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Friends group aims to make Brookside Golf Course sustainable

ASHLAND - Having met their short-term goal of keeping the golf course “in the green” for two years, Friends of Brookside Golf Course is now looking to the future.

The group has established the George and Peggy Valentine Honorary Endowment Fund with Ashland County Community Foundation to honor the memory of the Valentines and provide operational support to benefit the course for years to come.

Chaired by Steve Paramore and led by a 22-member steering committee, Friends of Brookside Golf Course started in 2018 to assist the Brookside Management Team and the City of Ashland in securing the course’s financial future.

Since its inception, the group has worked hard to secure sponsorships, donations and gifts for special projects at the golf course. Together with Brookside staff, the Friends group has helped to increase the number of rounds of general play and outings at the course.

Last year, as a result of operational changes and support from the Friends, the golf course ended up with a \$65,000 surplus rather than a deficit.

“We feel like we have had some real impact, and what we want to do is continue with that,” said Gene Haberman, secretary/treasurer of the friends group. “This fund will provide consistent annual income in the future, and it will serve as a base for us.”

The Friends group felt it would be fitting for the fund to bear the name of George and Peggy Valentine because of the impact the couple had on the local golf community at Brookside.

Brookside’s first golf pro, George Valentine started the Brookside Junior Golf Program and the Brookside Golf Course Courthouse League.

“George is almost synonymous with Brookside,” Haberman said. “He was ‘Mr. Golf,’ if you will, at Brookside.”

George Valentine’s wife, Peggy, also was vital to the success of the golf course as a longtime secretary for the City of Ashland’s Parks and Recreation Department.

The new endowment fund was established with a gift of \$10,000, which will generate \$400 annually for Brookside.

Members of the Friends group envision the fund growing significantly with the addition of one-time contributions and annual gifts from Brookside supporters.

Donors may co-mingle their gift with the established fund or may create their own named fund with ACCF and designate distributions toward the cause.

In the event that Brookside Golf Course should cease to exist, distributions from the fund will be divided equally among each of the golf programs at Ashland County schools.

Donors may contribute to the George and Peggy Valentine Honorary Endowed Fund by contacting Ashland County Community Foundation, 300 College Avenue, Ashland OH 44805 or by calling (419) 281-4733. Contributions may also be made online by visiting www.accommunityfoundation.org and clicking "Donate to a Fund."

About Ashland County Community Foundation: Ashland County Community Foundation advances philanthropy and improves the quality of life in Ashland County by supporting charitable activities, providing and administering planned giving programs, and serving as responsible stewards of scholarship, as well as individual and organizational funds for specific charities. ACCF has over \$55 million in invested assets and has awarded over \$15.3 million in scholarships, grants and distributions.

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