WHERE WE WORK

Nestled in the foothills of Appalachian Ohio, Rural Action was founded in 1991 on the principle that locally-based, sustainable and inclusive development is the main strategy for building resilient rural Appalachian communities.

We work to build sectors reflecting local needs and assets through: sustainable forestry, sustainable agriculture, recycling, environmental education, and watershed restoration.

Chartered for all of Appalachian Ohio, Rural Action continues to expand because there is great demand for smart local solutions to global and regional problems.

We have 5 offices located in communities where we work. Our offices are located in Athens, Perry, Morgan, and Tuscarawas counties.

We also have collaborative, financial, and programmatic ties to all of Central Appalachia through the Central Appalachian Network and other regional partners.

To learn more about Rural Action visit: www.ruralaction.org or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Linked in. Sign up for the Rural Rambler or one of our program newsletters by going to our website.
Welcome to Rural Action’s 2014 Annual Report and thank you for your continued support. In our 2013 report we talked about having a rocky year but still getting a ton accomplished. In 2014, things got better, but then we experienced the tragic loss of our COO, Barbara Eiden Molinaro. Barbara was an inspiration to all of us who worked with her. She worked closely with our board, put many new policies in place, and moved our main office to The Plains. This help was essential, given Rural Action’s growth.

Most nonprofits will say keeping up with growth and demand is difficult, but well worth the challenge. If we truly believe in what we’re doing then we should work hard to do more – to expand our resources, to engage more volunteers, to reach more communities. Because it is our passion that moves us forward. Barbara believed this and during her short time with us, did everything she could to help us stay strong for the long haul.

Explaining clearly why we do what we do is important for knowing where we’re heading for that long haul. These pages describe the core five elements of how we work: ENGAGEMENT, LEARNING, MAPPING AND CONTROLLING ASSETS, BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, and CONNECTING TO MARKETS. No matter what we are doing, we look through this lens of activities to see if we are moving toward the big goal of a new economy that works for people, the planet, and a more just economy.

Take watershed restoration: we have to first engage partners and community members; we have to understand the problem and learn from each other; we have to map the assets we have in and around a creek – bugs, fish, landmarks, and landowners; we have to build the infrastructure that will help restore the creeks; and finally, we need to determine how our communities can benefit from the restoration and care of our waterways. Is it a new sign in a community explaining our mining history or a new kayaking business? Whatever the project or the sector, there are things that should always happen – these are the elements of our approach. And most importantly, Rural Action doesn’t do them all or do them alone – it takes hundreds of partners and engaged people to get even close to the goal of a more just and sustainable economy.

Understanding how we work helps the staff and board manage opportunities. In 2014, the number of AmeriCorps members serving with us jumped from 16 members to 26, reaching 18 Appalachian Ohio counties. This increase in talent was a challenge we were glad to have because we know it resulted in more work being accomplished. Ohio Stream Restore Corps accomplishes activities tied to our larger approach, helping us track our progress and impact.

In the end, lasting change is made with people, in places, around things people care about – remembering that it really is that simple and powerful and gives us hope. Thank you for being on this journey with us and please let us know what you think of our Annual Report, and how you would like to help us do more.

Amy Grove
Chair of the Board

R. Michelle Decker
Chief Executive Officer
ENVISIONING A STRONG APPALACHIAN OHIO

Our Mission

Rural Action’s mission is to foster social, economic, and environmental justice in Appalachian Ohio. Together, we envision a region of clean streams, healthy forests, thriving family farms, meaningful jobs for everyone, lively towns that remember local history and celebrate their stories, and people working together to make this vision a reality.

As a membership-based organization, we believe the best development is done with participation from diverse groups who have a stake in the outcome. Our role is to empower communities to value and take ownership of our environment, economy, and society, so we can meet the needs of the current generation while also building a just and sustainable future.

Our Theory of Change

A Theory of Change is a planning tool. We wrote one to explain what we think needs to be in place in order to achieve our big goal: a new, more just economy in support of people, their communities, and the environment we all rely on. The graphic on the facing page describes the things we believe need to exist – at a sufficient enough scale – to bring about this new economy. You can start at any point in the circle, but all elements need to be touch. You can jump into this circle at any point.

Take food systems for example. You have to engage the people most affected. In the case of food, it’s consumers and farmers. That you find out what they need and what it would take for them to grow the local and regional food system. You’re going to need to do a lot of learning – as an organization, with partners, and through training and peer-learning with other producers. It helps to understand and control the assets you need – so knowing which producers grow which products, who has a truck they can share, who can provide what training – knowing those things helps you know where the gaps are that need to be filled with extra support.

Putting the infrastructure in place is really important – having a place like the Chesterhill Produce Auction to aggregate produce, or having enough refrigeration at local kitchens and distribution sites. Finally, where are the markets? What (back to talking with consumers at the start) do people want to buy? Where do they want to buy it? What market opportunities exist for our producers?

Our Current Work

Rural Action works both in communities of place, as well as communities formed around interests or sectors including:

- ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
- SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
- SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY
- WATERSHED RESTORATION
- ZERO WASTE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Engage Communities
Learn Together
Control Assets
Build Infrastructure
Connect to Markets
Community Engagement and Empowerment

Everyone has a gift to share and can make a difference. Development done with people and not for people is the kind that will last.

Engagement Highlights

In 2014, we received a highly competitive federal grant to expand our Ohio Stream Restore Corps (OSRC) from 16 to 26 members. OSRC Members provided 34,070 hours of direct community service in 2014. Additionally, they worked with 1,084 volunteers that generated an additional 5,744 hours of community service.

After being adopted at the very end of 2013, the Athens Hocking Zero Waste Action Plan received letters of support and resolutions from over 20 different organizations in 2014. Three working groups were launched to implement steps in this action plan including: a steering committee, an Education and Outreach Working Group, and the Illegal Dumping Working Group.

Growing out of a successful pilot project in 2013, the Zero Waste Program completed 15 waste assessments of schools, businesses, and organizations, helping them reduce waste up to 50% by volume. Organizations that adopt the zero waste pledge receive customized signs to help customers, employees, or students learn what is recyclable. Through our work, Kiser’s Barbecue, made the switch from disposable dishware to reusable dishware and Donkey Coffee changed their entire receipt system to save a roll of receipt paper every day.

In 2014, we worked with volunteers to collect a total of 624 bags of trash and 441 scrap tires from 13 dumpsites. This was accomplished in part thanks to a new trailer we helped purchase with grant funds through a partnership with Wayne National Forest and Keep Southeast Ohio Beautiful. The trailer comes equipped with everything needed to make a clean up a success.
In 2014, we engaged 150 stakeholders for a Regional Watershed Planning Initiative to uncover a new way of working that could lead to improved water quality and preserve high quality streams across Appalachian Ohio.

In 2014, with United Plant Savers and funding from the National Forest Foundation, 24 core volunteers provided 153.5 hours of service to collect and plant 74,500 seeds of three native understory plants, American Ginseng (Panax quinquefolius), Goldenseal (Hydrastis canadensis), and Ramps (Allium tricoccum) in restoration plantings on the Wayne National Forest.

“The community clean-up trailer was an excellent eye catcher that drew attention to our community clean-up project. Without it, several of the items that had been discarded would have gone to the landfill, but we were able to remove and recycle them. The trailer encouraged some of the residents to be more involved in recycling.”

– Patty Horn, President of the Haydenville Improvement Committee.

34,070 hours of direct community service

15 waste assessments of schools, businesses, and organizations

624 bags of trash and 441 scrap tires removed from 13 dumpsites
Once engaged, people need ways to learn about and share sustainable development practices that can be applied in their communities.

**Learning Highlights**

A total of 135 educators participated in the first Inquiry-Based Environmental Education Conference held at Burr Oak State Park. This was a milestone event for Rural Action and education partners who have been working together since 2010 on helping teachers and students use the outdoors as a teaching tool.

We partnered with Camp Oty’Okwa to create an environmental youth leadership program called the Hemlock Youth Action Team. Fifty high school students learned about local environmental issues, trained on environmental education techniques, and leadership skills. These students facilitated environmental education lessons for 5th and 6th grade students in their respective districts, reaching an additional 760 students.

To help promote healthy cooking as well as use of local produce, our Sustainable Agriculture program developed The Healthy Home Consumer Guide – a 48 page basic guide for cooking, selecting, and storing local produce. By the end of 2014, 300 copies had been distributed throughout Southeast Ohio including Athens, Morgan, Meigs and Vinton County Libraries, OSU Extension, Athens City County Health Department, Community Food Initiatives, Live Healthy Appalachia, and the Perry County Health Department.
In response to Rural Action members voicing the importance of Climate Change in our work, our Environmental Education team worked with Huntington High School in Ross County and Trimble High school in Athens County to develop and facilitate two lessons focused on Climate Change for 80 students. The lessons include a climate literacy assessment for middle and high-school students and have expanded our Citizen Science Initiative to gather data that documents how local flora and fauna are responding to climate change.

In 2014, more than 600 forest landowners, farmers, and community members attended producer workshops to help them earn more income from their farms.

“The most interesting part of HYAT is getting out and seeing the trees, getting to actually touch and feel the ecosystem, and then coming back to our High Schools and our Elementary Schools, and teaching the kids and having them learn and ask questions.

-Rachel Beery, Huntington High School Student
Valuing and Controlling Regional Assets

Ownership is a key factor for wealth building, recognizing there are many forms of ownership - individual, cooperative, public or private, and many hybrid systems. For example, communities can own land as in community forests or local land trusts, or producers can share infrastructure as they do at the Chesterhill Produce Auction.

Assets Highlights

With our partner United Plant Savers, we secured funding through the National Forest Foundation to map and monitor 26 wild populations of three native understory plants, American Ginseng (Panax quinquefolius), Goldenseal (Hydrastis canadensis), and Ramps (Allium tricoccum) in the Wayne National Forest. Due to their rising popularity, these species are considered at risk of being overharvested in Central Appalachia. This project is being developed as a model for plant conservation on public lands.

The Zero Waste Program began coordinating an illegal dumping and burning committee as part of the Athens-Hocking Zero Waste Action Plan. To better track new and existing dumpsites we worked with volunteer and recent Ohio University graduate, Ken Shonkwiler, to create an online, interactive dumpsite map. This map has enabled 10 partner organizations to communicate what dumpsites have been cleaned and what sites still need to be cleaned.

Ohio Stream Restore Corps (OSRC) members produced guided tours as part of a broader strategy to increase local asset-based tourism in our region. Members attended meetings hosted by Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area to learn more about the region and to build tour packages that highlight the environmental and historical assets of the region.

Rural Action’s Environmental Education program developed a southeast Ohio outdoor education asset map identifying land labs and the locations of Rural Action’s outdoor education partners and their outdoor sites.
With support from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, Rural Action worked with ACEnet, Community Food Initiatives, and the Southeast Ohio Food Bank to understand how the local food economy (farms and businesses) and charitable food system (food banks and pantries) could work together to expand food security and grow revenue for producers.

In 2013, we launched an innovative Farm to School project with three schools. Produce is purchased at the Chesterhill Produce Auction or from local farmers and taken to Hocking College for processing by culinary students, giving them real world experience handing and processing fresh local fruits and vegetables. In 2014, we grew the program to include six area schools, purchasing hundreds of pounds of fresh local produce.

“Through the tourism training I received as an OSRC member in 2014, I was able to help Perry SWCD develop ten guided tours. Each was created with local businesses in mind. In an area where industry isn’t a large contributor to the economy, we see tourism as a way to make real economic impact.”

–Steve Glade, OSRC AmeriCorps member with Perry Soil and Water District.
To reach markets, many small and mid-sized businesses are hampered by the lack of appropriate, affordable infrastructure - a packing house for food, a new materials recovery facility, a storage center for wood products. Infrastructure for Rural Action is both built and natural. Natural systems (water, soil, forests, air quality) are key pieces of long term infrastructure - without them, it’s hard to imagine a healthy and prosperous future.

Infrastructure Highlights

Expanding on our Farm to School project, we conducted 4 school kitchen assessments through our Sustainable Agriculture program, to better understand what equipment was available to process fresh produce and where challenges existed. Through these assessments we identified barriers to utilizing more fresh produce and also equipment training needs for kitchen staff.

With our help, several regional festivals reached true zero waste status for the first time. Nelsonville Music Festival, diverted 96.5% of all waste through recycling and compost. The Ohio Pawpaw Festival diverted over 90% from the landfill, and so did Bounty on the Bricks. Prior to Rural Action’s involvement in these events, 65-100% of all trash at these events was going to the landfill.

Through a partnership with Campus Recycling and Zero Waste Office at Ohio University, we were able to provide bins to each elementary school classroom at Nelsonville Elementary. We also worked with Alexander Local Schools to help them launch a stadium and basketball recycling program.

As a direct result of Rural Action’s Zero Waste Pledge project, and connections we made between a local business, recycling center, and a plastics processor, the Athens Hocking Recycling Center began recycling #2 and #4 LDPE plastics which it now collects from businesses throughout the City of Athens, at its drop off center, and in all curbside recycling programs.
At the end of 2014, Rural Action was actively managing and monitoring 34 watershed reclamation sites across 4 watersheds (Sunday Creek, Monday Creek, Huff Run, and Mud Run) in six counties. Through our efforts, we prevented over 1,000 tons of acid from entering streams resulting in improved water quality in these watersheds. Also, two new species of fish were discovered in Monday creek bringing the total of new or returning fish populations to 32.

“Through Farm to School, we are taking fresh vegetables from local farmers, processing them here at Hocking College, utilizing students in their introductory classes. We know the farmers, we are taking our childrens’ future in our hands.”

– Alfonso Contrisciani, Chair of Hospitality and Culinary at Hocking College
We believe, that if sustainable development practices are to succeed they have to generate investable wealth, moving away from subsidy towards market strategies that perpetuate sustainable development through reinvested earnings. If no one wants to buy what our region offers, then we will be limited in our ability to earn new wealth and transform the perennial conditions of poverty, joblessness, and underemployment. We work to connect entrepreneurs to markets in and adjacent to the region, finding the financial opportunity within sustainable development practices, focusing on social enterprises – businesses that achieve a financial bottom line while also providing social and environmental goods.

Market Highlights

The Chesterhill Produce Auction, a Rural Action social enterprise, grossed $232,839 in sales. In 2014, 125 farmers sold products to more than 900 businesses, restaurants, schools, and families. Additionally, the auction surpassed $2 million in sales since opening in 2004.

We convened the American Ginseng Summit in partnership with United Plant Savers, bringing together 35 of the top ginseng business owners and professionals in Central Appalachia to discuss the most pressing issues facing both the medicinal industry and woodland growers. The event also marked the roll out of the first Forest Grown Verification Program for ginseng producers in the region. The new program enables producers to have their ginseng operations verified as not harvested from at risk wild populations, which we hope will protect market access against any future regulatory changes.
Since 1999, we have distributed 1,465 lbs. of seed through our planting stock project to woodland owners. Based on conservative estimates these seeds represent an economic investment of $5.2 million in the region from harvestable ginseng that does not put pressure on wild populations.

To kickoff a regional geotourism strategy, Ohio Stream Restore Corps (OSRC) members, local entrepreneurs, and partners attended a series of training’s on historical and cultural interpretation receiving a certificate of interpretation from the National Association of Interpretation. This certificate prepared them to lead place based tours through a project called Winding Road: Ohio’s Rising Appalachia, developed in partnership with local businesses and organizations. Examples of tours developed by OSRC members are: Pollinator Tour at Burr Oak State Park, Wildcat Hollow tour in Wayne National Forest, Finely Crafted Tour from Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area and Know Your Farm Tour from Perry Soil & Water District.

“Through our relationship with Rural Action we’ve been given valuable market options through the Chesterhill Produce Auction as well as being connected to other growers for farmer to farmer educational opportunities.

–Janet Stacy
Stacy Family Farms

$5.2 MILLION
IS THE FAIR MARKET VALUE
OF THE AMERICAN GINSENG
SEED SOLD THROUGH OUR
PLANT STOCK SALE

$2 MILLION
HAS BEEN GENERATED
AT THE CHESTERHILL
PRODUCE AUCTION
SINCE 2004

REVENUE
FROM A NEW
GEOTOURISM
STRATEGY
Members are central and essential to the work of Rural Action, and we count on them for their leadership, advocacy, volunteerism, and financial support. The following Giving Society members have made multi-year pledges that help sustain the organization and allow us to plan for the future. For more information on the Giving Society call us at 740-677-4047 or visit our website at www.ruralaction.org/giving-society

Katherine Able and Harold Perkins
Merl and Mim Almquist
Charles and Natalie Barman
Gillian and David Berchowitz
Chad Bortle
Jen and Jeremy Bowman
Mike and Jane Brotecker
Ann Brown and Kenneth Holroyd
Sue and Alan Boyd
Richard and Laurie Campitelli
Heather and Phillip Cantino
Mike Carpenter
Linda and Pete Clark
Mary Boone Costello
David and Elaine Dabelko
Geoff Dabelko
Michelle Decker & Zach Holl
Richa Eland
Mitch and Sue Farley
Bob Fedyski
Ana Rosado and Christopher Feger
Mary Anne and Don Flournoy
Janet Garske
Sara Giffert
Lee Gregg
Lori Gromen and Kent Butler
Amy and Bob Grove
Miriam Hart
Luther and Jeanne Haseley
Linda Parsons and John Hauser
John and Susanne Howell
William and Margaret Hummon
Ralph and Janet Izard
Anita James
Tom Johnson
Valerie and Timothy Kinnard
Paul and Catherine Knoop
John and Kelli Kotowski
Carol and Bruce Kuhre
Tanja Kuhre
Marissa and Nick Lautzenheise
Randy and Theresa Leite
Sally and Don Linder
Randall and Marla Longenecker
James and Mary Lorenz
Susan Loughridge
Debra McBride
Tom McGuire
Lauren Miller
Sarah Milligan
Danny Moates
John Molinaro
Frank and Lorraine Myers
Greg and Janet Polzer
Susanne & Clayton Acord
Tom Redfern and Jane Forrest-Redfern
Mary Anne Reeves
Allen and Marsha Reilly
Kristen Rice
Sue Righi
Becky Rondy
Jerry and Robin Schaffer
Robert and Arlene Sheak
Michelle Shively
Jennifer and David Simon
Mark and Rita Snider
Janalee Stock
Linda Thornton
Libby Villavicencio
Donna and Jay Wamsley
Annie and Jay Warmke
Wanda and Mark Weinberg
Travis and Carma West
Jane Woodrow
Joseph and Phyllis Bernt
Mary Ann Borch and Bob Kerber
Patricia and Vibert Cambridge
Kelly Capuzzi
Chris Chmiel
Gifford Doxsee
David Drabold and Michele Papai
Belle Everett
Linn Forhan and Patricia O’Brien
Tara French
Felix Gagliano
Claudia Gonzales-Vellejo and Chris Demel
Richard Hogan
Katherine Kelley and Willem Roosenberg
Neill and Karoline Lane
Gene and Royal Mapes
Liz Maule
Debra McBride
Alvida McWilliams
Cita Strauss
Paul Wiehl
Gary Gosman and Mary Ann Westendorf
Suzanne Knauerhase and William Rhinehart
MEMORIAL GIFTS

Rural Action suffered a great loss in early 2014, with the passing of Barbara Eiden-Molinaro. Barbara was Rural Action’s Chief Operations Officer beginning in January 2013.

Barbara’s first task for Rural Action was moving us into our new offices in The Plains, the Kuhre Center for Rural Renewal, which she did over four months, settling everyone in and stewarding this beautiful new property with care.

Barbara set standards of excellence and professionalism that we all strove to rise to, and did so with love and compassion. She managed our board development process, developed new policies for a growing organization, and listened patiently to everyone who needed to talk or share an idea. She also took on any task that required helping hands, never afraid to try and always giving any effort her best. She shared with all of us a deep passion for the power of service and community, and we are deeply honored that she chose Rural Action as her vocation over the 14 months she worked with us.

Gifts in Memory of Barbara

- Beth Achter
- Michael Archer
- Wendy Jakmas
- Mary Lou Bernard
- Rebecca Blatt
- Eva Bloom
- Brickler/Eckler LPA
- Cara Dingus Brook
- Frank Brust
- Misty Casto
- Julie Campbell
- CRE
- Linda Clark
- Elizabeth Delvin-Foltz
- Charles Dennstedt
- John Dinsmore
- Douglas Farber
- Polly Fassinger
- Mary Anne & Don Flournoy
- Kathy Franzel
- Ann Friederich
- Jerald Groene
- Debbie Heida
- Lois Holt
- David Hornbeck
- Wendell Johnson
- Larry Kidd
- Sandra King
- Carol & Bruce Kuhre
- Sandra Kritzky
- Judith Levine
- Karen Mccalla
- Jeff Merrick
- Randal Miller
- John Molinaro
- R.C. Molinaro
- Michele Grafmeyer
- Charles Worley
- Leah Pigatti
- Stephanie Sanderson
- Joen Schaefer
- Ron Schoenfeld
- Maureen Sharkey
- Virginia Sorkin
- Marcia Stein
- Diane Thorson
- Carolyn Tonneson
- Tamara Uselman
- Virginia Vitucci
- Mary K Walsh
- Megan Wanczyk
- Wanda & Mark Weinberg
- Donald Westra
- Mike Workman
- John Young

Cheryl (Hayes) Socotch-Gue passed away unexpectedly on December 26th, 2014. Cheryl had worked for ODNR-Division of Mineral Resources Management as a Hydrogeologist and was very involved in starting and supporting the Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership, a project of Rural Action. Together with her husband Jim Gue, Cheryl was instrumental in studying Huff Run, getting restoration projects started, and doing extensive education outreach. We will miss her presence and knowledge as we continue her work throughout eastern Ohio.

Gifts in Memory of Cheryl

- John Coens
- Mary Ellen Coens
- Christopher D’Ambrosia
- Ronald & John Faught
- Thomas & Frances Foster
- Herbert, Rowland, & Grubic, Inc
- Interstate Mining
- Compact Comm
- Linda Kane
- Jennifer Kleski
- Baker Env. Services and Tech
- Marissa & Nick Lautzenheiser
- R. Wayne Light
- Jeffrey & Laurene Matusherski
- Ohio Mineland Partnership
- Therese Nekic
- Roger Osborne
- Polaris Earth Management
- Mallory Reed
- Lynn Sanderson
- Mark and Grace Smith
- Daniel Unklesbay

Barbara Eiden-Molinaro
RESOURCES AT RURAL ACTION

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Did you know that we offer many print and online resources? Some resources are available at no cost. Visit us online at www.ruralaction.org or call us at 740.677.4047 to learn more about our offerings.

Sustainable Agriculture
• Good Agricultural Practices (video)
• Season Creation, Create a fourth growing season (print & video)
• Healthy Home Consumer Guide (print) NEW!

Sustainable Forestry
• Woodland Owner Toolkit (print & digital)
• Non-Timber Forest Product Site Selection Guide (print & digital)

Rural Action Services
We have worked with businesses, organizations, landowners, and local government to develop services that help save money, better our environment, generate new income, or help businesses expand. Contact us 740.677.4047 or info@ruralaction.org to learn more about how we can help you, your business, or your community on the path to sustainability.

Our Services
• Farm & Woodland Assessments
• School Kitchen Assessments
• Stormwater Assessments:

Zero Waste
• Community Clean-Up Trailer (by reservation) NEW!
• Athens-Hocking Zero Waste Action Plan (digital)

Watershed Restoration
• Sunday Creek Stewardship Booklet (print)

Environmental Education
• Inquiry-Based Education Lessons for K-12 Teachers (online) NEW!
• Map of land labs in Southeast Ohio (digital) NEW!
B E C O M E A M E M B E R

Rural Action’s MEMBERS are its heart and soul. Having a MEMBERSHIP BASE means you have people who invest in your work, share their ideas, and roll up their sleeves. Some members choose a SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP through automated giving. Some members become MAJOR DONORS and give more than $250 each year to keep us strong. Some members become multi-year donors and join Rural Action’s GIVING SOCIETY, pledging a major gift for 3 to 5 years. Some members even put us in their wills, making PLANNED GIFTS to ensure Rural Action continues to change the world for the better. Some members provide CAPITAL GIFTS so our facilities are clean, efficient, and vibrant homes for sustainable development. Please support the work you love, and talk with a staff or Board member about how you can help. Thank you.

V O L U N T E E R W I T H U S

Each year, more than 1,000 people volunteer with us. We offer many kinds of opportunities, whether you like to be in the field or in the office, we will find the right spot for you. What’s even better? When you volunteer 3 hours per year (or more) you will receive a 1-year membership to Rural Action. Join our mailing list at www.ruralaction.org to receive our latest volunteer opportunities:

Examples of Volunteer Opportunities
- National Service through AmeriCorps, ComCorps, and VISTA
- High School & College Internships
- Plant Monitoring & Restoration on the Wayne National Forest
- Assisting at the Chesterhill Produce Auction
- Processing Fresh Vegetables for Schoolchildren through Farm to School
- Helping at Rural Action Events
- Dumpsite & Stream Cleanups
- Recycling at Festivals

M O R E W A Y S T O G I V E

To support Rural Action’s work far into the future, we have established endowment funds with two community foundations. These endowments allow us to set aside funds, for specific programming, secure against unforeseen hurdles, and help plan for organizational growth, all while protecting our longevity and legacy in Appalachian Ohio for generations to come.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FUNDS:

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio
Rural Action Fund for a Sustainable Future.
www.appalachianohio.org

Athens Foundation
Communities of Hope Fund
www.athensfoundation.org
2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RURAL ACTION COMMITTEES

Member Based and Technical Advisory Committees

Adventure Auction Committee
Appalachia Ohio Zero Waste Initiative Advisory Team
Chesterhill Produce Auction Advisory Board
Environmental Education Advisory Team
Monday Creek Technical Advisory Committee
Sunday Creek Technical Advisory Committee
Watershed Planning Initiative Regional Planning Team
Huff Run Board
Mud Run Advisory Board
Zero Waste Action Plan Steering Committee
Zero Waste Dumping & Burning Group
Zero Waste Education & Outreach Group

Rural Action Board of Directors Led Committees

Governance Committee
Finance Committee
Impact Committee
Donor Committee
2014 RURAL ACTION STAFF

Michelle Decker Chief Executive Officer
Barbara Eiden-Molinaro Chief Operating Officer
Linda Thornton Chief Financial Officer
Candi Withem AmeriCorps Director
Susi Acord Media & Communications Manager
Deb Moreland Financial & Administrative Assistant
Allan Withem Financial Assistant & HR Manager
Bob Fedyski Computer Specialist
Riley Rowland Director of Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry
Tanner Filyaw Local and Institutional Foods Specialist
Kyle O’Keefe Zero Waste Program Director
Erin Sykes Zero Waste Program Administrator
Allan Withem Monday Creek Restoration Project Coordinator
Tom Redfern Monday Creek Restoration Project Water Quality Specialist
Riley Rowland Huff Run / Mud Run Watershed Coordinator
Deb Moreland Monday Creek Restoration Project Coordinator
Deb Moreland Sunday Creek Watershed Group Coordinator
Susi Acord Environmental Education Program Director
Riley Rowland OSRC Program Assistant

2014 AMERICORPS MEMBERS

OHIO STREAM RESTORE CORPS

Rachel Woods Huff Run Watershed
Lucy Pierce Huff Run Watershed
Chelsea Shurmantine Mud Run Streamkeepers
Doug Krysiak Mud Run Streamkeepers
Michelle Robinson Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area
Darcy Higgins Environmental Education
Taylor Bowling Environmental Education
Tim Prange Environmental Education
Carolyn Vieland Environmental Education
Sarah Fisher Environmental Education
Sam Romeo Environmental Education
Gracie Umana Buckeye Trail Association
Richard Lutz Buckeye Trail Association
Barry Unger Sunday Creek Watershed Group
Homer Elliott Sunday Creek Watershed Group
Shannon Stewart Zero Waste Program
Andrea Reany Zero Waste Program
Luke Black Zero Waste Program
Tyler Bonner Zero Waste Program

OSRC CONTINUED

Heather Fuston Zero Waste Program
Kelly Caris Monday Creek Restoration Project
Tony Minamyer Monday Creek Restoration Project
Michelle Benedum Monday Creek Restoration Project
Alicia Rector Monday Creek Restoration Project
Kaylee Moser Raccoon Creek Partnership
Rand Moser Raccoon Creek Partnership
Dustin Gross Raccoon Creek Partnership
Laura Davis Tuscarawas County Commissioners
Sarah Barnes Perry Soil and Water Conservation District
Steve Glade Perry Soil and Water Conservation District
Austin Battles Appalachia Ohio Alliance
Jeff Wunderly Hocking Hills State Park
Matt Castells Wayne National Forest
Brooke Johnson Burr Oak State Park
Jennifer Johnson Burr Oak State Park
Brian Scholten Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

AmeriCorps VISTA

Joe Barbaree Sustainable Agriculture
Carrie Carson Sustainable Agriculture
Megan Conkle Sustainable Agriculture
Matt Kovarik Summer Agriculture VISTA

COMCORPS

Ryan Leach Sustainable Agriculture
GRANTS + CORE FUNDING

OHIO STREAM RESTORE CORPS
ServeOhio

AGRICULTURE/ FORESTRY
Appalachian Regional Commission
Central Appalachian Network - Ford and Babcock Foundations
National Forest Foundation
North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
Osteopathic Heritage Foundation
The Ford Foundation
The Sisters of St Joseph Charitable Fund
United States Department of Agriculture

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Athens Foundation
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Epstein Teicher Philanthropies
Hocking Athens Perry Community Action
O’Bleness Health System
Peoples Bancorp Foundation
Quidel Corporation
Sunday Creek Associates
The Sugar Bush Foundation
Village of Somerset

WATERSHED RESTORATION
Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
Mud Run Stream Keepers
Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
United States Department of Interior Office of Surface Mining

ZERO WASTE
Green Columbus
Kleinpenny Education Fund
Nelsonville Music Festival
Paw Paw Festival
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
The Sugar Bush Foundation

CORE OPERATIONS:
Blue Moon Fund
Central Appalachian Network
Earthshare of Ohio
One Foundation

2014 PROGRAM SPONSORS

Kilchner Energy Services
Thrivent Financial
Kimble Company
Al Fearon
AirClaws
Buckeye Trail Association
Burr Oak State Park
Burr Oak Lodge and Conference Center
Dairy Queen of Glouster
Go Go Burrito
Jim Hart Studio
Frog Ranch
Shagbark Seed and Mill
Kroger of Trimble

Sikorski’s Home Plate
Glouster E-Z Mart
Subway of Glouster
Ultra Fit
Athens Bicycle
Sophia Schwarzenberg
Salena Insurance Agency
Village Flower and Gift Shoppe
Bonnie’s Home Cooking
O’Bleness Health Systems
Sugar Bush Foundation
AEP-Ohio
Ohio University College of Health Sciences & Professions
2014 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

**ASSETS**
- $428,760 Fixed Assets
- $253,615 Current Assets
- $69,099 Pledges Receivable
- $221,358 Endowment Investments

Total Assets: $972,832

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**
- $429,080 Unrestricted Net Assets
- $186,958 Permanently Restricted
- $192,474 Long-Term Liabilities
- $95,758 Current Liabilities
- $68,562 Temporarily Restricted

Total Liabilities + Net Assets: $972,832

**REVENUE**
- 4% Donations & Member Dues
- 15% Earned Income
- 81% Grant & Contract Revenue

Total Revenue: $1,920,909

**EXPENSES**
- 3% Fundraising
- 6% Administration
- 91% Projects

Total Expenses: $1,764,837