Bath Community Fund announces $19,800 in grants

Bath Community Fund of Akron Community Foundation announced on Dec. 7 its third round of grants to support nonprofit organizations serving Bath Township. Grants totaling $19,800 were awarded to 10 local nonprofits, bringing the fund’s cumulative grantmaking total to nearly $50,000 since it was established in 2014.

Several of this year’s grants will benefit youth programs in Bath, including a $1,000 grant to Girls on the Run Northeast Ohio to support a running-based youth development program for girls in Bath. The program, which combines physical activity with discussions about self-confidence, bullying and healthy relationships, is offered to girls in third through eighth grade at Bath Elementary School, Richfield Elementary School and Revere Middle School.

“With the generous support of Bath Community Fund, 80 girls will have the opportunity to experience a program where learning to be healthy, confident and strong is the goal,” said Robyn Cutler, executive director of Girls on the Run Northeast Ohio.

While there is a fee to participate, Cutler said girls are never turned away because of an inability to pay. Grants, sponsorships and individual donations allow the organization to offer scholarships to low-income families.

Other grants awarded in 2018 will support the construction of an additional restroom at Bath Community Park, providing food for Revere students in need and make theater productions more accessible to senior citizens.

The following is a full list of grants awarded in 2018:

• Apollo’s Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, to provide free and discounted concert tickets for students and senior citizens of Bath Township, $1,000.
• Bath Park Board, for the construction of a restroom at Bath Community Park, $5,000.
• Bath Volunteers for Service, to support Tiny Tillers, a gardening and nature exploration program for preschoolers from the Bath area, $2,000.
• Girls on the Run Northeast Ohio, $1,000.
• Revere Power Pack Program, to provide food for Revere students in need to take home for the weekend, $2,000.
• Stewart’s Caring Place, to provide support services for Bath residents on a cancer journey, $1,500.
• Victory Gallop, to replace aging fencing on the farm, which offers therapeutic horseback riding programs for children with special needs and life-threatening illnesses, $2,000.
• Western Reserve Historical Society, to expand the welcome center at Hale Farm & Village, $3,500.
• Western Reserve Playhouse, to build a new entryway that makes the playhouse more accessible to seniors and people with disabilities, $1,000.

Now in its third year of grant making, BCF received 15 funding requests totaling nearly $53,000, almost triple the amount it had available to grant, according to Mary Anne Krejci, grant committee chair.

To expand the fund’s impact, BCF leaders set a goal to raise $2.018 million in celebration of Bath’s bicentennial year in 2018 through the “For Bath, Forever” campaign. With an endowment of more than $2 million, the fund would be able to award at least $100,000 to nonprofits in Bath every year. ∞

Victory Gallop receives Millennium Fund grant for winter fitness program

Victory Gallop in Bath received a $1,000 grant from Akron Community Foundation’s Millennium Fund for Children to support an eight-week winter fitness program for children with special needs to increase their agility and promote healthy behaviors. The foundation awarded 31 grants totaling $43,750 to children’s programs throughout Greater Akron.

A partnership of the Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com and Akron Community Foundation, the Millennium Fund for Children began in 1999 when local residents donated their last hour’s pay for Children’s causes in the next century. Since then, the endowment has grown to more than $1 million and awarded over 500 grants to programs that meet children’s needs, teach important life skills and enrich students’ lives through the arts. ∞