

# Progress

2011-12  
ANNUAL REPORT

THE  
HIGHLAND  
FOUNDATION

*for educational excellence*



The Highland Foundation  
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# Foundation positioned for sustained growth, outreach



The 2011-12 Highland Foundation year was significant in many respects. Through hard work and an unwavering commitment toward our mission to provide educational funding and support for the Highland Local School community, The Foundation spent much of the year putting the building blocks in place for accelerated growth. Of

greatest significance was the hiring of Theresa Wright as The Highland Foundation's first executive director. The creation of this part-time role was born out of our strategic planning session back in 2008. It was implemented this year and will serve as the cornerstone for aggressively building donor relations and growing our endowment.

If you haven't had the opportunity to meet Theresa, you'll quickly learn that she has a tremendous amount of passion for Highland Schools. She also brings a wealth of community leadership and fund development experience to the Foundation. Before joining The Highland Foundation, she was the relationship manager for charitable endowments at National City Bank where she led Board and staff on campaigns, legislation, donors' intent, spending and investment policies while also managing 80 charitable relationships and 125 charitable accounts. Prior to that, Theresa held several senior fund development leadership roles for the Rotary Foundation, the non-profit entity of Rotary International.

Since her appointment in April, she has hit the ground running focusing on building relationships with key stakeholders such as donors, Highland teachers and staff, and Foundation Trustees. With Theresa in place coupled with our talented Board and volunteers, we will advance our enrichment programs that ultimately benefit students, staff and our community at-large.

Other highlights from the year include:

- We funded \$28,121 worth of educational programs across Highland's five schools. Since inception, The Foundation has distributed \$593,838 worth of grants to fund 171 unique learning programs.
- Our 7th annual Great Gifts benefit dinner was attended by more than 200 members of the

Highland community. We raised more than \$40,000, a 21 percent increase over last year.

- A review of The Highland Foundation by-laws was completed; updates and new amendments were adopted.
- The executive committee advanced a succession plan for its officers and Board of Trustees. Also, four new trustees, Linda Collins, Hope Krueger, Dr. Julie Reeves and Eric Shaffer, were voted onto the Board.
- A new brochure describing The Highland Foundation won a design award from National School Public Relations Association, Ohio Chapter.
- We added a new scholarship, named The Foundation Scholarship, to the roster of annual financial opportunities offered to graduating seniors.

In closing, thank you to Trustees Jean Christopher, Jim Kelly, Quinten Tiff and Past Chairman, Lori Miller whose terms expired at the end of the year. While their contributions were many, it was their positive energy that drove the Board and ensured everything we did was grounded by our mission and supported its founding principles.

### **It's an exciting time for The Highland Foundation.**

We have a solid base from which we'll grow. We have a talented and engaged Board driven by an executive director who understands the importance of supplementing our students' education with diverse and rich experiences. And most importantly, we have the generosity of a Highland Community that recognizes the financial challenges of schools today and step forward to make a difference. Thank you to our donors that take action and make it happen.

A new Highland Foundation is blossoming --- and I'm extremely honored to be part of what I believe is something very special and impactful here. The 2012-13 agenda is full. We'll conduct a strategic review in the fall; our fundraising goals are aggressive as we eclipse the \$600,000 plateau in program funding for our schools this year; and the velocity by which we connect with all our stakeholders will also be greatly accelerated. Together, I am confident that we will deliver for the students, teachers and staff of the Highland community.

*-- Craig Bailey*

# FUNDED PROJECTS

This year, we funded a total of **\$28,121** in projects and programs for Highland students.



**THERAPY BALL CHAIRS GAIN “ATTENTION”** — Therapy ball chairs are now used as student seats in the intermediate resource rooms at Hinckley Elementary School to increase focus and attention to educational lessons. These chairs help promote postural control, strengthen core muscles and improve behavior and legible word productivity. They also provide sensory input to decrease fidgeting and increase focus. This will continue to impact approximately 15 students in grades 4-5 with intermediate learning disabilities. **Funding: \$1,207.**

**BONES APART** — The Highland Band Department welcomed “Bones Apart” as an Artist-In-Residence on April 17-18, 2012. Bones Apart shared their experiences as professional musicians and educators, taught trombone clinics, directed student ensembles and performed for the students in the District. This impacted approximately 700 students in grades 6-12. **Funding: \$4,400.**

**RUSTY HIGGINS** — The Highland Band Department welcomed Rusty Higgins as an Artist-In-Residence on May 14-16, 2012. During his time in the District, Mr. Higgins shared his experience as a professional musician and educator, taught woodwind clinics, directed student ensembles, performed for students and performed with band students in the 8th grade concert band, the High School Jazz Band and the High School Wind Ensemble. This impacted approximately 700 students in grades 6-12. **Funding: \$6,750.**

**“ELECTRIFY YOUR STRINGS!” WITH BRIDGID BIBBENS** — “Electrify Your Strings” is a national rock orchestra program for school-age string students designed by Trans-Siberian

Orchestra member Mark Wood. Its purpose is to expose string students to aspects of 21st Century “non-traditional” music such as improvisations, syncopation, blues scales and specialty articulations. Students learned performance techniques, as well as explored the cultural significance of rock music, as they prepared selections at a December workshop and concert with electric violinist Bridgid Bibbens. This impacted approximately 100 students in grades 6-12. **Funding: \$4,775.**

**THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ARTISTS** — This was a comprehensive, year-long look at the artistic process, both past and present. The entire high school was able to view art history displays in the hallway, art students enjoyed a lecture series and visited the Akron Art Museum. Upper level art students worked with visiting artists in photography and studio art classes. This impacted all students at Highland High School. **Funding: \$3,339.**



**SWITCHOVER INSTRUMENTAL ENRICHMENT** — When students reach 7th grade, they are physically large enough and have had enough musical training to switch over to color instruments (Tuba and Euphonium). These instruments are important in creating a mature and well-balanced concert band sound. This program ultimately enriched instruction with the assistance of local specialists. This made the experience of switching to another instrument simpler, quicker and overall, a more valuable experience. Specialists worked with 7th and 8th grade students 10 times throughout the school year. This impacted 60 students in grades 7-8. **Funding: \$2,500.**



## **STAR PROGRAM**

During the course of its Spring and Fall campaign, nearly \$1,000 was raised for the Foundation's Staff and Teacher Award Recognition (STAR) program. In the 2011-12 school year, 56 Highland teachers and staff were recognized for outstanding achievements. To learn more, please visit [www.highlandfoundation.org](http://www.highlandfoundation.org).

**BAND ACCOMPANIST GRANT** — Each year, Highland Band students have the opportunity to participate in an adjudicated solo event. They work with their private instructor for 10 weeks before the event preparing a piece selected from a required list, along with scales. Each piece typically requires an accompanist. This program allowed for an accompanist to work with these students two weeks before the event. The accompanist met with students three times to rehearse and accompanied them at the event. This impacted approximately 100 students in grades 7-12. **Funding: \$2,000.**



**BRASS ENSEMBLE ENRICHMENT** — Over the past 11 years, high school percussionists have been pulled out of band rehearsal to work on percussion ensemble literature. They are not always challenged as a section in the band literature, but the percussion ensemble literature is specifically challenging for them. This proved to be a major benefit to the students. When Jamie Holcomb joined the Highland staff, the same concept was applied to flute, clarinet and saxophone choirs. This program allowed the same opportunity to brass students by bringing in a brass specialist to work with a high school trumpet choir, trombone choir and brass ensemble. This program impacted 60 students in grades 9-12. **Funding: \$3,000.**

**PRIVATE GRANT LESSONS** — Many students in the Highland Instrumental Music Program participate in private lessons. Students received private instruction from a specialist on their instrument for one-half hour each week. The cost of a lesson is \$15 per half-hour lesson. We occasionally have students and/or families who encounter financial hardships and are unable to afford lessons. This grant helped cover the cost of the lessons. This impacted approximately five students in grades 5-12. **Funding: \$150.**

## **2011-12 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **OFFICERS:**

Mr. Craig Bailey, Board Chair  
Mrs. Jean Christopher, Projects Chair  
Ms. Lori Miller, Past Chairman  
Mr. Eric Stasiowski, Public Relations Chair  
Mr. Quinten Tiff, Treasurer

### **TRUSTEES:**

Mrs. Catherine Aukerman, Superintendent  
Mrs. Carol Baker ● Mr. Brian Fisher  
Mr. Jim Kelly ● Mrs. Carrie Milkovich  
Mr. Ryan Phillips ● Mrs. Diane Thomas  
Mr. Greg Wolny

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Mrs. Theresa Wright

## **SAVE THE DATE: 2012 Dinner-Auction NOVEMBER 10, 2012**

The Highland Foundation's 8th Annual Benefit Dinner-Auction will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2012 at Weymouth Country Club in Medina. Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner is served at 7 p.m. Seating is limited so please mark your calendars now and plan to attend this worthwhile event, which ultimately benefits students at Highland Local Schools. The evening features entertainment, as well as live and silent auctions with great prizes!

To learn about available sponsorship opportunities, please contact Carrie Milkovich, Special Events Chairperson, at 330-388-7949 or via email at [mmilko3@aol.com](mailto:mmilko3@aol.com).

# FOUR RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM FOUNDATION

*Congratulations to recent 2012 Highland graduates Emilee Holtzapple, Raelene Campbell, Stephanie Horvath and Brian Davis who are this year's scholarship recipients awarded by The Highland Foundation.*



Emilee, the daughter of Don and Kimberly Holtzapple of Medina, was the 2012 recipient of the Letha E. House Scholarship in the amount of \$500.

Mrs. House was a life-long resident of Medina County and was very interested in horticulture, specifically flowers

and gardening. She had no family and donated her estate to a series of trusts. As a result of one of her trusts being terminated, the Highland Foundation for Educational Excellence received over \$30,000, to be used to endow this scholarship, which is based upon the following criteria: 75% upon academic performance and science, and 25% upon an interest in pursuing a career in horticulture or a related area. As a recipient, Emilee was required to take the lesser of two-thirds of all science classes offered at Highland, or one science class per grading period. To highlight a few of her accomplishments, Emilee has also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and VOFT, and was a member of the tennis team. She attends Ohio University's Honors Tutorial College and is majoring in biology.



Raelene was the recipient of the William O. Wagar Memorial Math and Science Fund, which was established through the Highland Foundation to provide a scholarship to a student who plans to seek additional education in the field of math or science. The fund is inspired by 1983

graduate Bill Wagar, who died quickly in 2000 of cancer. A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a senior majoring in math or science related field. Criteria for this scholarship include a GPA between 2.5 and 3.5, school / community involvement, essay and demonstration of financial need. Raelene was actively involved in VOFT, SADD, National Honor Society and softball throughout high school. Raelene now attends Valparaiso University and is majoring in meteorology. She is the daughter of Ray and Veronica Campbell of Medina.



The Steven J. Bilecky Memorial Scholarship was established by the Bilecky Family in memory of their son, Steven, a 1988 graduate of Highland High School. In addition to demonstrating high academic achievement applicants must participate in an interview before a faculty committee.

This scholarship is based on a 7th semester minimum GPA of 3.5, school and community activities, and letters of recommendation. The recipient of this year's \$1,000 Steven J. Bilecky Memorial Scholarship was Stephanie Horvath. A few examples of her leadership included Peer Leading, Student Council, National Honor Society, VOFT and Co-Captain of the Girls' Golf Team. Stephanie is attending the University of Cincinnati and is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. She is the daughter of Patti and Mike Horvath of Medina.



New this year, The Highland Foundation established a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded annually to a deserving high school senior. This year's recipient, Brian Davis, was selected because The Highland Foundation Projects Committee determined that his essay best exemplified

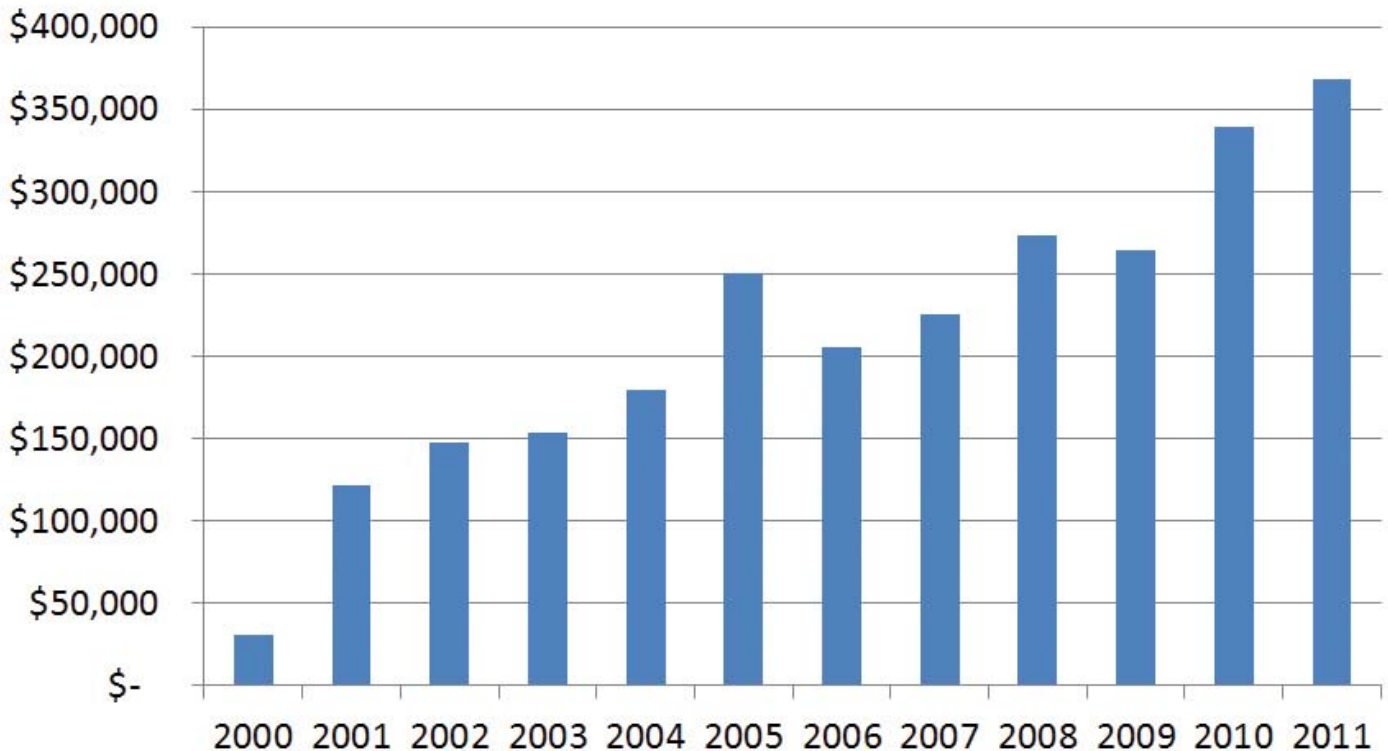
the mission of The Highland Foundation. Brian's involvement in the National Honor Society (NHS) tutoring program and his volunteer activities with "Let's Make a Difference" in Medina were examples of the ways in which he demonstrated his support of learning and building a better community. Brian is attending the University of Notre Dame (Indiana) and majoring in chemical engineering. He is the son of Brian and Anne Davis of Medina.

# FINANCIALS

## 2011 Statement of Funds (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012)

• Jagger Vocal Fund Reserve:	\$18,072.60
• Jagger Instrumental Fund:	1,839.00
• Long Term Project Monies:	82,862.66
• Endowment Monies:	122,862.66
• Reserve for Special Education Grants:	8,271.27
• Letha House Scholarship Fund:	30,000.00
• Bilecky Scholarship Fund:	34,086.71
• W. Wagar Memorial Math & Science Fund:	34,503.77
• General Purpose Funds:	32,850.52
• <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$365,349.19</b>

### Asset Growth



Established in 2000, The Highland Foundation for Educational Excellence is an independent, non-profit community organization that supports enrichment programs in the Highland Local School District. The Foundation is a separate entity from the Highland Board of Education. Since inception, nearly \$600,000 has been provided for projects in the form of grants to enhance the educational environment for Highland students and staff. Examples include programs focused on the arts, music, science and technology – all unique and vital enrichment opportunities to help develop students. To learn more, visit [www.highlandfoundation.org](http://www.highlandfoundation.org).

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*With great appreciation, we thank our donors.  
Your continued support is essential to our success.*

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**THE HIGHLAND FOUNDATION**

**P.O. Box 415**

**Sharon Center, OH 44274**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

*While the list of activities and donors in this report is a good example of how a modest amount of money can do a lot of good, much more remains to be done. To keep growing and funding even more projects, we need your help. There are several ways to get involved.*

- Making outright contributions to the Foundation such as cash, long-term appreciated stocks, or securities.
- Including The Foundation in your estate planning activities through bequests, charitable remainder trusts, term trusts, gift annuities, or a donation from a life insurance policies.
- Making a memorial gift in memory of a friend or a family member.
- Contributing to endow a subject area, such as: enrich a co-curricular activity; fund a visiting scholar, lecturer or performer; underwrite other educational programs of your choice.
- Volunteering your time and expertise for Foundation activities. There are several committees to choose from. Visit [www.highlandfoundation.org](http://www.highlandfoundation.org) to learn how you can get involved.

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- Serve on the Board of Trustees
- Utilize your company's matching gift program to benefit The Highland Foundation
- Make a memorial gift or funded scholarship on behalf of a friend/family member
- Establish a charitable trust or other estate planning activities
- Endow a specific subject area, such as science, technology, art, music, math, English, history, athletics, etc.

*We offer memberships at various giving levels. Please indicate your desired level of participation:*

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- Bronze (\$251-\$500)
- Silver (\$501-\$750)
- Gold (\$751-\$1,000)
- Platinum (\$1000+)
- Lifetime Achiever (\$10,000+)

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**Highland Foundation**

P.O. Box 415

Sharon Center, OH 44274