

Paulding County Area Foundation

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Paulding County Area Foundation distributes grants

Paulding, OH: The Paulding County Area Foundation recently wrapped up the December 2019 grant cycle and awarded money to many deserving and hardworking organizations across the county.

United Way of Paulding County received a grant in the amount of \$6,000 to help aid their Dolly Parton Imagination Library program. The program focuses around early literacy providing a book a month for free to any child of Paulding County, newborn to the child's fifth birthday.

Special Olympics Paulding received a grant for \$6,000 to help their efforts of raising money to purchase a bus for their thriving sports teams. The growing program is unique in the fact that they provide transportation to all games, competitions, and events. Many other programs across the state do not offer this to their athletes and it results in athletes not being able to participate due to the lack of having or being able to find dependable transportation. Currently the athletes are utilizing a PC Workshop bus but would like to invest in their own to alleviate a strain on the PC Workshop bus. The bus would allow Special Olympics Paulding to continue to thrive and be a great place for athletes to bond and have fun to and from competitions.

Friends of the Latty Ball Associations and Latty Village were awarded a grant for \$5,000 to help purchase playground equipment for the ball field. The playground currently has one piece of equipment for the children. More equipment will promote safe, appropriate play areas, and will allow the children of the community to engage in exercise and socialization that contributes to their overall development. Our parks are an important backbone of rural communities!

MY 102.7 Paulding County's own radio station received a grant for \$6,000 to help purchase equipment to expand their growing MySports initiative. MY 102.7 would like to properly equip the station to video record and live stream high school sporting events and create MySports.tv. This would allow friends and family across the country to watch their loved ones compete. Initially the equipment will allow them to stream one live game at a time but with growth they will be able to stream more than one school simultaneously.

Paulding Soccer Club was awarded a grant for \$5,000 to go towards their five field soccer league in Paulding at the Lela Jeffery McGuire Park for children ages four through 8th grade. This project is aimed at boosting the growing love of soccer in Paulding County and will improve the current facilities and enhance the Paulding Soccer Club. Two regulation sized soccer fields and three youth sized fields in one location will allow parents to be present for more than one child's game at a time. Currently the fields are in three different locations which puts a strain on many parents with multiple children playing at the same time. With the addition of 200 parking spaces, the Paulding Ball Association and Paulding Soccer Club will both benefit. This expansion will allow many kids throughout the county to engage in teamwork and a new opportunity for growth and well-being.

Challenged Champions Equestrian Center was awarded a grant for \$3,000 to assist the program that services veterans, individuals with special needs and at risk youth through therapeutic horseback riding and other horse related activities. Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies have been proven to show physical, social, cognitive and emotional improvements in participants. The monies awarded will help provide scholarships to participants that are unable to afford the rider fees, assist with the care of the horses and help with the purchase of necessary safety equipment needed for lessons. This program has served around 380 participants and is a unique, and helpful program for individuals of the county.

The Defiance Youth for Christ received a grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 to offset costs of YFC camp for 6 – 8th graders. Allowing children an opportunity to grow, make friends, and have fun is crucial for their development.

The Paulding County Area Foundation looks forward to serving the community in 2020. Through scholarships, grants, and other charitable giving the Foundation impacts the community and the people in it in a positive way. The Foundation focuses on using generous contributions from donors to help the community prosper and enhance the quality of life in Paulding County. To be considered for the next grant cycle, forms can be found on the Foundation's website, pauldingcountyareafoundation.com. All forms but be submitted to the Paulding County Area Foundation office by March 31st for consideration in June.

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