



J.W. & M.H.  
**STRAKER**  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

### **The J.W. & M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation Writing Award Notes**

The award will be in memory of Mary Helen Straker, who was a writer and passionate supporter of education and literacy.

Projected start date: Spring 2022; entries will be accepted in February. (Exact dates will be determined.)

Muskingum County high school juniors will be eligible.

Each public high school in the county may have up to three winners; those winners will receive \$500.00 each.

Judges will select a grand prize winner from the winning entries. That winner will receive \$2000.00.

The prompt will center on the things that would bring the writer back to Muskingum County to live and work after their post-high school experiences. This will be refined, of course, but we'll be asking the student to project five or ten years into the future and write about what the county would look like to bring them home.

Our hope is to twin the awards ceremony with a speaker event, and we'd like to have a writer the students would enjoy/benefit from hearing. We welcome input from high school colleagues on speakers and/or topics.

The Foundation will assemble a panel of qualified judges—English teachers, writers, etc.--so that high school teachers will NOT have to judge student essays. We welcome teachers making this an assignment, however, if it fits with curriculum.