat like she ate. Carmen Skiles also worked in the office/store.

Finally, Betty Via, a nurse at the BRC when the organization was founded, got involved and served as President for many years after being employed at the BRC. Betty will continue to organize meetings so low vision patients can continue to get together for support as they did "in their roots." They will no longer operate their office/store or provide equipment.

In addition to the HOPE Foundation, DCLVSG disbursed funds to the Brethren's Resident Aid Fund and some of their inventory to Goodwill Industries of the Miami Valley. Goodwill provides free mobility training (cane training) to individuals living in their own homes/apartments. They also provide "bump dots" to put on the stove, washing machines, clothing and provide individuals with the skills to organize cupboards and homes.

Memorial donations from families of those who have benefited has been a tradition that the founders of DCLVSG would like to see continue for FAME through the HOPE Foundation. Donations for low vision support initiatives can be sent to the HOPE Foundation /Darke County Low Vision Support Fund, P.O. Box 438, Greenville, Ohio 45331. All gifts are tax deductible. By contributing to these funds, it will prolong the amount of years this service will be provided in our community. The HOPE Foundation is the community foundation for Darke County. Help us to leave the best community we can for our grandchildren.

Charitable Giving Provisions for Individuals

New Federal Pension Protection Act of 2006

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 contains important provisions designed to encourage charitable contributions by individuals. Enacted by Congress into this Bill, individuals, with proper planning, should be able to take advantage of new deduction opportunities, while maximizing the tax benefits of any gifts that are subject to the new restrictions. Here is one area. Please be sure to consult your tax advisor for specifics.

Tax-free Distributions from IRAs

Effective for a two-year period (January 1 2006 – Dec. 31, 2007), distributions made from an IRA to a qualifying charity are excluded from the income of the IRA owner. The owner must be at least 70 to take advantage of this provision, and the amount excluded is limited to \$100,000 per year. The provision removes a number of impediments that stood in the way of IRA owners who wanted to give all of a portion of their IRA to charity. Under the usual rules, a gift from an IRA to charity is treated as a taxable distribution to the owner, who then has to claim an itemized deduction for the gift. Treating the gift as a distribution has adverse tax consequences to the owner, including the possibility of

the alternative minimum tax and the loss of itemized deductions and personal exemptions. And because the deduction is limited to 50% of the IRA owners's adjusted gross income, often the owner does not get a full deduction in the year of the gift.

These impediments are removed for qualifying owners by treating the distribution as an exclusion from income, rather than as a deduction. Because there is only a two-year window, you should consult with your tax advisor if you would like to make such a gift and will be at least age 70 during 2006 and 2007, so you can obtain the maximum tax benefit.

Friends of HOPE Campaign

The Board of Directors of the HOPE Foundation of Darke County invite members of the community to join the Friends of HOPE fund drive. Members of the community are urged to invest in the strengthening of our community foundation—the HOPE Foundation of Darke County.

The HOPE Foundation with assets of over \$2,000,000 invests these funds and provides over \$100,000 of interest income in support in various ways to the community. Through numerous student scholarships and gifts to non-profits in the areas of social services, cultural arts and donor advised activities. The HOPE Foundation supports Darke County in many ways.

Your gift to the Friends of HOPE strengthens the very core of the Foundation and allows it to run efficiently and at a low cost. This promises that the Darke County community receives the most money it can possibly receive for the good of our community.

A gift to the annual Friends of HOPE drive names you as a community leader who sees the benefit of a strong community foundation. Your name will be listed in our newsletter that is distributed to over 2,000 households. Your gift is tax deductible. Please consider joining the Friends of HOPE family.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (optional) _____

_____ Individual gift of \$100

_____ Company gift of \$250

__ Please send me information on including HOPE in my will.

Please make your check payable to the Friends of HOPE and send to:
HOPE Foundation
P.O. Box 438
Greenville, OH 45331



**PO Box 438
Greenville, OH 45331
937-548-9700**

*Special thanks to Kathleen
Kilgallon, Second National
Bank, for assisting in
publishing this newsletter.*

TRUSTEES

RICHARD BAKER
President, Rebsco Inc. (Retired)
FRED BERNHARD
Oakland Church (Retired)
Bethany Theological Seminary
Advancement Associate
RONALD E. BONFIGLIO
Pharmacist
TIM BOOHER
Managing Partner
R.J. Warner Insurance LLC
STEVE BURNS
President & C.E.O.
Greenville National Bank
DAN FRANZ
Certified Financial Planner
Financial Achievement Services, Inc.
PHILLIP R. GARBIG
Attorney
Garbig & Blinn, L.L.C.

JON HEIN
Darke County Common Pleas Judge
TIM HISSONG
CEO, Brethren Retirement Community
EILEEN ITCHFIELD
Darke Co. Law Library
Darke Co. Career Mentorship Program
R. E. LAUGHLIN
CEO, (Retired)
Wayne Hospital
SUSAN MUNTEAN
Attorney
Gary L. Flinn Co., LPA
RODNEY ODA, C.P.A.
Fry & Co.
KATE ROSS
Community Relations Director
YMCA of Darke County
MARVIN J. STAMMEN
President & CEO
Second National Bank

RICHARD TROUTWINE
Troutwine Auto Sales
CINDY WUEBKER
Medality, Inc.
JEAN YOUNG
Assistant Administrator
Family Heath
KENT A. ZECHAR
Managing Partner
Zechar Bailey Funeral
Homes

STAFF

Patty Lavy
President

**Website: www.hopedarkecounty.com
E-Mail: hopefoundation@woh.rr.com**

**Return Requested
HOPE Foundation
PO Box 438
Greenville, OH 45331**