

FELIX E. MARTIN JR. FOUNDATION

Making a Difference in Muhlenberg County

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

MARCH 2014



AFTER FIVE YEARS...

Felix E Martin Jr.
1927-2007



Board Members
Peggy Williams,
Rod Tompkins,
Judy Rhoads,
& Dennis Riggs.

Not pictured:
Rush Hunt



Staff Members Alyssa Manning,
Kathy Jacobi and Vicki Yonts



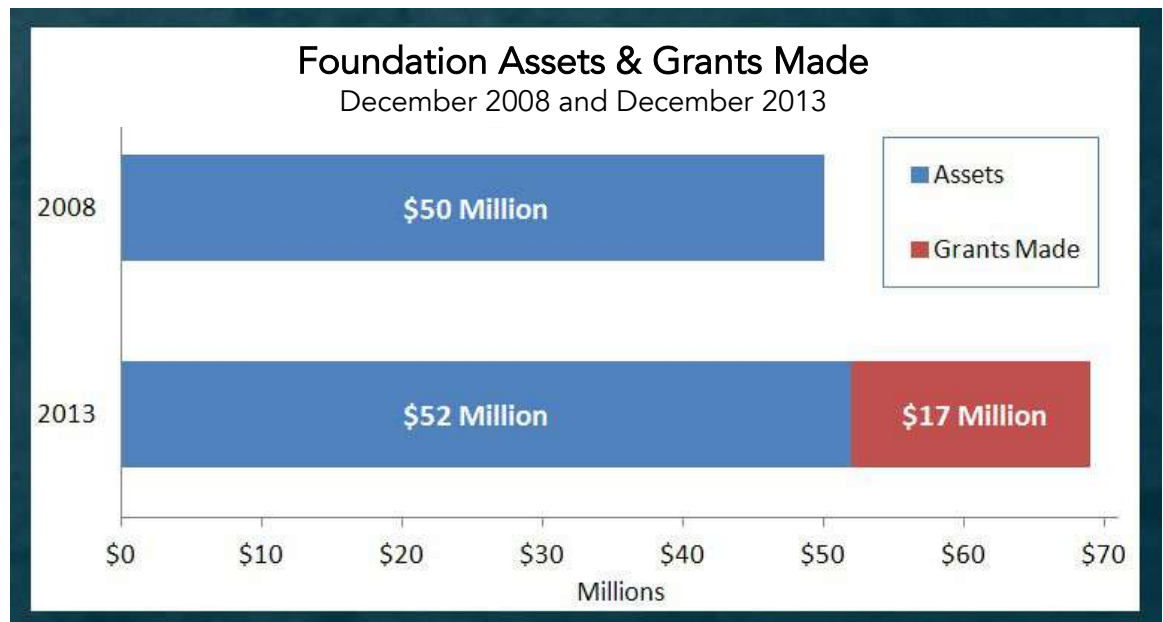
A Report to the Community

When the Foundation was created five years ago, we set out to accomplish Mr. Martin's lofty goal of setting up a foundation that would systematically solve problems in the County, not just hand out charity. To do that, our efforts have been geared toward making a difference in ways that have a lasting impact. Thanks to all of the committed individuals that have helped the Foundation in countless ways, we feel Mr. Martin would agree that by working together we have made a strong start. This report will provide you with information on some of the programs of the Foundation, but only scratches the surface of the 275 grants, totaling over \$17 million, that have been made in the past five years.

As we look forward, the Foundation is in strong financial shape to continue to make a meaningful impact in the county. The Foundation's endowment started with a \$50 million gift from Mr. Martin. Strong investment performance has allowed the Foundation to *increase* our endowment while also making more than \$17 million in grants in the community. At the end of December 2013, the endowment was at \$52 million - *after* making over \$17 million in grants since the Foundation was created in 2008. Our investment managers at Hilliard Lyons Trust Company are a key part of our success, with our investments earning 14.15% over the past five years, and almost 23% in 2013.

A special thanks goes to our hard-working (and oft-meeting) Task Force, made up of Gary Carver, Lanie Gardner, Elizabeth Ann Gentry and Mike Mercer, and Board of Directors - Roderick Tompkins, Rush Hunt, Judy Rhoads, Dennis Riggs and Peggy Williams. Their strong commitment to carrying out Mr. Martin's vision with compassion and foresight ensures that the Foundation will definitely accomplish its goal of "making a difference in Muhlenberg County."

Kathy Jacobi
President,
Felix E. Martin Jr.
Foundation



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Greater Muhlenberg Parks & Recreation System

Since the Foundation provided a \$1 million grant to fund the creation and operation of the Greater Muhlenberg Parks & Recreation System (GMPRS) in 2011, GMPRS has been consistently moving forward with the steps outlined in the Parks Master Plan to meet the mission of improving the quality of life in Muhlenberg County. Under the guidance of Executive Director Tommy Barton, GMPRS currently manages County-wide youth leagues in baseball, softball, basketball, and football. GMPRS has also become a strong presence at community events, hosting their own functions such as Take A Kid Fishing Day, and providing booths and activities at local events such as Squash & Gobble and Hometown Harvest Festival.



In the Fall of 2012, the Foundation provided a \$500,000 grant which was used for updates and renovations to all existing parks within Muhlenberg County. Basketball courts and playgrounds were added in some parks and upgraded in others. New benches, picnic tables and garbage cans were added throughout the parks.

Perhaps the most significant undertaking of GMPRS is the new Muhlenberg County Park. Phase 1 is currently being constructed adjacent to Muhlenberg County High School's West Campus. The Foundation has provided \$8 million to support construction of this park as part of a community wide fundraising effort. Strong partnerships with the Muhlenberg County School System and County government are in place to assure the success of the County Park. The first phase, scheduled to be completed in Summer 2014, will include a state of the art baseball/softball complex with covered dugouts, seating areas, a concession stand and new restrooms. Phase 1 will also include tennis, basketball & volleyball courts, as well as playgrounds, picnic shelters, park offices and meeting rooms.



Felix E. Martin Jr. Hall for Creative & Performing Arts

Felix E. Martin Jr. Hall opened in March 2012 and since then it has become an active part of daily life in Muhlenberg County. During the 2012-2013 academic year, over 33,000 people enjoyed activities at Martin Hall. Events ranged from local students performing with their classes to community events to professional touring productions and concerts. In addition to the \$1 million grant which provided funding to increase the size and technical scope of the planned facility, the Foundation remains committed to the success and accessibility of Martin Hall. The Foundation provides an annual grant commitment to cover the salary of a Director to manage the Hall and plays an active role in bringing professional theatre to Muhlenberg County.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

SOAR: Strategies, Opportunities, Advantages & Resources

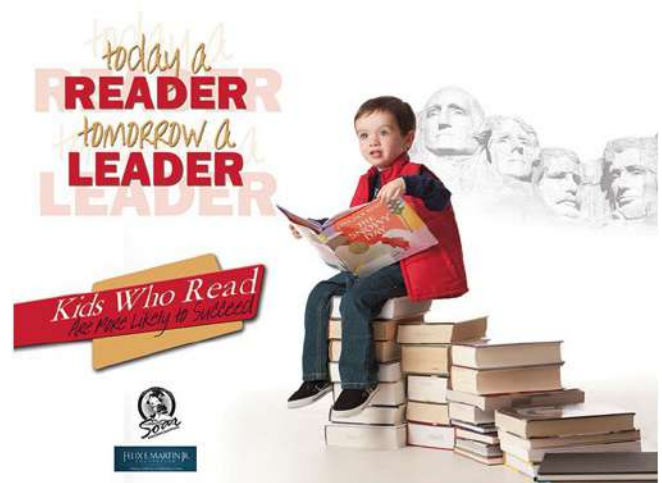


The Foundation has recognized the critical need for early childhood education by committing over \$600,000 to date in support of programs across Muhlenberg County which strive to help each child arrive at kindergarten ready to learn. Based on research showing a dramatic correlation between the number of books in the home and future academic achievement, the Foundation has placed a special emphasis on literacy, and has given away over 62,000 books to children in Muhlenberg County. Program Manager Vicki Yonts continues to lead the efforts of SOAR, a Foundation program which has implemented many County-wide educational programs for children. Several of these programs are highlighted here.

SOAR introduced the **Ready! for Kindergarten** program in Muhlenberg County in January 2014. Up to 150 Muhlenberg County families are participating in training sessions this spring. Each family will attend three classes which teach age-appropriate targets to the parents and caregivers of pre-school children. The families receive learning toys and tools at each session. Along with these toys, the families are taught about desired learning goals and how to "play with a purpose." The Ready! for Kindergarten program has been implemented across the country and has demonstrated excellent results for ensuring children begin kindergarten ready to soar!



Summer reading programs play a key role in SOAR's mission to increase literacy skills across Muhlenberg County. The **Books 'n Cream** summer reading program provides a weekly reading event for families. Participating children receive a free book and a coupon for ice cream every week after reading the featured book of the week. In 2013, the summer ended with an event at the Duncan Center, with a reading and presentation by author George Ella Lyons as well as crafts, games and ice cream. SOAR also partnered with a local Girl Scout troop to offer **Reading in the Park**, a summer reading program focused on 1st to 3rd graders located in Central City Park.



SOAR Billboard - raising awareness of early childhood literacy



SOAR also provides support for:

- Muhlenberg County Preschool / Head Start
- Early Home Based Head Start
- Daycare Curriculum Support
- Reach Out & Read with local pediatricians
- Kindergarten Readiness Backpacks
- Pathway to Reading

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



SOAR plays an active part at community events, spreading a joy of reading and an awareness of the importance of early childhood education at events such as Squash & Gobble and Hometown Harvest Festival, as well as providing community bookshelves in several locations across the County. In addition, SOAR has initiated new programs such as Reach Out & Read with local pediatricians and a series of educational and performance events geared toward Head Start students and their families at Felix E. Martin Jr. Hall.

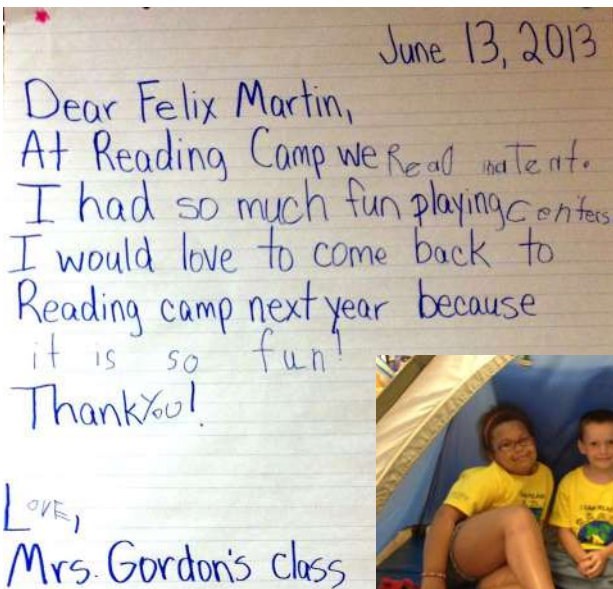


Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

The Foundation continues to partner with the Muhlenberg County Public Libraries to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to the children of Muhlenberg County. Since 2009, the Imagination Library program has distributed over 50,000 books to Muhlenberg County children under 5 years old. Each month, registered children receive a brand new, age-appropriate book in the mail at no cost to the child or his/her family, creating a home library of up to 60 books for children who are registered at birth. The books instill a love of books and reading from the start of a child's life, and guarantee that every child will have books, regardless of their family's income.



Muhlenberg County Schools



The Foundation continues to partner with Muhlenberg County Schools to provide extra-curricular educational opportunities and tools for students. In one example, over the past three years, the Foundation has provided \$160,000 to support the **iRead Summer Camp** at local elementary schools. This free camp is made available for incoming 1st through 3rd graders who read below grade level. Up to 200 campers attend the three week camp hosted by certified teachers at three County elementary schools. While at camp, reading skills are emphasized alongside fun activities.



Kindergarten teachers also partner with the Foundation to provide **K-Day**, a day for students about to start kindergarten to become familiar with their new schools. Children are invited to tour their classrooms, meet their teachers, eat lunch in the cafeteria, and even ride the bus—eliminating much of the fear of the first day, and allowing students to start school excited and ready to learn.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Muhlenberg County Needs Assessment Study, commissioned by the Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation in 2008, ranked economic development as the primary need according to residents of Muhlenberg County. The Foundation remains committed to achieving success in this area. A \$1.25 million grant continues to provide operational support for the Muhlenberg Alliance for Progress (MAP) whose primary goal is to attract and retain quality jobs and investments for Muhlenberg County. In addition, the projects highlighted in this report each play a part in the larger picture of economic development in Muhlenberg County. The development of County parks and cultural facilities, as well as a strong early education system, will help make the community more attractive to new businesses and employers.



However, in order to attract new businesses to Muhlenberg County, prospective businesses must be confident in the strength of the available workforce. In 2013, Muhlenberg County was awarded the "Work Ready Community in Progress" designation, which informs potential businesses that the County is committed to providing the highly skilled workforce required in today's competitive economy. In the next three years, the Foundation will work with MAP's Work Ready Community committee on their planned strategies to bring our workforce to the next level with programs aimed at improving educational attainment, workforce development, soft skills development and internet availability.

Adult Education Programs

The Foundation currently partners with Madisonville Community College and the ACE² Adult Education Center on several programs offering educational opportunities and incentives to adults. These programs are designed to increase the skills and level of education of adults who are either currently in or seeking to join the workforce.



According to the most recent census data, 22% of Muhlenberg County residents do not currently have a high school diploma. Because a high school diploma is the primary ticket to many entry-level jobs, the Foundation seeks to encourage adults through the **GED Incentive Program**. For each hour spent in GED preparation at the ACE² Adult Education Center, participants are entered into a monthly incentive drawing providing four \$25 local gift cards. Students who successfully complete the GED exam are rewarded with a \$50 completion bonus.



The Foundation is proud to support computer training for residents of Muhlenberg County. Online, self-guided courses are available at no charge and provide not only the computer skills needed to take the new online GED test, but also teach basic computer literacy, word processing, and spreadsheets. Adult learners can sign up for the program at ACE² Adult Education Center. Once registered, participants can work at home or at ACE² to attain computer skills, making them more marketable in today's competitive job market.



Over 16% of Muhlenberg County residents have some college experience, but have not completed their degree. The **Martin Scholars Program** at Madisonville Community College offers financial incentives to those who might need a little extra help to finish their associate degree. Qualified students earn a \$250 stipend each semester to help with whatever expenses may arise. Upon completion of an associate degree, Martin Scholars receive a \$400 completion bonus. For more information, contact the Muhlenberg Campus at MCC.

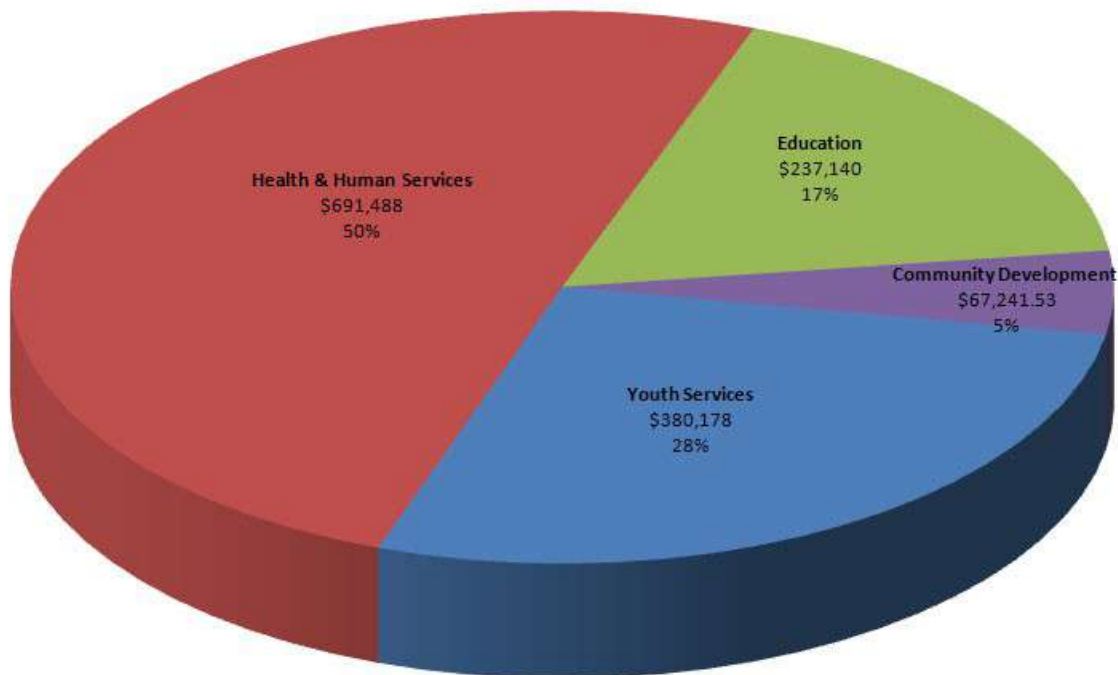
COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation is proud to partner with local non-profit organizations which do important work every day to address the educational, civic and cultural needs of Muhlenberg County. The Community Grants program was established in December 2008 to facilitate these partnerships and support opportunities that arise within the County. Qualifying organizations are invited to submit an application and grants are awarded quarterly. Since the establishment of the Community Grants Program, the Foundation has awarded 196 Community Grants totaling almost \$2 million to over 60 organizations serving Muhlenberg County. For more information about the program and the application process please visit: www.felixmartinfoundation.org.

Community Grants Program

January 1, 2009 — December 31, 2013

Total Grants Awarded: \$1,981,298



Programs Supported by 2012-2013 Community Grants Program

Back-to-School Ready Fest
Bremen Elementary School Family Fun Nights
Champions for a Drug Free Muhlenberg County
City of Central City Grantwriter Training
City of Greenville Downtown Development
Duncan Center Museum & Art Gallery
Fire Safety Education Program
Greenville Lions Club Kidsight Screening Program
Junior Achievement
Leader in Me Program
Lu Ray Park Development Plan
Martin Hall Ticket Program

McCallie School Sports Camp Scholarships
MCHS Career Day
Muhlenberg County Board of Education Programs
Muhlenberg County Family Resource Centers
Muhlenberg County Farmer's Market
Muhlenberg County First Impressions Program
Muhlenberg County Special Olympics
Muhlenberg Mentors
P.A.C.S. Senior Center
South Elementary School Archery Team
South Middle School Energy Team
STAND Youth Leadership



FELIX E. MARTIN JR. FOUNDATION

The Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation was established in 2008 by a \$50 million bequest from the late Felix E. Martin Jr., a native and long-time resident of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky.

The Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation seeks to enrich the lives of the citizens of Muhlenberg County by providing support to qualified organizations to meet the educational, civic and cultural needs of the County – both today and for generations to come.

Board of Directors

Roderick J. Tompkins Sr., Chair
L. Rush Hunt, Vice Chair
C. Dennis Riggs, Secretary
Dr. Judith L. Rhoads
Peggy M. Williams

Task Force

Gary E. Carver
Lanie W. Gardner
Elizabeth Anne Gentry
Mike H. Mercer

Staff

Kathy B. Jacobi, President
Alyssa Manning, Program Officer
Vicki V. Yonts, Program Manager



Phone:

(502) 855-6964
(270) 977-9194

Web Site:

www.FelixMartinFoundation.org

E-mail:

info@FelixMartinFoundation.org

Mailing Address:

Waterfront Plaza
325 West Main Street, Suite 1110
Louisville, KY 40202