



## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

We envision a vibrant, progressive community where everyone belongs and everyone thrives.



RiverPark Center purchased new lighting, stage rigging, and assistive hearing devices with grant funds in 2025.



Owensboro Dance Theatre brought dance education to our local schools through a dance residency funded by the Foundation.

### **Our Mission:**

We are a capacity-building resource:  
opening minds, supporting the development of new skills, and linking efforts  
to ensure economic opportunity, well being, and prosperity for our citizens.

### **Our Guiding Principles:**

Excellence \* Partnerships \* Accountability \* Integrity \* Welcoming

## Reflections from our Board Chair

In 2025, the Marilyn & William Young Foundation continued its tradition of support, engagement, and collaboration with community partners. Our work is to respond to community needs and to strengthen resources, and I am proud that we served the community in both immediate and sustainable ways this year.

After the hailstorm in March 2025, the Young Foundation quickly established a Hail Damage Response Fund to aid local organizations with deductibles and repairs. Helping the community navigate this recovery is an example of how our Foundation quickly meets critical community needs.

We were also proud to partner with the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce for the 2025 relaunch of Engage Owensboro, an online platform designed to connect individuals with meaningful opportunities to serve with local nonprofits. Leadership development is one of the Young Foundation's focus areas, and we strive to elevate a new generation of skilled leaders who will positively impact the community.

If you are not familiar with the work we do, I hope you will take the time to look through this publication and learn about the additional projects we funded this year. Our Board Members are dedicated stewards of the Young Foundation's funds and help us make vital strategic decisions each and every day.

We look forward to continuing our support of improving the quality of life for all in Owensboro.

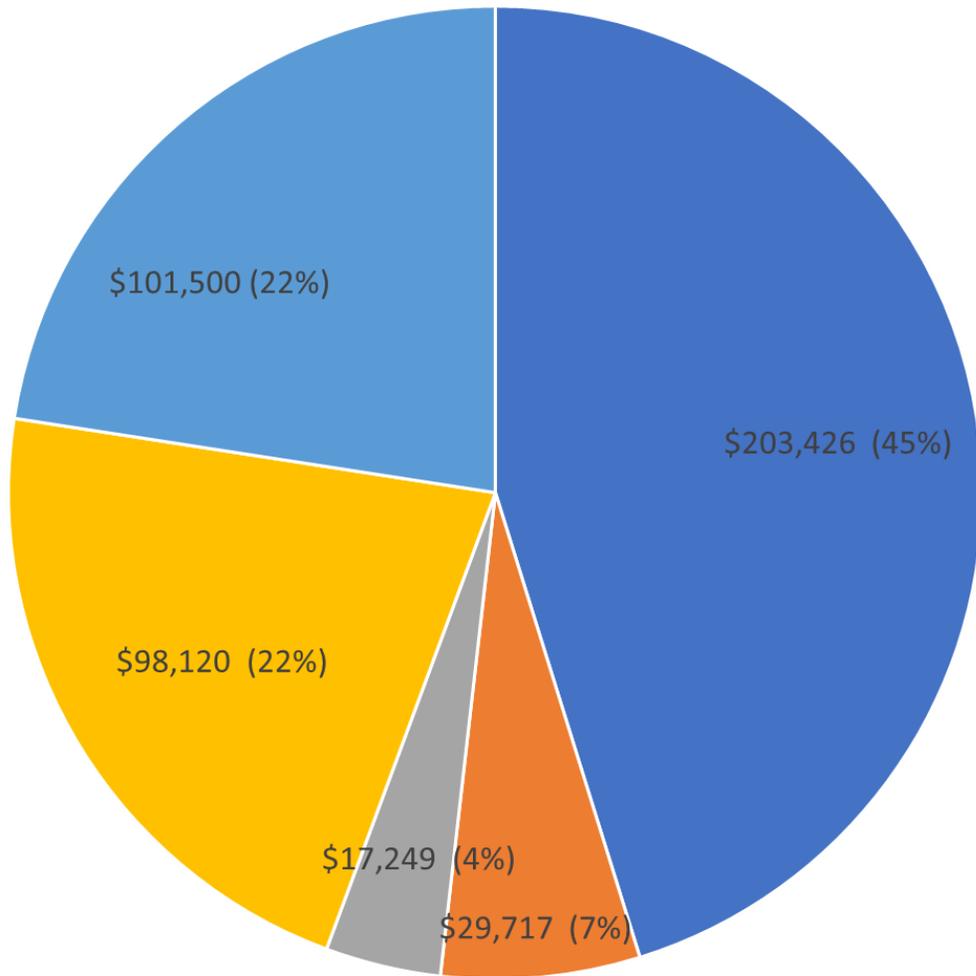


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madison C. Silvert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Madison Silvert  
Board Chair 2025-2026

**2025 Grants**



■ Sustainable Arts ■ Leadership Development ■ Family Support Systems ■ Community Grants ■ Hail Damage Relief

***58 grants invested in our community totaling \$450,013***



## *Our Grantee Partners*

Alma Randolph Charitable Foundation  
Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum\*  
Boulware Mission  
Brescia University\*  
Cliff Hagan Boys and Girls Club  
Crossroads Homeless Shelter  
Daniel Pitino Shelter\*  
Family Y\*  
Fresh Start for Women  
Goodfellows  
Grantmakers of Kentucky  
Greater Owensboro Leadership Institute  
(Civic Engagement Institute)  
Habitat for Humanity  
Hager Preschool  
HealthForce KY  
The Help Office\*  
Impact 100 Owensboro  
KET—Kentucky Educational Network  
Kentucky Nonprofit Network  
Kentucky Wesleyan College  
Kentucky Youth Advocates  
Leadership Kentucky Foundation

Leadership Owensboro  
Nonprofit Coalition of Owensboro  
OPS Foundation for Excellence\*  
Owensboro Community &  
Technical College  
Owensboro Dance Theatre  
Owensboro Museum of Science & History  
Owensboro Museum of Fine Art  
Owensboro Regional Farmers Market  
Owensboro Rotary Club Foundation  
Owensboro Symphony  
Philanthropy Southeast  
RiverPark Center\*  
St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter\*  
Saving Paws Animal Rescue of KY  
Senior Center of Owensboro  
Theatre Workshop of Owensboro  
Wendell Foster\*  
Western Academy  
Western Kentucky Botanical Garden\*

*\*denotes receipt of more than one grant*

## *Hail Damage Relief Funds*

On March 14th, the Owensboro community experienced significant damage to thousands of buildings and automobiles due to unprecedented hail storms. Our conversations with grantee partners revealed that many would potentially face six-figure deductibles prior to any insurance reimbursement for repairs. While a few organizations had savings to contribute toward the deductibles, many would need to fundraise for the entire deductible amount.

Our Board wished to assist as many of these organizations as possible in an equitable manner. The Young Foundation addressed these needs by creating a **Hail Damage Response Fund** to aid our local nonprofits in this time of unexpected hardship. These grants were able to fund the full deductible cost for seven organizations and alleviate the deductible burden for six others. Those receiving funds were:

- Boulware Mission
- Brescia University
- CrossRoads
- Daniel Pitino Shelter
- Fresh Start for Women, Inc
- Kentucky Wesleyan College
- Owensboro Family YMCA
- Owensboro Museum of Fine Art
- Owensboro Symphony
- RiverPark Center
- St. Benedict's Shelter
- Wendell Foster's Campus
- Western Kentucky Botanical Garden



Water damage at Brescia University floods the cafeteria.

## *Advancing Community Engagement*

In partnership with the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce, the Young Foundation supported the upgrade of the Engage Owensboro platform this year. Built to support talent development, recruitment, and retention, Engage Owensboro connects passionate individuals with meaningful opportunities to serve, lead, and grow.

Whether a student, professional, or community advocate, a citizen can utilize Engage Owensboro to find ways to contribute—on boards, through internships, or in volunteer service. Community members may create a profile, explore local organizations, and express interest in causes that matter to them. Organizations are then notified and can reach out directly to the individual, turning interest into action.

Our intent is to build stronger leaders connected to purposeful experiences in our community. You may explore this program at <https://engage.owensboro.com/>.



**ENGAGE**  

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**OWENSBORO**



For many years, our Board has offered a scholarship opportunity for non-profit staff and minority business owners to participate in the Leadership Owensboro experience. We have witnessed the growth and skill building of many of our community members whose organization may not have the budget to provide this opportunity. Bill Young was a founding member of the Leadership Owensboro organization and we proudly continue this partnership and legacy.

*Kirk Kirkpatrick awarded the  
Bill Young Community Leadership Award at the  
2026 Chamber of Commerce Annual Celebration*

The Bill Young Leadership Award was established, by his widow Marilyn, shortly after his death in 1984 and is presented annually to an outstanding Leadership Owensboro graduate or friend who has made significant contributions to our community. No one fills this role better than Kirk Kirkpatrick!

Known as “Mr. Owensboro” and often referred to as “Owensboro’s Ambassador,” he served as the MC for Chamber of Commerce Rooster Booster breakfast for 37 years. He is the only person to be named “Chamber Member of the Year” three different times and he has donated his services as an MC to more than 1,000 events over the past 40 years.

His list of honors includes the prestigious “Mayor’s Award of Excellence,” “Owensboro Heritage Award,” named “Daviss County Honorary Judge Executive”. He was also inducted into the “Owensboro High School Hall of Fame” and was awarded the “Outstanding Community Leader Award” by Leadership Owensboro. He produced Owensboro’s All-America City presentation and is one of the founders of Friday After 5. He is an Owensboro legend and community treasure.

It gives us great pleasure to honor Kirk Kirkpatrick as our 2026 Bill Young Leadership Award recipient.



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The Marilyn and William  
Young Foundation

From left to right:  
Chamber President and CEO, David Kirk, Young Foundation E.D.,  
Sara Hemingway, 2026 Chamber Board Chair, Shawn Patterson, Award  
Recipient, Kirk Kirkpatrick, 2025 Chamber Board Chair, Olga McKissic  
and Young Foundation Board Chair, Madison Silvert

## Board Member Transitions



Dave Kirk



David W. Tandy

Please join us in expressing gratitude to our retiring board member, Dave Kirk, for his tremendous service to our board for the past seven years. We wish him all the best as he begins his new position as the CEO of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce. We have been honored by his participation as a director.

We are pleased to welcome back Owensboro native David Tandy to the Young Foundation Board of Directors this year. David is a partner at Dentons Bingham Greenebaum in Louisville. David brings a wealth of experience in community partnerships to the Foundation.

Our board is comprised of dedicated individuals who are deeply committed to our mission and to strengthening our community. Their generous investment of time and talent is central to the Foundation's continued success.



### Board of Directors:

Madison Silvert, *Chair*

Kaitlyn Moore Cunningham,  
*Vice Chair*

Carol Bothwell, *Treasurer*

Chad Benefield

Jeff Ebelhar

Dave Kirk

Marianne Smith Edge

### Staff:

Sara C. Hemingway,

*Executive Director*

Melissa Ashby,

*Administrative Coordinator*

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