

IF NOT US, THEN WHO?

BUILDING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

The Shelby Foundation has been called to action to address the preservation of Shelby's historic downtown. The Foundation Board has had numerous conversations about investing in the declining building stock, and, when the opportunity presented itself, the timing was right. With so many wonderful things happening in our community, it was a now or never decision, and the Board asked, "If not us, then who?"

This bold action does not change the mission of the Foundation - **to connect generosity with community need**. We will continue to grant funding to local nonprofits who serve Shelby residents; award thousands of dollars in scholarships annually; and create and initiate programs that improve lives. As the Foundation grows, so does our impact and this is one more way we can help Shelby shine.

Learn more about the Foundation's investment inside.



Left: Director Carrie Kemerer with newly-installed window graphics on the former Dick's Furniture building
Right: The former Sutter's Home Furnishings building at 70 & 72 West Main Street

2024 AT A GLANCE

SUPPORTED
**21 UNIQUE
NONPROFITS**

AWARDED
\$260,000
in Grants & Scholarships

RAISED
\$165,000
at the Foundation's
Annual Fundraiser

PROVIDED
60 HYGIENE KITS
to Salvation Army's Christmas
Program from 100+ Women
for Shelby

MATCHED FUNDS FOR
**56 CARE
PACKAGES**
for the Elderly

70 COATS
for Children

**36 BOXES OF
FOOD**
for Families through Giving
Tuesday Campaign



Preliminary concepts (does not depict final building design)

BOLD STEPS

The Foundation purchased three buildings: 62 & 64 West Main Street, 70 & 72 West Main Street, and 65 Wall Street. The Board understands this is necessary to improve economic growth for the City because businesses, residents, and visitors want to be part of a booming community.

This truly is a labor of love, and if the Foundation, whose duty is to improve quality of life and strengthen our community now and for future generations, does not step up, who will?

The Shelby Foundation has, is, and will continue to invest in projects that benefit the entire community. There is a lot of momentum occurring in Shelby, and this is another area where the Foundation will make a difference.

Currently, an architect has been engaged and the design process has begun. While it will take time to revitalize the buildings, the possibilities are endless.



Why is the Foundation investing in downtown buildings?

The Shelby Foundation has long supported our local nonprofits and will continue to do this, but the Foundation's impact is for every person who has walked up and down Main Street, who has a business here, who has come here for dinner and walked in our parks, and, importantly, everyone who hasn't, yet, but will. Everyone should feel the positive effects of the Foundation.

Is this the role of a community foundation?

While community foundations are traditionally known for grantmaking to nonprofit organizations, many, especially rural-based foundations, are investing in building stock. Shelby is not unlike other communities where historical buildings have fallen into disrepair, and the cost to revitalize is often not affordable. The Shelby Foundation understands this labor of love is catalytic and necessary to improve economic growth for the City.

What is the Foundation going to do with the buildings?

In 2017, an economic development plan was created for the City. Shelby's historic downtown was called out in the plan as an opportunity to attract businesses and visitors into the community with the goal of improving economic growth. Communities with thriving downtowns have similar components and suggested in the plan were retail shops, entrepreneur shared space, restaurants, and professional services. The Board will use the plan and work through the City's economic development manager to recruit businesses that will be an asset and build a vibrant downtown.

Is the Foundation using local contractors for renovations?

Shelby residents are the heart of The Shelby Foundation, so, when decisions are made, it is always with the best interests of the community in mind. The Board of Directors interviewed numerous architect firms and made the decision to contract with Mansfield-based firm, Mauer Architectural Design Studio / MAD Studio. This firm will help steer the Foundation to future partners who have knowledge and skill with historical preservation. Local contractors will be considered.

This is another way
WE CAN HELP SHELBY

shine!



FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS
AS WE BUILD A
BRIGHTER TOMORROW

WELCOME ABOARD! NEW FUNDS ESTABLISHED IN 2024

We are excited to announce there are 70 funds housed at The Shelby Foundation. This year alone, we welcomed four new funds!

Ann Bly Endowment Fund

Dear friends of Ann Bly, Bruce and Melinda Berdanier, wished to support her memory and the already established Bly Scholarship Fund by adding supplemental funding to guarantee its sustainability, reach, and number of scholarships awarded annually.

Betty Crawl Performing Arts & Culture Fund

Audrey Dotson's cousin Betty loved the arts, but, more importantly, she loved to share that love with others. In her memory, Ms. Dotson established a fund that will bring performing arts to Shelby and provide an annual scholarship to a graduating Shelby senior who plans to study dance, music, or theatre in college.

Dennis and Karen Bowman Fund

Both educators, Dennis and Karen Bowman desired to establish a scholarship fund to assist graduating seniors at the districts where they taught, Lexington High School and Clear Fork High School. The inaugural scholarships of a minimum of \$1,000 each will be awarded in spring of 2025.

Fred Cooke Memorial Fund

The Cooke family shared Fred was often the first one on the scene in a crisis and loved being around to celebrate the good times. The Fred Cooke Memorial Fund will continue his legacy to show up for others by providing an annual scholarship to a graduating Shelby senior, and it will be responsive to help the community that was so special to him.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Foundation has, is, and will continue to invest in projects that benefit the entire community and improve the lives of Shelby residents. This year alone, we awarded \$145,000 in grants! WOW!

2024 Grant Recipients:

- Area Agency on Aging
- Community Improvement Corporation of Shelby
- Crestline Trinity Lutheran Church
- FFA Buyers Club
- Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio
- Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation
- Most Pure Heart of Mary
- National Inventors Hall of Fame
- OhioHealth Foundation
- Richland Academy of the Arts
- Richland Pregnancy Services
- Sacred Heart School
- Shelby Diaper Pantry
- Shelby FFA
- Shelby Help Line Ministries
- Shelby Little League
- Shelby Middle School
- Shelby Park Board
- Shelby YMCA
- St. Mary School
- Young Americas Foundation

HELPING WITH BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

The Foundation also awarded \$115,000 in scholarships to graduating Shelby Seniors. No other school district in the area receives this type of financial assistance. Go Whippets!

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

The 100 Women for Shelby initiative is exploding. So much in fact, the name was changed this year to **100+ Women for Shelby!** Currently, there are 186 members! The more women who belong means the more women we can help.

In 2024, the \$100 annual membership fee provided help to:

- IGNITED
- Richland Community Development Group
- Shelby Dream Center
- Shelby Help Line Ministries
- YMCA of North Central Ohio – Shelby Branch



100+ Women for Shelby Steering Committee members Jen Sautter and Lois Robertson present a check to Kimberly Mosler of IGNITED

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The "100+ Women for Shelby" membership drive is happening now. For more information call 419-342-3686 or visit: www.theshelbyfoundation.org/womens-fund/

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I've been on The Shelby Foundation board for almost nine years, and I am fortunate to be the current board chair. This organization has become extremely near and dear to my heart, and I know it is important to you as well.

It's been thrilling to see the Foundation evolve over the years. On behalf of the Board of Directors thank you for your support, because we would not be the organization we are today without you.

MARISSA MILLER, D.D.S., CHAIR

DON'T FORGET!

Giving Tuesday is an annual day of giving held on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving and this year, it will be held on December 3, 2024. The Foundation will provide matching dollars for care packages for the elderly, shoes for children, and food for families. Donations received from November 25th through December 31st will be sent directly to local agencies to purchase items.

Every dollar makes a difference and every kit sponsored makes someone smile. Learn how you can support the Foundation's Giving Tuesday campaign at <https://www.theshelbyfoundation.org/>

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.”

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

To become a donor or for more information about The Shelby Foundation, call 419-342-3686, email to: info@theshelbyfoundation.org or visit theshelbyfoundation.org.

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