



**Ashtabula  
Foundation**  
FOR THE BETTERMENT OF ASHTABULA COUNTY SINCE 1922



## 100 Years and Growing!

Leading the philanthropic outreach in Ashtabula County, the Ashtabula Foundation has proudly and successfully served nonprofit organizations with a proactive and responsive force, addressing charitable, religious, education and quality of life causes for 100 years! With the primary mission of the betterment of Ashtabula County – this Foundation addresses needs across Ohio’s largest County, nestled in the northeast corner of the State.

With a deep and rich history of volunteerism and civic duty, the Foundation’s Board of Directors are committed to the vision, mission and values founded a century ago. Current board members include President Carolyn Turk CPA, Vice-President Timothy Green, Secretary-Treasurer Roger Corlett CPA, Rev. Glen Warner, Jerome Brockway PhD, G. Richard Coblitz, Cheryle Chiaramonte, Joseph A. Misinec Jr., Lynn M. Zalewski, J. Trombley (J.T.) Kanicki, Michelle R. McClure, and Roy H. Bean, Director Emeritus.

Collaboratively, the board thoughtfully and carefully reviews each grant request to determine best use of the funds. They are also responsible for investing the Foundations more than \$21 million in assets to ensure funds will be available to meet future needs.

They have expertise in the fields of finance, education, religion, healthcare, and business. Directors are elected to unlimited terms. Historically, many directors have served for more than 30 years. The current board has nearly 160 years of combined experience.

They have about \$1 million available to invest in the county this year, however, distributing where the funds will be best utilized and make the most impact is not an easy task. The dollars can’t be stretched far enough to meet the long list of needs.

Carolyn Turk said stretching dollars is a major challenge that includes the question, “How can we be the best stewards of these financial resources for the betterment of the lives for our Ashtabula County residents? We want to understand the programs being offered, facilitate collaboration, and provide financial resources where they can provide the greatest impact.

Roy Bean has been a part of making these difficult grant decisions since he joined the Board in 1988. “When you have a budget to meet and the number of requests and dollar amounts exceed the budgeted amount, it becomes difficult to make a determination,” he explained.

“In this process we ask ourselves many things, such as, is the request a high priority for the betterment of Ashtabula County? Is the amount requested justified? How many people will benefit, a few or many? How does the request compare to other past similar requests? What is the financial and management status of the organization?”

Glen Warner, with 35 years on the board, explained, “Having control over several million dollars is an enormous responsibility. It brings to mind the on going consideration of what the Foundation founder Rudolf Henry Pfaff really intended. ‘Origination’ means should it operate as they believed 100 years ago? ‘Relevance’ means how should it operate now, in the present?”

“Truly, the philanthropic reputation of its creator has multiplied not only by 100 years but also in financial resources, benefiting many thousands of our residents who have seen their dreams realized by its grants,” Warner said.

**Watch for next month’s article to learn more about the Ashtabula Foundation. Celebrating 100 years of service!**

