Grants fuel new early learning plan in county

By age 3, children are able to stand on one foot, share toys with a friend, and draw from a vocabulary of nearly 1,000 words. Remarkably, research shows they have also already formed 85 percent of their core brain structure.

Now, several of Akron Community Foundation’s grantees are participating in an unprecedented, countywide effort to maximize children’s learning during this critical time.

The First Things First initiative has brought more than 40 groups together to address the education, nutrition, social behavior, family support and special needs of young children. Under the leadership of Summit County Executive Russ Pry, local agencies are working to develop a countywide system that will ensure all children have a strong foundation for success in school and at home.

Partners include the Akron-Summit County Public Library, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, Asian Services in Action, Child Guidance & Family Solutions, and the Summit County Family and Children First Council, all of which received grants last year from Akron Community Foundation.

“Families, providers and the community all have a role to play, both in providing quality early experiences and supporting families to be their child’s first teacher,” said Tonya Block, director of the Family and Children First Council. “Investing in early childhood leads to a more educated, skilled workforce, which improves our county’s economy and leads to a better quality of life for our residents.”

The effort will outline a new plan to address all aspects of a child’s well-being, including screenings for vision, hearing and developmental delays. It will also create a system to provide parents with better access to community support services that will improve their children’s home environment.

Donors join forces to bring authors to area schools

This winter, nearly 100,000 students, teachers and community members in Summit County showed their support for literacy during the seventh Annual Day of Reading.

During the two days leading up to the This City Reads! celebration, kids in several local schools had the chance to meet a real-life children’s book author or illustrator.

Two funds at Akron Community Foundation – The Lisle M. Buckingham Endowment Fund and the Robert A. and Jean C. Meyers Family Fund – made this year’s Authors in the Schools program possible. Both funds made $5,000 grants to cover the cost of bringing the authors to Summit County.

“Most of the schools that participate in this program do not have the discretionary funds to bring in an author, so the students would not see them otherwise,” said Carolyn Burrier, youth serv-
In a recent conversation with our daughter regarding her wedding this summer, she excitedly mentioned her honeymoon plans. This reminded me of a comment shared by one of our board members recently, asking if I had emerged from the “honeymoon period” of my transition as the new CEO of Akron Community Foundation.

Looking back, it seems like quite a blur – especially considering all we’ve accomplished and the energy that our board and staff have generated surrounding the vital work of this organization.

Talk about time flying! On June 1, I’ll celebrate my two-year anniversary with Akron Community Foundation. As a result, I thought I’d take a quick look back at this exciting ride and highlight some of the significant accomplishments we’ve worked hard to achieve in greater Akron.

I hope you’ve seen the recent news announcing our selection as one of only 24 cities in the nation to receive a Knight Community Information Challenge grant. This investment will bring together resources from ACF, the Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com, the University of Akron and numerous other partners in creating a digital media academy that will train citizen journalists in the first local project of its kind.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation will support the project with a $350,000 grant over the next two years, with the ultimate goal of connecting residents at the neighborhood level while promoting digital literacy throughout greater Akron.

We are also very proud to have created the Food Pantry Capacity Fund in partnership with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. We are grateful for the support of 19 area funders, including the United Way of Summit County, which generously matched our $25,000 initial gift.

In total, nearly $115,000 has been raised to provide more than 60 local food pantries with much-needed refrigeration equipment, hand carts, shelving units and other resources. These distribution sites are the vital link that ensures food gets into the hands of hungry families in our neighborhoods.

Also, for the first time in our 55-year history, we’ve established funding priorities, including the early learning priority you will read about in this newsletter. We also focused our health and human services quarter on funding residents’ basic needs like hunger, clothing, shelter, abuse and neglect.

Internally, we’ve concentrated on cultivating relationships with new contributors while also deepening our connection with current donors. We created the new Community Connections newsletter for fund advisors to enlighten them about our area’s most pressing needs.

We also welcomed the leadership of board members and other volunteers who have stepped up to champion a new marketing and communications effort that will help build Akron Community Foundation’s awareness in the community.

As honeymoons go, I’d rank mine up there with the best of them. Akron Community Foundation is a precious treasure in our community, and I’m proud to join our board of directors, donors and staff in strengthening the positive impact we continue to have on so many lives. To be successful, we need your help, and we welcome your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

John T. Petures Jr.
President & CEO

Foundation’s portfolio up nearly 30% after three quarters

Akron Community Foundation’s investment portfolio finished the third quarter of its fiscal year beginning April 1, 2009, with a net gain of 2.8 percent.

This brings its fiscal year-to-date net return for the nine months ending Dec. 31, 2009, to 29.9 percent, and its calendar year net return for the 12 months ending Dec. 31, 2009, to 19.1 percent.

On a long-term basis, the foundation’s average annualized net return for the 10 years ending Dec. 31, 2009, is 4.6 percent.

Akron Community Foundation Investment Allocation as of 12/31/09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment Allocation</th>
<th>Net Annualized Investment Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Equity</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Equity</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Equity</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large-cap Domestic</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small &amp; Mid-cap</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Income</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the periods ending 12/31/09
Remaining true to its first grant-making priority of the year, Akron Community Foundation’s board focused 50 percent of its $384,500 in education grants on early learning initiatives. In total, $192,500 will support early childhood education programs throughout Summit County.

This is the second year Akron Community Foundation has concentrated its funding on Summit County’s youngest citizens. The board decided to renew its commitment after witnessing a significant change in the county’s education landscape following last year’s grants.

“One of the most gratifying results of our focus on early childhood education has been the innovative collaboration of local agencies, government entities and foundations,” said Rev. Sandy Selby, chair of the Distribution Committee.

The foundation’s board ratified nearly $3 million in total grants this quarter, including $2,394,813 from 77 designated and donor-advised funds.

The following is a full list of grants:

- **Alliance for Healthy Youth**, for youth development programming, $7,500
- **Akron Council on World Affairs Inc.**, for Global Scholars, $7,500
- **Akron General Medical Center**, for the Healthcare in Progress collaborative, $7,500
- **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority**, to continue early childhood development programs in AMHA communities, $95,000
- **Alchemy Inc.**, for the Myth, Muses & Scribes collaborative with Kent State University’s National Writing Program, $7,500
- **All-Star Training Club**, for the academic/sports summer camp for youth with disabilities, $12,000
- **The Arc of Summit & Portage Counties Inc.**, for the People Together disability awareness program, $10,000
- **Asian Services in Action Inc.**, for the READY program, an early childhood development program for children in refugee families, $12,500
- **Beacon Journal Charity Fund Inc.**, for oral health education for third-graders, $7,500
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve**, for the Eller Club, $30,000
- **Child Guidance & Family Solutions Inc.**, for the Toddlers and Preschoolers Succeeding Program, $50,000
- **First Book**, to purchase new books for children in need, $5,000
- **Fund For Our Economic Future**, to increase Akron Community Foundation’s support to $100,000 for Phase III, $50,000
- **Good Neighbors Inc.**, to purchase food, $10,000
- **Hattie Larlham Foundation**, to provide vocational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities at the Doggie Day Care & Boarding site, $20,000
- **He Brought Us Out Ministry**, for after-school and summer programming, $10,000
- **Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio Inc.**, for JA More Than Money, $7,500
- **Project GRAD Akron**, for a literacy program for elementary students, $25,000
- **Project LEARN of Summit County**, to support the transition of GED students to college, $20,000
- **Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Hilary Church**, for the AIM HIGH computer refurbishing program, $10,000
- **Summit Education Initiative**, for Destination College, $20,000
- **Twinsburg City School District**, for the Project STAR summer reading program, $10,000
- **YMCA**, to provide after-school programs for at-risk girls and female juvenile offenders, $10,000

**Grant Awards**

**Early learning takes priority as grants near $3 million**

Above: Families decorate pumpkins as part of Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority’s 2009 Boo Fest celebration. A $95,000 Community Fund grant to AMHA will help the agency expand its early learning programs. Right: A young boy holds his baby brother at AMHA’s Born Learning kickoff.
Every year, teachers dig deep into their own pockets to purchase extra materials for their classroom. Bulletin boards, puppet materials and laminating fees can quickly add up to an additional $500 over the course of a school year, particularly for early childhood educators who frequently use visual aids and crafts in their lessons.

This year, however, local educators are breathing a sigh of relief thanks to a new initiative at the Akron-Summit County Public Library.

With the help of a $35,000 grant from Akron Community Foundation, the library opened the Early Childhood Resource Lab, which gives teachers access to the materials and equipment they need for their classrooms.

The lab is geared for teachers of preschool through third grade and features an Ellison Die Cut Machine, a laminating machine, a paper cutter, a binding machine and other useful equipment.

Youth Services Coordinator Carolyn Burrier said the die-cutting machine has been a big hit with teachers because it allows them to create letters, numbers, shapes and puppets that would normally be a painstaking, expensive process.

“The Ellison machine just makes material crafts much easier for them,” she said. “It can cut four or five pieces of paper at one time, and it can also cut craft foam, felt and other materials that are not easy to cut with scissors.”

In addition, the die cutter can make visual aids for educators who are teaching basic skills like tying shoelaces. With the machine, teachers can create shoe-like shapes with holes for the kids to practice lacing.

“It makes teaching so much fun,” said lab coordinator Vicky Van der Schyf. Van der Schyf said fees for the laminating machines will remain low because the library charges only what it costs for the film. This is a huge advantage for people like Katie Collard, an educator for Born Learning who brings craft-based lessons to the homes of local children.

“We probably wouldn’t be able to do crafts with the kids if we weren’t able to come here and use these resources,” she said.

Teachers aren’t the only ones benefiting from the resource center. The library also purchased dozens of Kits for Kids that parents can check out to enhance their child’s education. Each kit includes six books, a DVD or CD, and a toy that relates to a specific theme. Topics range from apples and colors to friends and self-esteem.

Akron Community Foundation’s board directed nearly 60 percent of its $441,000 in education grants last year to early learning initiatives like the library’s resource center. The board decided to take a proactive approach to education funding after discovering every dollar invested in early education produces a $17 return.

And so far, Burrier said, teachers using the resource lab are reaping exponential rewards. “The response has been just overwhelmingly positive,” she said. “(The lab) helps teachers create a more stimulating environment for kids.”
Boy honors late grandmother with unique birthday wish

When Myles Mathews turned 7 years old on Jan. 17, there were balloons, cake and plenty of guests. But one thing was missing: presents.

This year, Myles sacrificed his usual birthday gifts to support a cause that is very close to his heart. The Barbara D. Mathews Ladybug Fund of Akron Community Foundation was established in December to honor the memory of Myles’ grandmother Barbara Mathews, a lifelong public servant who passed away in August after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Mathews spent 30 years shaping the lives of children at Akron Public Schools, serving as both a teacher and deputy superintendent.

She later accepted a position at FirstMerit Bank as senior vice president and manager of public affairs. But her favorite and most lasting role was as Myles’ grandmother.

“She was a real advocate for his education,” said Myles’ father, Mark. “He was her only grandchild, so they just had a really special bond. For me, being in the middle was just one of those very special things to be able to witness.”

Myles said he is excited to honor his grandmother – who he calls “Mambo” – in this way. “I really loved Mambo, and this could help other people,” Myles said.

His parents, Mark Mathews and Jody Sherwin, said Myles will help decide which nonprofit organizations the fund will support. It is their hope that the Ladybug Fund will be a way for Myles to remain connected to his grandmother, who was passionate about giving back to others.

“If Myles can follow in her footsteps in even a small way, that would be a great tribute,” Mark said. “We want Myles to know that everyone is not as fortunate as we are, but we have an opportunity to help.”

For more information about establishing a fund at Akron Community Foundation, or to contribute to the Barbara D. Mathews Ladybug Fund in honor of Myles’ 7th birthday, call Suzanne Allen, Akron Community Foundation’s vice president of development, at 330-376-8522.  

Odom Fund grants support local minority youth programs

The Vernon L. Odom Fund recently awarded $5,220 in grants to six Akron-area nonprofits that promote ethnic and racial harmony.

More than 80 percent of this year’s grants will support programs for local minority youth. Odom Grants Committee Chair Virginia Robinson pointed to First Tee of Akron as an example of an organization that instills positive values in children.

“(Learning to play golf) is an experience many African-American young people don’t often get involved in,” she said. “It’s a great opportunity to teach sportsmanship.”

This year’s grant recipients include: Center for Applied Theatre and Active Culture, for the Color Line Project, a story collection program about the civil rights movement and its influence on racism and injustice, $1,000
First Tee of Akron, to provide golf programs for adolescents at the Akron Urban League, Perkins Middle School and the National Inventors Hall of Fame School, $1,000
Let’s Grow Akron, for Harvest of Hope, a youth entrepreneurship farm and produce project, $1,000
St. Hilary Church, to support the Reading is Fun program at Helen Arnold CLC, $1,000
Summit County Youth Employment for Success, for the YES Diversity Workshop, $720
Urban Vision, for Set on Success, a program that teaches English to Karen refugee students, $500
Memorial & Tribute Giving
For gifts received from Nov. 1, 2009, through Jan. 31, 2010

Memorial gifts to Akron Community Foundation and its affiliate funds for:
Richard Averitte by
Yvonne Averitte
Albert E. Fitzpatrick

Steven Baach by
Jim & Mary Jo Boyes
Christine Dunning
Paul Martin
Robert & Sandra Sheehy

Eleanor Batchelder by
John & Kathy Batchelder

H. Peter Burg by
Eileen Burg
Robert Burg
James & Amy Cole
Ellen G. Kerr
Mary Quinn
Fred & Sandy Ziegler

Todd Burns by
Barbara Ann Hudak

Martin Chapman by
William L. Edwards

Deborah Lee Ciraldo by
Mr. & Mrs. Louis J. Ciraldo

Les Dingledine by
Jeanette Dingledine
Gerald & Yolanda Reeves

Dr. Walter A. Hoyt Jr. by
Dr. Pat & Denise Flanagan

Margaret D. (Peggy) Kaufman by
Barbara & Mark Steinkerchner

Pauline Klupinski by
Sally Walker

Tom Knoll Sr. by
Eileen Burg

Jodi Lowry by
Barbara Ann Hudak

Barbara Mathews by
Linda & Gale Urda

Walter H. Mills by
Vivian Mills

Michael P. Mitchin by
Barbara Ann Hudak

George Parry by
Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep

Vincent Patrino by
Charles & Mary Booth

Rose Mary Picciotti by
Lillian P. Ferguson
Antonette Ferguson
Jason & Cathy Morgan
David & Mary Ann Rich
David & Sue Slabaugh

Gretchen Guy Pinder by
Marc & Sharon Merkin

Joan Andrews Schrank by
Laura Harkey
Edwin Schrank

Marilyn Spetrino by
Russ Spetrino

Richard Murray Stewart by
Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep

Dr. John Williamson by
Rev. & Mrs. Roger Williams

Robert (Bob) Woodside by
Mike & Angela Anderson
Tom & Amy Anderson
Daria Bodner
David & Susan Buchanan
Kathy Bullard
William & Kathleen Burkett
Stow Municipal Court District Clerk’s Office Staff
John Clark
Lisa Coates
Tony Frank
John D. Frisby
Jackie Hefferman
Peter & Iolina Hersel
Kim Hoover
Kathy Keim
James & Mary King
Rick Klinger
Robert D. Koch
Mr. & Mrs. David Koelliker
Beth Magelanner
Stacy McGowan
Barbara Oriian
Andy Peck
Kirsten Peckerman
Megan E. Raber
Dave Rennenger
Jan Rodefier
Jon Sinn
Penelope Taylor
Arthur & Janet Toth
Candy Williams
Annette Yamada
Donald Ziccardi

Marshall Jr.

Memorial gifts to Barbara Mathews Memorial Endowment Fund of Leadership Akron for:

Memorial gifts to Brimfield Historical Society for:
Walter Brant by
Joyce Brant

Howard D. Ebie by
David A. & Brenda J. Ebie

George Hermann by
Luke Darling

Jim McCarron by
Judith B. McCarron

Edgar & Cora Lee McCormick by
Bernie & Stan Christensen
Carol McDonald

Rachel & Edward Saxe Jr. by
Sterling & Marlan Saxe

David Frank Snyder by
Sandra & Alfred Silvidi

Raymond & Grace Alvira Willoughby by
Betsy & Stephen Mako

Cecil Wright by
Bernadine Wright

Memorial gifts to Charles D. Miller Leadership Fund for:
Charles D. Miller by
Charles King III

Memorial gifts to Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
Tony Brisinger by
Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library

Wayne Wogan by
Mr. & Mrs. William Beiling
Alice Welch

Memorial gifts to Gay Community Endowment Fund for:
Nancy Hilton by
Denis & Barbara Feld

Nicholas by
Rod Wellman

Joy SanMarco by
Cynthia L. Christman

Memorial gifts to HPSEF Memorial & Tribute Fund for:

Arlene Wagner by
Jane M. Dailey

Memorial gifts to Leadership Akron Endowment Fund for:
Robert A. Haws by
Kimberly Haws Falasco

Honorable William Kannel by
David & Lynne Lieberth

Alice Luse
M.G. O’Neill by
Sean & Nancy O’Connor

Susan Pavloff by
Anne M. Armoo
Donald P. Carlson
Michael McLinichy
Lori Sheets

Memorial gifts to Millennium Fund for Children for:
Doris M. Klotz by
Donna Schoner

Stanley Knoll by
Tom & Ginny Knoll

Bruce F. Rothmann, M.D. by
Lola Rothmann
Memorial gifts to St. Hilary Parish Foundation School Endowment Fund for:
Ralph Bernard by
Donald & Rosa Connell
Elizabeth Ann Flannery
Robert & Verna Hancock
Oscar A. Hunsicker Jr.
Gerald Kaminsky
Howard Palmer Trust
Paul & Nanci Schlegel
Susan D. & Richard A.
Van Auken Foundation
Jack & Mary Lou Wood

Ruth & Urban Wellman by
Rod Wellman

Memorial gifts to Wilkinson-Gudikunst Designated Family Fund for:
Ruth Wilkinson by
John E. Wilkinson

Memorial gifts to Women’s Endowment Fund for:
Marie Ciccaroni by
Madeline Bozzelli

Ann Kormushoff by
Teri Parasson

Lucy Melian by
Roderick Linton and Belfance LLP

Dorothy Potts by
Marna Lilliedale Becker

Sandra Rossi by
Marna Lilliedale Becker

Trusted gifts to Akron Community Foundation and its affiliate funds for:
Louis Adams by
Miriam & Lauri Agins

Francia A. Albrecht by
Judy & Roger Read

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald C. Allan by
Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep

Mal & Sue Ames by
Phil & Sis Ames
Steve, Wendy, Keely, Sam & Nate Ames
Gregory & Priscilla Wisman
# Memorial & Tribute Giving

For gifts received from Nov. 1, 2009, through Jan. 31, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rennick Andreoli by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</th>
<th>George &amp; Susan Klein by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</th>
<th>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</th>
<th>Philip M. Maynard by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bruce Bailey by Maureen &amp; Nick Katanic</td>
<td>Tom &amp; Jeanne LaRose by Frank &amp; Melinda LaRose</td>
<td>Mark &amp; Lynn Yanke by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Mark Scheffler by Mark Scheffler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Thomas LaRose by James &amp; Joel LaRose</td>
<td>Ramsey &amp; Tess Yoder by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeline Bozzelli by Libb Bozzelli</td>
<td>Thomas LaRose by</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Tribute gifts to Medina County Community Fund by Barbara J. Dzur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Mark &amp; Marianne LaRose</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Tribute gifts to Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for: 85th Anniversary of the Akron Garden Club by Jody Bacon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Everett &amp; Michele Burgess by Glenn C. Burkholder by John E. Wilkinson</td>
<td>Thomas LaRose by</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Funding for: David H. Wilkinson by John E. Wilkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy &amp; David Burner by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Tribute gifts to Women’s Endowment Fund for: Jody Bacon by Jody Bacon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drs. David &amp; Lynne Cola by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Ann Towell by Jennifer Blickle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drs. Sandra T &amp; Clifford Deveny by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Susan Kruder by Jody Bacon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drs. David &amp; Erika Dulle by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Ann外来 by Caucasian American National Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Cecilia Ellis &amp; Michael Santucci by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Daniel H. Wilkinson by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drs. Eric &amp; Sue Ellen Espinal by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>John L. Wilkinson by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drs. Sandra T &amp; Clifford Deveny by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Jody Bacon by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy D. Fielder by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Laura &amp; Chip Preston by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Tribute gifts to Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for: William Beiling by Jody Bacon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gene &amp; Ann Fiocca by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Marie E. Covington by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Bruce Bailey by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Susan Griffin by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Rick &amp; Alita Rogers by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Rhonnie Gerin by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Linda Harshbarger by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rennick Andreoli by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Kimberly Haws Falasco by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Susan Kruder by Jody Bacon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy D. Fielder by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Martha Maughn by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Philip M. Maynard by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Sally Naret by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Kathy Harris by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Renee Oberlin by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe &amp; Jan Hoffmann by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Jan Parry by Jody Bacon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maureen &amp; Nick Katanic by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Joan Reed by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Gus &amp; Gilda Khayat by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Deborah L. Smith by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan &amp; Susan Kinnamon by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Cynthia D. Rudick, Ph. D. by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maureen &amp; Nick Katanic by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Frank Kendall III by Carolyn Reed Hodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan &amp; Susan Kinnamon by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep by Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ernest Estep</td>
<td>Brittany Grimes Zaehringer by Donae Eckert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

page 7
ices coordinator of the Akron-Summit County Public Library. Visiting authors included Shelley Pearsall, Will Hillenbrand and J. Patrick Lewis.

District Library Coordinator Dodi Zbuka said teachers at Springfield Local Schools were especially excited to welcome Lewis to the school after witnessing the kids’ reactions in previous years. “Being able to actually talk with an author or illustrator was like meeting and talking with a movie star to most of (the students),” she said.

Zbuka said the program gets kids excited about reading and helps them develop their skills in a fun environment. “There is not much more important in life than literacy,” Zbuka said. “Literacy is the (cornerstone) of our society.”

Patrick Weschler, advisor to the Lisle M. Buckingham Endowment Fund, is equally passionate about children’s literacy. He said he was excited to be able to support the Authors in the Schools program. “In today’s society, education and literacy are goals that are as important as food and shelter,” Weschler said. “Teaching a child to read is this generation’s equivalent of teaching a man to fish.”

Students at DeWitt Elementary had the chance to eat lunch with guest author Shelley Pearsall.

The Meyers Family Fund has a long history of supporting education and literacy in greater Akron. The fund’s advisor, Marilyn Buckey, said her parents were strong education advocates. “They believed that, next to love, the greatest gift you could give a child was an education,” she said. So when Buckey heard the Authors in the Schools program needed support, she immediately thought of the legacy her parents left with their fund at Akron Community Foundation. “I know that my parents would be proud to have the Meyers Family Fund support such an exciting and enriching learning experience for young people,” Buckey said.