



Roane Smothers of Dayton holds an historical presentation of the Union Literary Institute. Smothers is a contributor to the African-American Community Fund and the vice-president of the Union Literary Institute Preservation Society. Smothers has arranged that after his death, his property will be used to help fund the Union Literary Institute Preservation Society, which is a non-profit designed to preserve the history and buildings of the city of Longtown, which is a small community that sits in both Ohio and Indiana.

STAFF PHOTO BY JIM WITMER

# Twenty years of giving is worth celebrating

Community fund has an anniversary.

African-American causes addressed by variety of donors.

By Kelli Wynn  
Staff Writer

DAYTON — Roane Smothers is hoping that his posthumous contribution to the African-American Community Fund will help preserve the history of one of Ohio's earliest black settlements.

Smothers, a principal planner for the City of Dayton's Landmark Commission, is the vice president of the Union Literary Institute Preservation Society, a nonprofit organiza-

tion dedicated to the preservation of the history and buildings of Longtown. The settlement was founded in 1818 and is located in Darke County on the Ohio-Indiana border. Smothers' mother, Dorothy McCown Smothers, was from Longtown and every year Smothers attends a homecoming celebration for descendants of those who lived in the area known as an abolitionist community.

"I was thinking my organization needed an endowment," Smothers said of the society. "One of the problems with nonprofits is that when the leadership passes or changes hands, (the nonprofit) may not continue."

So Smothers set up an account with the African-Amer-

## HOW TO GO

**What:** The African-American Community Fund Coming of Age Celebration, a donor reception that will mark the fund's 20 years of charitable giving in the Dayton area. The guest speaker will be John E. Moore, Sr., AACF founder. Marsha Bonhart, WDTN anchorwoman, will be the mistress of ceremonies.

**When:** 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21  
**Where:** Meadowbrook Country Club, 6001 Salem Ave., Clayton.

**Cost:** \$20 (check or money-order only) a person. Pre-registration required by Sept. 14.

**To register or for more information,** contact Whitney Briggs at 225-9948 or wbriggs@daytonfoundation.org. Visit [www.aacfdayton.org](http://www.aacfdayton.org).

Giving continued on B2

# celebrates 20 years

## Giving

Giving from BI

ican Community Fund that calls for money from his estate to be used to help the society.

"I currently give to the nonprofit and I want to make sure my money will be continually used for the nonprofit after I am dead," he said.

The African-American Community Fund is supported by the Dayton Foundation. It was founded in 1992 by Dayton Foundation Emeritus Board Member John Moore Sr. and the late Lloyd E. Lewis Jr., who was also a board member. The AACF offers donors an opportunity to create a family legacy that will benefit the community for generations.

The AACF will celebrate 20 years of charitable giving during The African-American Community Fund Coming of Age Celebration on Sept. 21.

Before establishment of the AACF, The Dayton Foundation received its first endowment gift from an African-American by way of Moses Jones, known as Dayton's first black attorney, in 1926. His gift was for the YMCA.

When Moore joined the Dayton Foundation board in 1972, the foundation gave grants to minority causes and needs, but Moore and Lewis thought more could be done, especially since it appeared to them that the minority community was increasing in wealth.

"Normally, we were giving to our lodges, churches, fraternities and sororities," Moore said. "That money would generally be spent on current budgets, but this money will be invested and continue to bring in new money in perpetuity."

To help the AACF get started, the Dayton Foundation provided a

ing funds. Today, the foundation has set aside \$100,000 in matching funds through an incentive program through December 2013, according to Whitney Briggs, Dayton Foundation development officer and AACF liaison.

"Through the matching program, the Dayton Foundation will match 50 cents on the dollar, up to \$8,325, for newly created endowment funds," Briggs said.


She will further discuss ways individuals can give to 501(c)(3) organizations at the AACF celebration.

Within its first year of existence, the AACF received more than \$269,500. As of June 30, the AACF had 126 funds with \$4.2 million in assets, Briggs said. The AACF ended last year with its highest ever asset amount of \$4.4 million.

"Because the funds have an investment component, if the financial market fluctuates, then the value can fluctuate," Briggs said.

Some recipients of the last year's grants included the Vision Mentoring Program, sponsored by the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center at Wright State University; Project Succeed at Central State University; Mary Scott Nursing Center; St. Margaret's Episcopal Church; and the YWCA.

"None of us is going to live forever," Moore said. "Some of us have a few dollars beyond what we are going to spend or leave to our spouses or family. It's an opportunity to have your legacy support things that you were interested in after you are gone."



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