

# GOODnews



THE DAYTON FOUNDATION

We're here for good.

## inside features

pg. 2

**Partnership to Benefit Region with Improved Access to Health Care, Educational Programs**



pg. 3

**Donors' Love of Dayton Spurred Generosity to the Community**



pg. 4

**Donors Establish Funds to Help Others**

pg. 5

**Grant to Help New Program for Renewable and Clean Energy Engineers**



pg. 7

**Scholarship Fund Celebrates Young Life Cut Short**

## Foundation Grant Helps Create stronger, more peaceful Dayton neighborhoods

**A**t a quilting bee in her East End/Twin Towers neighborhood in Dayton, Appalachian resident Diana Watkins sat next to her neighbor, a Pakistani woman. Together they chose colorful fabric pieces that the neighbor cut and arranged on a quilt square to represent the mosque where her family worships.

"Working on that quilt, I learned we all are very much alike, because no matter where we are from, we all feel very strong about our faith, our family and our culture," Diana Watkins explained. "That unites us, which is why we called our community quilt 'Unity.'"

Quilt artist Carolyn Mazloomi inspired residents at quilting bees in three communities organized by Cityfolk through its Culture Builds Community program. A partnership with community-



Thelma Patterson, project coordinator for the Fairview/Sunnyview-Catalpa quilt, talked about the significance of each square at the quilt's unveiling for the Cityfolk Festival.

continued on page 4

## First U.S. African-American woman with mathematics Ph.D. Fund Dedicated to Furthering Her Passion for Education

**B**orn in 1930, Thyrsa Frazier Svager achieved what few African-American women of her generation have in the field of education. A brilliant mathematician with a genius level IQ, Dr. Svager was the first African-American woman in the United States to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics. She also is credited with a long and distinguished career at Central State University (CSU) that began in 1954 as an assistant professor of mathematics and concluded upon her retirement in 1993 as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

So after his wife passed



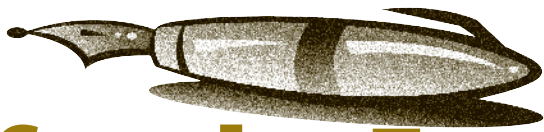
Aleksandar Svager and Thyrsa Frazier Svager

away in 1999, Aleksandar Svager decided that he could find no more fitting way to remember her than to establish the Thyrsa Frazier Svager Scholarship Fund through the African-American Community Fund of The Dayton Foundation. To date, the fund has awarded scholarships totaling \$31,000 to assist 16 African-American women in completing their degrees in mathematics at an accredited college or university. In addition to making current gifts to the fund, Mr. Svager has made plans for a

continued on page 5

# from the President

# Conserving for the Future



Michael M. Parks

Many people care deeply about conservation of our natural environment. Greater Dayton is especially blessed with an abundance of nature preserves, parks and farmland and a beautiful natural setting for homes and communities. We have plentiful, clean groundwater that many localities across the nation would give anything to possess. We have many organizations active in protecting all of these precious, natural resources and making recreational areas available to people who want to enjoy the outdoors.

These organizations, however, have had limited

opportunities to learn about what their fellow conservation groups currently are thinking and doing. In addition, The Dayton Foundation's Grants Committee expressed a desire to better understand more about the different functions of the various community environmental organizations to be better able to identify the optimal use of Foundation resources to support these organizations' broader work.

To this end, The Dayton Foundation provided an opportunity for the region's conservation groups to meet in a workshop setting to explore ways they might collaborate and leverage resources for the good of the environment and of all the organizations seeking to preserve it.

The workshop, which took place a year ago in spring, drew more than 40 participants from a wide variety of conservation organizations. When the meeting was over, people stood in the room and talked for a long time afterwards. Since the opportunities for all these groups to come together are rare, the organizations were anxious not only to learn what others were doing, but also to discuss each of their hopes for what could be accomplished for

Greater Dayton through collective effort.

They talked about advancement of common goals; engaging children in nature; how conservation is an economic development tool; the importance of promoting a regional land use vision; providing a clearinghouse for funding resources and collaborating on grant writing; and farmland preservation and

**"THE DAYTON FOUNDATION PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE REGION'S CONSERVATION GROUPS TO MEET IN A WORKSHOP SETTING TO EXPLORE WAYS THEY MIGHT COLLABORATE... FOR THE GOOD OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND OF ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING TO PRESERVE IT."**

regional land use preservation efforts. They discussed an exchange of capabilities between the organizations; methods of continuing the dialogue between the groups;

capacity building along the watershed by accessing federal funds; and so much more.

The enthusiasm in the room that day was palpable.

From that came a proposal commissioned by The Dayton Foundation for what has come to be called The Greater Dayton Conservation Collaborative. The Collaborative includes cooperation between The Dayton Foundation and the Miami Conservancy District. The goal is to improve the effectiveness and capacity of the region's organizations and programs to help conserve the area's natural environment and agricultural resources and educate the public about how they can participate in this effort.

At our June meeting, The Dayton Foundation Governing Board made a two-year grant commitment of \$35,000 per year to fund a pilot effort and a part-time environmental professional position to identify key funding opportunities to support the work of the collaborating environmental organizations. Going forward, the Collaborative primarily would convene the groups, coordinate communications for information resource and public education purposes, and develop joint grant proposals to further regional con-

servation. Some 43 nonprofit organizations have been identified as potential partners in the Collaborative.

While The Dayton Foundation is the largest funder of this initiative, we have partners in financially supporting the Collaborative. This includes Miami Conservancy District, Five Rivers MetroParks and the Foundation's Greater Dayton Conservation Fund.

This is an exciting, new effort, which The Dayton Foundation has been able to initiate because of Foundation donors who have provided us with unrestricted, endowed resources to be able to undertake such important community endeavors.

We are deeply grateful for our donors' help in making such opportunities possible. We have tremendous optimism that this pilot effort – which is consistent with our focus on partnerships and collaboration – ultimately will lead to a stronger network of support for and preservation of the unique natural environment with which our region is blessed. 🐾

Michael M. Parks, president

## New Partnership to Benefit Region

### with improved access to health care, educational programs

The Physicians' Charitable Foundation of the Miami Valley (PCF) recently announced its partnership with The Dayton Foundation to better serve the health care needs of the region by becoming a fund of The Dayton Foundation. The \$7 million PCF is one of The Dayton Foundation's largest charitable funds to date.

"Both organizations will benefit from synergies that will come from two grant-awarding institutions operating together," said Michael M. Parks, president of The Dayton Foundation. "This partnership represents a collaborative way to provide funding that will be at work in our community for years to come."

Established in 1973 as the Western Ohio Foundation for Medical Care, PCF adopted its new name in 1994. Its mission is to improve the quality, accessibility and cost-effectiveness of health care services in the Miami Valley area, including Montgomery, Miami, Preble, Greene, Warren, Clark and Darke counties.

**"THIS PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTS A COLLABORATIVE WAY TO PROVIDE FUNDING THAT WILL BE AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME."**

– Michael M. Parks, president, The Dayton Foundation

"Our primary interests lie in developing innovative



Dayton Public Schools Mobile Health Unit funded by The Physicians' Charitable Foundation

approaches to health care that otherwise might not be available without our involvement and support," said Alan Klein, M.D., retired physician and president of PCF. "We also place a special emphasis on enabling organizations to improve and upgrade their delivery of health care."

Since 1994, PCF has awarded grants totaling more than \$4.5 million to fund such activities as the purchase of automated external defibrillators for churches and community centers, a

patient simulation training lab at Wright State University School of Medicine, a Mobile Health Unit that provides Dayton Public School students with well child and athletic health exams, urgent care and immunizations, among other programs.

PCF will operate as a fund of The Dayton Foundation. The Dayton Foundation will provide accounting, auditing, technology services and fund administration functions for The Physicians' Charitable Foundation, as well as offer

access to legal and other Foundation services. PCF will continue to maintain its identity, the same board members and grantmaking procedures as it has had in the past.

"This partnership allows us to focus on awarding grants and growing our foundation," Dr. Klein said. "The cost savings is important. Plus, we now have a permanent location within The Dayton Foundation's offices that helps us to operate more efficiently and effectively, enabling us to become an even greater asset to the community."

A similar partnership was formed through The Dayton Foundation in 2006 with the Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Program, which also is a fund of The Dayton Foundation. 🐾

# 15 Charities to Benefit from \$3.3 Million Gift

## Spindlers' love of Dayton spurred generosity to the community

Besides dining with family and friends at Dayton Country Club and attending shows at Victoria Theatre and dances at The Dayton Art Institute, longtime Daytonians Dorothea "Dottie" and Donald Spindler traveled to New York City, San Francisco, China and practically all over the world during their 54 years of marriage.

"They enjoyed visiting all those places, but I don't think it ever occurred to them to live anywhere else but Dayton, because they were very happy here," said Jeanne Mayer, the Spindlers' niece. "Dayton was home."

She believes that may have been why her aunt and uncle set up the Donald M. and

Dorothea Hunt Spindler Endowment Fund of The Dayton Foundation. Recently the Foundation received \$3.3 million from the Spindlers' combined estates for this fund, which will benefit 15 local charitable organizations and support the Foundation's community leadership initiatives and competitive grantmaking program. The gift represents one of the largest gifts in the Foundation's 88-year history.

Donald and "Dottie" Spindler



Dottie Spindler worked as the secretary to the president of Third National Bank, now KeyBank, NA, for 38 years and also volunteered at The Little Exchange Fine Gifts in Oakwood, a charitable organization benefiting The Children's Medical Center of Dayton. She passed away in May 2002 at age 89. Donald Spindler, a lifelong Dayton resident, World War II Army Air Corps veteran and longtime Dayton Power and Light Company accounting employee, passed away in February 2007 at age 95. They resided in Kettering.

"I suppose there was a

**"[THE SPINDLERS] WERE VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR LIFESTYLE HERE AND BELIEVED YOU TOOK CARE OF THOSE LESS FORTUNATE, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THEY WERE HAPPY TO SEE THEIR MONEY COMMITTED TO A GOOD CAUSE."**


- David Siegfried, the Spindlers' nephew

little bit of noblesse oblige involved," speculated the Spindlers' nephew, David Siegfried, Jeanne Mayer's brother. "They were very satisfied with their lifestyle here and believed you took care of those less fortunate, one way or another. They were happy to see their money committed to a good cause."

Jeanne Mayer said the Spindlers were very likable, sociable people. "They had a whole raft of friends," she said. "At the bank, Dottie sat right out front where she greeted the public, because she was so gracious and so friendly. The bank wanted this kind of person in that position. And even when Don lost his eyesight near the end of his life, he still saw to

it, whenever I came back to visit, that there was a dinner party scheduled at the Dayton Country Club for my brother and me, along with two couples who were neighbors."

The Spindlers did almost everything together, except root for the same football team. Mrs. Spindler was a University of Michigan graduate, and Mr. Spindler was an Ohio State University graduate. They also worshiped at different churches downtown, Jeanne Mayer said. On Sundays, Mrs. Spindler attended First Baptist Church of Dayton, and Mr. Spindler attended First Lutheran Church. Both churches, along with Victoria Theatre Association, The Dayton Art Institute, the Children's Medical Center Foundation and The Dayton Foundation are among the 15 organizations that will receive yearly grants from the Spindlers' endowment fund.

Kevin McDonald, vice president and trust officer with KeyBank, suggested that the Spindlers work with The Dayton Foundation to set up their legacy fund in 1998. "They were the most kind and gentle couple – always appreciative of everything and everyone," he said. "This fund is a true testament to their kind and generous nature." 

## The Dayton Foundation News

### In Remembrance of Charles Abramovitz

The Dayton Foundation is privileged to pay tribute to and mark the passing of Charles Abramovitz, philanthropist, businessman and longtime friend of The Dayton Foundation.

Charles Abramovitz served as a member of The Dayton Foundation Governing Board from 1990 to 2001. He also served on the Foundation's Grants Committee from 1991 to 2006, including serving as chair for five years, and most recently on the Gift Acceptance Committee. A strong proponent of education, Mr. Abramovitz co-chaired the Foundation's K-12 Education Task Force,



Charles Abramovitz

which helped to develop the Miami Valley Teacher/Leadership Academy, an intensive training program for teachers to improve student learning.

Said Foundation Chair Charles A. Jones, "We were deeply saddened to learn of

Chuck Abramovitz's passing. A devoted Board member and community leader, he cared deeply about Greater Dayton and always did whatever was necessary to help. He was a very special friend of The Dayton Foundation and always will have our deepest gratitude and respect."

"Chuck was an outstanding leader and steward of the Foundation's discretionary grants process during his years on the Grants Committee,"

said Michael M. Parks, president of The Dayton Foundation. "He and his wife, Helen, showed their commitment by establishing two endowment funds at The Dayton Foundation over the years to support their philanthropic interests in the community. These included a designated fund that provides financial support to their favorite charities and a deferred unrestricted fund to help The Dayton Foundation meet future needs in the community. All of us at the Foundation truly will miss Chuck, but we are heartened to know that his endowment funds will live on. Through them, he and his family will be remembered for generations to come."

**TO READ MORE ABOUT CHARLES ABRAMOVITZ AND HIS WIFE, HELEN, VISIT [WWW.DAYTONFOUNDATION.ORG/IBELIEVE.HTML](http://WWW.DAYTONFOUNDATION.ORG/IBELIEVE.HTML).**

### Foundation Wins National and Regional Communications Awards

For the sixth consecutive year, The Dayton Foundation has been named an award winner for excellence in communications by the national Wilmer Shields Rich Awards Program. The program is sponsored by the Council on Foundations, the premiere professional organization for all foundations in the U.S. and abroad.

Competing against the largest of more than 700 community foundations, with assets over \$250 million, The Dayton Foundation received 2009 Bronze Awards for both *We Help You Help Others*,<sup>SM</sup> the Foundation's 2007-2008 annual report to the community, and for *Good News*, the Foundation's general newsletter.

The Foundation also received three Bronze Quill Awards of Merit for excellence in communication from the Dayton and Greater Cincinnati chapters of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). The two IABC chapters combined their individual awards programs to recognize outstanding communications created by corporations, other companies and nonprofit organizations in both regions.

The Foundation's awards were presented for *Futures*, the Foundation's publication for financial and estate planning advisors, *Good News* and the Foundation's brand development and communications implementation process, which focuses on the brand positioning, "We help you help others."<sup>SM</sup> 

# Donors establish funds to help others **endowment**

Establishing a strong foundation for our community's future is a vision shared by donors who have endowment funds at The Dayton Foundation. The following funds are some of the new endowment funds established by donors in recent months to support our region and their special charitable causes, now and in the future.



**Victor J. Cassano Health Center Victor J. Cassano Health Center Transition Fund** was established to support this medical facility in Dayton and assist it in becoming a federally-qualified health care center. The facility serves all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

**Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton Fund\*** supports efforts to improve the health of underserved individuals in the Greater Dayton Region by pro-

viding preventive and primary health care services, regardless of the patients' ability to pay.



Dayton Masonic Temple

**Dayton Masonic Foundation Endowment Fund** provides annual unrestricted operating revenue for the Dayton Masonic Foundation.

**Five Rivers MetroPark Levy Fund** provides financial assistance for community-wide, nonpartisan polling and other educational activities related to the Five Rivers MetroParks Levy.

**Friends of the Nonprofit Alliance Support Program** supports this Dayton Foundation leadership initiative to help Greater Dayton nonprofits explore collaborations and strategic partnerships in order to sustain vital services in the region.

**Lauderback Fund** helps Clara Lauderback to perpetuate her charitable wishes by

designating annual grants to selected organizations, including The Dayton Foundation's unrestricted fund to meet ever-changing needs.

**The Mattie W. Lyle Fund to Benefit Mary Scott Nursing Center\*** assists the center in improving and maintaining quality care, while honoring the memory of Mattie Lyle, an emeritus member of its governing board.

**The Physicians' Charitable Foundation of the Miami Valley Fund** helps improve the quality, accessibility and cost-effectiveness of health care services in the Greater Dayton Region.

**Carolyn Hosier Polk Fund**, as an unrestricted fund, will help support The Dayton Foundation's efforts to meet pressing needs in the Greater Dayton Region, now and in the future.

**Public Art in Vandalia Program Endowment Fund\*\*** promotes the artistic enhancement of the City of Vandalia's neighborhoods and urban environments, as determined by the Vandalia City Council and the Public Art in Vandalia Program committee.



City of Vandalia public art event

**The Willie and Eloise Root Memorial Scholarship Fund** honors the memory of these migrant workers, whom the fund's founder befriended one summer while working in an apple orchard. The fund assists individuals who are either migrant workers, children of migrant workers or are involved with migrant workers, to further their studies at an institute of higher learning.



Sherry and Hans Tschudin

**Hans and Sherry Tschudin Scholarship for DECA (Dayton Early College Academy) Project Excel Fund** will be awarded to DECA graduates who have displayed high potential for college success. The Academy, sponsored by Dayton Public Schools and administered by the University of Dayton through Project Excel, seeks to enhance campus diversity at the University and allow underrepresented students to achieve a college education.



\* African-American Community Fund

\*\* Vandalia-Butler Foundation Fund

## Culture Builds Community *continued*

based agencies and Dayton's Neighborhood School Centers (an initiative of The Dayton Foundation), this program brings community residents together by sharing music, food, storytelling and other cultural traditions. A \$25,000 discretionary grant from The Dayton Foundation in 2008 aided Cityfolk in expanding this effort to provide innovative arts programming in Diana Watkins' neighborhood and two more this year in Dayton's inner city.

"The Dayton Foundation is a supportive partner that understands how arts programming can be a community-building tool," said John Harris, executive director of Cityfolk. "Creating a level of

tolerance and understanding always has been a by-product of everything we do at Cityfolk. But with Culture Builds Community, we use the arts to build community in a more intentional way."

**"CULTURAL AND ARTS PROJECTS CREATE SPACE FOR PEOPLE TO EXPLORE THEIR OWN CULTURES, SHARE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER'S CULTURES IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT."**

— Kelsa McClellan, community programs manager, Cityfolk

That's important, since many Dayton neighborhoods

have become more racially and ethnically diverse over the past two decades, and some neighborhood transformations have not always gone smoothly. Differences and language barriers have created fear and tension among some Appalachian, African-American, Hispanic and Middle Eastern residents. But Culture Builds Community, which began in 2006, has helped people build relationships with their neighbors, said Kelsa McClellan, Cityfolk's community programs manager.

"Many people really want to break down these barriers, but they don't know how," she explained. "Cultural and arts projects create space for people to explore their own cultures, share personal experiences and learn about each other's cultures in a safe environment. The creative process gets people to think in new ways about what is possible for their lives and their communities."

Another way the program builds community is by bringing artists from across

America and around the world into Dayton churches, community centers, senior homes, schools and public places. For example, The Dayton Foundation grant supported two music and dance residencies this year. The first, for the East End/Twin Towers neighborhood, involved Rhythm in Shoes, Dayton's versatile Appalachian-inspired dance and music ensemble, and Dallas Chief Eagle, a member of the Rosebud Lakota Sioux tribe and a world champion hoop dancer. The second, for the Wright-Dunbar/Wolf Creek/MacFarlane and Fairview/Sunnyview-Catalpa neighborhoods, was the Prophecy Music Project. This is a professional ensemble that performs traditional African and African diasporan music and dance.

"After the artists encouraged the African children to share some of their culture, these children, so far from their homeland, began drumming, dancing and singing, which brought tears to the

**"THE DAYTON FOUNDATION IS A SUPPORTIVE PARTNER THAT UNDERSTANDS HOW ARTS PROGRAMMING CAN BE A COMMUNITY-BUILDING TOOL."**

— John Harris, executive director, Cityfolk

artists' eyes," Kelsa McClellan said. "Then a 12-year-old Mexican boy was inspired to come out of his shell and play piano in front of his peers for the first time. Everyone was incredibly engaged and moved by that experience."

John Harris said art as a reflection of culture has the power to bring forth understanding. "And if you understand people," he said, "you are likely to interact with them more effectively."

# Dayton Foundation Grant To Assist Reentry Students

## New program fills need for renewable and clean energy engineers

A downsized geothermal engineer in the Dayton area is one of 200 people interested in Ohio's first master's degree program in renewable and clean energy being offered by the University of Dayton, in cooperation with Wright State University, Central State University and the Air Force Institute of Technology.

But this engineer, and other reentry students like him, cannot succeed without first completing transitional coursework in energy, explained Kevin Hallinan, professor and chair of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Dayton. Reentry students, who already have a bachelor's degree and may or may not be working, often need to refresh their academic skills before pursuing a master's degree.

Earlier this year The Dayton Foundation awarded the University of Dayton a \$10,000 discretionary grant from The Fund for Higher Education, an endowed fund established at the Foundation by former NCR Corporation Chief Executive Robert S. Oelman. The grant supports the development of new online courses needed to help local working or currently unemployed professionals from a variety of engineering and science backgrounds succeed in the new master's



Fiona Martin, a graduate student in the University of Dayton's renewable and clean energy master's program, with her group's class project, a solar thermal hot water system.

**"WITH THIS GRANT, WE ARE TAKING AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN PREPARING DIVERSE, TALENTED INDIVIDUALS WHO WANT TO FOCUS ON THE NEED FOR STABLE, CLEAN AND ECONOMICAL ENERGY SOURCES."**

– Kevin Hallinan, professor and chair of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, University of Dayton

**"EDUCATION WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO HER. SHE ONCE PAID FOR A STUDENT'S FULL TUITION, BECAUSE SHE WANTED THE STUDENT TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED."**

– Aleksandar Svager

Antioch College in Yellow Springs, she earned a master's degree and a doctorate in mathematics at The Ohio State University.

"She was one of four African-American students who attended Antioch College at that time," Aleksandar Svager recalled. "Another one was Corretta Scott King, one of Thyrsa's close friends."

A gifted educator himself,

degree program. The online courses, which will have an emphasis on renewable and clean energy and count toward degree requirements, are being developed this summer and will be offered to reentry students in the fall.

"This new master's program is attracting not only well-prepared mechanical and chemical engineers, but also people from diverse disciplines, such as industrial engineering, computer information systems and

Aleksandar Svager met his wife in 1964 at CSU, where he was the chair of the physics department. They shared a love of education and were committed to encouraging African-American students to major in math and physics.

"After we were married, we decided that we would live on one salary and invest the other," said Professor Svager, who retired in 1996 as professor emeritus. "We planned to leave our estate to help children, particularly through a scholarship program."

Aleksandar Svager's interest in education extends back to his early years after World War II. Born in 1931 to a Jewish doctor and his wife, young Svager and his

even biology as it relates to biofuels," Kevin Hallinan explained. "These individuals bring diverse perspectives in areas such as systems, business, public policy and economics that can be a real asset to our program. These students, however, need bridge courses in thermodynamics, heat transfer and fluid mechanics that now will be available thanks in part to this grant."

Since online courses are attractive to reentry students, the University of Dayton will explore the possibility of offering the entire degree program online for those who want it, Kevin Hallinan said.


"We are grateful for The Dayton Foundation grant, which is helping us to increase the accessibility and quality of a program aimed at educating professionals needed in one of the most critical industries of the 21st century – renewable and clean energy and advanced energy systems," said Ann Jenks, director of foundation relations, University of Dayton.

Renewable energy jobs in Ohio currently total about 8,000, but this number is expected to grow to 100,000 by 2030. Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland's "Building Ohio Jobs" plan calls for an investment in renewable energy. This new master's program will help to fill the need for

**"[THIS GRANT] IS HELPING US TO INCREASE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF A PROGRAM AIMED AT EDUCATING LOCAL PROFESSIONALS NEEDED IN ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL INDUSTRIES OF THE 21ST CENTURY – RENEWABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY AND ADVANCED ENERGY SYSTEMS."**

– Ann Jenks, director of foundation relations, University of Dayton

qualified renewable and clean energy engineers, according to Kevin Hallinan.

"An engineer who used to work at Delphi is still a good, solid engineer looking for a way to take what he or she knows and apply it to something needed in society," he explained. "With this grant, we are taking an important first step in preparing diverse, talented individuals who want to focus on the need for stable, clean and economical energy sources." 

According to Waverly Glover, a longtime friend of the Svagers and retired vice president of fiscal affairs at CSU, "Thyrsa and Aleksandar were very generous people. Aleksandar still is today, both with gifts to this fund and to the school. When we're blessed with good fortune, it's our obligation to give back to others who aren't as fortunate. This fund in Thyrsa's memory will help provide for students now and for future generations."

Said Aleksandar Svager, "Thyrsa was an amazing, beautiful woman. She always had the best interests of her students at heart and wanted them to have the same opportunities that she had. This fund is her legacy." 

## Svager continued

significant legacy gift after his lifetime.

"Education was very important to her," Aleksandar Svager said. "She once paid for a student's full tuition, because she wanted the student to have an opportunity to succeed."

Education was a value instilled in her by her mother, a professor of literature at CSU, and by her father, a statistician. A native of Wilberforce, Ohio, Thyrsa Svager graduated from the Wilberforce University Preparatory Academy at the young age of 15. After completing her undergraduate studies at

# Recent Discretionary Grants

## help build a better community

# grants

In the first half of 2009, The Dayton Foundation awarded more than \$14 million in grants from donor funds to a wide variety of charitable organizations in the Greater Dayton Region and beyond. A portion of this amount was made through the Foundation's discretionary grants program, which a number of donors have made possible by providing unrestricted or largely unrestricted funds to The Dayton Foundation to be able to act on opportunities for the community and address pressing needs throughout the region.

The Foundation awarded \$445,250 in discretionary grants in June, which are approved by the Foundation's Governing Board, to assist the following charitable organizations in helping Greater Dayton. Some of these grants represent multi-year commitments.



**Building Bridges**

**Building Bridges (\$9,000)** to assist in the rehabilitation of troubled youth by purchasing a new van to transport them to medical appointments, recreational programs and other meetings.



**CARE House**

**Children's Medical Center (\$50,000)** to better serve child abuse victims in Montgomery County by expanding and renovating CARE House, a child advocacy center.

**Citywide Development Corporation (\$25,000)** to help construct a water spray park in Dayton's Fairview Commons civic area to provide enhanced recreational opportunities for low- to moderate-income families.



**Cox Arboretum MetroPark**

**James M. Cox, Jr., Arboretum Foundation (\$50,000)** to help preserve the 189-acre Cox Arboretum MetroPark for future generations by expanding and renovating its gardens and facilities.



**Dayton Contemporary Dance Company**

**Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (\$20,000)** to help students use dance to enhance their learning of traditional school subjects through the "Dancing to the Curriculum" program.

**Dayton History (\$75,000)** to showcase Dayton's rich history in business and scientific innovation by helping to create The Heritage Center of Dayton Manufacturing & Entrepreneurship at Carillon Park.

**Downtown Dayton Partnership (\$10,000)** to support a community-wide plan to create a more vibrant and thriving Downtown Dayton.

**Greater Dayton Conservation Collaborative (\$70,000)** to aid the region's environmental and conservation efforts by bringing the united goals of local organizations into action.



**Hospice of Dayton**

**Hospice of Dayton Foundation (\$25,000)** to expand palliative care services to aid patients who have advanced illnesses, but who do not yet require hospice care.

**Montgomery County Office of Family and Children First (\$30,000)** to help hire a homelessness prevention coordinator to assist individuals who are at risk of losing their homes.

**National Conference for Community and Justice (\$11,250)** to help create safer school environments by expanding the Conflict

**United Rehabilitation Services (\$25,000)** to help stimulate the sensory and motor skills of individuals with developmental or neurological disabilities by creating a Multi-Sensory Activity Gym.

**Women's Recovery Center (\$25,000)** to aid in renovating an apartment building to provide additional



Management and Inclusion Program in Dayton Public Schools.

**United Rehabilitation Services** housing for women undergoing treatment for addiction, as well as housing for their families. 



**Project CURE (\$20,000)** to facilitate the purchase of specialized software to aid the agency's efficiency and delivery of services to individuals who are addicted to drugs.



**Water spray area in Dayton's W.S. McIntosh Park**

## Green!

In our continuing efforts to be more environmentally friendly and to reduce printing and mailing costs, *Good News* is available via e-mail as an Acrobat PDF attachment. It's the same *Good News* you currently receive through the mail, only the PDF is in full color.

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP GOOD NEWS GO GREEN BY JOINING OUR NEWSLETTER E-MAIL LIST INSTEAD OF RECEIVING PRINTED COPIES, SIGN UP ON OUR WEB SITE AT [WWW.DAYTONFOUNDATION.ORG/GOGREEN.HTML](http://WWW.DAYTONFOUNDATION.ORG/GOGREEN.HTML)**

# Scholarship Fund Celebrates Young Life Cut Short

A 1986 graduate of Washington University and teacher of mathematics at the Bullis School in Potomac, MD, David Saidel was struck and killed by a car in 1987 after climbing Mount Olympus in Greece. He was only 22.

Young Saidel had embarked on a journey through Europe as a “voyage of discovery,” recalled Burt Saidel, David’s father and a retired Dayton dentist. An accomplished athlete, David Saidel had traveled to Europe many times for skiing and biking trips with his family.

According to Dr. Saidel in a letter he wrote for his son’s funeral, “It was essential for David to climb a mountain, to experience a victory, to communicate with something beautiful and meaningful. He did it. He only ran out of luck.”

Faced with the sudden and tragic death of their only son, Dr. Saidel and his wife, Alice, sought comfort with their two older daughters, Debra and

Beth, and the family’s many friends. Today these friends include 41 recipients of the David A. Saidel Merit Scholarship Fund of The Dayton Foundation. Established 20 years ago with significant gifts from the Saidels, along with memorial gifts from their family and friends, the fund honors the memory of this bright, young man by awarding scholarships to Miami Valley School students. These recipients

share the same confidence, wit, intelligence and zest for living that David did, said his parents. To date, the fund has awarded nearly \$80,000 in scholarships, with the Saidels contributing an additional \$42,000 directly to the school to help facilitate this scholarship program.

“They are the living embodiment of David,” Alice Saidel said. “They take pride in calling themselves the ‘Saidel Scholars,’ with many even displaying David’s photo in their homes. That’s the kind of impact David has on people, even after his death.”

The Saidels keep in contact with nearly all of the scholars through letters, visits during their many travels and even wedding invitations, as well as at an annual bike ride on Memorial Day. This year marked the 22nd annual Saidel Bike Ride at Carillon Park in Dayton.

“It’s really a social event for David’s friends and the scholarship recipients to

remember David in a positive way,” Alice Saidel said. “Some ride bikes, walk or just visit with each other over lunch, which always includes David’s favorite food – Skyline Chili.”

Richard Taylor, David’s longtime friend and fellow 1982 Miami Valley School alumnus, shares the Saidels’ sentiments about the scholarship fund and all the good that it’s doing to keep David’s memory alive.

**“[THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS] ARE THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF DAVID. THEY TAKE PRIDE IN CALLING THEMSELVES THE ‘SAIDEL SCHOLARS’...”**

– Alice Saidel


“He had an infectious smile and a spark of bright-eyed optimism that you couldn’t help but be drawn to,” Taylor said. “I can see his qualities today in these students.”

The Saidels beam with pride when they talk about what the scholars have achieved in their personal and professional lives. One recipient currently



Burt Saidel (front, far left) and Alice Saidel (right) at the 22nd Annual Saidel Memorial Day Bike Ride.

is studying to be a transplant surgeon, several scholars are Ivy League school graduates and others have graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Another Saidel scholar, according to Dr. Saidel, successfully sought a grant to establish AIDS informational centers in Tanzania, where this devastating disease is said to have reached epidemic proportions.

“David enters my life every day,” Burt Saidel said, referencing these many young men, each of whom was presented with a special wooden plaque that he hand carved. Woodcarving was one of the many hobbies that he shared with his son. “This fund has exceeded our dreams. David would be pleased.” 



David Saidel stands triumphantly at the top of Mount Olympus shortly before his tragic death in 1987.

## Tips on charitable giving

# Using Life Insurance to Make a Charitable Gift



By Angela Clements, CPA, senior development officer

For many donors, a gift of life insurance can be an effective charitable-giving tool to help meet estate-planning goals. It can provide donors with an opportunity to make a substantial gift to charity today or to continue their current giving beyond their lifetimes. In addition, gifts through life insurance may provide useful income- and estate-tax benefits. The fol-

lowing are a few ways life insurance can be used to make charitable planned gifts.

**Transferring ownership of a paid-up policy to The Dayton Foundation.** This provides a current, charitable income-tax deduction equal to the lesser of the policy’s cash surrender value or the amount of premiums paid. The policy may be surrendered immediately or held until after the donor’s lifetime. The proceeds from the policy may be used, for example, to establish an unrestricted fund to support The Dayton Foundation’s community initiatives and grantmaking or to fund a donor-designated fund for one or more charities selected by the donor.

For example, John Smith owns a one-life policy with a face value of \$400,000. He has paid premiums of \$10,000 for 25 years. By donating the

policy, he will receive a charitable deduction of \$250,000 in the current year, and his fund at The Dayton Foundation will receive \$400,000 after his lifetime for his three named charities.


**Transferring ownership of a policy to The Dayton Foundation.** After transferring ownership of a policy, the donor makes contributions to The Dayton Foundation each year for the premium payments. The donor then receives annual charitable income-tax deductions for these payments. For example, Susan Jones donates her \$100,000 insurance policy to The Dayton Foundation. She continues to donate \$3,000 annually to the Foundation for the premium payments. Susan may deduct the approximate cash value and future premiums paid if the policy is renamed with The Dayton Foundation

as the owner. After her lifetime, Ms. Jones’s field-of-interest endowment fund to benefit youth will be funded with the \$100,000 proceeds from the insurance policy.

**Utilizing life insurance as a wealth-replacement vehicle as part of charitable planning.** A donor also can make an immediate or deferred gift of a retirement account, appreciated stock, land or other property. When donated to a charitable fund at The Dayton Foundation, these types of assets may provide a greater tax savings for the donor than leaving it in his or her estate (where it is subject to estate taxes). With the savings, the donor can purchase a life insurance policy to replace the value of the donated asset within his or her estate.

For example, by naming an unrestricted fund of The Dayton Foundation as

the beneficiary of a \$750,000 retirement account, Tom Scott can provide resources to help meet the changing needs of his community through the Foundation’s discretionary grantmaking program. This gift also can prevent his heirs from paying income and estate taxes on the retirement assets. He then can purchase a life insurance policy to replace the inheritance his children would have received.

The staff of The Dayton Foundation is available to talk with interested individuals and their advisors to select the option most beneficial to their families and charities they wish to support. Contact me, Angela R. Clements, at (937) 225-9948 or at [aclements@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:aclements@daytonfoundation.org), for more information. 



The Regional Community Foundation

500 Kettering Tower  
Dayton, Ohio 45423  
Phone (937) 222-0410  
Fax (937) 222-0636  
Web www.daytonfoundation.org  
E-mail info@daytonfoundation.org

**President:** Michael M. Parks. **Governing Board:** Charles A. Jones, chair, Gary L. LeRoy, vice chair, Thomas G. Breitenbach, Craig J. Brown, Franz J. Hoge, Ellen S. Ireland, Helen Jones-Kelley, Jamie King, Vicki D. Pegg, Colleen M. Ryan, Douglas C. Scholz, Richard W. Schwartz, Fred C. Setzer, Jr., Jerome F. Tatar, Fred E. Weber. **Financial Managers:** A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.; Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.; Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc.; Behnken and Associates, Inc.; Buckingham Financial Group; C.H. Dean and Associates; Dover Partners; Eaton National Bank; Eubel, Brady & Suttman Asset Management; Fiduciary Trust Company International; Fifth Third Bank; First Alliance Asset Management Access Financial Group; The Huntington; JP Morgan; James Investment Research, Inc.; Johnson Investment Counsel; KeyBank, NA; Liberty Savings Bank, FSB; Linsco/Private Ledger Financial Services; Merrill Lynch and Company; Michael J. Monaghan & Associates; Morgan Stanley Smith Barney; National City Bank; Northwestern Mutual Fund Services; Oxford Financial Advisors Corp.; PNC Bank, Ohio, NA; Parker Carlson & Johnson; Principled Wealth Advisors; Prudential Preferred Financial Services; Transamerica Investment Management, LLC; Truepoint Capital, LLC; UBS Financial Services, Inc.; US Bank; Wachovia Securities. **Investment Consultant:** Fund Evaluation Group, Inc.

Is the information on this label correct? If not, please call (937) 222-0410.

# GOOD NEWS INSIDE

Good News is made possible by four Dayton Foundation donors and families who have stepped forward to become the 2008-2009 "I Believe!" Partners of The Dayton Foundation. Their commitment underwrites a full year of Dayton Foundation publications, thereby freeing resources for the Foundation's other community work.

"I Believe!" Partners: Dr. Soma S. & Veni Avva, Karen S. & Kevin M. Crotty, Susan & Shaun P. Nicholson, and Jane & Fred C. Setzer, Jr.

- 🎯 **Foundation Grant Helps Create Stronger, More Peaceful Dayton Neighborhoods**
- 🎯 **Spindler Fund: Love of Dayton Spurred Generosity to the Community**
- 🎯 **Partnership To Benefit Region with Improved Access to Health Care, Educational Programs**
- 🎯 **Fund Dedicated to Furthering Thyrsa Frazier Svager's Passion for Education**
- 🎯 **Grant to Assist Reentry Students: New Program Fills Need for Renewable and Clean Energy Engineers**
- 🎯 **Scholarship Fund Celebrates Young Life Cut Short**

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Dayton, Ohio  
Permit No. 688

Printed on recycled paper.

We help you help others.™

Meeting All Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.



## Grants in Action

Grants in Action recognizes the results of notable grant awards, whether large or small, and the significant impact they have on strengthening the Greater Dayton Region.

### Innovative Summer Camp Promotes Creative Collaboration

Students are inspired most to create when they are invested in what they are learning. To incorporate this philosophy into its existing summer camp, The Human Race Theatre Company partnered with The Lovell Institute for the Creative Arts to bring area youth a unique theatrical opportunity. Thanks in part to a \$12,000 grant from The Dayton Foundation, plans were set

in motion to bring this internationally known, innovative program to Dayton.

"With the introduction of Lovell, the program is so much more than just a chance to perform," said Kevin Moore, executive director of The Human Race Theatre Company. "In the past we chose a known play for students to perform. The Lovell concept goes well beyond that single-focused, left-brain exercise by immersing students in every aspect of the creative process. They learned how to build their own, completely original production from the ground up."

Last summer, 15 teens



The Human Race Theatre Company

gathered at the inaugural Human Race/Lovell Summer Stock. In three short weeks, *A Novel Insight: A Musical Bestseller* successfully premiered in front of a full house at The Loft Theatre. In an end-of-camp survey, one teen said, "It was amazing! I was really encouraged by the staff to use my talents and do my best."

"The Dayton Foundation's grant allowed us to bring Lovell artists in to help establish the program here in Dayton," Kevin Moore said. "One measure of the program's success is the number of returning students who not only had a wonderful experience last summer, but also are bringing friends to participate with them this summer. Enrollment is growing along with enthusiasm, and we hope it will continue for many years to come."

### Mobile L.A.B. Educates Youth, Inspires Community to Give

Whether it is because of an illness, accident or routine surgery, the need for a blood transfusion can strike anyone without warning. Because this

need does not discriminate and is ever-growing, Community Blood Center/Community Tissue Services (CBC/CTS) is faced with the task of increasing donations, despite an aging donor base and more stringent testing requirements that limit blood supply.

In response, CBC/CTS has created several programs to educate the community on the importance of blood donation. With the help of a \$25,000 discretionary grant from The Dayton Foundation, CBC/CTS expanded these programs by creating L.A.B. (Learning About Blood), a mobile education vehicle that travels to local schools.

Through colorful, interactive displays, youth in a 15-county service area visit this "classroom on wheels" to learn about blood statistics and watch video clips of individuals whose lives have been changed by blood donation. The tour also includes a demonstration of the blood donation process to help ease potential donors' fears about giving blood.



Students tour the L.A.B. mobile education vehicle.

Since September 2008, L.A.B. has visited prospective blood donors throughout Greater Dayton, with donations from one school's blood drive increasing more than 10 percent following a visit from a CBC education specialist and L.A.B. visit. At another school, parents toured L.A.B. at their children's urging, with some adults pledging to donate at an upcoming drive.

"A safe and readily available blood supply is vital to our community's health," said Joy Rogers, development director for CBC/CTS. "The L.A.B. helps us spread the word to encourage and increase donation. The Dayton Foundation's grant was instrumental in our effort to inspire others to donate blood, so that they may help save lives." 🐾