

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

As anyone who has worked in education for even a short time knows, there's never enough money to do all of the things one wants for students and schools.



Thankfully, in Pickaway County, each school district has an education foundation.

Shirley Bowser, who with Doris Yamarick got the ball rolling for the Pickaway County Community Foundation, knew that the community needed education foundations.

"A lot of people look for ways to support schools but may not want to serve on a school board," she said.

Westfall's education foundation was created first, in 2006.

The Westfall Education Foundation helps fund scholarships, student opportunities, such as sending students to leadership conferences and cultural experiences, educational grants, school programs and school facilities.

This month, for example, the foundation awarded a \$2,000 grant to help purchase choral risers that will be used by more than 250 middle and high school students.

Westfall's annual fundraiser is Party with a Purpose, scheduled for Nov. 11. Learn more at <http://westfalledu->

educationfoundation.org/party-with-a-purpose/.

Each district in the county – Circleville City Schools, Logan Elm and Teays Valley – has since started its own education foundation. The school foundations exist under the Community Foundation umbrella.

While each foundation has similar goals of supporting students and teachers through scholarships and grants and connecting with alumni, each group raises money through a specific fundraiser.

The Circleville City School Foundation hosts Raise Your Paw on the last Saturday in February (learn more at <http://circlevillecityschoolfoundation.org/>) and money raised has gone toward two \$1,500 scholarships to graduating seniors, three \$2,000 post-graduate scholarships, 20 Kids on Campus scholarships to elementary school students and, "as many as possible Washington, D.C., scholarships," said Patty Truex, a foundation board member.

Patty said the foundation strives to provide mini-grants of less than \$500 and generally are awarded to teachers to promote student learning. In 2016, the foundation awarded grants of more than \$500 that went toward technology projects, an outdoor boardwalk on campus, a robotics project, and a media arts program at the high school.

Teay's Valley has an annual auction



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in March and this year, Logan Elm created the Braves, Blues & BBQ fall fundraiser (www.loganelmeducationfoundation.org/).

Jeff Sheets, a member of Teays Valley's foundation board, said besides creating financial support, the foundation also has provided community support.

For example, more than 500 supporters attended this year's auction, at which \$73,000 was raised.

"This year we are budgeted to spend \$101,000 in classroom grants and other district incentives," Jeff said. "Each of our district's seven buildings receives \$7,500 for classroom grants."

People interested in being involved with Teays Valley's foundation can send an e-mail to TVSD@tvsd.us.

As Shirley said, not everyone wants to serve on a school board. But if you'd like to help a county school district, contact an educational foundation of choice to see how you can be involved.

Educational foundation representatives spoke to the Sunrise Rotary group recently. From left, Jay Wippel, Westfall; Jeff Sheets, Teays Valley; Patty Truex, Circleville; and Perry Orndorff, Logan Elm.



Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center. He can be reached at ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org.