Mark Your Calendar!
2010 Festival of Trees

Nov. 26, 27 and 28, 2010
Medina County Community Center
Medina County Fairgrounds
735 Lafayette Road in Medina

Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

Admission: $5 for adults, $4 for seniors (60+),
$2 for kids ages 6-12, free for kids 5 and under

Festival of Trees
2010 Sponsors
(As of Oct. 15, 2010)

Golden Garland Sponsors
Dick & Betty Lynham
John & Jennifer Graham

Silver Bells Sponsors
Ann L. Cole
Katia Horn

Medina Auto Parts
Western Reserve Masonic Community

Snowflake Sponsors
Gorsek & Co., CPA

Medina County Women in Business
MOMS Club of Medina East Chapter
Cathy Posner

Mobile Meals Inc.
Nature’s Touch/Debbie Kacic
Western Reserve Masonic Community

Raffle Sponsors
All Fired Up
Buehler’s
Dance D’Elegance
Penny Evans
JSK Gifts
Medina Contractor Connection
Olive Tap
Marsha Pappalardo
Cathy Posner

Up and down and sweet as candy — these are two ways to describe last year’s Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund annual fundraising event, the Festival of Trees, which raised nearly $8,000. The “Pineapple Upside Down Tree,” last year’s People’s Choice Award winner, was sponsored and decorated by Linda Loveless and Donna Stuver. The tree welcomed thousands of visitors for a stroll through a beautiful Christmas tree lane filled with uniquely decorated trees.

The “Candy Land” tree, sponsored by Graham Consulting on behalf of the Children’s Center of America, was decorated by the Children’s Center Board.

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**Endowment Fund Donations**

October 2009 — September 2010

In House Of:

Kelly Albrecht by Cheryl A. Ferguson

Catherine Anderson

by Dan & Tammy Daubner

Laura Amanian by Karen Glass

Judy Atkinson by Karen Glass

Madeline Laribee by Christine Wilder

Jessica Bick by Cheryl A. Ferguson

Betty Daubner

by Dan & Tammy Daubner

Bill Dempsey by Lynda Poli

Julie Owen by Susan Ponting

Kathy Peterson by Suzanne T. Allen

Cathy Potter by Jen Graham

Derek Powers by Dan & Tammy Daubner

Nancy Vroom by Dan & Tammy Daubner

Ruby Tucker by Suzanne T. Allen

Nancy Vroom by Dan & Tammy Daubner

Bernice Waterour by Anonymous

Kathy Lemen West by Joanna H. Parker

Kim Wilson by Jen Graham

Rhianda Plachter by Jen Graham

**In Memory of:**

Willetta Chandler by Christine Wilder

Clara Gotthard by Ann Cole

Beth Graham by Jen Graham

Denise Halluck by Suzanne T. Allen

Helen Smith by Ann Cole

Virginia Woodward by Ann Cole

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**Festival of Trees** (Continued from page 1)

Medina County and decorated by Kathleen Daum, was the winner of the Children’s Choice Award. It delighted old and young alike with its sweet treats and peppermint ribbon. Other decorated trees celebrated the season using themes of crystal snowflakes, brilliant stars, antique jewelry, brightly dyed bread dough ornaments (handmade in Ecuador), picture frames, teddy bears, stars and stripes, and so many more!

This year’s Festival of Trees event promises to be just as exciting when MCWF again joins Christmas Around the World at the Medina County Community Center on Nov. 26, 27 and 28. Last year’s event drew more than 5,000 visitors, and the public is welcome to attend this annual spectacular event!

It’s not too late to sponsor a tree or volunteer to assist at this year’s event. Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to contact the Festival of Trees Committee at medinafoot@yahoo.com.

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**Growing the Fund: 100 Women Project**

The Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund was started in 1998 by three women who recognized the need to have a fund that could perpetually support programs that improve the lives of women and children in our county. Other funds supported local charities, but none specifically focused on the needs of women and children.

The three founders — Katie Horn, Jane Lang and Gwen Rivers — had a goal of raising $100,000 to launch the fund. To achieve this goal, they set out to find 100 women who believed in the mission of the fund and who would be willing to donate $1,000 each (a major commitment to a new fund with no track record!)

After becoming an affiliate fund of Akron Community Foundation, MCWF patterned itself after the Women’s Endowment Fund in Akron. It took three years to reach the fundraising goal, and in 2000, MCWF formed its advisory board. The fund’s first grants were awarded in 2004. To date, MCWF has awarded more than $70,000 to organizations in Medina County that enrich the lives of women and children. The fund itself has grown to more than $200,000.

This year, MCWF’s advisory board has set a goal to grow the fund by another $100,000 — again by encouraging 100 women to make the $1,000 commitment in support of the fund’s mission. This effort is called the “100 Women Project.”

On Sept. 30, 2010, the advisory board kicked off the campaign with a delightful “Women Helping Women” social event held at Potomac Bead Company in downtown Medina. The purpose of the event was two-fold: to honor founding donors and to encourage a new generation of women to get involved in the fund.

Attendees included founding donors Paula Banks, Polly Bittner, Sandy Calvert, Ann Cole, Nancy Cummins, Penny Evans, Judy Gerdes, Jill Heck, Katie Horn, Hannah Jones, Betty Lynham, Sharon McNeil, Pam Miller, Janet Moxley, Joanne Murray, Joanne Oliver, Nancy Pound and Kathy Stugmyer.

More than 60 women attended the event. MCWF board members, along with representatives from grantees such as Help Me Grow, shared information about the fund and its mission.

Additionally, Kathleen Daum, a volunteer at last year’s Festival of Trees event, spoke about her experience with the fundraiser and ways to get involved with the event. Nancy Pond, the first MCWF advisory board president, told guests at the event why she is committed to the fund and its mission of helping women and children in our community.

More than $6,000 in cash and pledges was committed at the event — a great kickoff to the 100 Women Project. If you would like more information on this project, please contact current MCWF board president Linda Loveless at 330-722-4254.

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**Medina County WEF President’s Message**

The Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund has been busy celebrating the past and looking toward the future. On Sept. 30, we honored our founding donors and took a look back at the commitment they made to the fund (see the “100 Women” article on page 3 for more information.)

At the same time, we are looking to the future to determine where the needs in our community are and what role MCWF can play in meeting them. The advisory board has had several discussions on the need for creating a clearinghouse of all the organizations that offer services for women and children in our community. There doesn’t seem to be any one place to go to find that information, and when a mother or child is in crisis and needs assistance, it can be so confusing to figure out which agency to turn to. We want to help clear up the confusion.

The advisory board is also concerned about helping organizations get the funding they need. Often, they don’t have staff members with experience in grant-writing or the time to research opportunities for grant money. We have talked about providing free training and support to these organizations to help them improve their chances of receiving grants, whether the grants are awarded from MCWF or another fund.

Over the next several months, we will delve into these issues and develop a plan that will ultimately expand our involvement in the community and solidify our mission of improving the lives of women and children in Medina County.

Warm regards,

Linda Loveless

Board President

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2010 Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund

Officers & Advisory Board

President

Linda Loveless

Secretary/Treasurer

Ann Cole

Tammy Daubner

Penny Evans

Karen Glass

Jill Heck

Jane Lang

Madeline Laribee

Betty Lynham

Joanne Oliver

Cathy Posner

Nancy Sjovels

Kris Turner

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**General Donors & Festival of Trees:**

AAA Ohio Auto Club

Michelle Berens

Bill Bennett

Dr. & Mrs. William Brickerover

Jillian Campbell

Christmas Around the World

AAA Ohio Auto Club

Jill Heck

AAA Ohio Auto Club

Dr. & Mrs. William Brideweser

Katie Horn

AAA Ohio Auto Club

Jackie Campbell

Christmas Around the World

AAA Ohio Auto Club

Kris Turner

AAA Ohio Auto Club

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