Bath Community Fund awards grants to commemorate township’s bicentennial, support youth enrichment programs

Bath Community Fund (BCF) of the Akron Community Foundation announced its second round of grants to support nonprofit organizations serving Bath Township on Nov. 17. Grants totaling $14,135 were awarded to eight local nonprofits, bringing the fund’s cumulative grant-making total to nearly $30,000 since it was established in 2014 by a group of Bath residents.

BCF is a permanent endowment that supports programs that preserve Bath’s history and environment, enhance arts and culture, serve youth through education and recreation and meet social service needs. Since its inception, the fund has raised more than $470,000.

This year’s recipients, chosen from 16 applicants, are Bath Township, Bath Park Board, Bath Volunteers for Service, Summit County Astronomy Club received a $3,000 grant to purchase equipment for a handicapped-accessible telescope.

Embracing Futures Inc., Girls on the Run Northeast Ohio, Summit County Astronomy Club, Victory Gallop and Western Reserve Historical Society.

Funding requests totaled nearly $56,000, doubling both the number of grant applications and the amount requested by nonprofits.

“We received so many deserving requests, but with limited funds, we chose the projects that would impact the most people in the most lasting ways,” said Mary Anne Krejci, chair of BCF’s grant committee.

BCF leaders set a goal to raise $2.018 million by the end of 2018 through the “For Bath, Forever” campaign. With an endowment of more than $2 million,
“A fund of that size would allow us to meet all of the grant requests we received this year twice over,” Krejci said.

**Bicentennial support**

Two of the grants will help commemorate Bath Township’s approaching bicentennial.

A $1,000 grant will support the “Celebrate the Past” family festival at Hale Farm on Feb. 24. The free event will be the first in a yearlong series to celebrate the township’s 200th anniversary in 2018. It will also mark the 60th anniversary of Hale Farm. The family-friendly fest will highlight early-American craft demonstrations and celebrate historic homes, narratives and photos of Bath.

“As a living history museum, Hale Farm & Village tells the story of Bath Township, and our bicentennial celebration will keep this rich and storied history alive,” said Elaina Goodrich, Bath Township trustee.

“The activities and demonstrations will teach community members about the lives of early township residents, creating a greater appreciation for those who have come before us.”

A $3,000 grant will honor the bicentennial by supporting the construction of a new shelter at Bath Community Park to commemorate the bicentennial, $3,000.

- Bath Park Board, for the construction of a new shelter at Bath Community Park to commemorate the bicentennial, $3,000.
- Bath Volunteers for Service, to support the 41st Annual Bath Tour of Distinctive Homes, $135.
- Embracing Futures Inc., to support an oral health education program for third-graders at Hillcrest Elementary School, $1,000.
- Girls on the Run Northeast Ohio, to support a running-based youth development program for girls in the Bath community that combines physical activity with discussions about self-confidence, bullying and healthy relationships, $1,000.
- Summit County Astronomy Club, to purchase equipment to make a telescope at the Bath Nature Preserve Observatory accessible to those with disabilities, $3,000.

- Victory Gallop Inc., to support the 2018 therapeutic horseback-riding program for children with special needs and life-threatening illnesses, $3,000.
- Western Reserve Historical Society, to resurface walking paths in the Goldsmith Garden at Hale Farm and improve guest access and mobility in honor of Hale Farm’s 60th anniversary, $2,000.

For more information on BCF, contact Jody Miller Konstand, advisory board chair, at 330-618-4477 or jmkmedia@msn.com. ∞

**Youth programs**

Other grants awarded this year will support youth programs – a nod to the “forever” element of the campaign – including an oral health education program for third-graders, a running-based youth development program for adolescent girls and a therapeutic horseback riding program for children with special needs.

**Full list of grants**

- Bath Township, to support the “Celebrate the Past” family festival at Hale Farm on Feb. 24 and kick off the yearlong bicentennial celebration, $1,000.
- Bath Park Board, for the construction of a new shelter at Bath Community Park to commemorate the bicentennial, $3,000.
- Bath Volunteers for Service, to support the 41st Annual Bath Tour of Distinctive Homes, $135.
- Embracing Futures Inc., to support an oral health education program for third-graders at Hillcrest Elementary School, $1,000.
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We encourage letters to the editor. Letters are limited to 250 words and must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification (not for publication). The street name will be printed. We reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity and length only. We might not use letters for space reasons or those that have appeared in other publications or letters on a single topic submitted multiple times by the same individual or group.

**Trustee incumbents return for another term**

by Jacqueline Mitchell

Bath Board of Trustees incumbents Becky Corbett and Jim Nelson were re-elected to four-year terms, according to final but unofficial results from the Summit County Board of Elections.

Corbett garnered the most votes, with 1,477. Nelson received 1,185, defeating resident Brad Bowers, who received 1,174, by just 11 votes. Resident Matt Browarek received 1,009 votes.

**Fire levy**

Residents passed a 1.75-mill fire/EMS levy, with 1,875 voting for it and 1,109 voting against. The continuous levy will collect $882,000 annually for Bath Fire Department operating expenses, including employee salaries and health care costs. It will cost the owner of a $100,000 home $61.25 each year.

**School board**

Incumbent George Seifert was reelected to another four-year term on the Revere Local Schools Board of Education, garnering 2,721 votes. He will be joined by Christopher Kostoff, who who was appointed to the board in 2005 and elected to one four-year term in 2008. Kostoff received 2,668 votes.

Resident Hayden Hajdu received 2,129 votes. Current board member Thomas Kelley did not seek reelection. ∞

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