A MESSAGE FROM THE GCEF ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

In memory of Jennifer Davis, Terry Jurkoshek & Maggie Kerr.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors and the hard work of our staff, we are able to leverage the online services that are available to us. Our website demonstrates the commitment of our donors, coupled with that of Akron Community Foundation, which has shepherded the fund through some challenging times. Thanks to the members of our Advisory Board and the responsibility of our Chair, we are able to provide grant funding to nonprofit organizations in the greater Akron LGBT community.

Our 2013 Sugar Plum Tour raised nearly $53,000! This achievement is not to be eclipsed by years past, 2014 will be a transformational year as we see our endowment top the $500,000 mark. As the fund continues to grow, we are able to provide more and more support to local organizations. Our Sugar Plum Tour fundraiser is the life blood of our endowment. Thank you to the 2013 tour co-chairs, Debbie Robinson & Dave Jursik.

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The mission of the Gay Community Fund (GCEF) is to provide greater awareness and acceptance, and to provide grant funding to nonprofit organizations in the greater Akron LGBT community.

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What a year! 2013 was perhaps the most exciting ever for the Gay Community Endowment Fund. Our grant making cycle from 2013 extended into the first quarter of 2014 to support the upcoming Gay Games. At the top of our list of accomplishments, the GCEF awarded a record number of grants during this period totaling $1,035,925. We believe that even a small grant can make a big impact in the greater Akron LGBT community.

Much of our ability to make these grants comes from our annual Sugar Plum Tour fundraiser. Thank you to the 2013 tour co-chairs, Debbie Zarconi and Tia Stathopoulos, for their hard work in making this year’s Sugar Plum Tour a continued success. This annual tour could never take place without gracious and generous homeowners, sponsors, patrons, volunteers and over 1,000 tourgoers who braved freezing temperatures to see beautifully decorated homes and generously support the fund. Our 2013 Sugar Plum Tour raised nearly $103,000.

2013 also saw the creation of the GCEF Scholarship Fund, which, thanks to committed donors and a match from board member Dr. Patricia Rubin, now totals about $38,000. As we build this fund, academic scholarships will be made available to deserving students in Summit, Medina and Portage counties.

Not to be eclipsed by years past, 2014 will be a transformational year as our endowment top the 1 million mark: a remarkable achievement for a fund that is only 13 years old. Most importantly, this milestone demonstrates the commitment of our donors, coupled with that of Akron Community Foundation, which has shepherded the fund through some trying economic times. GCEF’s future is secure and full of promise.

The Gay Community Endowment Fund’s website has transitioned, too. As a fund of Akron Community Foundation, we’re part of a larger, more sophisticated website and are able to leverage the online services it offers. Being part of AkronCF.org means that information about GCEF is now visible to Akron Community Foundation’s broad reach of well-respected organizations and donors. Check out our new home at our same old address: www.gaycommunityfund.org.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors and the hard work of our volunteers, the Gay Community Endowment Fund continues to make a positive impact in the lives of our LGBT friends and our entire community.

Sincerely,

Mary Margaret Rowlands
Chair, GCEF Advisory Board

Advisory Board

The Gay Community Endowment Fund’s 15-person board serves without pay to help the fund continue impacting the lives of Summit County’s LGBT community.

The diversity of our board helps strengthen the work we do in the community and provides a vast knowledge base. The following are our current board members:

Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands
Chair
Stever P. Schmidt, Ph.D.
Past Chair
Cynthia Schmidt
Secretary
Jim Pickard
Treasurer

Tom Cardone
Charlene Clamp
John Godden
David Jesse
Eric Jones
Ed Kansler
Rick Krochak
Sheila Martin
Patricia Rutte, M.D.
Peter Schofield
Jim Simon

For the period of January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

Beginning Fund Balance $797,192.29
Contributions (includes $35,000 from ACF) $52,784.54
Sugar Plum Tour $72,714.00
Total Donations $125,488.54

INVESTMENTS
Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) $158,809.59
Total Revenue $284,308.13

EXPENSES
Grant Awards $131,708.03
ACF Administrative Fees $13,390.74
Misc. Fund Expenses $519.35
Sugar Plum Expenses $19,664.33
Transfer to Scholarship Fund $14,704.09
Total Expenses $179,986.54

Ending Fund Balance $901,513.88
GCEF Scholarship Fund Balance $28,050.73

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During the past 6 months, the Gay Community Endowment Fund awarded grants totaling $131,925 to 15 greater Akron nonprofit organizations.

Many of this year’s grants supported programs related to the 2014 Gay Games.

### Cleveland Special Events Corporation
- **$5,000**
  - For events held in Akron and Summit County as part of the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation.

### Akron Area Arts Alliance
- **$5,000**
  - For a real-time digital and online photography exhibit that captures the community pride sparked by the Gay Games.

### Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- **$5,000**
  - For a special Music in the Meadow concert in the national park for Gay Games participants and the general public.

### Community AIDS Network/ Akron Pride Initiative
- **$5,000**
  - For the “Game Change” Conference in conjunction with the Federation of Gay Games (FGG), Jewish Family Services, and PFLAG to be held at the University of Akron Student Union. The conference will explore LGBT issues in sports and culture in the 21st Century.

### Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio
- **$3,725**
  - For an LGBT awareness and inclusiveness program for small business and nonprofit government professionals held in the weeks leading up to the Gay Games.

### Actors Summit
- **$3,000**
  - For productions of the critically acclaimed My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding during the week of the Gay Games.

### 2013-2014 GRANTS

| 2013 | Gay Community Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation welcomes your gift of any amount. You can support the fund in many ways:
| 2014 | The Gay Community Endowment Fund is a permanent philanthropic fund of Akron Community Foundation. The fund provides grants to nonprofit organizations in the greater Akron area whose programs and services support or positively impact the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and serves as a catalyst for the full participation of LGBT people in our society.

#### WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

| CASH | A one-time or periodic gift of any amount. A one-time gift is a great way to honor or remember a loved one.
| CREDIT CARD | A more convenient way to give, with no credit or debit card fees. Simply charge your donation to your credit card.
| REAL ESTATE | You can make a gift of real estate, which may help you by reducing your taxes.
| TRUSTS | A gift in trust is a great way to ensure that your gift will benefit the next generation of LGBT people.
| BEQUESTS | A bequest is a gift you can make in your will.
| ANNUITIES | An annuity can provide a stream of income for you and/or your loved ones.

### GRANT HISTORY

- **2012**
  - BIAW Women’s Shelter
  - Community AIDS Network
  - AIDS support organizations

- **2013**
  - BIAW Women’s Shelter
  - Ada Brown, D.O.
  - Akron Children’s Hospital
  - Akron Community Foundation

- **2014**
  - BIAW Women’s Shelter
  - Actaon Foundation
  - Akron Area Foundation

### Other supported programming:
- **CASA Board Volunteer Association Inc.**
  - $2,000
  - For an equality training seminar that educates volunteer court advocates about placing children with same-sex foster or adoptive parents.

- **Akron Independent Film Festival Inc.**
  - $1,000
  - For screenings of LGBT-inclusive films the week before and during the Gay Games.

- **Verb Ballets**
  - $3,000
  - For the creation of LGBT-themed dance performances that will increase public awareness and excitement about the Gay Games.

- **Child Guidance & Family Solutions Inc.**
  - $5,000
  - To develop marketing materials for the agency’s school-based adolescent outreach program targeted toward LGBT youth.

- **Community AIDS Network**
  - $2,600
  - For the Teen Pride Network, a collaboration with the Akron chapter of PFLAG that offers positive social support and activities for LGBT youth who feel isolated in their school, home or community.

- **Community Drug Board DBA: Community Health Center**
  - $2,500
  - To increase outreach to the LGBT community and educate the agency’s substance abuse counselors about the specific needs of LGBT clients.

- **Fair Housing Contact Service Inc.**
  - $2,000
  - To provide remediation to LGBT individuals who have faced discrimination by housing providers.

### Fusion Magazine
- **$500**
  - For Kent State University’s award-winning, student-produced publication, which strives to unify people of different backgrounds and orientations.

### Jewish Family Service of Akron Ohio
- **$4,000**
  - For counseling and support groups for LGBT senior citizens.

### Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in Northeast Ohio Inc. (PFLAG)
- **$2,500**
  - For the Teen Pride Network, a collaboration with Community AIDS Network that offers positive social support and activities for LGBT youth who feel isolated in their school, home or community.

### 2013 FUNDRAISING: SUGAR PLUM TOUR

Since 2002, the Sugar Plum Tour has been a cherished Akron holiday tradition — with many people marking the calendar a full year in advance for the next tour! Over the years, close to 65 homes have been captured on the tour, and over 4,000 people have experienced the twinkling lights, roaring fires, sparkling trees, and extraordinary holiday decorations of homes throughout the greater Akron area.

The 2013 Sugar Plum Tour took place on Sunday, December 8th, and featured five elegantly decorated homes in Akron, Cuyahoga Falls and Bath. Almost 1,000 guests toured a wide variety of homes, including a modest and airy 1955 twinplex, a modified cape cod, an 1820 Connecticut federal-style home, as well as two other stately homes in West Akron and Fairlawn Heights. For patron ticket holders, the tour concluded in Akron’s premier arts and entertainment district at Testa Companies’ Northside Lofts with a party hosted by the Testas at DBA restaurant.

The tour netted nearly $135,000 for the fund, and proceeds from the tour supported the 2014 Gay Games as well as other LGBT programming.

The tour could not have taken place if it weren’t for the extraordinary efforts and giving spirit of the testa companies.

### Testa Companies
- **Paul & Joel Testa / Matthew Culler / Greg Downey / Bowers**

### FYI:
- **Testa Companies**
  - Homeowners
  - Donors
- **Sponsors**
  - Homeowners
  - Donors

### Ways You Can Make a Difference

- **Bequests & Estates**
  - A lifetime gift. Most lifetime gifts are made with cash or marketable securities. Cash gifts can be fully deducted for federal income tax purposes up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income.

Giving in a challenging economy. The needs of LGBT people in our community are growing, and your gifts are more important than ever in providing short- and long-term support. By continually investing, we will be positioned for strong gains when the economy rebounds.

Donate anytime at www.akroncf.org/give/gcef
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Donor Lists

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