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Community Foundation

GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016



Hear from Equality Ohio at annual meeting

Join the Gay Community Endowment Fund on Sunday, May 15 for its annual meeting, held in the rotunda of the John S. Knight Center from 2-5 p.m. Alana Jochum, managing director of Equality Ohio, will join the event, talking to attendees about her organization's advocacy for LGBTQ equality statewide. We'll also be unveiling the Gay Games 9 permanent commemorative art piece in front of the Akron Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau. Designed by Don Drumm, its presence will forever remind visitors and the community that, for one week in time, Akron helped to host the world.

[Register for this year's annual meeting.](#)



GCEF scholarship apps now being accepted

Spread the word to any lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied students you know - the GCEF Scholarship Fund is now accepting scholarship applications. The scholarship fund awards academic scholarships to LGBT and allied students who live or study in Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne counties, and have positively impacted the LGBT community. Priority is given to students who have participated in organizations or initiatives that make a positive difference in the LGBT community. Applications are due by Saturday, April 30.

[Learn more and access the application.](#)



OutSupport Inc. receives GCEF funding

OutSupport Inc. was started as a grassroots effort in Medina when Sandy Varndell saw the need for an organization to promote the health and well-being of the the LGBTQ community, their family and friends. OutSupport provides these individuals with support, resources, education, monthly meetings and more. Now, thanks to a \$3,500 grant from GCEF, OutSupport will be able to upgrade their online resources, have representatives at more events and resource fairs, upgrade their social media presence and help offset program expenses. GCEF is proud of the strides this organization has made to create a space where all are welcome, new friends can be made, questions can be answered, encouragement can be given, resources can be obtained and people can realize they are not alone.

GCEF awards \$38K in grants

Including the grant to OutSupport Inc., GCEF recently awarded \$38,061 in grants to 12 community programs that positively impact the local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Grant funds will be used to support a student-led cyberbullying prevention and education campaign at a local school, provide support for LGBT seniors and more.

[See information about all the recent GCEF grants.](#)



Welcome, new board members

Welcome to our two newest board members - Bernadine Burchett and Matt McCallum! Bernie is an Akron native who is currently an independent consultant for the Ohio Department of Education, following more than 30 years of work with Akron Public Schools. She and her wife, Peggy Zanin, have a daughter, Megan. Matt oversees training and recruitment programs for HFA. He is a past president of Torchbearers and was also a member of Leadership Akron Class 29. He resides in Akron with his partner, Benjamin Manista.

[Read about all of our board members.](#)

Another successful Sugar Plum Tour



What did more than 1,000 people in the Akron area do this past Dec. 6? They attended the 14th annual Sugar Plum Tour of holiday homes. More than \$100,000 was raised this year thanks to ticket sales, raffles, sponsors and the inaugural online auction. Thank you to all who graciously shared their homes and holiday spirit, as well as those who attended the event, supporting diversity and inclusion. Save the date for next year's Sugar Plum Tour on Sunday, Dec. 4.

Save the date

April 8: CIFF40 AKRON Screening

Don't miss AKRON, the LGBT and Akron-focused film being screened at the Akron-Summit County Public Library and sponsored by the Gay Community Endowment Fund. [Details and ticket info](#)

May 15: GCEF Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will include the unveiling of the permanent Don Drumm commemorative art piece for Gay Games 9. [Details and registration](#)

Ways to Give

From cash to mutual funds to real estate, there are many ways to give to the Gay Community Endowment Fund.

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Events

Know of any exciting upcoming community events? Submit them to the Akron Community Foundation.

[Learn More](#)

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE. THAT'S OUR MISSION.

The Gay Community Endowment Fund is a permanent philanthropic endowment of Akron Community Foundation. To date, it has granted nearly \$400,000 to nonprofits in the Greater Akron area that support or positively impact the LGBT community. The fund serves as a catalyst for the full participation of LGBT people in our society and promotes philanthropy within the LGBT and allied communities. Since 2001, the fund has grown to approximately \$1 million. The earned income from this balance is distributed through annual grantmaking.

www.gaycommunityfund.org



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