

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

March 2012

FELIX E. MARTIN JR. FOUNDATION

Making a Difference in Muhlenberg County

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 educational, civic and cultural needs of the County – both today and for generations to come.



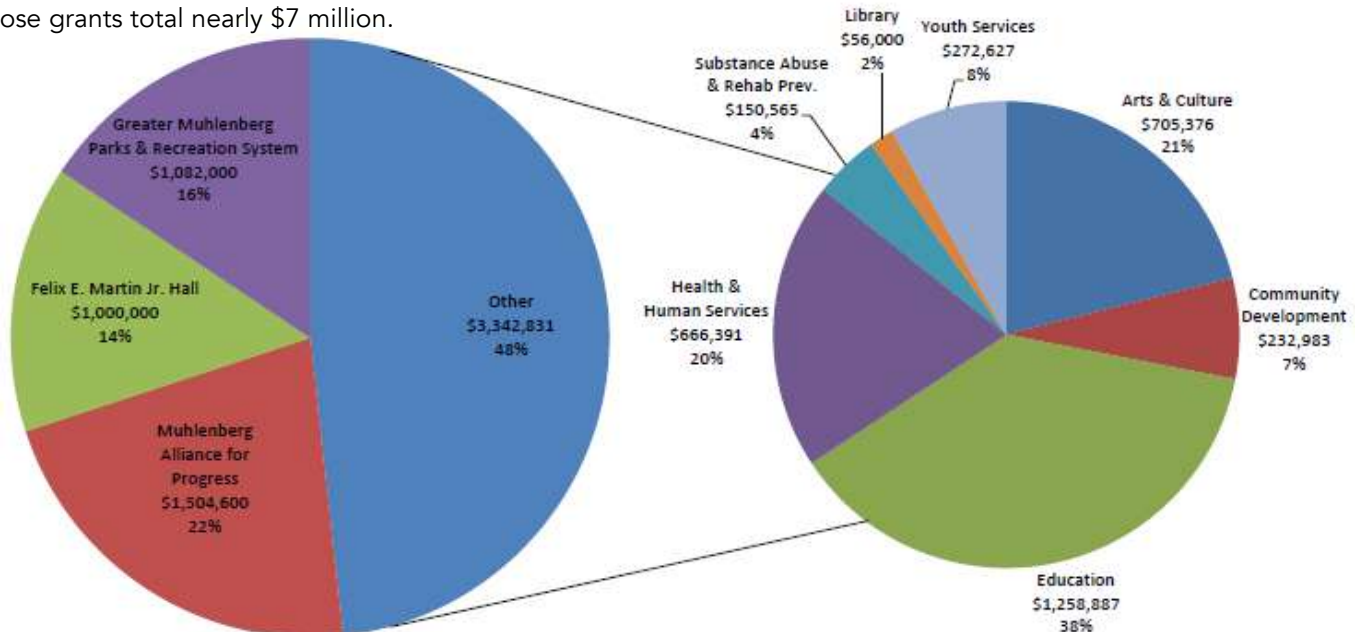
Mr. Felix Eaves Martin, Jr.
1927-2007

FELIX E. MARTIN JR. FOUNDATION

Making a Difference in Muhlenberg County

A Report to the Community

It has been three years since the formation of the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation was announced in Muhlenberg County, and it is with great pleasure that we provide the community with a report on the Foundation's activities during that time. In the past three years, the Foundation has made over 145 grants to nearly 60 local nonprofit organizations. Those grants total nearly \$7 million.



The pages that follow show what can be accomplished in a short amount of time when a large group of committed individuals pull together to make a real difference in their community. We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to our Task Force and all those who have served on one of the many committees or boards responsible for guiding the transformative programs that are underway in the County. Mr. Martin would be very proud of what everyone has accomplished by working together.

We look forward to working with all of you to make Muhlenberg County a better place for all its citizens.

Kathy Jacobi

Kathy Jacobi

President, Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Felix E. Martin, Jr. Hall *Creative and Performing Arts Center*

When the Muhlenberg County School Board was planning a new auditorium for the Muhlenberg County High School (West Campus) in 2009, the Foundation stepped up as a funding partner to expand their original vision. Thanks to a \$1,000,000 grant, seating for the auditorium was increased from 500 to 800 seats, and additional state-of-the-art technology was included, enabling it to accommodate the entire student body and become the community's first large-scale performing arts center.

To make full use of the new venue, the Foundation has made an annual grant commitment to pay the salary and expenses of a Director to oversee all operations and programming of Felix E. Martin, Jr. Hall.

A grand opening celebration throughout the month of March 2012 included a concert at the Hall by the United States Air Force Wings of Flight Woodwind Quartet and the High School's production of *Footloose*.



Muhlenberg County Parks & Recreation Master Plan & the Greater Muhlenberg Parks & Recreation System

After many discussions and much research, the Foundation's Task Force and Youth Services Committee felt that the most important and transformative change for the youth of Muhlenberg County would be to provide recreational programming and park facilities to give our young people healthy and positive things to do. They recognized this would also make the County more attractive for new businesses.

The Committee recommended that the Foundation hire Brandstetter Carroll, a leading architectural firm, to create a 10-year Master Plan to accomplish this. A dedicated Master Plan Steering Committee of 25 community volunteers helped develop this plan, which was completed in 2011.

The Greater Muhlenberg Parks and Recreation System was formed in late 2011 and is already making progress. In February 2012, the Parks and Recreation Board hired Tommy Barton of Prophetstown, Illinois, to serve as the System's first full-time Executive Director. The Board hopes to offer recreation programming as early as summer 2012.

Beyond funding the Master Plan, the Foundation has made a \$1 million commitment to fund the operations of the Parks and Recreation System for five years, payable in \$200,000 installments over five years from 2011 through 2015. This grant will help fund staff salaries as well as system administration and management.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Muhlenberg Alliance for Progress



Government, business and philanthropic organizations joined forces to launch the Muhlenberg Alliance for Progress (MAP) in 2011, to chart a course for the economic future of Muhlenberg County and serve as a model for rural communities throughout the State and beyond. Through County support made possible by the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation and Coal Severance dollars, as well as civic financial contributions, MAP's mission is to "Improve Muhlenberg County's Economy Through the Attraction and Retention of Quality Jobs and Investment." MAP recruits new business endeavors, supports existing industries and encourages the entrepreneurial spirit in Muhlenberg County.

The Foundation made a five-year commitment of \$1,250,000 to help fund MAP's operations and activities. The grant will provide \$250,000 each year from 2011 through 2015.

Kentucky Work Ready Community Certification

The State announced a program called Kentucky Work Ready Communities in Fall 2011 as part of some dramatic steps to improve the quality of the workforce in Kentucky, and communities throughout the Commonwealth are readying themselves for this new designation. Taking the steps necessary for Muhlenberg County to be designated a Work Ready Community is vital for the County to attract new businesses and investment, and help existing companies grow and add new jobs. The certification is based on the quality of the local labor force and the community's commitment to continuous improvement of the workforce.

A major component of the certification is the concept of "certified employability" from the individual level, as indicated by a person's attainment of diplomas, degrees, certificates or other credentials. These requirements will guide the Foundation's efforts in adult education initiatives that will begin in 2012, in partnership with Madisonville Community College and Leadership Muhlenberg.



Adult Education Incentive Program

Madisonville Community College (MCC) will play a key role in achieving the educational levels needed to become a Work Ready Community. Certification requires that 25 percent of the working age population must have at least a two-year degree, building to 32 percent in three years and 39 percent in five years.

The Foundation has developed a two-part plan with MCC and Leadership Muhlenberg to have an immediate impact on adult education. Monetary incentives will be offered to those working toward or passing the GED exam. Marketing efforts to "get the word out" on this unique opportunity are being enthusiastically undertaken by the 2012 Leadership Muhlenberg Class. For adults who have already taken some classes at MCC, a financial incentive will be offered to encourage them to complete their Associates degree.

During the initial 18 month period, the Foundation has committed \$163,125 to support these efforts.

EDUCATION

Early Childhood Development



Early childhood development and school readiness are critical issues in Muhlenberg County. The Foundation made a multi-year grant commitment to support a Project Manager who oversees programs focused on early childhood development. Vicki Yonts is in charge of the newly created SOAR Project (Strategies, Opportunities, Advantages, Resources).

In the first year, the SOAR Project partnered with Head Start for early literacy training for all parents; brought "Reach Out and Read" to the County, with books distributed by pediatricians at all well-baby visits; developed "Read to Me"

New Baby Packets for the hospital to give to all new parents; started the "Pathway to Reading" program for parents and children at Pathway of Hope Center, and will place community bookshelves throughout the County in waiting rooms. Much more is planned as this important program helps children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn.



Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Through a partnership with the Muhlenberg County Public Libraries, the Foundation brought Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to the children of Muhlenberg County. Through this program, a brand new, age appropriate book is mailed each month to every child registered for the program, from birth through age 5, at no cost to the child or his/her family. The free books available from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library are appropriate for their age on different subjects like rhyming, nursery rhymes, letters, safety, diversity and school preparation.



Innovation in Schools

Students must be prepared with 21st century skills to succeed in today's world. With the assistance of a \$200,000 matching grant from the Foundation, the Muhlenberg County School District has been able to invest more than half a million dollars in technology to give every student access to an Apple iPod Touch, iPad or MacBook.

The Foundation also made a \$60,000 matching grant to the School District to create the iRead Summer Camp.

Teachers transformed their classrooms into campsites including camp fire reading circles, fishing ponds, forests and tents doubling as reading nooks. The iRead Camp gave students extra help with reading and provided specialized tools in the Apple technology products to make reading fun.



COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Board congratulates the following organizations on having received a grant from the Foundation between 2008-2012. The Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation is proud to partner with these organizations to make a difference in Muhlenberg County. For a grant application, visit www.FelixMartinFoundation.org.

American Red Cross, Mid-West Chapter
 Big Brothers Big Sisters
 Bremen Elementary School
 Center for Nonprofit Excellence
 Central City Convention Center
 Central City Elementary School/Daycare
 Champions for a Drug Free Muhlenberg County
 Church of Jesus Christ
 City of Central City
 City of Drakesboro
 City of South Carrollton
 Cleaton Missionary Baptist Church
 Community Health Centers of Western Kentucky
 Duncan Center Museum & Art Gallery
 Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church

How many people
 does it take to
 make a difference?
**1 MENTOR
 AT A TIME**

CALL
338-2871



Muhlenberg County Schools: Muhlenberg Mentors



Duncan Center Museum & Art Gallery



Muhlenberg County Extension Service:
 Students Teaching About
 Negative Decisions



Muhlenberg Green Recycling Team



Muhlenberg County Special Olympics

Family Advocacy Center
 First Baptist Church
 Greater Muhlenberg Parks & Recreation System
 Greenville Elementary School
 Greenville Little League
 Greenville United Methodist Church
 Greenville Volunteer Fire Department
 Habitat for Humanity
 Hoofbeats, Heartstrings & Hopes, Inc.
 Junior Achievement of Western Kentucky
 Madisonville Community College
 McCallie School
 Muhlenberg Community Hospital
 Muhlenberg Community Theatre, Inc.

Over 145 grants, totaling nearly \$7 million, to nearly 60 local nonprofits organizations

Muhlenberg County 4H - Horse Club
Muhlenberg County 4H - Shooting Sports
Muhlenberg County American Red Cross
Muhlenberg County Board of Education
Muhlenberg County Extension Service - 4-H/Youth Development
Muhlenberg County Extension Service - Family & Consumer Science
Muhlenberg County Extension Service - Fine Arts
Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court
Muhlenberg County High School
Muhlenberg County Junior Pro Football, Inc.
Muhlenberg County Literacy Council
Muhlenberg County Opportunity Center
Muhlenberg County Public Libraries
Muhlenberg County Special Olympics
Muhlenberg Green Recycling Team



Muhlenberg Community Theatre, Inc.



Muhlenberg County Schools &
The Pennyroyal Center



City of Central City: Scout House



Muhlenberg County Extension Service:
Arts Advisory Council

Muhlenberg North Middle School
Muhlenberg South Elementary
Muhlenberg South Middle School
National Thumbpickers Hall of Fame
Pathway of Hope
Pennyrile Allied Community Services - Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Pennyrile Area Development District
Pennyroyal Center
RiverPark Center
Second Baptist Church
South Central Kentucky Kids on the Block
STAND (Students Teaching About Negative Decisions)
The Flying Mules
University of Kentucky Center for Rural Health

FELIX E. MARTIN JR. FOUNDATION

The following Committees and Boards have been instrumental to the Foundation's work.
We thank them for their hard work and dedication.

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Roger Arbuckle
Lee Fauntleroy
Kim Logsdon
Randy McCarty
Judge Rick Newman

Youth Services Committee

Alexis Albach	Jessica Anderson
Johnny Bilbro	Kara Bletzinger
Dr. Kevin Brown	Rick Carver
Chris Dennis	Sandy Denny
Gail Johnson	Lauren Sparks
Elizabeth Tartar	

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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John Gentry	Tommy Harrison
Tracy Hope	Debbie Houghland
Cora Hughes	Gail Johnson
Becky Keith	Eddie Lewis
Freddie Mayes	Judge Rick Newman
Elizabeth Oates	Matt Perkins
Tammy Piper	Cassie Reynolds
David Rhoades	Dean Rowe
John Soderling	Sam Sparks
James Stewart	Nancy Stewart
Rylan Tuohy	Ben Van Hooser
Donna Vincent	Steve Wells

Early Childhood Development (SOAR)

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Mary Ann French	Billy Galyen
Lanie Gardner	Elizabeth Anne Gentry
Debbie Houghland	Ashleigh Johnson
Gail Johnson	Becky Miller
Heather Phem	Alfreda Settle
Angie Todd	Debbie Ursery
Wendy West	Jennifer Whitehead
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Greater Muhlenberg Parks and Recreation System

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