Grant provides medicine to women, children in need

At age 50, Diana Wells and her husband worked full time to support their family. Their small income paid the bills for their home in Chippewa Lake and especially covered the cost of the medicine she needed for her Type 2 diabetes.

However, everything changed when Diana’s husband was unemployed for three months. Even though Diana was working and had insurance, the family didn’t have enough money to cover the cost of her medicine.

Fortunately, Diana was eligible for assistance from the Matthew 25 Coalition, a nonprofit organization composed of local churches that meets the emergency needs of area residents. With their help, Diana was able to fill her prescription until her husband could find full-time work again.

Each year, the Matthew 25 Coalition helps nearly 500 women and children like Diana get the medicine they need through its Prescription Assistance Program. The program provides prescription vouchers to low-income residents of rural southwest Medina County who cannot afford their medications.

“Although most clients are now covered by a health care plan, many cannot afford the co-pays and deductibles required,” said Colleen Rice, vice chair of the Matthew 25 Coalition. She added that participants must have a legitimate, unmet medical need to qualify for services.

In 2014, the agency received a $1,000 grant from the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund to continue this vital program. Over the past year, the grant has helped 30 women like Diana get the medicine they need to stay healthy.

See the complete list of grants awarded in 2014 at www.akroncf.org/MCWEFgrants.

Celebrate Mother’s Day with a special gift to MCWEF

Happy Mother’s Day!

It’s a day to recognize and thank the wonderful women who make a difference in our lives.

Are there women in your life who have inspired or encouraged you? Perhaps it’s a dear mother, teacher or friend who has made an unforgettable impact.

This Mother’s Day, consider honoring those special ladies with gifts in their name to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund. Your gifts will support women and children in our community forever – a fitting tribute to the women who have made a lasting difference in your own life.

Each woman you honor will receive a beautiful Mother’s Day card telling her of your gift (but not the amount).

Donations ultimately support the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund’s grantmaking, which to date exceeds $111,000 to deserving nonprofit organizations.

Honor the special women in your life today. Gifts must be made by April 30 to ensure your honorees receive their card in time for Mother’s Day.

Give online at www.akroncf.org/MCWEFMothersDay.
Save the Date

April 30
Mother’s Day Gift Deadline

Don’t miss your chance to give a Mother’s Day gift your mom, aunt, sister or friend will cherish forever. Through April 30, you can make tribute or memorial gifts in honor of the special women in your life. Donations are fully tax deductible and will benefit women and children in Medina County forever. Cards are mailed the first week of May. Give online at www.akroncf.org/MCWEF/MothersDay.

June 11
Raising Charitable Children

Akron Community Foundation and hosts David and Cheryl Venrange will welcome author Carol Weisman for a discussion on our family philanthropy. Join us as we learn about the joy and importance of engaging our children and grandchildren in giving. To learn more, contact Delinda Herman at 330-436-5613 or dherman@akroncf.org.

Nov. 5
Festival of Trees

Mark your calendar for this year’s Festival of Trees. Our signature fundraising event kicks off the holiday season in style with live and silent auctions and beautifully decorated trees. To get your invitation, register for our e-news at www.akroncf.org/MCWEF/news.

From the President

2015 is well underway, and the advisory board members of the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund have had a busy first quarter! In January, we completed our yearly planning session. This is a time for our board to pause and take stock of what was accomplished in 2014 and look forward to the plans for 2015.

Some of the highlights of 2014 included:

• A new logo that provides a “fresh” look for MCWEF, and creates a clearer understanding of our link as an affiliate fund of Akron Community Foundation
• Hosting a completely sold out Festival of Trees, our vanguard fundraising event held each November. The 2014 Festival of Trees netted nearly $22,000, and introduced several new components to our special night.
• Granting $12,000 — our highest amount ever — to seven nonprofit organizations doing much-needed work in Medina County
• Coordinating site visits to grantee organizations. These visits allow us to experience the important work that each nonprofit does, build community relationships, and learn firsthand how our support meets their vital needs.
• And finally, with the support of Akron Community Foundation, beginning the process of introducing a new way of giving to MCWEF, including legacy gifts and planned giving.

We are excited about the many activities that are planned for the rest of the year, including new ways to contribute to our fund; new ways to interact with our grant organizations; and growth with some of the new activities we added to our Festival of Trees this year.

Watch for news regarding those activities, and if you have feedback or suggestions, please be in touch. We welcome your comments and thoughts.

Most importantly, we value your support. Organizations in Medina County need funding more than ever. I often say Medina residents connect with two degrees of separation — it’s one of the reasons I very much enjoy calling Medina home.

But that closeness of our county becomes especially clear to me when I sit down to review our yearly grant requests. These organizations represent our neighbors. We invite you to be involved — join a committee; make a donation (no amount is too small); invite a friend to join you at this year’s Festival of Trees.

If you’d like to discuss ways you can get involved with the women and children of Medina County through the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund, please send us an email at mcwefmoments@yalemail.com or call us directly at 216-337-2108.

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For gifts received June 1, 2014, to Feb. 28, 2015

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Katie Horn Woodcock
Molly Wootter
Ryan Woodcock
Connection
Rhonda Wurrier
Yours Truly Restaurant

Be first to get MCWEF news
Are you passionate about the issues affecting women and children in Medina County? Do you want to make sure your voice is heard? Then register for our e-news. As an e-news subscriber, you’ll be the first to be invited to events where you can engage local leaders and socialize with like-minded ladies. Also, you’ll get up-to-date news about funding deadlines, volunteer opportunities and other ways to plug into the fund. Register today at www.akroncf.org/MCWEF/news.
Record-breaking Festival of Trees raises nearly $22,000

The grand ballroom was electric with energy as a record crowd of over 325 guests gathered at the eighth annual Festival of Trees at Weymouth Country Club on Nov. 6, 2014.

Guests were greeted by a glittering raffle display for a beautiful diamond tennis bracelet donated by Medina Gem Co. Folks wasted no time investigating the elegant tree ornament raffle items and perusing the 100+ items for the silent and live auctions.

The event featured a delicious dinner topped off with homemade cookies and individual chocolates. Entertainment was provided by The Sirens, a student-led, all-girl a cappella group from Medina High School.

Even more exciting, this year’s Festival of Trees raised nearly $22,000 — the most successful ever!

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers. We couldn’t have done it without your support!

See more photos from the event at www.akroncf.org/FestivalofTrees2014.

Thank you to our sponsors

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