



### **Noble County Community Foundation Hosts Community Gathering**

The Noble County Community Foundation (NCCF) hosted a Community Gathering to introduce the Noble County Fellows recently selected from a very competitive round of applications received by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO).

FAO's Growing Home Fellowship leverages the potential of young adults, ages 18-35, to advance sustained transformation in communities across Appalachian Ohio.



Selected as the Noble County Fellows were: Front from left: Michaela Warner; Chance Friede; Katrina Baker; Andrea Blackstone and Ashley Roberts. Back from left: Trevor Tom; Rusty Winland; Boone Jones; Sydney Spence and Teiara Saling.

Each of the Fellows shared how they are employed in some fashion with education in Noble County and about the volunteer-related projects they are planning to help give back to the greater communities where they work and live.

Katrina Baker, a Fellow, also shared remarks about how the Noble County Community Foundation provided her a college scholarship. In addition, once she graduated and was working as the new AgriScience educator with Caldwell Schools, the Foundation funded a mini-grant of \$500 that she wrote to help secure supplies for her classroom.

“With equipment from this grant, I was able to create activities that made students want to learn science,” said Baker. “This is the difference the funding from the Foundation can make in an Appalachian school.”

In 2022, the Foundation funded nine community grants, totaling \$10,000, to organizations serving Noble County. The 2023 grant round also recently ended and will be announced shortly.

The gathering also recognized recent donations from OhioHealth (\$250,000), Washington Electric Cooperative (\$10,000) and the Noble County Community Improvement Corporation (\$10,000) and other community residents and groups that were able to secure additional matching funds through FAO.

“Through matching funding made available through the Foundation of Appalachian Ohio, and with these generous gifts, we have more than doubled the primary endowment for granting – in fact, in 2022, it grew by 112 percent,” said Shawn Ray, NCCF Board Chair. “In addition, the Noble scholarship fund also grew by more than 96 percent. In total with other funds under the umbrella of our Noble Foundation, there are now over \$925,000 in total assets.”



Jennifer Greene, Director of Marketing & Member Services Washington Electric Cooperative; Wendy Elliott, CEO of OhioHealth’s SE Medical Center; Shawn Ray, Noble Co. Community Foundation Board Chair and Tara Gilts, OhioHealth Philanthropy Advisor.

“This county-wide community resource for local charitable giving was created 17 years ago by and for the people of Noble County as an enduring source of charitable funds,” noted Ray. “We ask that you continue to partner with us to meet the changing needs and interests of the community. Gifts to the Noble County Community Foundation’s endowment fund permanently grow grant funding for local nonprofit and public organizations. You can give online at [appalachianohio.org](http://appalachianohio.org) by choosing Noble or you can bring a check to a local Board member.”

NCCF Board members include Shawn Ray, Trevor Black, Michael Buckey, Mike Lloyd, Kirby Moore, Ken Perkins, Andrea Seder, Sherri Starr, Gwynn Stewart, Don Ullman and Jim Warren.