



YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN



May 1st - 3rd 2026

Sorg Opera House
63 South Main Street - Middletown - Ohio 45044



Charley Shafor
Managing Artistic Director

Board of Trustees

Melodie LaNicca
Abbie Miller
Edwin Toy

Advisory Board

Karen Griesinger
Jennifer Lakeman
Angie Markham

Mailing Address

PO Box 1656
Middletown, OH 45042

Physical Address

Sorg Opera House
63 S. Main Street
Middletown, OH 45044

Box Office

513-425-7140

Website

middletownlyric.org

Middletown Lyric Theatre
is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3)
organization



Welcome Back to Middletown Lyric Theatre!

After closing our doors at 1530 Central Avenue in 2024, we have certainly missed the people, the energy, and the shared experience that only live theatre can create. But time away gave us space to rest, reflect, and talk about the future. Those conversations led us here — to a new home, and a full season of theatre as **Lyric Theatre at the Sorg**.

This season is built around one idea: the search for connection — to each other, to our purpose, and to the stories that shape us. From the simple, everyday joys of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, to the courage and identity at the heart of *The Nance...* from the quest for meaning in *PIPPIN*, to the artistic discipline and vulnerability explored in *Master Class*, and finally to the timeless spirit of generosity in *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play* — each production asks, in its own way, what it means to find your place in the world and to share it with others.

We would not be returning without the support of many people and organizations who believe in the value of theatre in Middletown. We are deeply grateful to the Sorg Revitalization Group, the Middletown Community Foundation, the Miriam G. Knoll Charitable Foundation, and Barney Riesbeck of State Farm Insurance for helping make this new chapter possible.



Middletown Lyric Theatre

Sponsored in part by:
The Miriam G. Knoll Charitable Foundation
The Middletown Community Foundation
present

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

Based on the comic strip PEANUTS by Charles M. Schultz
Book, Music & Lyrics by Clark Gesner
Additional Dialogue by Michael Mayer
Additional Music & Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

With:

Mary Grace Griffith, Henry Hanks, Addie Imundo, Nick Knox,
Greg Nelson, Ava Ramsey, Nolan Todd, Annie Wildermuth, Drew Williams Orozco

Scenic Design
CHARLEY SHAFOR

Lighting Design
EDWIN TOY

Costume Design
JANET G. POWELL

Hair/Wig Design
MEGAN REHBERG

Production Assistance:

The Griffith Family, Henry Hanks, Sharon Hill, Melodie LaNicca, David Lin,
Angie Markham, Marcia Markham, Abbie Miller, Karen Oheler,
Mary Beth Benkin-Riesenberg, Mike Risenberg, Gail Rudolph,
Edwin Toy, Charley Shafor

Backstage Manager
Nancy Griffith

Musical Tracks Execution
Karen Oheler

Production Photography provided by
Tiffany Garfinkle - TAM Photos

Sound and Lighting Equipment & Support provided by
Zeke Garfinkle - Hi-Tech Event Production

Vocal Direction & Choreography by
Abbie Miller

Directed & Musical Staging by
CHARLEY SHAFOR

Original Direction for this version of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" by Michael Mayer
Originally Produced in New York by Arthur Whitelaw and Gene Persson

Rehearsal and performance tracks and software are provided by Right on Cue Services (rightoncueservices.com).

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of
Tams-Witmark LLC. www.concordtheatricals.com

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown. I've been collecting, reading, drawing, and living with the PEANUTS characters for as long as I can remember. They've been a steady presence in my life — sometimes a comfort, sometimes a mirror, and always familiar.

The real connection between Charlie Brown and me is simple: we are both the product of the people who surround us. They teach us how to love, how to hope, and how to keep going.

That same spirit has defined the process of bringing this production to life. The honesty, humor, vulnerability, and quiet resilience that live inside the PEANUTS characters became guideposts for us during the rehearsal process—reminding us to listen closely, to try again when something didn't land, and to find joy in the small, sincere moments.

But this cast made that spirit feel natural. Their talent, patience, ideas, and willingness to jump into this world with me have made the experience meaningful and memorable. They embraced the heart of these characters—not as cartoons, but as reflections of real people doing their best—and that shaped every step of our journey together.

And as always, I could not do any of this without the unwavering support of the people who keep me grounded. To Abbie, Mel, Karen and Edwin — thank you for helping keep the ship upright. And to the rest of you who support, encourage, and show up in ways big and small... you know who you are, and I am grateful.

Lastly, in 2024 I lost my eldest sister, Cheryl, and her husband, Les Landen. They were two of the most influential people in shaping my love of theatre—and, in many ways, my love of the world of PEANUTS. Les, who played Charlie Brown for MLT in 1982, was an avid fan of the comic strip and shared that enthusiasm with me. Cheryl was always on the lookout for a trinket, ornament, or some small treasure she was sure I didn't already have in my collection.

Both were steadfast supporters of this community and of this theatre company, and I miss them deeply. But I am confident that their spirit—their love for this show, for the arts, and for me—echoes through every moment, from the first note to the final curtain.

I hope this show brings you the same sense of warmth, humor, and humanity that PEANUTS has brought me throughout my life. Enjoy the performance.



SPECIAL THANKS

SORRG OPERA HOUSE

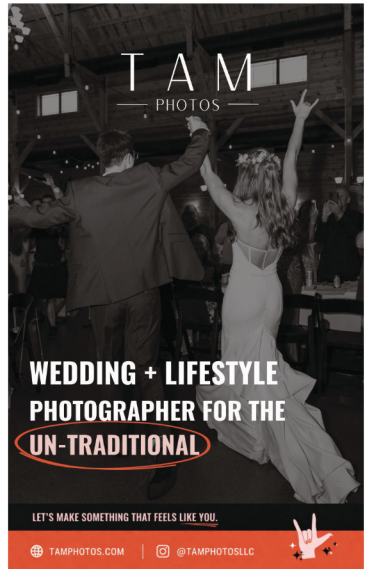
CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

1891  2026



 **HI-TECH**
EVENT PRODUCTION
WWW.HITECHEVENTPRO.COM | 513.808.8506


Audio, Video, Lighting, Staging, & More!



TAM
PHOTOS

**WEDDING + LIFESTYLE
PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE
UN-TRADITIONAL**

LET'S MAKE SOMETHING THAT FEELS LIKE YOU.

TAMPHOTOS.COM | @TAMPHOTOSLLC 

Brent Alexander
Michael Alexander
Beavercreek Community Theatre
Mary Ellen Clinard
Paul Lake
Scott Landen
Larry Mulligan, Jr.
Heather Powell
Jim Powell

WHO'S WHO



Mary Grace Griffith (Marci)

MG is a Junior at Miami University-Middletown and is excited to be back on the stage with MLT. She was last seen in *Seussical!* Also: *The Thanksgiving Play*, *Into The Woods*, *Clue: The Musical*, *Grease*, *Considering Mathew Shepherd*, *Everybody*, and *Sunday in the Park with George*. She has a great sense of humor & loves to spend time with her friends & family.



Henry Hanks (Shermy)

Hey, my name is Henry Earl Hanks, HEH for short. This will mark the 9th musical that I have participated in. I spend time daily writing or free styling lyrics to beats friends have given me or I have found. The most important thing I need to mention is the people that have inspired me to sing and be on stage. I want to thank Rita Shafor, the stories about Jacinta S. Shafor, Logan Mueller, Garrett Bashara, and most of all, the one, the only, my Mother, Dina Shafor Hanks



Addie Imundo (Lucy)

Addie is thrilled to make her debut at MLT and on the Sorg Opera House stage! She is a junior at Wright State University, a certified Peanuts lover, and has always had a passion for musical theatre. *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* is a musical she has wanted to be a part of for nearly a decade now, and she is beyond grateful for this wonderful opportunity. She has had numerous roles in past productions across the Miami Valley such as Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*, Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, and Matron "Mama" Morton in *Chicago*. She would like to thank God, her family, and her friends for their endless love and support, and of course, thank you for coming!



Nick Knox (Schroeder)

Nick is very excited to be doing his first show with MLT and his first show ever in the Sorg Opera House! He has been apart of 12 musicals since his Senior year of highschool. Some of his favorite roles include Barnaby Tucker in Greater Hamilton Civic Theater's *Hello Dolly!*, Doody in GHCT's *Grease*, and Featured Soloist/Ensemble in GHCT's *Jekyll and Hyde*. Community Theater has been a major part of Nick's life in the past 3 years and he has all of the amazing newfound friends and wonderful directors, mentors and creative teams to thank deeply for making Community Theater a space for him to grow. Nick hopes that everyone has an absolute blast watching the show!

WHO'S WHO



Greg Nelson (Snoopy)

Greg loves performing with MLT, and he is excited to return in the energetic role. Last year, he had the honor of performing with two of his daughters in MLT's production of *Seussical!* (Mayor, Wickersham). He also performed with MLT in *Into the Woods* (Steward). He has also recently performed with The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati (King, *Princess and Frog*). Greg would like to thank his family for putting up with the crazy schedule with work and rehearsal. He is also grateful to the cadre of caring friends and family who helped him out with rides and scheduling when he was at rehearsal. You all are a blessing!



Ava Ramsey (Sally)

Ava is an Admissions Counselor at Cedarville University, where she recently graduated from the theatre program. As a student, she enjoyed participating in productions such as *Anne of Green Gables*, *Our Town*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!* She is so grateful to get to learn from and perform alongside this fun and talented team! Psalm 63:3



Nolan Todd (Linus)

Nolan is honored to be playing Linus in MLT's production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Nolan is an upcoming senior at Wright State University, where he is majoring in theatre with a minor in communications. His previous credits include *Avenue Q* (Princeton), *Assassins* (Ensemble), *Reefer Madness* (Ensemble), *SpongeBob: The Musical* (French Narrator), and *Footloose* (Coach Dunbar/Garvin). He would like to thank his family for supporting his theatrical endeavors, his sister for introducing him to theatre through *Hamilton*, and his theatre family for their unwavering support throughout the years.



Annie Wildermuth (Peppermint Patty)

Annabel is so excited to be making her MLT debut as Peppermint Patty!! She is so grateful to be a part of the cast and is thrilled to cross this show off her bucket list! Some of her most favorite past roles have been Blanche Barrow in *Bonnie and Clyde* (SCT), Brooke Wyndham in *Legally Blonde* (Miami University), and Elizabeth Benning in *Young Frankenstein* (Miami University). Outside of performing, she spends her time teaching her 4th grade students! She is extremely grateful to be able to nurture her love of performance while following her passion of teaching. All of this would never be possible without her parents who support her through everything and tell her that she can do anything she puts her mind to! She hopes you enjoy the show!!!

THE CAST

(In Alphabetical Order)

Mary Grace Griffith as Marci
Henry Hanks as Shermey
Addie Imundo as Lucy Van Pelt
Nick Knox as Schroeder
Greg Nelson as Snoopy
Ava Ramsey as Sally Brown
Nolan Todd as Linus Van Plet
Annie Wildermuth as Peppermint Patty
Drew Williams Orozco as Charlie Brown

Please turn off your cell phone, beeper, watch alarm or anything else that might make a noise during the performance. Unwrap any candies, cough drops, or mints before the performance begins to avoid disturbing your fellow audience members or the actors on stage.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the Author(s)'s rights and actionable under the United States Copyright Law.



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown	The Company
Schroeder	Lucy
Snoopy	Snoopy
My Blanket and Me	Linus & Company
The Kite	Charlie Brown
The Doctor is In	Lucy and Charlie Brown
Beethoven Day	Schroeder & Company
The Book Report	The Company

INTERMISSION

15 Minutes

ACT II

My New Philosophy	Sally
T.E.A.M (The Baseball Game)	The Company
Glee Club Rehearsal	The Company
Little Known Facts	Lucy, Linus, & Charlie Brown
Suppertime	Snoopy and Company
Happiness	The Company

WHO'S WHO



Drew Williams Orozco (Charlie Brown)

Drew is delighted to return to Middletown Lyric and take the stage as Charlie Brown. He is thrilled to help bring this charming, heartfelt story to life, one filled with friendship, humor, soul, and even a little baseball. Favorite past credits include JJ Brown in *The Unsinkable Mollie Brown*, Leon Czolgosz in *Assassins*, The Baker in *Into the Woods*, El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*, and Edward Bloom in *Big Fish*. Drew studied Theatre at Central Connecticut State University and has enjoyed performing professionally in Connecticut, Florida, New York City, and on the high seas. He extends his heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in this production for their warmth, kindness, understanding, and encouragement throughout the process. It truly takes a village to create theatre, and he is incredibly grateful to be part of this one. Drew also sends love and thanks to his parents, Leonard and Indiana, his amazing daughter Essie, and his family and friends for their unwavering support of his creative work. He looks forward to sharing the ups, downs, and peanut butter sandwiches with you. Thank you for being here and for supporting local theatre.

Clark Gesner (1938-2002) was an American composer, songwriter, author, and actor. In addition to *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Mr. Gesner wrote the book, music and lyrics for *Animal Fair*, which premiered at the Denver Center Theatre, and with Nagle Jackson, Broadway's *The Utter Glory of Morrissey Hall*. For television, he wrote for *Captain Kangaroo*, *Sesame Street* and *That Was The Week That Was*, and on stage for the revues of Leonard Sillman and Julius Monk. He appeared regularly in B. T. McNicholl's *Musicals in Concert* series and performed regionally in *1776*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Carnival!* and other musicals, as well as eight years of productions at the Weston (Vermont) Playhouse. The *Jello Is Always Red*, a revue of Mr. Gesner's cabaret and theatre songs, was produced by the York Theatre Company.

Andrew Lipa wrote the music and lyrics for *Big Fish*, book by John August, directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman, which recently played at the Neil Simon Theater on Broadway. His concept opera *I Am Harvey Milk* (words and music), was premiered by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. That recording, released in October 2013, reached number 2 on the iTunes Classical Chart, and the piece has had over 20 productions worldwide. He wrote the Tony-nominated music and lyrics for the Broadway musical *The Addams Family*, which starred Nathan Lane. His musical *The Wild Party* (book/music/lyrics) won the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical and the Drama Desk Award for Best Music. His new songs for the 1999 revival of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, along with his production of the cast recording, earned him a 2000 Grammy nomination. He serves as president of the Dramatists Guild Fund and is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

WHO'S WHO

Abbie Miller (Vocal Direction / Choreography)

Abbie was the Co-Director of MLT's production of *Seussical!* The Assistant Director for *Children's Letters to God* and was the Assistant Director and played the role of Lucinda In MLT's *Into The Woods*, She also the Vocal Director and Choreographer for *Little Shop of Horrors*. Other MLT productions include: *The Thanksgiving Play*, *String of Pearls*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Gift of the Magi*, *The Last Five Years*, *SNAPSHOTS: A Musical Scrapbook* and many more. She has also been seen in *Company* at Beaver Creek Community Theatre and *Guys and Dolls*, *She Loves Me*, and *The Bridges of Madison County* with Lebanon Theatre Company. Abbie spent a year touring the US and Canada with Missoula Children's Theatre of Missoula, MT, and has been the theatre director at Lakota Plains Junior School for 10 seasons.

Janet G. Powell (Costume Design)

Janet is excited to be back at MLT where she directed/costumed *HONK!* and *Nixon's Nixon*. She is a Resident Artist at the Human Race Theatre where she has costumed twenty-five shows. She has also costumed for Yellow Brick Theater, Town Hall Theatre, joint productions for CCM and The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center, Beaver Creek Theatre, Mariemont Players, Dayton Playhouse, and Memorial Hall in Cincinnati. She is a retired Norwood City Schools artistic director/educator, who directed, designed, and costumed numerous shows over a period of 37 years. She received the 2023 BroadwayWorld Dayton Award for Best Costume Design for *This is Tom Jones*, and the 2024 BroadwayWorld Dayton Award for Best Costume Design for *Man of No Importance*. She would like to thank her family for all their support.

Megan Rehberg (Hair & Wig Design)

Megan is thrilled to be working with MLT again to support this incredible show! Selected wig design credits include *Hadestown*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, and *Into the Woods*. You've seen her on stage at MLT in *Fix Me*, *Jesus, Church and State*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Into the Woods*.

Charles M. Schulz was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 26, 1922. His Peanuts comic strip debuted in 1950 in just seven newspapers and launched a cultural legacy. When Schulz announced his retirement in December 1999, Peanuts was syndicated in over 2,600 newspapers worldwide, with book collections translated in over 25 languages.

The recipient of two Reuben Awards from the National Cartoonists Society and inductee into the Cartoonist Hall of Fame, Schulz also scripted and storyboarded numerous television specials, earning five Emmy and two Peabody Awards. He was awarded many different honors, including the Ordre des Artes et des Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture; the Lester Patrick Award (the only recipient who was not a professional hockey player); a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and a Carnegie Hall-commissioned concerto by Ellen Zwilich entitled "Peanuts Gallery." Charles M. Schulz died on February 13, 2000, but his Peanuts gang continues to entertain and inspire the young and the young at heart.

WHO'S WHO

Charley Shafor (Director/Scenic Design)

Charley has been fortunate to spend his entire adult life in the arts. He began as a performer but soon discovered that his strengths and passions were best used behind the scenes. Starting his career as a scenic artist and designer, his work has appeared on stages across Ohio with companies including Middletown Summer Youth Theatre, LaComedia Dinner Theatre, The MUSE Machine, The Human Race Theatre Company, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, and Weathervane Playhouse. He also served twice as a guest artist for the University of Iowa's Summer Playwrights Festival and contributed to several productions at the Fireside Playhouse in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

His career expanded to Regional LORT theatres such as George Street Playhouse, Crossroads Theatre, and the McCarter Theatre Center in New Jersey; Circle Repertory, Playwrights Horizons, and Manhattan Theatre Club in New York City; Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine; and The Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut. At Goodspeed, he worked on the original *Annie* 2, later retitled *Annie Warbucks*, with composer Charles Strouse and director Martin Charnin. He also built specialty costumes for the 90's revival of *Pal Joey*, featuring Peter Reardon and Florence Lacey. His work traveled to London's West End with *The Fields of Ambrosia* by Martin Silvestri and Joel Higgins, starring Broadway veteran Christine Andreas.

Beyond theatre, Charley has created art installations for NCR Corporation, The Reynolds & Reynolds Company, and Johnson & Johnson World Headquarters. Before returning to Ohio, he spent seven years on the faculty of Tower Hill School, a private Pre-K through 12 college preparatory school in Wilmington, Delaware. There he developed curriculum, taught American Musical Theatre and technical theatre, and collaborated across departments to produce multimedia arts events.

He credits his career and good fortune to the unwavering support of his family and his husband, Edwin Toy. Charley dedicates this production to two people who went above and beyond to help him pursue his lifelong passion for theatre—his late sister and brother-in-law, Cheryl and Les Landen—without whom the life he leads today would not have been possible.

Edwin Toy (Lighting Design)

Over the past 18 years, Edwin has designed over 100 productions for MLT. Locally, his design work has also been seen at Lebanon Theatre Company. Prior design experiences has taken him up and down the east coast where he spent eight years as resident lighting designer for The Pierre S. du Pont Arts Center in Wilmington, DE. He has also worked with St. Michael's Playhouse (Winooski, VT), Ogunquit Playhouse (Ogunquit, ME), Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts (Wilmington, NC), and Skyward Productions (Washington, DC).



THE 1891

LISTENING LOUNGE · CINEMATIC EXPERIENCES · CURATED EVENTS

Select Tuesday evenings, visit Sorgoperahouse.org for more info

SORG OPERA REVITALIZATION GROUP
Presents
THE INAUGURAL "SORG'S BACKYARD GOLF BASH"

SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday July 12, 2026
2:00 PM Shotgun Start
Forest Hills Country Club & Vue 791
791 4th Avenue, Middletown, OH 45044

Best Ball Golf Scramble - Food - Drinks - Prizes - Community & Fellowship



380 Middletown Eaton Road - Middletown, Ohio 45042
513-465-5038

OUR DONORS

Producers \$1,000+

Wayne & Mary Johnson
Melodie LaNicca
Greg & Becky Martin
Carole & David Schul

Directors \$500+

Dave & Pat Diven
Steve & Marcia Markham
J.C. & Anita Shew

Actors \$250+

Jerry & Kitty Blattner
Stu & Diane Wilson

Patron \$1+

Tom & Chris Buchert
Betty Coulter
Duane Gordon
John & Kim Minor
Jana Morse
Martha Oches
Barb Orth
Rich & Gail Rudolph

Thank You!

We are always grateful to our donors for their generous support, and we are equally grateful to everyone who purchases a season ticket package. Whether you choose to donate or become a season ticket holder, your commitment helps ensure we have the foundational financial support needed to produce an entire season of theatre.

Thank you to each and every one of you for believing in the work we do.

We do our best to recognize everyone accurately when printing names, but mistakes can happen. If you notice an error or have a question, please contact us at contact@middletownlyric.org.

FIRST FRIDAYS @ **Fascinating Music.** FIRST METHODIST

Fabulous Art.

Fun for Lunch.

12noon - 1:00pm

Every 1st Friday of the Month
First United Methodist Church
Sanctuary
120 S. Broad St., Middletown, OH 45044
513.423.4629

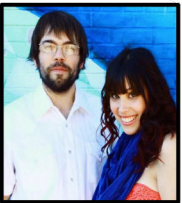
All of our concerts are free and open to the public. We are handicapped accessible with easy and convenient parking.

To see our full schedule, visit our website:
www.myfumc.net



The Middletown Community Foundation, the Miriam Knoll Foundation, the Barnitz Fund, and the congregation of the First United Methodist church have all been instrumental in the success of this concert series, now in its 20th year of bringing music to our community!

JUNE 5 **MICHAEL RONSTADT and SERENITY FISHER**



Delicately woven vocals and instrumentals are the trademark of this duo. Michael paints pictures with his cello and guitar and Serenity's vocals and piano tell the stories. A wistful and creative experience for everyone who hears them

The boys are BACK! One of our most popular groups in the long history of First Fridays returns once again! Get your 4th of July holiday off to a great start with this group that has so much energy you'll think you just saw a fireworks display!

JULY 3 **MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**



Les & Cheryl Landen Scholarship



Les and Cheryl Landen were lifelong Middletown residents, Middletown High School graduates, and devoted members of Middletown Lyric Theatre from its earliest days. Both believed deeply in the power of the arts and in the importance of education. Les was most often found onstage or designing and directing productions, while Cheryl worked behind the scenes; constructing, designing, helping with the box office and any other area that needed attention.

Their dedication extended far beyond the theatre. Les and Cheryl gave countless hours as volunteers for MidFest, the Ohio Hot Air Balloon Challenge, and numerous fundraising events. Their longest and most beloved service was to Light Up Middletown, where Les portrayed Santa Claus for many years and Cheryl served as Secretary, planner, and advertising coordinator.

Cheryl, a graduate of Transylvania University, taught in Middletown City Schools before opening her own business. After the birth of their sons, Scott and Alex, she became a full-time mother and continued her pattern of service—volunteering for the school system, Holy Family Parish, and several other community organizations. She also was on staff for the Middletown Art Center for many years

Les taught at Middletown High School before earning his law degree from the University of Dayton. He went on to serve the City of Middletown for nearly three decades as Law Director while also teaching Business Law at Miami University Middletown and Hamilton campuses. An avid golfer and a man of many talents, he poured his energy into every corner of the community he loved.

Together, Les and Cheryl championed education through the arts, believing that creativity strengthens both individuals and communities. In their honor, the Les & Cheryl Landen Scholarship provides an annual one-time award to a Middletown High School graduate pursuing education, with preference given to students entering the arts—music, drama, or visual art.

If you would like to support the arts, education, and the legacy of service embodied by Les and Cheryl, you may use QR code provided to make a donation to this or any of the valuable scholarships offered through the Middletown Community Foundation.

