



The Incredible Impact on Marion

“I am a firm believer in the power of education to positively change lives.”

– Gary Sims

When you think of community supporters in Marion, the name Gary Sims is probably on many people’s short list.

So, it’s no surprise that in 2006 he and his family created a scholarship fund at Marion Community Foundation.

The Sims Scholarship makes awards to support seniors and graduates of Pleasant High School, of which Gary, his wife, and all his children are alumni.

Gary, a well-known community leader and businessman with Sims Brothers Recycling, created this scholarship fund to give local students the opportunity to achieve their educational potential.



Gary Sims and family

Sims Family Scholarship Fund ■ est. 2006

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Who We've Supported

American Red Cross
Black Heritage Council
Boys & Girls Club
Center Street Community Health Center
Chapel Hill House
Crawford Marion ADAMH
Epworth Preschool & Daycare
Eye-to-Eye Low Vision
Marion County Family Court
Habitat for Humanity
Warren G. Harding Presidential Site
Heart of Ohio Mentoring
I CAN Center for Excellence
Leadership Marion
League of Women Voters
Let's Read 20
LOVE Inc.
MARCA Industries
Marion Adolescent Pregnancy Program
Marion Area Chamber of Commerce
Marion Area Counseling Center
Marion Area Humane Society
Marion City Schools
Marion Concert Band
Marion County 4-H
Marion County Children Services
Marion County Historical Society
Marion County Special Olympics
Marion Crawford Prevention Programs
Marion Family YMCA
Goodwill Industries

The difference is more than numbers.

But, the numbers are pretty impressive.

- **281** scholarships awarded*
- **\$442,048** in scholarship awards*
- **226** scholarship recipients*
- **125** scholarship funds
- **112** grants awarded*
- **\$1.7 million** in grant awards*
- **76** local charities helped*
- **209** grant-awarding funds
- **23** years of supporting Marion
- **375** charitable funds
- **\$17 million** in cumulative grants and scholarships awarded locally
- **12** years of National Standards accreditation
- **\$58 million** in assets

*as of January 2021

You care about Marion.

With more than 375 funds addressing community needs, our donors, staff, Board of Directors, grant and scholarship committees - basically everyone associated with Marion Community Foundation - is looking to improve the quality of life in Marion, Ohio. Our funds support numerous Marion area students, nonprofit organizations and programs in the arts, education, health care, the environment, community development, and human services. The organizations listed in this section are representative of the scope and breadth of our grant and scholarship programs.

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Arts & Culture

Since 1928, the Marion Palace Theatre has been home to the arts in Marion. People who know and love the Palace have created several funds at Marion Community Foundation to ensure that the footlights always shine. Likewise, we have funds that support the Marion Concert Band, the Mid Ohio Fine Art Society, and local history via the Marion County Historical Society, the Linn School, the Harding Presidential Site, and more.



Health & Wellness

Marion Community Foundation has strong roots in the field of health care and a long-standing tradition of awarding grants in support of health and wellness within the community. Examples of some of our recipients include: the Marion Family YMCA, Center Street Community Health Center, and Prairie Parks' Tallgrass Trail. We have a number of funds dedicated to helping people with specific health concerns, such as ALS, low vision, arthritis, Parkinson's Disease, and other disabilities, as well as age-related issues like transportation.



Food, Shelter & Support

Turning Point, Habitat for Humanity, the Red Cross, our local homeless shelters and food pantries, and more all do great work to help those in need in the Marion area. And, we are glad to support them. Marion Community Foundation's grants have been awarded to these organizations, and others like them, which provide a hand up to people who are struggling with some of life's challenges.

Marion Matters
 Marion Palace Theatre
 Marion Public Health
 Marion Public Library
 Marion Senior Center
 Marion Senior Citizens Association
 Marion Shelter Program
 Marion Speech and Hearing Center
 Marion Technical College
 Marion Union Station
 Mid-Ohio Fine Art Society
 Mid-Ohio Food Bank
 Mobile Meals
 Muscular Dystrophy Association
 Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission
 Ohio History Connection
 The Ohio State University at Marion
 Palace Academy of the Arts
 Palace Cultural Arts Association
 Peace & Freedom Committee
 Pioneering Healthier Communities
 Prairie Parks Foundation
 RAMTEC of Tri-Rivers
 Recreation Unlimited
 Ronald McDonald House
 Royal Family Kids Camp
 Safety City
 Stengel-True Museum
 St. Vincent de Paul Society
 Turning Point
 United Way of Marion County
 local churches
 1,000s of local students



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Education

Since its inception, Marion Community Foundation has been supporting local students in their educational endeavors. We are the go-to organization for scholarships in the Marion area. In 1999, a mere year into our existence, we awarded our first scholarship – from the Marion Area Auxiliary Scholarship Fund to nursing student Brandi Mooney. The scholarship program has grown exponentially to 125+ funds awarding more than \$450,000 annually – providing hundreds of locally based scholarships. Our program is unique in that we encourage donors to make awards to both graduating seniors and college students throughout their university careers.



Community Development

Marion Community Foundation exists to see Marion prosper. A major player in this area of support is the multi-million dollar, unrestricted Robert M. & Dorothy C. Wopat Community Fund, but it is far from the only one. And, this is an area where new funds can make a huge impact. Community development encompasses organizations, programs, and projects that strengthen the base to improve human and community resources. Forward thinking organizations such as Marion Matters, Downtown Marion, Inc., Tri-Rivers' RAMTEC, Marion Technical College and Ohio State Marion, among others, are supported by funds at Marion Community Foundation. In return, the Foundation supports the MarionMade! community pride initiative to spread good news about Marion's people, places, products, and programs.



The Causes You Care About Most

Some funds at Marion Community Foundation have been created to support very broad categories of need and some are for very personal causes. We have:

- the Mary H. Hollaway Humane Society Fund because Mary loved her dogs,
- the Don & Deb Alspach Fund to support outdoor recreation, especially at the Tallgrass Trail,
- Merle Hamilton's funds which support the historical preservation of Marion County, which he so dearly treasured; as well as,
- endowment funds for many local churches and nonprofits.

Creating a fund at Marion Community Foundation is one of the easiest things you can do to leave your legacy. In just a little time, with just a little money, **you** can do so much good and be remembered in **Marion, forever.**