Grant supports toy library for children with disabilities

Would you like to see if your children or grandchildren will actually enjoy that educational toy before you invest in it? Are your grandchildren or relatives with children coming to visit and you need something to keep them entertained?

Recent grant dollars from the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund are helping the SHC/The Arc of Medina County continue to provide a toy lending library that is available to all Medina County residents for just that purpose.

The toy lending library has been in existence for more than 20 years and is continually expanding its catalog and coverage of the county. SHC is very grateful for grants like the one from MCWEF, as grants provide about one-third of the funding for the program. The remainder of the funding comes from donations and the SHC Foundation. This funding is critical to keep the program running and to purchase new toys to add to the expanding collection.

Area residents may peruse a toy catalog at any of the libraries in the Medina County District Library system, as well as the Wadsworth Library. All toys in the collection are designed to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, but they are also appropriate for children without disabilities.

With an emphasis on education, these toys encourage active play, music and art, and language and communication skills. Specially adapted toys for children with special needs are also available. Individuals may request up to six toys and sign them out for 30 days at a time.

Once a request is made, the toy is delivered in its own mesh bag to the library where the request was made. All toys are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized by SHC.

In addition to the toy lending library, there is also a resource center that lends a variety of medical and adaptive equipment on a short-term basis to people recovering from surgery or injury, as well as individuals with disabilities. SHC has an entire barn full of equipment available for loan to any citizen of Medina County in need. There is also an information and referral service available to those who need help finding resources.

Let’s help spread the word about these wonderful resources in our community for anyone who may be in need of them, as well as those who would like to donate toys, equipment or funds. For more information, call SHC at 330-722-1900 or visit www.shc-medina.org.

See a full list of MCWEF’s recent grants at www.akroncf.org/MCWEFgrants.
It’s hard to believe that it’s spring! It seems like I was just working on the agenda for our advisory board’s yearly planning meeting in January. And what a busy meeting that was! Plans are underway to create more opportunities for you to learn more about MCWEF and the work we do. We are exploring ways to broaden our reach into the communities we serve. To help our donors more fully understand how MCWEF serves the nonprofit community, we will be hosting several small-group gatherings throughout the year.

Other longtime initiatives like our annual Mother’s Day campaign will also be growing. Are you looking for a new — more meaningful — way to honor the significant women in your life? See page three to learn how you can recognize those important women while benefiting women and children in need through MCWEF.

And can you believe Festival of Trees turns 10 this year? Another milestone to celebrate! Last year’s event netted a record $25,213.64, and we plan to increase that total this year. Look for more details over the summer about how you can be part of this year’s Festival of Trees.

Now that it’s spring, “grant season” is officially underway! Applications were due March 1, and we’re now in the process of selecting the programs we will fund for 2016. Although our endowment is growing, we’re still unable to fulfill many critical requests. We need your help to meet those needs! Please consider making a gift.

Finally, I want to thank the women who serve on our fund’s advisory board. I am very fortunate to work with these ladies. Their commitment is extraordinary, and I couldn’t ask for a better group. I am proud to live in a community that is so engaged in identifying the needs of its residents, especially women and children.

To learn more about MCWEF and how you can get involved, please call me at 216-337-2106 or email medinacountywef@gmail.com.

Have a wonderful spring!

Cathy Posner, president
Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund
A Cupcake A Day...  
ABC Therapy Ltd.  
Peggy Abraham  
Acme Farm Market  
Akron Community Foundation  
Patty Allison-Roy  
Rebecca Alspach  
Michael Andrews  
Anonymous (2)  
Antiquation, LLC  
Avenue at Medina  
Paula Banks  
Baskets Galore  
Colette Berger  
Carol J. Beriswill  
Connie Kubis  
Bloom Event Planning & Management Services, LLC  
John E. Boreman  
Mary Brady  
Diane M. Brown  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Bunker Hill Golf Course  
Bonita Caesar  
Rebecca Carlson  
Chill Ice Cream, Inc.  
Irene Clark  
Ann Cole  
Leah Comes  
Tara Comes  
Paula Connor  
The Corkscrew Saloon  
Curves  
Betty Daubner  
Tammy Daubner  
Deer Pass Golf Course  
Sean & Amy Demlow  
Dog Gone Crazy Inc.  
DeLean Dotterer  
Barbara Dzur  
Elegant Essentials  
ETHIX Financial Group  
Russ Farnsworth  
Feeding Medina County  
FirstMerit Bank N.A.  
Bruce & Nancy Fisher  
Fitness Together  
Flight Services of Medina  
Roberta Fogel  
Patricia Fordsi  
Carol Fouch  
Fox Meadows Country Club  
Lynn Franz  
Friends of Medina County  
Parks Inc.  
John Garofalo  
Linda Garret  
Judith Gerdes  
Eric Glass  
Karen Glass  
Jill Graber  
Carol Grabowski  
Jennifer Graham  
Grange Insurance Companies  
Great Lakes Theater Festival Inc.  
Half Moon Yoga  
Judy Hardesty  
HHL Group LLC  
Homestead Insurance Agency  
James & Heather Horn  
Bonita V. Hunt Gullo  
Hunter Insurance Agency Inc.  
Estella Hutchinson  
Sarah Jane Ingraham  
INSYTE Communications  
Wendy Isaac  
Kathryn Janini  
Sandra & Tom Jenkins  
Joanne Johnson  
Kelly’s Cafe  
Toby & Cindy Kemsuzian  
Jennifer Kotalac  
Wendy Kouvaris, ALF  
Michael Kovack  
Leadership Medina County  
Janice Leatherman  
Kathy Long  
Linda Loveless  
Anne Mainwaring  
Master Pizza  
Beth McGuire  
Erin McKelvey  
Katherine McMillan  
Sharon McNeil  
Loretta Meade  
Diane Meckes  
Medina County Health Department  
Medina County Park District  
Medina Kappa Mu  
Medina Gem Co.  
Medina Raptor Center  
William Memberg  
Memphis Entertainment Group  
Lisa A. Micali  
Mona & Robert W. Mims, Jr.  
Janet Moxley  
Alyce Mroczynski  
Anne Murphy  
Victoria Nann  
Diane O’Neil  
Marsha Pappalardo  
Pearlview Rehab & Wellness Center  
PetalsSweet Cleaning  
Michelle Petty  
Pier 1 Imports  
Porthouse Theatre  
Cathy Culp Posner  
Cathy & Mason Posner  
Potomac Bead Company LLC  
Delcie Pound  
Nancy Pound  
Nancy Pound & Jack Heimovics  
Laura S. Rampe  
Leafie Ravid  
Eleanor Reed  
Lisa Rice  
Ruth Rodgers  
Robert Rogers  
Root Candles  
Donna Ruswinkle  
Carolyn Sadler  
Dan Saul  
Lisa Pflaum Saunders  
Renee Scherick  
Kim Schreiber  
Sew Fine Fabric  
Becky Shotwell  
Suzanne Simmons  
Diane Snider  
Andrea Snitzer  
Something’s Popping  
Lucy Sondles  
Lucie Sovey  
Sparrow Art Gallery and Studio  
Nancy Sprows  
Karen Studd  
Judy Stull & Bob Hug  
Summa Health System  
Heidi Sweeney  
Therapeutic Associates of Medina

For gifts received Sept. 1, 2015, to Feb. 29, 2016

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 $125,000 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.

Celebrate Mother’s Day

Happy Mother’s Day!
Magic was in the air on an unseasonably warm evening for our ninth annual Festival of Trees at Weymouth Country Club on Nov. 5.

Nearly 300 guests were in attendance for the festive event, which featured jewelry and ornament raffles, silent auctions, and a new wine pull where everyone wins. Thanks to the talents of auctioneer Russ Farnsworth, there was also a live auction in which guests could bid on a fully decorated tree, raptor experience, trip on the Polar Express, vacation condo in Florida, and much more. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors, donors, guests, and everyone who donated their time and talents to make the evening such a success. The event raised a record $25,213.64 for the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund, and we couldn’t have done it without you!

Event proceeds help us continue to grow our fund so we can grant more money to deserving nonprofits serving women and children each year.

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016, for our 10th annual Festival of Trees. Plans are already underway to make it even more magical, and you won’t want to miss it!

See more photos from the event at [www.akroncf.org/FestivalofTrees2015](http://www.akroncf.org/FestivalofTrees2015).