MCWEF ANNOUNCES 2013 GRANT RECIPIENTS

In June, the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund awarded $9,100 in grants to six organizations serving Medina County’s women and children:

Catholic Charities Community Services Corporation
For assault prevention workshops for Medina County elementary school students, $3,000

Feeding Medina County
For a partnership with the Medina County Juvenile Courts that teaches life skills to troubled teens by growing fresh food for distribution through a community garden, $2,000

Mobile Meals Inc.
For nutrition education and healthy meals for women and children in need, $600

RePlay for Kids
To purchase toys and materials to produce adapted toys for children with disabilities, $1,000

Society for Handicapped Citizens of Medina County Inc.
For a sitter training program for caregivers of children with developmental disabilities, $1,500

Suicide Prevention Education Alliance
To prevent suicide in Medina County high schools by helping teens recognize the warning signs in themselves and their peers, $1,000

Funding was awarded to several organizations responding to critical needs of Medina County residents, with additional consideration given to new projects that fulfill specific service gaps in our community.

The Parent Assistant Training program offered by the Society for Handicapped Citizens of Medina County is one such program.

“Parents of children with special needs struggle to find qualified sitters,” said Melanie Kasten-Krause, executive director of the Society for Handicapped Citizens/The Arc of Medina County. “With the support of the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund, we were able to collaborate with the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Medina County Chapter of the Red Cross to develop a supplemental curriculum that prepares sitters to care for children with and without disabilities.”

The next dates for the “Parent Assistant Training” are May 31 and June 7, 2014, at Camp Paradise lodge. Register now at www.shc-medina.org.

The Advisory Board of Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund is pleased to be able to support this important work.

Continued on page 6
In keeping with Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund is proud to share information about one of our grant recipients whose program does just that. The Child Assault Prevention Program has been informing and empowering students throughout Medina County for more than 15 years.

The Child Assault Prevention Program (CAP) was developed in 1978 in Columbus, Ohio, as the first prevention curriculum specifically for children. Since its inception, CAP has been offered to more than 9 million children, parents, school staff and community members in more than 26 states and six foreign countries.

Primary abuse prevention enables students to recognize potentially threatening situations and to take appropriate steps to prevent abuse from happening.

Each CAP workshop includes a very important discussion about rights. The three rights emphasized are the right to be SAFE (to feel that everything is okay and nothing will hurt you), the right to be STRONG (both “inside strong” and “outside strong”), and the right to be FREE (being able to make choices).

Presented are three scenarios in which children could find that their rights are being taken away – first, with a “bully,” next with a “stranger,” and lastly with a “trusted adult.”

Role play is used as a tool to share concepts. In each category, an unsuccessful role play is demonstrated whereby the child’s rights are taken away, followed by much class discussion of strategies. Subsequently, a successful version of the role play is shared, demonstrating that the child was able to keep his or her rights by putting into action the strategies discussed.

The students very much enjoy and are impacted by the role playing and even take part in some themselves. Much fun is had in the process!

Following the one-hour classroom presentation, facilitators are available for individual conversations with students in a quiet space.

The Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund has allowed for CAP to be presented in all seven elementary schools in the Medina City School District over three consecutive years. The focus has been in the second-grade classroom.

CAP continues to leave a strong impression with not only the children, but also with teachers whose classes receive the workshop.

Below, you’ll find just a small sampling of some of the comments shared by teachers this school year:

“The manner in which the information was presented was a strength of the workshop. It was very age appropriate. The sincerity of the speakers, the usefulness of the skits, along with student participation were also strengths.”

“All of the scenarios and skits were real problems students could have in elementary school.”

“During the presentation, children are made to feel comfortable and to feel that their answers are important and true.”

“This was valuable information for our students – presented at their level.”

The CAP staff has been very grateful for the opportunity to offer this empowering program to children in the community. The concept of Safe, Strong and Free is in the minds and hearts of many of our students!
The Grand Ballroom at Weymouth County Club was aglow with sparkling Christmas trees for our annual Festival of Trees event.

The Nov. 7 gala featured a lovely sit-down dinner with live and silent auctions. We raised more than $13,000 this year because of your generosity!

All proceeds help grow the endowment fund. Earned interest from the fund is then used to make grants to qualified nonprofit organizations in our county.

Since its inception, the Medina County Women’s Endowment fund has granted nearly $100,000 thanks to the generosity of loyal and passionate donors. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to each person! Learn more at www.medinawomensendowment.com.

A special thank you to our sponsors!

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Also this year, the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund introduced a new online application to streamline the process for organizations applying for grant funding.

Grant requests for 2014 were submitted March 1, and recipients will be announced in June. Although the application is now closed, more information can be found at www.medinawomensendowment.com.

Each year, the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund receives more requests for funding than we are able to fulfill. Fundraising activities throughout the year help the fund to grow, as do individual contributions. Currently, only one-fourth of all requests are able to be funded, so we depend on your support to grow the fund and close this gap.

Please help us support more of the outstanding programs serving the critical needs of women and children in Medina County by making a donation. Give online at www.akroncf.org/give/MCWEF or call 330-376-8522.
Watch for our Mother’s Day Card Campaign in April!

Each spring, the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund offers local residents the opportunity to honor any woman who has made a lasting difference in his or her life.

During the first week of May, the woman - or women - you honor will receive a beautiful Mother’s Day card telling her of your donation to the endowment (the amount of which is not disclosed).

Your gifts to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund will have a positive impact in Medina County by helping to support nonprofit programs centered around the education, wellness, and enrichment of women and children.

Last year, we raised more than $1,775 for the endowment fund through this great expression of love for all the strong women in our lives!

Please consider making your mother, grandmother, aunt, daughter, sister or friend feel extra special this Mother’s Day with a gift to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund in her honor.

Give online with Visa, MasterCard or Discover at www.akroncf.org/give/MCWEFMothersDay. Or, call 330-376-8522 to receive a printed donation card.

It’s a great way to celebrate Mother’s Day!