MCWEF AWARDS $12,000 IN GRANTS

One of the most fulfilling aspects of serving on the MCWEF board is awarding grants to critical projects that improve the lives of women and children in Medina County.

During the 13-year history of the endowment, MCWEF has made grants to more than 30 local nonprofits that are reaching thousands of Medina County citizens.

With grant awards totaling $12,000 this year, total giving from the endowment fund has surpassed $110,000!

An online grant application system was introduced this year to streamline the process for those requesting grants and for the Grants Review Committee.

Preliminary feedback about the online system indicates ease of use for those requesting grants and for reviewers.

This year, MCWEF received 17 grant requests. The advisory board unanimously approved seven projects for full or partial funding. We are so pleased to continue a legacy of service and giving by announcing our 2014 grant recipients:

**Friends of Medina County Parks**
To build an inclusive playground that is accessible to children of all physical abilities at Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park in Granger Township, $3,000

**GASP: Guardians Advocating Child Safety and Protection**
To deliver free community-wide child safety programs that educate children about dangerous situations, sex offenders, abuse and abduction, $1,000

**Matthew 25 Coalition**
To provide prescription vouchers to women in southwest Medina County who cannot afford the co-pays for their medication, $1,000

**Medina Health Ministry**
For the Women’s WELLness Program, which provides free annual exams, mammograms and educational materials to uninsured, working women, $2,500

**Oaks Family Care Center**
For the Mom.Comm program, which teaches single parents how to improve their communication for the benefit of their children, $1,000

**RePlay for Kids**
For workshops in Medina County high schools where students learn to adapt toys for kids with disabilities, sparking an interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, $1,000

**Suicide Prevention Education Alliance**
For “Recognizing Teen Depression and Preventing Suicide,” a school-based program reaching 1,575 students in five Medina County high schools that helps teens recognize the signs of depression and seek help from a trusted adult, $2,500

Of this year’s grant recipients, Cathy Posner, MCWEF advisory board president and Grants Review Committee chair, said, “We continue to grow the endowment fund in order to make grants to organizations in our community. We look forward to the day when some of these projects will no longer be a pressing concern. Until then, MCWEF is very glad to be able to support such important efforts.”
Grant Recipient Spotlight: Suicide Prevention Education Alliance

Recent tragedies throughout Medina County demonstrate a critical need for the life-saving work of the Suicide Prevention Education Alliance, which works with students in many of our local high schools.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in Ohio among young adults ages 15-24 years old. Yet, it is also the most preventable. With proper treatment, most teens suffering from depression can go on to lead happy, productive lives. However, only 38 percent of depressed teens receive the treatment that can help them.

SPEA addresses this problem at its root by empowering teens to recognize depression in themselves and their classmates. Students are taught that they can be the “first line of defense” in preventing suicide, since teens who make a plan to end their lives often inform a friend.

Utilizing a fun, interactive curriculum that includes video, roleplaying, small group work, lecture and Q&A, SPEA instructors teach students how to identify individuals who may be suffering from major depression and/or may be at risk of suicide; how to respond; and where to refer them. This primary prevention program complements the mental health unit in high school health classes.

An evidence-based evaluation validates that the program causes at-risk teens to seek help from a mental health professional in the weeks following their participation in the program.

In 2013, SPEA instructors presented their innovative program – Recognizing Teen Depression and Preventing Suicide – to 20,000 students in 120 Northeast Ohio high schools. Through the program, students learn to recognize the signs of depression and to seek help from a trusted adult.

The lessons learned will last a lifetime, but the real impact is immediate: Last school year, 1,008 students came forward during the program to request help for themselves or a friend and were referred directly to a counselor. Many more came forward to their counselors or family in the days following the program.

This is just one way SPEA saves families from the unfathomable loss of a child to suicide and helps teens live healthy, productive lives.

Each fall, SPEA hosts the “Into the Light Walk.” It is a unique and powerful event that raises awareness about this issue and provides a therapeutic coming-together for thousands of individuals, many of whom have lost a loved one to suicide. This year’s walk will be held on Oct. 5 at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

The Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund is proud to support the invaluable work of SPEA, which prevents suicide by teaching young people to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to seek professional help for themselves and others.

Their innovative program is taught at Brunswick, Buckeye, Cloverleaf, Highland and Medina high schools. For more information, visit www.SPEAneohtio.org or www.LifeAct.org.
Women as Philanthropists
2014 Development Goal

The Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund is an affiliate fund of Akron Community Foundation.

MCWEF provides grant funding to organizations and programs in Medina County that improve the lives of women and children. In addition, it serves as a catalyst for needed projects and assists women in their growth as philanthropists. Since the fund’s inception in 1998, it has grown to more than $329,000 and awarded $111,452 to nonprofit organizations throughout Medina County.

An endowment fund is created when a donor specifies that a gift (or principal amount) be held by the community foundation in perpetuity.

The community foundation invests the principal, and each year, the income is distributed according to the fund’s specific purpose, leaving the rest to grow in perpetuity. In MCWEF’s case, the income supports programs for women and children in Medina County.

This year, MCWEF was privileged to award the largest grant amount in the history of our fund: A total of $12,000 was granted to seven nonprofit organizations.

With your help, we can do so much more. As our endowment grows, so does our ability to impact the Medina County community. This year, our goal is to raise $50,000 to help increase the amount we are able to grant to deserving nonprofits each year.

Please consider partnering with us to continue building the endowment. It is a permanent source of funding that will enrich the lives of women and children in our community for generations to come.

Give online today at www.akroncf.org/give/MCWEF.

Donors
February 2014 — May 2014

Mary Andrews
Alanna Arnold
Amy Bowe
Patricia & William Boyle
Kim Brightbill
Connie Campbell
Cathi Carmany
Lynne Castele
Kathleen Clere
Leah Comes
Peggy & Lloyd Culp
Elizabeth Daubner
Robert J. Fogel
Ronald T. & Carol Fritz
Eric & Karen Glass
Jill Graber
John & Jen Graham
Louise Hanko
Ellen Hunter
Cheryl A. Ingraham
Mary & Jeffrey Kase, M.D.
Kimberly Laurene
Cheryl Mason
Sharon McNeil
Margaret Medzie
Jeannine Murray
Julie Owens
Dick & Gini Paige
Susan Ponting
Cathy & Mason Posner
Nancy Pound & Jack Heimovics
Colleen Rice
Jane Saettel
Robert & Tiffany Safran
Emma M. Schulte
Mary Lou Seger
Suzanne Simmons
Nancy Sprowls
Lisa Polo Stanton
Sarah Toman
Sherrie Trenka
Carla Unkefer
Rhonda Wurgler
Karen Zevchik

Officers & Advisory Board
Cathy Posner, President
Karen Glass, Vice President
Sue Simmons, Secretary/ Treasurer
Tammy Daubner
Dr. Mari Halkovich
Ellen Hunter
Linda Loveless
Anne Murphy
Marsha Pappalardo
Tiffany Safran
Sarah Toman
Diane Turner
Kathy Warner
SAVE THE DATE!

Festival of Trees

to benefit

Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund

Thursday, November 6, 2014, at 6 p.m.

Weymouth Country Club, 3946 Weymouth Road, Medina, OH

Please join us for a festive evening featuring a delicious dinner with live and silent auctions of designer-decorated trees, holiday decorations, unique gift ideas and personal service packages.

Get a start on your holiday shopping at the Festival of Trees!

For information about sponsorships or to donate an auction item, please email medinacountywef@gmail.com