Assets also hit record number

Foundation grants more than $1 million to wide range of local programs in 2019

It has been a record year for the Union County Foundation, both in asset growth and funds awarded. And the beneficiaries are a wide range of community causes that are improving lives across our county.

“In the first three quarters of 2019, the Foundation distributed $1,071,732 – a 63% increase in grants from the same time last year,” said Chris Schmenk, UCF board chair. “We’re also proud that our assets hit an all-time high in October of $12,159,149, up by $526,703 from one year ago.

“The bottom line is, more dollars than ever are being put to work in the place we call home.”

Now in its 26th year, the Foundation manages 112 different named funds. Created by local individuals and organizations, the funds support efforts as diverse as college scholarships, local parks, veterans’ activities, community dinners, housing initiatives and more.

“The common thread in all these programs? They align with the Foundation’s vision: to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Union County,” said David Vollrath, UCF executive director. He added that the 501c3 organization has given back more than $10 million to the community since its inception.

To learn more about the projects supported by the Foundation or to make a contribution, contact Vollrath at 937-642-9618 or at info@unioncountyfoundation.org.
Members of the Franklin Bicycle Club Inc. traveled to Marysville to participate in the bike tour, which offered routes of 19, 34, 64 and 74 miles. The longest route featured four covered bridges in Union and Champaign counties.

Board Chair Chris Schmenk welcomes guests to the seventh annual Foundation Celebration, whose theme this year was “A Symphony of Support.” The theme was a nod to both the generosity of UCF donors and the evening’s keynote speaker, Noa Kageyama, a nationally-recognized violinist and faculty member of The Juilliard School. Kageyama is a Marysville High School graduate whose specialty is performance psychology.

Old friends and Foundation supporters Betty Devine (left) and Azelene Bond catch up with each other at the Foundation Celebration.

Jean Wedding presented these North Union High School seniors with awards from the Burnside-Imbody-Fish Scholarship Fund last spring. Wedding, vice president of the North Union Board of Education, is on the selections committee for the scholarships, which are managed by the Union County Foundation. In 2019, the Foundation awarded a record $211,833 in scholarships to high school and college students throughout the county.

For more information on how to get involved in the Union County Foundation – and to learn more about the many good causes being supported by the Foundation – contact Executive Director David Vollrath, at 937-642-9618 or info@unioncountyfoundation.org.

Highlights of Foundation activities in 2019 show a record year in participation, too!

Along with remarkable asset growth and funds awarded, attendance at two of UCF’s signature events also hit new highs, with 171 bike riders entered in the fifth annual Covered Bridges Cycling Tour on August 31 and 180 guests registered for the Foundation Celebration dinner on September 26 at the Honda Heritage Center. All Foundation events are open to the public – see future newsletters for our 2020 dates!

Siblings (from left) Jenny and Mark Deaton and Sara Deaton Davis joined the Covered Bridges Cycling Tour in August. Last year, they created a scholarship fund at the Union County Foundation in memory of their parents, the Robert and Joan Deaton Memorial Scholarship.

Celebration guests supporting Keynote Speaker Noa Kageyama (back, second from right) included (front, from left) Russ and Sue Hughes, Dee Winters and Miriam Carson and (back, from left) Chuck and Ritsuko Jenkins, Noa’s mother, Sachiko Kageyama and Brenda Wisse.

Myron Gallogly (right), a former UCF board chair, greets two other former board members, Le Herron and Barbara Timmons, at the Celebration.

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