MCWEF awards $13,570 in grants to local nonprofits

Supporting important projects that serve women and children in Medina County is the core mission of the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund. In 2015, the board awarded $13,570 in grants to nine nonprofit organizations, bringing its cumulative grant-making total to $125,022 since its inception in 1998.

This year, MCWEF received 18 grant requests. The Grant Review Committee selected nine of those grants for funding, and they were unanimously approved by the advisory board.

Nearly half of the amount awarded will support transportation programs for women in need, including a $3,000 grant to Faith in Action Medina County Caregivers. The grant will provide free transportation to and from medical appointments for elderly and disabled women in Medina County, helping them maintain their independence, dignity and quality of life.

In addition, another $3,000 will help homeless women and children get to work, school and medical appointments through Operation H.O.M.E.S. The nonprofit agency collaborates with Medina County Public Transit, a local cab company, and volunteer drivers to provide free transportation for its clients.

Dr. Mari Halkovich, MCWEF Grant Review Committee chair, said, “We are proud to help meet the needs of the Medina County community through our grant funding. My thanks to the committee members for their dedication and hard work.”

The following grants were awarded in 2015:

**Battered Women’s Shelter**, for domestic violence support groups in Medina County, $2,000

**Birthcare of Medina County**, to purchase diapers, wipes and other basic necessities for children in low-income families, $500

**Faith in Action Medina County Caregivers**, to provide free transportation to and from medical appointments for elderly and disabled women in Medina County, $3,000

**LifeAct**, for suicide prevention and depression awareness programs at Brunswick, Buckeye, Cloverleaf, Highland and Medina high schools, $1,500

**Matthew 25 Coalition**, to provide emergency assistance to women and children in rural southwest Medina County, $1,000

**Operation H.O.M.E.S.**, to provide homeless women and children with transportation to work, school and medical appointments, $3,000

**Rape Crisis Center**, for the Tina Project, which helps prevent teen dating violence by educating middle and high school students about healthy relationships, $1,000

**RePlay for Kids**, to provide adapted toys to low-income families with children with disabilities in Medina County, $1,000

**Society for Handicapped Citizens of Medina County**, to support the toy lending library, which loans educational and adapted toys to families of children with disabilities, $570

See all the grants MCWEF has awarded in its 17-year history at www.akroncf.org/MCWEFgranthisory.
RePlay for Kids was the brainchild of Bill Memberg, a biomedical engineer who began repairing and modifying toys for an agency serving children with disabilities about 25 years ago. By 1994, a relationship with the Case Engineering Service Group of Case Western Reserve University was established to repair more toys and serve more agencies.

In 1999, RePlay for Kids was established as a nonprofit organization and has since grown significantly, giving away about 1,000 adapted toys in 2014. To date in 2015, they have already adapted more than 1,000 toys, according to Natalie Wardega, vice president and director of operations. A grant from the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund this year will support the program.

RePlay for Kids serves nonprofit organizations in nine counties in Northeast Ohio, but its headquarters is located in Medina, where it began. The agency will hold more than 75 workshops this year at various schools, universities and businesses across Northeast Ohio. Any business or school interested in hosting a workshop is asked to either hold a toy drive or make a donation to pay for the toys that will be adapted. Toys must be battery operated and can be new or gently used.

Adaptation workshops are held on location and typically last two to three hours. RePlay for Kids supplies a workshop leader to instruct and supervise the volunteers, as well as all the tools and supplies necessary for the task. Host organizations just need to provide the volunteers and a workspace to operate.

The number of toys adapted in each county is then given back to the same number of children in that county, although specific toys are distributed where they’re most needed.

Each year in December, the recipient nonprofit organizations – 26 at last count – are invited to an adaptive toy giveaway, where they can choose toys suitable for their clients. In addition, the RePlay at Home program gives adapted toys directly to low-income families with children with disabilities who could not otherwise afford to purchase the toys.

Along with adapting toys for the 26 nonprofit agencies it serves, RePlay for Kids also repairs existing toys and devices that the organizations do not have the funding, time or knowledge to repair on their own.

See more photos of recent RePlay for Kids workshops and toy recipients at www.akroncf.org/RePlay.
In 2015, nearly 40 people throughout Medina County celebrated Mother’s Day with gifts totaling $1,770 to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund. Their generous gifts will support women and children in our community forever, a fitting tribute to the women who have made a difference in their own lives. All of the women who were honored received a special card telling them of the gift that was made in their name. We’re grateful to the many people who took part in this campaign and increased the awareness about our vital work in Medina County.

Mother’s Day gifts pay tribute to special women

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Memorial Gifts for:
- Madeline Arnold by Alanna Arnold
- Jenny Boreman by Cathy Culp Posner
- Helen Falk by Janice Falk
- Catherine N. Hinkel by Elizabeth Daubner
- Lillian Moran Hinkel by Elizabeth Daubner
- Mae Lerch by Faye Holvey
- Marian Macklin by Jaclyn Ringstmeier
- Nancy Ann Margo by Kathleen Davis
- Germaine Mason by Janice Falk
- Kathleen McNeil by Sharon McNeil
- Alice Conway Moran by Elizabeth Daubner
- My mom by Sarah Jane Ingraham
- Yolanda Novak by Katie Horn Woodcock
- Betty Rice by Lisa Rice
- Bonnie Roy by Patricia Roy
- Janet Simmons by Kristen L. Ashby
- Anna May Tocci by Katie Horn Woodcock
- Clara Welling by Alanna Arnold

Tribute Gifts for:
- Mary Andrews by Kathleen Davis
- Sheryl Back-Eckert by Kathleen Davis
- Vickie Bowman by Margaret Medzie
- Carol Brenneman by Arnold & Cheryl Ingraham
- Colleen Cameralta by Carole Kowell
- Jackie Cassidy by Tara L. Haley
- Kathy Castiglia by Julie Owens
- Lyndsay Castiglia by Julie Owens
- Julia Courtney by Jeannine Murray
- Katie Culp by Peggy & Lloyd Culp
- Peggy Culp by Cathy Culp Posner
- Tammy Daubner by Anne Molnar
- Nicolette Eyssen by Suzan A. McCleanor
- Valarie S. Eyssen by Suzan A. McCleanor
- Barbara Gillette by Kathleen Davis
- Elizabeth Goldthwaite by Robert Safran
- Jen Graham by Rhonda & Edward Wurgler
- Nancy Hanko by Louise Hanko
- Janell Adams Harvey by Louise Kuhns Harvey
- Shannon Harvey by Louise Kuhns Harvey
- Stella Hutchinson by Nancy Pound
- Amelia Janosko by Jeannine Murray
- Jodi Walter Jones by Cathy Culp Posner
- Mary McKenna Kase by Mary & Jeffrey Kase, M.D.
- Cynthia Kasten by Melanie A. Kasten-Krause
- Angela Kelly by Patricia Roy
- Janice Kollar by Jaclyn Ringstmeier
- Monica Krause by Melanie A. Kasten-Krause
- Kim Lapinta by David Wetzel
- Janet Laub by Mary Isaac
- Janice Marsh by Julie Owens
- Morgan Mason by Cathy Culp Posner
- Melanie McKinney by Jeannine Murray
- Susan Mc Knight by Julie Owens
- Joan Meckes by Diane Meckes
- Shirley Mooney by Kristen L. Ashby
- Elaine Mravetz by Diane Meckes
- Kathleen C. Murray by Jeannine Murray
- My daughters by Sarah Jane Ingraham
- Jeanne Olinger by Sharon McNeil
- Rosa Owens by Julie Owens
- Nadine Perry by Kathleen Davis
- Mollie Pfister by Suzan A. McCleanor
- Cathy Posner by Peggy & Lloyd Culp
- Janice & Bob Falk
- Rhonda & Edward Wurgler
- Delcie Pound by Nancy Pound
- Katie Horn Woodcock
- Nancy Pound by Katie Horn Woodcock
- Katherine Harvey Power by Louise Kuhns Harvey
- Pam Ringstmeier by Jaclyn Ringstmeier
- Virginia Ritchie by Gini Paige
- Katie Horn Woodcock
- Tiffany Safran by Robert Safran
- Shely Sarna by Margaret Medzie
- Jennifer Schneider by Jaclyn Ringstmeier
- Mary Lou Seger by Sue Simmons
- Sue Simmons by Mary Lou Seger
- Karen Studd by Diane Meckes
- Robyn Tsacoumangos by Diane Dermody
- Valerie Turner by Carole Kowell
- Jennifer Wetzel by David Wetzel
- Karen Wetzel by David Wetzel
- Mary-Kathleen Whitten by Sharon McNeil
- Janine Zaucha by Carole Kowell

Additional Donors:
- Anonymous
- William & Pauline Bittner
- Leafie Dempsey
- Grange Insurance Companies

Did you know?
Memorial and tribute gifts to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund can honor or recognize a friend, colleague or loved one in a special, enduring way. When you make a gift in honor or memory of someone, we will send that person (or their family) a card acknowledging your gift in their name. It’s the perfect way to show someone you care while making a permanent difference in the lives of women and children. Gifts are fully tax deductible and can be made online at www.akroncf.org/give/MCWEF.
Festival of Trees seeks auction donations, sponsorships

Plans are well underway for our next annual Festival of Trees, which will be held Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015, at Weymouth Country Club.

We are planning a larger, more elegant event than ever and hope to raise $28,000 this year to increase our support of women’s and children’s programs in Medina County.

But we need your help in order to reach this goal.

Currently, we are seeking donations of goods and services from local businesses for our live and silent auctions, as well as corporate and individual sponsorships.

Sponsorships range from $100 to $3,000. The $3,000 presenting sponsorship includes prominent recognition at the event and eight complimentary tickets, among other benefits.

Do you own a business that has a product or service you could promote by donating to this event? Would your employees be willing to decorate a tree or wreath to be auctioned? Do you patronize a business or know someone who could contribute to this worthy cause?

The Festival of Trees is a great opportunity to promote your business while benefiting women and children in Medina County.

An event of this magnitude also needs many volunteers to make it run smoothly. Whether you have time to volunteer the night of the event, or you’d like to participate in the planning stages, we have a place for your talents!

For more information about how you can get involved, please email us at medinacountywef@gmail.com or call Karen Glass at 330-667-2365.

Tickets for this year’s Festival of Trees will go on sale in September. To request your invitation, register for our e-news at www.akroncf.org/MCWEFnews.