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Spotted in Central Ohio: The Great Ladybug Hunt Launches This June

Starting June 1, 2025, parks, trails, neighborhoods, and businesses across central Ohio will become home to hundreds of tiny treasures. It's not an insect invasion—but rather, a creative and joyful campaign called The Great Ladybug Hunt, launched by the Hous Foundation.

BY KENDRA PETRILL, N2 MANAGING EDITOR

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



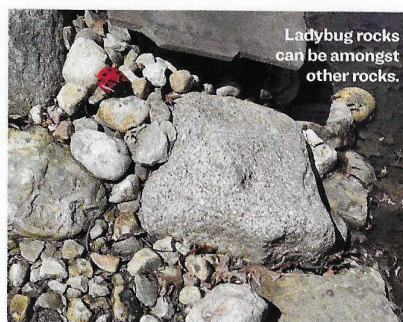
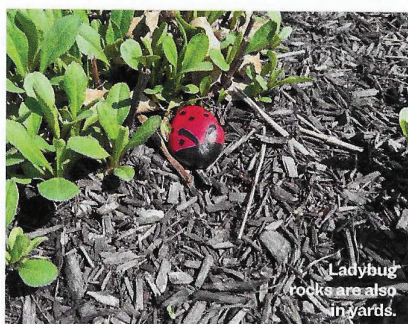
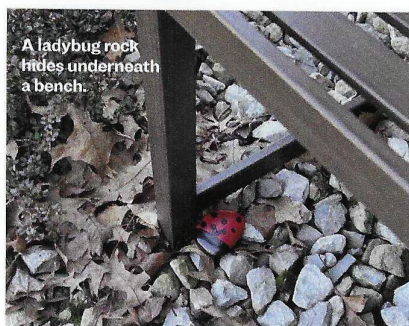
THE HOUS FOUNDATION, a local nonprofit founded in 2022 in honor of Annie Niewenhous and her children, works to remove financial barriers that prevent kids from participating in non-school activities. From sports and art classes to music and science camps, the foundation believes these experiences provide essential life benefits—personal growth, academic achievement, health and well-being, and social connection.

This June, the foundation invites families, individuals, and community groups to join the Great Ladybug Hunt by painting rocks to resemble ladybugs and hiding them throughout their neighborhoods. More than 500 ladybug rocks are already being placed throughout central Ohio, and the event promises a fun, family-friendly way to

enjoy the outdoors while supporting a meaningful cause.

According to Sonya Thesing, Highland Lakes' resident and Executive Director of the Hous Foundation, participation is simple. "We're asking folks to paint, hide, find, and post photos of ladybug rocks," she explained. "Each time someone shares their ladybug discovery on social media with the hashtag #HousLadybugs, they'll be entered into weekly raffles." Prizes will include gift cards to local shops and restaurants, family activities, and fun kids' experiences around central Ohio.

Every rock will be marked with a QR code or the Great Ladybug Hunt webpage—www.housfoundation.org/ladybugs—which makes it easy for participants to connect, learn more, and enter the drawings.





These ladybug rocks are resting by a tree.

While the hunt is sure to bring smiles and adventure to families all month long, its deeper meaning is never far from mind. Painting and hiding ladybug rocks was a beloved activity of Annie Niewenhous and her children. Now, it serves as a symbol of hope and opportunity for others. “Just as ladybugs are said to bring good luck and make wishes come true,” said Thesing, “the Hous Foundation exists to help make dreams come true for kids.”

The Foundation’s message is clear: all children deserve access to

enriching, joyful experiences beyond the classroom. By raising awareness through creativity and community spirit, The Great Ladybug Hunt offers an opportunity to not only get involved—but also to make a lasting difference.

As summer approaches and central Ohio blooms to life, keep your eyes peeled for red-and-black polka dots. Behind each painted rock is a story of inclusion, opportunity, and the power of community.

To learn more or get involved, visit www.housfoundation.org/ladybugs.

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www.housefoundation.org/ladybugs

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