Popular local author and Plain Dealer columnist Regina Brett will speak at a luncheon March 22 to raise funds for the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund. The luncheon will be held at Blue Heron Golf & Conference Center in Medina, where Regina will share her life experiences and sign copies of her books.

When Regina turned 50, she wrote a column about the 50 most important lessons she has learned in life. The lessons range from “start saving for retirement with your first paycheck” to “believe in miracles.” It became the most-requested column she had ever written.

Regina’s books are based on her own life experiences, including being an unwed mother and single parent, finding love at age 40, and battling breast cancer.

Regina has been writing professionally since 1986. She has received numerous accolades for her work, including being named a Pulitzer Prize finalist for commentary.

She currently writes for The Plain Dealer, which is the largest newspaper in Ohio and one of the top 16 newspapers in the country.

Reservations for the luncheon are $35. For the luncheon and a hardcover copy of “Be the Miracle,” tickets are $55. Regina will be available to sign her books. For information, email:

McWF is an affiliate of Akron Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity.
MCWEF Grants at Work in Medina County

As another grant application season came to a close March 1, some former grant recipients took the time to reflect on how MCWEF helped their nonprofit agencies and the Medina County residents they serve.

**Children’s Center of Medina County**

“Thanks to the MCWEF grant, we were able to launch a PR campaign, bringing awareness to Medina County about child sexual abuse. Since we have no budget for PR, this would have been impossible without the grant.

With the grant funds, we printed an information card about the Children’s Center to be passed out at events. It provides statistics of child sexual abuse in Medina and details what the Children’s Center’s mission is and what we provide for these children.

We also created a display board for use at public events and speaking engagements. Finally, we will run an advertisement for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, again to bring awareness about child sexual abuse to Medina County.”

*Rhonda Wurgler, Executive Director, Children’s Center of Medina County*

**Cornerstone Wellness Center**

“There is a Spanish proverb that says, ‘More grows in the garden than the gardener sows.’ That has certainly been the case with the generous grant from the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund for Staples for Seniors. Between July 2011 and November 2011, when Cornerstone Wellness Center turned the administration of this grant over to Feeding Medina County, Cornerstone Wellness Center and HANDS served around 50 bags to seniors/disabled adults each month, with food packages that weighed in at an average of 8 pounds each. That ends up being about 2,000 pounds of food! Seniors were especially delighted when we were able to put fresh produce in their bags.

The best part is yet to come. This grant attracted so much matching support in the form of food and volunteer services that CWC was able to accomplish the grant goals by spending only a small part of the original grant money. When FMC took over Staples for Seniors from Cornerstone Wellness Center on Dec. 1, 2011, it was “seeded” with the entire amount of the original grant. Sandy Calvert, the new director of FMC, plans to sow these grant funds by extending services to seniors between now and the end of the grant cycle in June. May our garden continue to grow together!”

*Dr. Suzanne LeSure, Cornerstone*

**Mother’s Day Cards Available to Honor Special Women**

Mother’s Day is around the corner, and what better way to honor that special woman or remember a precious loved one than with a gift to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund? Look for our signature sunflower cards in April. Call Dennis Jansky at 330-436-5623 for more information.

**2012 MCWEF Officers & Advisory Board**

President
Linda Loveless
Vice President
Cathy Posner
Secretary/Treasurer
Ann Cole
Tammy Daubner
Penny Evans
Karen Glass
Jen Graham
Jill Heck
Hannah Jones
Jane Langol
Madeline Laribee
Nancy Sprowls
Kris Turner

**Festival of Trees 2012**

Mark your calendar: The 2012 Festival of Trees event will be held Thursday, Nov. 8, at Blue Heron Golf & Conference Center.

Last year, our re-vamped event attracted more than 200 guests and raised $15,000 for the fund.

Want to help?

- Volunteer on the planning committee
- Become an event sponsor
- Donate auction items

For more information, contact Tammy Daubner, FOT chair, at FOTmedina@yahoo.com.
THE LEGACY

It's Grant Season at MCWEF

Spring is in the air and, for the members of the Medina County Women's Endowment Fund Advisory Board, that means grant season. 2012 marks the eighth year of providing grant support to organizations in Medina County. To date, more than $75,000 has been awarded to 30+ organizations. Grant requests were due March 1, but the completion of the grant proposals by nonprofit organizations was just the beginning of the process for our advisory board members.

The grant process takes a winding path through both MCWEF and Akron Community Foundation. Once grant requests are received, they are processed and prepared by Akron Community Foundation's staff so that Grants Committee members can evaluate the proposals.

After packets of grant requests are sent to committee members (generally 11 to 15 participants), they are reviewed and scored, and tally sheets are compiled.

The committee then meets to discuss and determine those organizations that will receive funding for the year. The selected projects are approved by the full MCWEF Advisory Board and, finally, the ACF board. The grant request journey ends with grantee notification, and nothing makes MCWEF Advisory Board members happier than sharing good news with deserving Medina County organizations.

What kinds of projects or programs does MCWEF fund? Simply put, those that support Medina County's women and children. That intention is at the core of MCWEF's mission of "providing grant funding to organizations and programs in the Medina County area that support women and children; serving as a catalyst for needed projects; and assisting women in their growth as philanthropists." For more information or to find out how you can be involved, please contact MCWEF's Grants Committee chair, Jennifer DeVore.
Women and Philanthropy: Empowered Giving

If we take the time to sit back and reflect, we can all recount how each of us has received blessings in our lives. And so we reflect further on how we can be a blessing in someone else’s life and give back in a meaningful way.

Taking part in a philanthropic act is one such way. Whether it is giving $1 or $1,000, each individual gift when compounded with others results in ordinary people creating a significant pool of money to be used to benefit the community. Collective giving makes a better life for all.

At the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund, those gifts live on forever, with only the interest being paid out in annual grants to recipients whose mission focuses on and benefits women and children.

Since 1996, community members have been giving to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund, resulting in almost $78,000 in grants to many different organizations in Medina County.

The fund itself has grown to over $234,000 and continues to grow.

As women, we are the pulse of issues affecting women and children in the community. As an endowment fund, we are able to quickly respond to emergent needs, providing money to organizations that might not otherwise be able help so many others.

As women, we can use our power and influence, aligned with our values, to inspire and create change by providing resources in our community.

As women, we connect and collaborate with one another to further the causes we care about.

As women, we are role models leading the way for our family, friends and neighbors to join with us to make an impact.

As women, let us take the time today to give thanks for our blessings by making a donation and commitment to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund.

- Jill Heck, MCWEF board member