As we welcome this beautiful spring weather, the Women’s Endowment Fund is excited to also usher in a new form of communication to our supporters. Beginning with this issue, we will be producing an e-newsletter full of the rich and interesting content you’re accustomed to reading in our printed newsletter.

As an e-news subscriber, 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.

If you haven’t already, we encourage you to register for our e-news at www.akroncf.org/WEF. It’s easy: Just enter your email address, then select “Women’s Endowment Fund News.”

We’re excited to expand our online communication efforts and engage more people throughout the community. We hope you will join us as we continue to move forward in our mission of inspiring, empowering, educating and strengthening the well-being of women and girls, now and forever.

Have a wonderful spring season,

Kathy Booth
Women’s Endowment Fund

The Women’s Endowment Fund recently awarded $72,050 to 11 nonprofit organizations that improve life for Summit County’s women and girls. Among this year’s funding priorities were health and wellness, safety from violence, and economic empowerment.

Nearly half of the grant funding supported programs for women who are transitioning out of homelessness, including a $10,000 grant to Bridges Summit County for its Getting Ahead program.

The grant will provide women living in transitional housing units with the next layer of self-sufficiency tools, including career assessment and counseling services, stress management training, and more.

The goal is to help these women make the giant leap from survival to stability.

See the full list of grants awarded this year at www.akroncf.org/WEFgrants.
When grants committee co-chair Katie Smucker heard a staff supervisor at ACCESS describe how the shelter rebuilds women’s lives from the ground up, her heart was deeply touched. Then Katie found out that same staff supervisor was a former client, and she was completely blown away. “She had walked in the shoes of these women and experienced her own remarkable transformation at ACCESS,” Katie said.

The supervisor’s story was part of an eye-opening tour of the agency that grants committee members attended as part of the grant review process. While there, they learned about a program called “Where You Can Go With Wheels,” which provides used cars to women who are transitioning out of homelessness.

The tour opened their eyes to how critical reliable transportation can be on the road to financial independence. In fact, for many women, it can mean the difference between getting back on their feet or being back on the streets.

After a powerful tour, it was clear to Katie and her fellow committee members that the Wheels program deserved a grant.

“IT was with great joy that we recommended funding for this program,” Katie said. “We left there knowing that as women right here in our community are lifted up, we are stronger as a whole.”
Celebrate Mother’s Day with a special gift to WEF

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 Women’s Endowment Fund. Your gifts will support women and girls 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 Women’s Endowment Fund’s grant-making, which to date exceeds $650,000 to deserving nonprofit organizations.

Your gift of:

- **$100** will improve the self-esteem of three middle school girls through an empowerment program that focuses on building positive friendships
- **$50** will educate seven teenage girls about the warning signs of an abusive relationship and help prevent teen dating violence
- **$25** will help a young woman who has been abandoned or abused learn to make healthy decisions and become self-sufficient

Honor the special women in your life at www.akroncf.org/give/WEFMothersDay.

Memorial gifts for:

- **Paul Fihn** by Ilene & Robert Shapiro
- **Kathryn M. Hunter** by Sue Fassoles
- **Pearl Korman** by Robert & Jane Clark
- **Helen Moss** by Judge Jane E. Bond, Dianne R. Newman
- **Jo Ann O’Dell** by Barbara & Todd Greene
- **Delores Shamell** by Dianne R. Newman
- **Selma Smith** by Dr. Cynthia Rudick
- **Sarah Rose Zeff** by Yamini Adkins, Esther Cooper, Marie Covington, Patricia Divoky, Jason Dodson, David & Rene Dornack, Leonard Foster, Virginia Hayne, Connie Krauss, Patricia McKay, Holly Miller, Marjorie A. Muirden, Dr. George Newkome
- **Council Member Paula Prantice**
- **Russell Pry**
- **Drew Reilly**
- **Norma Rist**
- **Gloria Rodgers**
- **Margaret Romutis**
- **Mary Sayre**
- **Kristen Scalise**
- **John Schmidt**
- **Jill Skapin**
- **Allan & Carol Tolchinsky**
- **Pamela Zitron, Linda Bailey, Ronnie Nathanson and our families**
- **Laurie Zuckerman**
- **Drs. Mark & Sandy Auburn**
- **Judge Jane E. Bond**
- **Rosalind Edwards**
- **Sue Fassoles**
- **John Garofalo**
- **Lin Gentile**
- **Toby Gorant**
- **Leianne Neff Heppner**
- **Karina Lopper-Orr**
- **Nancy McClennagh**
- **Greg & Jackie McDermott**
- **Dianne R. Newman**
- **Cathy Shew**
- **Kevin & Carmen Ann Thompson**
- **Sylvia Trundle**
- **Gary Wyatt**
- **Jackie McDermott** by Judy Baker
- **Paula Pollachek** by Dianne R. Newman
- **Judy Read** by Roger T. Read
- **Amy Beth Shapiro** by Ilene, Robert and Kim Shapiro
- **Sylvia Trundle** by Kay Hine
- **Nancy Zacky** by Dianne R. Newman
- **Laurie Zuckerman** by Rita Johnson, Marilyn & Landon Zuckerman

Memorial gifts for:

- **Women’s Endowment Fund**
- **Women**
- **Girls**
- **Self-esteem**
- **Empowerment program**
- **Positive friendships**
- **Teen dating violence**
- **Abuse**
- **Healthy decisions**
- **Self-sufficiency**

Make a gift in honor or memory of someone special at www.akroncf.org/give/WEF.
Annual dinner to feature TV producer Dee Haslam

You won’t want to miss this year’s “For Women, Forever” dinner as Emmy-nominated television producer and RIVR Media CEO Dee Haslam joins the Women’s Endowment Fund in celebrating the philanthropy of women and girls. Haslam’s production company is a multi-million dollar enterprise known for producing “Trading Spaces” and other hit reality shows. Her work has earned her numerous awards, including an Emmy nomination and the New York Festivals World Medal.

WHAT: “For Women, Forever” Annual Dinner

WHEN: Thursday, April 24, 2014
5:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception
6:30 p.m. Dinner & Program

WHERE: Quaker Station at Quaker Square Inn
at the University of Akron

REGISTER: Purchase tickets or become a sponsor at www.regonline.com/ForWomenForever or call 330-376-8522. Individual tickets start at $75.

DEADLINE: Purchase your tickets by April 14.