2018 was a busy year for the Yellow Springs Community Foundation; one in which the Foundation completed or initiated several projects that created new opportunities to make a difference in the lives of all of us in Yellow Springs and Miami Township while improving its functioning to better serve the community. A few of these important projects are noted below.

The Foundation selected five community members to serve as Encore Miller Fellows. The Encore Miller Fellows work with the Student Miller Fellows to provide seasoned support when it is useful to enhance the students’ experiences and their contributions to the nonprofits where they work. The Encore Fellows also foster collaborative opportunities between local nonprofits. The Encore Miller Fellows are assigned by the Foundation’s areas of interest, building on Antioch College’s areas of practice.

The first Miller Fellowship Community Collaborative Grants were received for evaluation by the Foundation. These grants represent a key aspect of the Foundation’s strategy: to help area nonprofits to truly work together on initiatives that can benefit our Community at levels not attainable when organizations work alone. Key components of these grants include collaboration by a minimum of three organizations, educational content that benefits Student Miller Fellows, and positive impact on the Community.

In the last quarter of 2018, the Foundation funded an Antioch Hall Maintenance Endowment and provided Antioch College with a directed grant to stabilize and support maintenance of the College's Iconic Antioch Hall. The grant provides for heat and mechanical upgrades needed to protect the 166-year old structure, which is on the National Historical Register and an icon in our region. The grant also seeks to identify collaborative means for the shared community use of Antioch Hall with the Village and the College. For the rest of 2019, the Foundation will continue its work with Antioch College on the Antioch Hall project as a community space, and will seek additional funding sources that can be used for the eventual restoration of this exemplary building.

With the formation of a new Yellow Springs Designated Community Development Corporation (a DCIC) in Yellow Springs, the Foundation hopes to play a pivotal role in convening large-scale collaborative projects and establishing impact investment funds to facilitate those projects. Watch our newsletters and website for this exciting new chapter.

Also, staff and volunteers greatly improved functionality of the YSCF website, implemented new financial and grant tracking software, created sustained giving options online, streamlined the high school scholarship application process, retained a new audit firm for the Foundation, and generated the legal framework for the Foundation to accept gifts of real estate and other tangible personal property.

This spring, we bid farewell to long-term trustee, Susan Miller. Susan has served on the board for 11 years, including one as emeritus trustee, helping us mentor newer trustees. Thank you, Susan, for your dedication, thoughtfulness, positive energy, and for demonstrating, in every interaction and situation, what a truly stellar trustee looks like.

As we look towards 2020, the Yellow Springs Community Foundation is well positioned toward supporting your interests and our community into the future. Thank you for your help; together we can do more.

Lisa Abel
President, YSCF Board of Trustees

Jeannamarie Cox
YSCF Executive Director