Bus tour gives behind-the-scenes look at nonprofits

By Laura Hnat, chair, WEF Stewardship Committee

Supporters of the Women’s Endowment Fund got the chance to see philanthropy in action on a recent bus tour of agencies who have received grants from the fund. Fifteen of our donors, board members and community leaders were inspired by this firsthand look at organizations that help women struggling with addiction, poverty, homelessness and more.

The first stop on our Oct. 2 bus tour was Safe Landing Youth Shelter, a program of Shelter Care Inc., which provides temporary housing and respite for girls whose families are in crisis.

We had the opportunity to see the girls’ rooms, kitchen and living area. We also heard from program coordinators, who discussed the challenges they experience and the lives they’ve impacted.

Next, we visited Legacy III, a transitional housing program for women recovering from addiction. There, we met Kathleen, a former drug addict and alcoholic whose life was changed through the program.

Today, she has a close relationship with her children and is a case manager at Legacy III, where she is able to help other women achieve financial stability and regain their independence.

CPA brings international recognition, gift to WEF

As a CPA and tax professional for more than 25 years, Laura Culp knows how to capitalize on opportunities.

So when she saw the chance to make a unique gift to the Women’s Endowment Fund, the BCG&Co. partner jumped at it.

As co-chair of the 2014 PrimeGlobal Women’s Leadership Conference in Cleveland, Culp was asked to recommend a local charity to receive a gift from PrimeGlobal.

The decision was an easy one for Culp, who has been supporting the Women’s Endowment Fund since 1996.

“It’s important for women to help other women,” she said. “That’s why I think the Women’s Endowment Fund is so important, because we’re funding opportunities for women and girls to grow and be successful.”

This is a philosophy shared by PrimeGlobal, and marketing director Debra Helwig said their gift to the Women’s Endowment Fund is a reflection of the respect they have for Culp.

“(We) hope that our donation ... will in turn highlight to the Greater Akron community that Laura is a brilliant and tremendously valued asset to our association and to the accounting profession worldwide,” Helwig said.

Read the full story and learn how Culp is encouraging philanthropy among her colleagues at www.akroncf.org/Culp.
Save the Date

Dec. 5, 2014
Judith Resnik Dialogue with a Notable Woman
Join the Women’s Network of Northeast Ohio for this informative luncheon featuring Billi Copeland King, Esq., director of the Summa Center for Health Equity. The event will be held at Fairlawn Country Club. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased online at www.womensnetworkneohio.com.

Dec. 31, 2014
Year-End Gifts
Akron Community Foundation staff will be in the office until 5 p.m. on Dec. 31 to assist you with gifts to the Women’s Endowment Fund. See all the ways you can give at www.akroncf.org/WEFwaystogive. For gifts of appreciated stock, transfers should be initiated by Dec. 22 to ensure year-end processing. View our stock transfer instructions at www.akroncf.org/stocktransfers.

March 12, 2015
Annual Dinner
Save the date for our next “For Women, Forever” annual dinner. This signature event will feature Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, the first woman lieutenant governor of Maryland and the eldest daughter of Robert Kennedy. Be among the first to get details about the dinner by registering for our e-news at www.akroncf.org/WEFnews. Or, become a sponsor now at www.regonline.com/ForWomenForever.

Be first to get WEF news
Are you passionate about the Women’s Endowment Fund? Then register for our e-news. You’ll be the first to get event invitations, announcements, and news affecting women and girls. You’ll also get one-click access to extended feature stories not available in the print version.
It’s easy: Just go to www.akroncf.org/WEFnews, enter your email address, then select “Women’s Endowment Fund News.”
The Women’s Endowment Fund offers a variety of ways to be involved in our community, from engaging local leaders at our forums and socializing with like-minded ladies at special events to honoring significant women in your life with a gift at the holidays. But there are many other ways to plug in. Contact Renee Scherick at 330-436-5612 or rscherick@akroncf.org to learn more.
Mother’s Day gifts pay tribute to special women

In 2014, 79 donors celebrated Mother’s Day with gifts totaling $6,700 to the Women’s Endowment Fund. Your generous gifts will empower women and girls in our community forever. Below are the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and friends you honored with a gift in their name:

In memory of:
Sue Ames, Marcy Buhman, Lenore Cline, Dorothy Critchfield, LaVerne Hnat, Kathryn M. Hunter, Marion K. Jones, Sue Katanic, Clare W. Kaufmann, Georgia King, Theresa Kloska, Pauline May, Esther McDermott, Sue Nelson, Vada Nida, Alma Reuben, Linda Vaccaro, Mary M. Waller, Dorothy S. Wright, Patty Yoder

In honor of:

See a complete list of people who gave to this year’s Mother’s Day campaign at www.akroncf.org/WEFgifts.
More than 300 community leaders, volunteers and philanthropists gathered April 24, 2014, to celebrate at the Women’s Endowment Fund’s annual “For Women, Forever” dinner. This year’s event featured acclaimed television producer and RIVR Media CEO Dee Haslam.

**Top left:** WEF founding mother Marie Covington, left, talks with Dee Haslam about her experiences as a business leader and philanthropist. **Top right:** Event co-chairs Judge Eve Belfance, left, and Cindy Johnson, center, join Marie Covington in greeting guests. **Bottom left:** Dee Haslam proudly holds the commemorative plaque she received as a thank-you gift. **Bottom right:** Guests from the American Red Cross enjoy wine and hors d’oeuvres.