



## FACT SHEET

# Little Toy Train Fund



## About the Fund

When Cassidy Seamon was in the third grade, she had a cousin who was ill and in the hospital at Christmas time. She asked her mother Doreen if Santa could take the gifts intended for her and deliver them instead to other children who had to be in the hospital over Christmas.

“So my mom and I went shopping,” Cassidy said. “We bought some toys and some clothing items and we took them to Children’s Hospital on Christmas Day. I can still remember giving a teddy bear to a little girl and seeing how happy she was. It was a special experience for me.”

When she turned 16, Cassidy decided she wanted to do something to make a bigger impact for the children at the hospital, so her mother introduced her to Beth Fuller, president of Your Community Foundation, and together they started The Little Toy Train Endowment Fund. “I met with Beth during that summer,” Cassidy said. “She told me we could set up a foundation and showed me how it could be self-sustaining so it would continue on after I go away to college and even after that.”

Cassidy got the Little Toy Train Fund off the ground with her first fund-raising event the following spring, followed in the fall by a competition between University and Morgantown high schools. Volunteers placed mason jars in all of the classrooms and the students donated money toward the fund, in addition to asking friends and family to contribute. The home room class at each school that raised the most money received gift cards donated by Naticakes frozen yogurt shop in Morgantown.

Each school raised about \$1,200, and outside contributions brought the total to around \$7,000 – enough money to start the endowment and donate \$1,000 worth of Christmas toys to the hospital. “We got a list from the hospital of the things they needed, like board games, video games and arts and crafts supplies,” Cassidy said. “We were able to get everything on the list.” The gifts were delivered by Cassidy and other students from the two high schools, along with some family members including Cassidy’s cousin, who is still being treated for a medical condition.

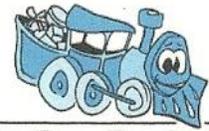
“This year, we’re having the school drive again,” said Cassidy, who is now in her senior year at UHS. The campaign has already started and will continue through November at University High, and will begin after the first of the year at Morgantown High. We also want to raise more money by selling some school gear like sweatshirts, t-shirts and hats. We will also be asking for outside donations. Our goal is to raise more money than last year so we can fully fund the endowment and still have enough money to buy the gifts.”

## How Can I Donate?

All donations to the fund are invested to increase their value, with net income from these investments paid out annually to meet the requirements and donor objectives of the fund. While the net income is dispersed, the original endowments and any subsequent contributions remain intact and continue to grow from year to year.

Individuals, organizations and businesses are encouraged to contribute any amount of money to the Little Toy Train Fund or any endowment managed by YCF. Additional donations will help the endowments to grow over the years and will increase the net income used to provide yearly grants.

**To make a donation, or to get more information, contact Your Community Foundation, P.O. Box 409, Morgantown, WV 26507. Call us at (304) 296-3433 or visit our web site at [www.ycfwv.org](http://www.ycfwv.org).**



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