Wean Foundation Announces Community Investment Grants

(Warren, March 20, 2019) – The Raymond John Wean Foundation Board of Directors held their first quarterly meeting of the year on Tuesday, March 6. Community Investment grants totaling $226,383 were awarded to four organizations for integrated, equitable solutions aligned with the Foundation’s four strategic priorities of community revitalization, economic opportunity, educational opportunity and public sector leadership.

Grantees include:

**Trumbull County Historical Society**, Voices Oral History Project – Designed to add a depth of understanding to Warren’s historical record, this project will engage residents from the Southeast Side, Southwest Side, Quinby Park and the North End in unearthing facts and sharing memories experienced in their neighborhoods. The resulting collection and archival of artifacts and the creation of an electronic oral history map will be used to educate diverse regional communities about the people and events that have shaped Warren’s rich history. For more information, contact Meghan Reed, Executive Director at 330.394.4653.

**Fund for Our Economic Future**, Choose Extraordinary: Advancing Growth & Opportunity in Northeast Ohio – The Fund, an alliance of funders, works to provide economic growth and equitable opportunity to job creation, job preparation and job access for Northeast Ohio
residents. Their three-year goals include defining and maintaining a regional growth and opportunity agenda; empowering a leadership network; and pooling resources to drive innovations. The Fund’s 2018 report, The Two Tomorrows, outlines an approach to advance the economy and brings attention to the racial disparities that exist, calling for a new definition of success that includes the elimination of those disparities. To read the full report visit http://www.thefundneo.org/our-research/two-tomorrows.

**National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF),** Invention Project – Programming designed to engage 50 Warren and Youngstown City School District middle school students in real-world challenges in which they leverage their understanding of economics and gain an entrepreneurial introduction to the business of innovation, from prototype to product launch. Through high-energy, hands-on activities, the program empowers participants to turn ideas into inventions and find out how to bring those inventions to market. The NIHF approach recognizes inventors and invention, infuses their stories, insights and passion into STEM education programs and provides authentic, impactful experiences that help tomorrow’s innovators realize their potential. Learn more at https://www.invent.org/.

**Rockwood Leadership,** Leadership Now: Ohio – This cross-sector fellowship program convenes “key influencers and those poised to be key influencers” from across Ohio to build sustainability, bolster personal ecology and create cross-sector alliances. The deliberate inclusion of leaders from the Mahoning Valley will provide opportunities for
collective thinking about building strong movements at home and across the state, ultimately translating to an increased capacity for Ohio to create change at the local, state and national level. Recognizing that diversity is a strength and strategy for powerful and creative leadership, Rockwood is the nation’s largest provider of social impact leadership training committed to serving and connecting leaders from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, sectors and issue areas.

Other grants awarded include:

Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Healthy Community Partnership – Mahoning Valley Program

Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership, Health and Wellness of the Residents Project

Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, Health and Wellness of the Residents Project