Bath Community Fund celebrates growth, grants at annual meeting

Elections alter advisory board

Nearly 75 supporters of Bath Community Fund gathered at Hale Farm & Village for its annual meeting on May 2 to celebrate the fund’s fifth anniversary.

Since the fund was established in June 2014, it has raised more than $815,000 and reinvested almost $50,000 in grants back into the community.

In 2018, BCF awarded grants totaling $19,800 to 10 nonprofits. Representatives from each of the recipients attended to share how that funding affects local residents and the community.

Stephanie Davis-Dieringer, director of programs and operations at Stewart’s Caring Place, thanked BCF for its grant to provide wigs and other support services to Bath residents with cancer.

“Two weeks ago, a mom brought in her 15-year-old daughter who was diagnosed with leukemia,” she said. “She was going to lose her hair during chemotherapy, and we were able to provide a wig so she felt confident in going to school the next day. I got an email from her mom thanking us for providing a normal life for her daughter.”

A new slate of advisory board members was elected at the meeting. Kathy Sidaway, a Bath resident for more than 30 years, was elected chair. She succeeds founding chair Jody Miller Konstand in the leadership role, as Konstand becomes chair of the development committee. Other appointments included Nancy Fay as vice chair, Scott Siddall as secretary and Kevin Kroskey as financial officer.

The evening culminated with Sidaway issuing a challenge to help the fund achieve its “For Bath, Forever” endowment campaign goal of $2.018 million in celebration of Bath’s bicentennial. An endowment of that size would enable BCF to grant at least $100,000 to nonprofits in Bath every year in perpetuity.

“My vision of Bath Community Fund and that $2 million goal is to turn our ripple into a tsunami that will cover the entire township, the entire state, the entire world,” Sidaway said. “Your gifts are going to help people that you’re never going to meet in ways that we will never, ever know.”

To learn more about the campaign, contact Sidaway at 330-285-5893 or kathysidaway@hotmail.com. Make a tax-deductible donation online at bathcommunityfund.org.

Historical society exhibit honors Bath veterans

The Bath Township Historical Society’s latest exhibit is “Honoring Bath Township Veterans.” The museum is located at 1241 North Cleveland-Massillon Rd. Hours are Monday from 2-4 p.m., Wednesday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and the last Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-noon. New members and volunteers are welcome.

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