



**Uplifting Women and  
Girls, Now and Forever**

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Nov. 3, 2025

Thank you for your generous past support of the Women's Endowment Fund's signature event, "For Women, Forever." This year's innerseated dinner will take place on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Quaker Station, hosted by emcee Sara Shookman, a career journalist and founder of Storyglow Studio. We anticipate this event will sell out, so we encourage you to secure your reservation now by becoming a sponsor.

This year's theme, "Strength in Action," is embodied by the 2026 Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women recipient, Bernett L. Williams, chief engagement officer at Akron Children's. In addition to being honored as this year's award recipient, Williams will participate in a fireside chat, where she will share her own journey of strength. In her current role, Williams is responsible for leading the hospital's community partnerships and collaborations, patient and family engagement efforts, community benefit strategies, and efforts to foster a culture of belonging, respect and equitable access across the hospital system.

Williams currently serves on the boards of the Akron History Center, Greater Akron Chamber and Minerva Fund of Akron. She has been recognized with many awards throughout her career, including Crain's Cleveland Business' 40 Under 40 Award and Summit County Children's Services' Champion for Children Community Leader Award. Former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland inducted Williams into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. In October 2020, she was honored with three prestigious community awards: Love Akron's Brenda Burnham Unruh Servant Leader Award, Project GRAD Akron's Community Leader Award, and Leadership Akron's Read Family Difference Maker Award. In 2022, the American Red Cross honored her with the H. Peter Burg Community Leadership Award. We are thrilled to join these organizations in honoring Williams for her outstanding contributions to our community.

The mission of the Women's Endowment Fund is to uplift women and girls by funding programs that significantly impact their well-being, now and forever. As an endowment fund committed to improving the lives of local women and girls, it is the only fund of its kind in Summit County. Sponsorships and donations from generous organizations and individuals, like you, allow us to continue growing our grantmaking. In 2025, the Women's Endowment Fund awarded \$191,000 in grants to nonprofits that support the health, safety and economic empowerment of women and girls. To date, the fund has awarded nearly \$2.5 million to nonprofits throughout Summit County. You can learn more at [womensendowmentfund.org](http://womensendowmentfund.org).

We invite you to make a difference in the lives of local women and girls by renewing or increasing your contribution as an event sponsor. Your commitment to this important cause will be recognized at the celebration, which is annually attended by nearly 400 community leaders. Enclosed is a list of sponsorship opportunities for your consideration. For more information, please contact Affiliate Fund Event & Volunteer Coordinator Malia Rivera-Speer at [mrivera@akroncf.org](mailto:mrivera@akroncf.org). We, and the entire Women's Endowment Fund Advisory Board, thank you for your support of women and girls in our community.

Please respond by Jan. 5, 2026, for special recognition as outlined in the attached sponsorship reservation form.

Sincerely,

Holli Mallak  
Chair, "For Women, Forever"  
Advisory Board Member

Alisa Benedict O'Brien  
Co-Chair, "For Women, Forever"  
Advisory Board Member



# Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsors who respond by **Jan. 5, 2026**, will receive full recognition according to their sponsorship level, as outlined on the sponsorship menu. Sponsorships must be received by **Feb. 23, 2026**, to be included in the event program.

## Annual Celebration

March 26, 2026

Please select your preferred sponsorship level:

**Community Partner \$25,000** (exclusive to one)  
*\$23,240 is deductible*

**Empower \$10,000**  
*\$8,240 is deductible*

**Uplift \$7,500**  
*\$6,620 is deductible*

**Inspire \$5,000**  
*\$4,120 is deductible*

**Support \$2,500**  
*\$1,620 is deductible*

I/We cannot attend but would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of Bennett L. Williams, the 2026 recipient of the Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women.

**Please print your name or organization as you wish it to appear in event materials:**

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Name / Organization

Contact Name (if different)

---

Street Address

City/State/ZIP

---

Phone

Email Address

### Preferred Payment Method

Reserve online at [akroncf.org/give/WEF](https://akroncf.org/give/WEF). Write "For Women, Forever" in the comments section.

Check made payable to Akron Community Foundation, with "For Women, Forever" in the memo.

VISA    MasterCard    Discover    This is a corporate card.

---

Name as it appears on card

Signature

---

Card Number

Exp. Date

Please list the names and emails of your attendees. We will reach out closer to the event date to confirm your dinner selections:

Full Name	Email
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____

Please email [mriviera@akroncf.org](mailto:mriviera@akroncf.org) with the names of any additional attendees. You must submit all guest names by **March 19, 2026**, to be printed on name tags. Or list all guest names on a separate sheet of paper and return with this form to:

**Akron Community Foundation**  
Women's Endowment Fund  
345 W. Cedar St.  
Akron, OH 44307  
Fax: 330-376-0202

**Logo inclusion for corporate sponsors: Please submit a black-and-white/grayscale AND a full-color PNG or EPS file** of your company's logo to [oeastly@akroncf.org](mailto:oeastly@akroncf.org) by **Jan. 5, 2026**.


**Program Acknowledgments:** Please send a print-ready **black-and-white/grayscale PDF file** according to your sponsor level to [oeastly@akroncf.org](mailto:oeastly@akroncf.org) by **Feb. 23, 2026**.  
Program Acknowledgment Sizes - **Full Page:** 5"W X 8"H; **Half Page:** 5"W X 4"H.

**Please note:** We gladly accept gifts from donor-advised funds and IRAs. However, per IRS regulations, sponsorships from donor-advised funds and IRAs cannot receive any benefits, including but not limited to event tickets, gifts, food, beverages and other items of value. If you plan to support the event with a gift from your donor-advised fund or IRA, please contact Deb Hoffman at 330-436-5614 or [dhoffman@akroncf.org](mailto:dhoffman@akroncf.org).

**Questions? Contact Malia Rivera-Speer at 330-436-5649 or [mriviera@akroncf.org](mailto:mriviera@akroncf.org).**  
All phone calls and emails will be returned during normal business hours.

*The Women's Endowment Fund is a fund of Akron Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity. Your tax acknowledgment card will confirm your reservation. Sponsorships and tickets are nonrefundable, but tickets may be transferred. Please notify Akron Community Foundation of any changes to contact person(s) or company names by calling 330-376-8522.*

# 2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

 <b>WOMEN'S ENDOWMENT FUND</b> <small>An Akron Community Foundation Fund</small>	Community Partner \$25,000	Empower \$10,000	Uplift \$7,500	Inspire \$5,000	Support \$2,500
	<i>\$23,240 deductible</i>	<i>\$8,240 deductible</i>	<i>\$6,620 deductible</i>	<i>\$4,120 deductible</i>	<i>\$1,620 deductible</i>
<b>Exclusive Community Partnership</b>					
Representative invited to nonprofit site visit(s)	✓				
<b>“For Women, Forever” Annual Celebration</b>					
Two tables of eight guests each, including access to a VIP reception before dinner	✓	✓			
One table of eight guests, including access to a VIP reception before dinner			✓	✓	✓
Name/logo included on promotional materials, including invitation and evite	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Social media post acknowledging your sponsorship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Listed as a major sponsor in press releases	✓	✓	✓		
Name/logo included in event slideshow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Acknowledgment in the printed program	Full page	Full page	Half page	Half page	Listed

All sponsors will receive VIP tickets to the “For Women, Forever” Annual Celebration. This includes an invitation to the VIP reception at 5 p.m., including an open bar and appetizers. Bennett L. Williams, the recipient of the 2026 Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women, will be in attendance at the VIP reception.

All guests will receive a drink ticket that can be redeemed for one drink during the main program.

If you have questions about the sponsorship benefits, please contact Affiliate Fund Event & Volunteer Coordinator Malia Rivera-Speer at 330-436-5649 or [mrivera@akroncf.org](mailto:mrivera@akroncf.org). All phone calls and emails will be returned during normal business hours.