Enriching the lives of children

CHARLES H. DATER FOUNDATION
About the cover

With a portrait of Charles H. Dater hanging in the background, the happy faces of three youngsters at Gilbert A. Dater Montessori seem to express an appreciation for the man who established a Foundation that has made significant grants to the school that bears his grandfather's name.

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The Mission

The Charles H. Dater Foundation makes grants to non-profit organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area to carry out projects and programs that benefit children and focus in the areas of arts/culture, education, healthcare, social services and other community needs. The Foundation has made more than 1,100 grants totaling in excess of $17 million.

The Vision

Charles H. Dater (1912-1993) established the foundation in 1985 to ensure that funding for worthwhile community programs would continue after his death. The Foundation honors the memory and preserves the philanthropic commitment of Charles and his ancestors, whose hard work and business acumen over four generations provided them with the opportunity to share their success with their community.
Dater Foundation History

The decision was not a hard one for Charles Dater.

Philanthropic commitment to community had been a core value of the Dater family since the mid-1800s when immigrant Adam Dater, Charles’ great grandfather, began sharing his wealth with those less fortunate. Adam’s son Gilbert continued the tradition, and a Cincinnati Public Schools Montessori school and high school are named in his honor. The life of Charles’ father, Charles Henry Dater, ended prematurely, but he instilled in his son the concept of sharing one’s good fortune and wealth with others.

Hard work, keen investing, astute financial management, and a spiraling economy enabled Charles to grow his assets over the years.

Charles established the Charles H. Dater Foundation in 1985, eight years before his death. The original mission of the foundation continues today — make grants to non-profit organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area to carry out projects and programs that benefit children in the areas of arts/culture, education, healthcare, social services and other community needs. Many Greater Cincinnati institutions and charities benefited from his generosity through the years, both before and after the establishment of the Foundation.

Charles’s initial contribution to the Foundation was small, and some 13 grants totaling $9,500 were made in its first year. Subsequent contributions by Charles and successful asset management by the Board of Directors grew the asset base to its present level of more than $50 million, making it one of the largest private foundations in Ohio. The annual number and, to a lesser degree, the average size of grants grew through the years.

The Foundation has awarded more than 1,100 grants totaling over $17 million to more than 250 different organizations between 1985 and 2002.
Charles H. Dater: A Personal Look

We’re here today to celebrate a couple milestones* for the Foundation, one of which will include a grant presentation ... and to announce a major, new grant commitment.

But before we get to that, I’d like to say a few words about someone I wish could be here today - and that’s the man who made all this possible ... Charles H. Dater.

Charles died in 1993 at age 81. He had no sons or daughters, and when he was doing his estate planning back in the late 1980s the idea of establishing a foundation came up. That was something that really appealed to him.

Charles was the great grandson of Adam Dater, who came to the United States from Germany in 1830 and settled in Cincinnati at age 48. Adam’s son Gilbert inherited his father’s work ethic, started a wholesale grocery business, and invested wisely in land purchases. Adam’s son Charles Henry Dater grew the family fortune with involvement in the stockyards and banking.

Charles grew up in Northside and attended North Presbyterian Church. When his father died, he was just 17 years old ... and he was thrust into helping his mother manage the family’s holdings at an early age. He went to the University of Cincinnati, graduated, and then went on to get his MBA at Harvard. He was an officer in the Army in World War II. When his mother died, the family’s investments and residential land development became his full-time focus.

I doubt that many of you here today knew Charles. His lifestyle was pretty humble. He lived in a three-bedroom ranch home in Westwood. He liked to eat at Frisch’s. He drove his cars until they wouldn’t run anymore... one was a red Dodge Aries, one of those K-cars. And when he didn’t feel comfortable driving anymore, he took the bus.

But one thing he always believed in throughout his life was sharing his good fortune with others. When he made gifts and contributions during his lifetime, he told people he didn’t want any recognition. The Foundation was established in 1985, and when we’d give grants in those early days when Charles was still living he insisted we tell people he and the Foundation didn’t want any recognition.

I guess if Charles were alive today, we wouldn’t be here celebrating our 15th anniversary. But those of us who are involved with the Foundation believe it’s important to acknowledge Charles’ generosity and show how his philanthropic commitment and his vision in establishing a foundation continues to have an impact on the community.

* Making the 1,000th grant, passing the $15-million mark in grant dollars, and awarding the largest single grant in the Foundation’s history.
Enriching the lives of children

… that’s what the Charles H. Dater Foundation is all about.

And it shows on the faces of the young people pictured on the following pages. The stories of eight grant recipients were selected to represent the 250 organizations that have received more than 1,100 grants totaling $17 million from the Foundation since it was established in 1985.

Hundreds of other stories could be told, too... because every grant has its own success story.
Shopping for school

Heading back to school each September means new clothes and school supplies for most kids.

Now, hundreds of youngsters who have never worn a new shirt or known the thrill and smell of a brand new box of crayons are doing just that... thanks to the Assistance League of Greater Cincinnati and funding by the Dater Foundation.

Operation School Bell turns the League’s Bond Hill offices into a makeshift “back-to-school store” for three weeks each September. A select group of boys and girls from inner city elementary schools are handpicked by school officials to go on a free shopping spree at the store. The bus ride builds anticipation, and excitement grows as they enter the building.

An Assistance League volunteer serves as each youngster’s personal sales clerk, answering questions and making suggestions. Boys and girls pick out two pairs of pants, two shirts, a sweatshirt, underwear, socks, gym shoes, a kit of hygiene supplies and a backpack filled with school supplies.

As the kids depart, the smiles on their faces reflect the day’s adventure, and precious thank you notes follow.

Over 100 League volunteers work on Operation School Bell as well as other Assistance League projects.

The Dater Foundation provided funding for Operation School Bell and other school field trips organized by the Assistance League of Greater Cincinnati.
Up close with nature

Reading about animals and seeing pictures in books is educational, but learning really comes alive when youngsters take a trip to the Cincinnati Zoo.

Teachers bring more than 150,000 boys and girls on school field trips to the Zoo each year. Some of their favorite places to visit are exhibits funded by the Dater Foundation.

The Manatee Springs exhibit features the Dater Discovery Center, where interactive computer programs and touch-screen technology add a new dimension to learning. Young people participating in the Zoo’s overnight program get to “Sleep with the Manatees.”

Blakeley’s Barn in the Children’s Zoo, another Dater-funded program, lets youngsters meet farm animals close up.

The Wings of Wonder program, featuring more than 30 different species of birds, is one of the Zoo’s most popular attractions and the recipient of another Dater grant.

“We’re making the Zoo more active, more hands on for young people,” says the Zoo’s Thane Maynard, “and the Dater Foundation’s grants have played a major role in making that happen.”
Computers for learning

Eight Cincinnati inner-city Catholic elementary schools face a daunting challenge – the average cost of a year's education is $2,900 per student and two-thirds of their 1,380 students live at or below the poverty level.

Against big odds, the schools are succeeding... an amazing 96 percent of CISE students graduate from high school; many go on to college.

With many parents wanting their children to attend a CISE school but unable to afford all or part of the tuition, funding from other sources must make up the difference.

Recent Dater Foundation grants have supported the purchase of accelerated reading and math software. Prior funding included support of a summer arts program, a science enrichment program, transportation for field tips and tuition reimbursement.

CISE

CISE is the Catholic Inner-City Schools Education Fund that supports St. Boniface, Corryville Catholic, St. Francis de Sales, St. Francis Seraph, Holy Family, St. Joseph, St. Mark and Resurrection.

The Dater Foundation has supported specific CISE Fund programs since 1995.
Surfing colleges in cyberspace

The new “College Corner” in the library at Gilbert A. Dater High School reinforces the school’s vision that its graduates will move on to college.

State-of-the-art computers serve students – mostly juniors and seniors – who have college aspirations. Internet connectivity lets them research colleges and course offerings as well as available scholarships. Special software programs enhance preparation for the demanding Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Shelves in the area are stocked with books, catalogs, brochures and other information about colleges... all designed to facilitate the college selection process. Parents also are encouraged to use the resources.

The College Corner and two other computer labs at the school were funded by grants from the Dater Foundation. Each lab has 20 computers. All eighth graders take a computer literary course. High school students complete two computer applications courses focusing on the use of word processing, publishing, spreadsheet and Internet software.
Teens helping others

To understand the Starfire Council’s role requires a paradigm shift... because Starfire’s young members with developmental disabilities are the givers of their time and energy, performing community work throughout Greater Cincinnati.

Starfire members – usually about six at a time – go on more than 1,000 service and recreational outings each year. Dater Foundation grants make the outings possible by funding transportation and staffing.

The service outings give Starfire members the opportunity to give back to their community by donating their services to such worthwhile projects and organizations as St. George’s Food Pantry, the Freestore, Cincinnati Parks, Adopt-a-Block and Every Child Succeeds.

Starfire outings are not all work. Recreational outings include trips to Kings Island, fitness walks, movies, shopping and dining.

Starfire Council of Greater Cincinnati

Starfire Council of Greater Cincinnati provides programs that encourage individuals with developmental disabilities, children through adults, to realize their potential and grow in their ability to access the community.

Dater Foundation grants have supported Starfire programs since 1988 and helped the organization double the number of members it serves in recent years.
Taking art on the road

When the Taft Museum’s renovation and expansion is completed in the fall of 2003, former gallery and exhibition space will have become the Charles H. Dater Education Room where programs for young people will expand their appreciation of art.

To help the museum fill the youth education void during the two-year construction closure, the Dater Foundation is funding “Galleries on the Go,” a program that brings art into second- to sixth-grade classrooms.

Museum volunteers take art reproductions – painting, porcelain, enamel and architecture – into the classroom. Young people ask questions and share their opinions. The real fun begins when the hands-on part of the program begins. If the art program features painting, the kids actually paint on their own small canvasses. If it’s a porcelain program, they mold clay.

Dater grants have also supported Artists Reaching Classrooms, a group of Cincinnati artists who show their work in high schools in the area.

The Taft Museum of Art

*The Taft Museum of Art is well known as one of the finest small museums in the country. Charles P. and Anna Sinton Taft bequeathed their art collection to the citizens of Cincinnati. After their deaths, their former residence opened in 1932 as a museum to house and display the collection.*

The Dater Foundation made the largest grant commitment in its history to support the Taft Museum’s renovation and expansion through funding of the Charles H. Dater Education Room.
PowerUp for success

Narrowing and closing the “digital divide” between minority youngsters in low-income families and their more advantaged counterparts in the suburbs is what PowerUp is all about.

There are few home computers in the inner city, and youngsters can get only so much access to computers in school. Grants from the Dater Foundation enable nearly 300 youngsters to regularly spend after-school time in the PowerUp computer lab at the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati.

PowerUp is a national program that lets local schools and organizations provide youngsters with access to software programs and the Internet in a safe, fun environment.

Each child has an online account in the PowerUp web site, and youngsters see the power of the computer as they participate in supervised chat room discussions and play interactive games designed to improve reading and other academic skills. An Urban League staff facilitator works with the youngsters, helping them improve basic skills and answering questions. Volunteer coaches also support the program.
Tuning in for education

It’s a familiar playtime line of children – “Hey! Let’s put on a show.”

But how many actually get to write and star in a play that is broadcast on radio? It’s happening in Cincinnati, thanks to a Dater Foundation grant to WVXU Radio and the station’s strong commitment to making classroom education come alive.

WVXU’s web site features a Kids Page area that has been developed with funding by the Dater Foundation. It provides all the tools – script, sound effects and instructions – to produce the radio drama, “The Case of the Missing Lemon.”

To promote the concept, the station made a special offer to McKinley Elementary School. The inner city school’s student body has a strong Appalachian heritage. Principal Melody Dacey held tryouts for the radio drama. She said one frequently absent student never missed a day of school during the project – “she didn’t want to miss rehearsal.” Another student said the project improved her reading and gave her a new confidence in herself.

“The project brought students together, improved attendance and boosted self-esteem and school morale,” said Dacey. She said the field trip to WVXU’s studios to record the radio drama was an eye-opening experience for young people who had never thought about being on a college campus. One told her that he was going to study hard so he could go to college.

All ears at McKinley school and in the Columbia Tusculum neighborhood were tuned to WVXU the day the drama aired.

The Dater Foundation has been a strong supporter of public broadcasting in Greater Cincinnati – WVXU’s Kids Page web site, WGUC’s Classics for Kids and WCET-TV’s programming for children.
More Dater grant recipients

Dater Foundation grants have worked and continue to work to enrich the lives of children in the Greater Cincinnati area, as evidenced at:

**Children’s Hospital** – A major grant commitment for the expansion of laboratory facilities and recruitment of the research team in the Hematology/Oncology Department’s Division of Experimental Hematology. Other grants have supported various youth programs.

**Children’s Theatre** – A long-time season sponsorship has helped fund live productions of classics like *Jack and the Beanstock* and *Of Mice and Men*, making available a unique cultural experience for young people throughout the region.

**Cincinnati Symphony, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Ballet and Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra** – Grants to these major cultural institutions have consistently supported a wide range of on-site and outreach programs like Sound Discoveries and CincyDance.

**Cincinnati Art Museum** – The Extend Your Classroom program encourages teachers and students to take advantage of art education opportunities available throughout the year.

**Crayons to Computers** – Grants support this free store for teachers to get school supplies for students who can’t afford them.

**Down Syndrome of Greater Cincinnati** – Educational outreach programs to create greater awareness of the support and opportunities available to young people with Down Syndrome and their families.

**Emanuel Community Center** – Grants have supported the Urban Ministries program for children in the Over-the-Rhine area and helped fund outdoor equipment and a new gymnasium at the Center.

**Ensemble Theatre** – An educational outreach program takes the theatre to inner-city schools and provides free admissions to an original holiday production.

**Madecap Productions** – Puppet shows introduce children to theatre, and they carry positive messages to influence young lives. Grants support taking the shows into classrooms as well as performances at the Art Museum.

**Museum Center** – Grants have supported educational programs like Lab Rats and Children Just Like Me, as well as the move of the Children’s Museum to the Union Terminal.

**Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County/Westwood Branch** – A major grant helped fund a renovation and the Charles H. Dater Children’s Reading Room. Other grants have supported children’s programs at the library in the neighborhood where Charles lived.

**Santa Maria Institute** – Children’s programs and services for inner city youth in the lower Price Hill area.

**Stepping Stones** – Support has focused on early intervention and education programs for children with disabilities.

**University of Cincinnati** – Annual grants have funded a Charles H. Dater Scholarship at the university where Charles earned his bachelor’s degree.

**YMCA** – A summer campership program has provided playtime and social experiences for youngsters who would not otherwise have such opportunities. Major grants supported a renovation and the Aquatic Center at the Clippard Branch.
Grants History

The Dater Foundation made its first grants in October 1985, the year the Foundation was established by Charles H. Dater. The Foundation has made more than 1,100 grants totaling $17 million to over 250 different organizations its inception.

While the average grant has been about $20,000 in recent years, the Foundation has made significant single grants and grant commitments, including:

**Taft Museum** – $500,000 – The Charles H. Dater Education Room will be a part of the renovated and expanded facility.

**Cincinnati Zoo** – $420,000 – The Manatee Springs exhibit features the Dater Discovery Center.

**Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County/Westwood Branch** – $300,000 – Renovation, expansion and the Charles H. Dater Children’s Reading Room.

**Children’s Hospital** – $250,000 – The Hematology/Oncology Department for expanded laboratory facilities and recruitment of a research team.

A number of organizations have enjoyed recurring support for a number of their projects through the years, including:

**Cincinnati Museum Center** – $600,000

**YMCA and the Clippard Branch** – $439,100

**Emanuel Center** – $345,000

**The Charles H. Dater Scholarship Fund at the University of Cincinnati** – $205,000

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**Dater Foundation Grants**

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**Grant Dollars Distributed – Percentage (1985 to 2002)**

- Less than $10,000: 11.4%
- $10,000 to $24,999: 35.8%
- $25,000 to $49,999: 24.1%
- $50,000 to $99,999: 19.5%
- $100,000 or more: 9.2%

**Number of Grants by Size (FY 2001-02)**

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<th>Size of Grants</th>
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Applying for a grant

The Dater Foundation wants to make the Grant Request/Application process as easy as possible for organizations seeking financial support.


- Grant Guidelines
- Grant Request/Application Form (downloadable in Word and PDF files)
- Grant Evaluation Report criteria

These items are also available by calling the Foundation at 513/241-2658.

The Foundation makes grants to private, non-profit organizations and public agencies in Greater Cincinnati for programs that benefit children in the region in the areas of arts/culture, education, healthcare, social services and other community needs. Greater Cincinnati is defined as the eight-county metropolitan area made up of the counties of Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont in Ohio; Boone, Kenton and Campbell in Northern Kentucky; and Dearborn in Indiana.

The Foundation does not make grants to individuals, for scholarships for individuals, for debt reduction, and, with rare exception, for capital fund projects.

Grants are usually made for one year and subsequent grants for an extended or ongoing program are based on an evaluation of annual results. Multiple grants to an organization in the Foundation’s same fiscal year are possible, but rare.

The Foundation looks favorably on applications that leverage a grant to seek additional funding and resources. The Foundation’s directors/officers regularly evaluate the organization’s grantmaking focus and priorities based on an assessment of current community needs and available resources.

Grant applicants are strongly urged to review the Grant Guidelines and Grant Evaluation Form before starting to complete the Grant Request/Application Form. This will help them better understand the Foundation’s background and grantmaking priorities, thereby improving the likelihood of approval for some and saving valuable time for others whose application may not be consistent with the Foundation’s grantmaking focus.

The Grant Request/Application process requires a minimum of 60 days from the time an application is received until a grant request is approved or declined. The Grant Request/Application form asks the date by which a funding decision is requested or needed. Board members/officers meet monthly to evaluate grant applications. Once an application is approved, funds are dispersed to the grant recipient organization in about two weeks.

Visit us on the web at www.DaterFoundation.org

The website includes an overview of the Foundation and its history, profiles of Charles Dater and board members/officers, grant application information, grantmaking history, success stories of grant recipients, news releases and news stories, and an FAQ section.
A Board of Directors oversees and plays an active role in the work of the Charles H. Dater Foundation. The Foundation has no full-time staff members, and board members serve as officers performing the work of staff and exercising fiduciary responsibility. They review over 500 grant requests each year and make more than 100 grant awards. They make site visits to current and potential grant recipients, monitoring how grant dollars are being spent and seeking new beneficiaries whose program goals coincide with those of the Foundation. Board members have a wide range of business, financial and community involvement experience.

David L. Olberding,
President and Director

Dorothy G. Krone
Vice President and Director

John D. Silvati
Vice President and Director

Stanley J. Frank, Jr.
Treasurer and Director

Bruce A. Krone
Secretary and Director