Family creates fund to keep son’s generosity alive

From the time he learned to walk, Steven Baach was playing sports. Although he was born in Houston, Texas, Steve spent his formative years in Medina, where he became a fervent fan of the local professional sports teams – particularly the Cleveland Browns. He rarely missed a game and often traveled to watch them in person.

So when he went out to enjoy a spring round of golf in April 2009, nothing seemed out of the ordinary. It wasn’t until Steve left and was en route to his Las Vegas home that everything changed. Steve died instantly in a car crash on April 17, 2009. “Perhaps it is not a coincidence that he was returning home from playing golf, one of the sports he loved, when the accident occurred,” said his father, Mike Baach.

In the following weeks and months, Steve’s family – including his mother, Jamie; his brother, Michael; and his girlfriend, Gina – began thinking about how they could honor Steve’s life and continue his passion for helping others through sports. They established the Steven Baach Charities Fund at Akron Community Foundation for exactly that purpose. The mission of the fund is to enrich the lives of disabled and disadvantaged youth by providing them with opportunities to attend collegiate and

Grant helps ‘Stop the Violence’ with peaceful hip-hop showcase in Akron

Modern hip-hop music often gets a bad rap for encouraging violence. But do a little digging, and its roots reveal a different story.

“The hip-hop culture was (based on) peace, love, unity and having fun,” said Ismail Al-Amin, executive director of Keepers of the Art Inc.

Al-Amin founded Keepers of the Art in 2006 to preserve that integrity. For the past two years, the group has worked with the city of Akron to present the “Stop the Violence” Hip-Hop Showcase, an event that features popular artists in a family-friendly environment.

A $10,000 Community Fund grant from Akron Community Foundation in 2009 contributed to last year’s showcase, which featured hip-hop legend KRS One. The event brings together people of all ages, helping close what Al-Amin refers to as Akron’s “generation gap.”

“(At the showcase), you can see people ages 40 and up peacefully enjoying themselves with young people under 18,” he said. “The showcase provides those old and young who grew up on hip-hop with a family-friendly venue where they can enjoy the classics.”
Leadership is found in action, not position. That’s the sentiment that comes to mind when we reflect on the years of service and the contributions of our two outgoing board members, Rennick Andreoli and Greg McDermott, whose terms of office end this summer.

Their commitment to advancing the mission of Akron Community Foundation has been an inspiration to all of us, and we are thankful for their time and generosity. The foundation is a stronger and more focused organization because of their stewardship, as well as that of our entire board of directors. We thank them.

That same level of leadership and commitment is embodied in the life and career of this year’s Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award recipient.

I am pleased to announce that Kathryn Hunter was chosen to receive this year’s award, which the foundation gives annually to the person who best exemplifies Bert Polsky’s dedication to humanitarian causes in greater Akron.

Kathryn has been a community servant and leader throughout her life, helping to strengthen the work of countless organizations, including Akron Roundtable, the University of Akron, Akron Symphony Orchestra and, yes, Akron Community Foundation.

She joins a distinguished group of past Polsky honorees, and we congratulate Kathryn on her selection.

We also invite members of the community to attend a celebratory dinner in Kathryn’s honor on Tuesday, Oct. 19, at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn.

This is an exciting time for our organization and our investors. We finished the fiscal year on March 31, 2010, with a 34 percent net investment return for the previous 12-month period, a remarkable turnaround given the incredible economic upheaval we all experienced during the past 18 months.

Guided by a prudent investment policy and boosted by the generosity of our donors, Akron Community Foundation’s endowment has grown to more than $126 million.

We continue to be a positive force in improving the quality of life in greater Akron and Summit County. The generosity and vision of our donors is making a difference in the lives of our friends, neighbors and family members.

Leadership is action – and we’re grateful for your active support of our community.

My regards,

John T. Petures Jr.
President & CEO

Baach (cont. from page 1) professional sporting events. Mike said during Steve’s years as a sports enthusiast, his son had recognized that disadvantaged youth and kids with disabilities were not often able to attend athletic events.

To help, Steve started the “Desert Browns Backers” on the Las Vegas Strip to provide a place for displaced Browns fans to gather and watch the games. The money he raised was then donated to help youth attend sporting events they otherwise could not afford.

When Steve died, his family wanted to make sure his passion for helping others continued. Their fund at Akron Community Foundation will do just that.

“All of us who love Steve feel that we are touching him through our efforts to support his fund,” Mike said. He added that his family chose to establish their fund at Akron Community Foundation because they were confident the foundation would effectively help them carry on Steve’s mission.

“Because of its broad and enviable reputation in northeast Ohio, (Akron Community Foundation) was the first and only organization that came to mind when we began the process of establishing Steve’s fund,” Mike said. “From the moment we first spoke with (Vice President of Development) Suzanne Allen and then others at the foundation, every process has been smooth, professional and delightful.”

Steve’s family said they hope the Steven Baach Charities Fund will perpetuate his generosity and joy for life.

“(Everyone) who supports Steve’s fund is helping keep his warm, friendly and generous spirit alive and growing,” Mike said. “This spirit, we hope, will last forever.” For more information about establishing a fund at Akron Community Foundation, or to contribute to the Steven Baach Charities Fund in Steve’s honor, contact Vice President of Development Suzanne Allen at 330-376-8522.
Foundation invests $396,760 in local arts groups

Akron Community Foundation’s board ratified grants totaling $1,777,364 during its quarterly meeting Friday, June 11. Thirty Summit County organizations were awarded Community Fund grants totaling $457,260, including $396,760 for arts and culture programs.

In addition, the board approved a $25,000 grant to Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association to renovate the Stanford House. The grant will help turn the 19th century farmhouse into an overnight lodge for park visitors.

The following is a full list of grants:

- Act II Productions Illusion Factory, for theater productions in Akron-area schools, $10,000
- Akron Area Arts Alliance, for Summit Artspace exhibitions, education and outreach, $17,500
- Akron Art Museum, for the “Who Shot Rock & Roll” photographic exhibition, $50,000
- Apollo’s Fire The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, for the 2010-11 concert season, $12,000
- Ballet Theatre of Ohio, for Take Me Out to the Ballet and productions of “The Nutcracker,” $10,000
- Centenary United Methodist Church, for the Dinner and Jazz Night program, $3,500
- Central Summit County Choral Society, for the Summit Children’s Choir, $8,000
- Children’s Concert Society of Akron, for the In-School Concert Series, $10,000
- City of Akron, for the annual Heinz Poll Summer Dance Festival of free performances in the city’s parks, $20,000
- Cleveland Modern Dance Association, to support the Keigwin+Company E.J. Thomas Hall performance, dance residency and outreach, $10,000
- Community Hall Foundation Inc. – Akron Civic Theatre, for 2010-11 programming, $20,000
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association, to renovate the Stanford House, $25,000
- Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet, to support the 2010-11 performance season, $8,000
- Greater Akron Musical Association Inc., for Concerts for Kids, $35,000
- GroundWorks Dancetheater, to support Akron Icehouse performances, dance residency and outreach, $10,000
- Info Line Inc., for interim operations of the Summit County Food Pantry Clearinghouse, $10,500
- Keepers of the Art Inc., for the Akron Hip-Hop Showcase at Lock 3, $10,000
- Magical Theatre Company, for resident performances and educational programming, $10,000
- Master Singers Inc., for the 2011 concert season and high school choral composition contest, $10,000
- Musical Arts Association The Cleveland Orchestra, for the 2010 Blossom Festival, $20,000
- Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio Inc., for arts and culture programming, $10,000
- Ohio Shakespeare Festival, for performances at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, $8,000
- Project R.I.S.E., Akron Public Schools, for the Performing Arts Can Teach program for homeless children and their families, $9,760
- Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens Inc., for general support, $40,000
- Summit County Historical Society of Akron, Ohio, for general support, $10,000
- Tuesday Musical Association, for the Margaret Baxtresser Piano Concert, $10,000
- Weathervane Community Playhouse Inc., to support the 2010-11 production season, $10,000
- Western Reserve Historical Society, for Hale Farm and Village educational programming, $10,000
- Young Men’s Christian Association of Akron, to construct a new facility in University Park, $25,000
- Youth Excellence Performing Arts Workshop, for the YEPAW 365 after-school program and summer workshop, $15,000

ACF’s endowment jumps 34 percent in fiscal year 2010

At the close of fiscal year 2010, Akron Community Foundation and its funds held more than $126 million in permanent philanthropic capital. Gifts totaling $5.08 million from generous donors in the community helped solidify the foundation’s commitment to greater Akron.

Thanks to the foundation’s adherence to its longstanding investment policy, the endowment experienced a 34 percent increase in the market value of its assets. This compares favorably to the Balanced Index return of 32.3 percent for the same one-year period. The foundation’s strategic asset allocation enabled it to maintain its grant-making levels and continue investing in the community when needs were highest.
Neighborhood Partnership Program awards $207,430

Since 1999, the city of Akron and Akron Community Foundation have jointly funded the Neighborhood Partnership Program, which supports grassroots programs in local neighborhoods.

This year, grants totaling $207,430 were awarded to 45 organizations:
- Akron African American Cultural Association, for the annual festival, $7,500
- Akron Community Service Center and Urban League, for the Elegant Evenings dinner for senior citizens, $4,805
- Alchemy Inc., for the Myth, Muses & Scribes program, $7,500
- Archbishop Hoban High School, for the Clean and Green Mural Project, $2,640
- Blessed Trinity Parish, for the North Hill Scribes program, $7,500
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve, for an after-school teen program, $5,000
- Case Elementary School PTA, for after-school programs for children, including students with special needs, $2,000
- Charisma Community Connections, for the Youth Arts Enrichment Program and Enterprise Camp, $4,000
- College for Kids, to introduce inner-city youth to career opportunities, $7,500
- Community Outreach Parade and Festival, for a parade and festival at Hawkins Ballpark in West Akron, $4,000
- CYO & Community Services, for the Camp Christopher summer program, $3,000
- DeBord's 15th Annual Community Halloween Party, for the Community Halloween Party in Kenmore, $2,000
- Downtown Akron Partnership, for Green & Clean Day in downtown Akron, $5,000
- Downtown Akron Partnership, for flower planters and baskets, $5,000
- East Akron Community House, for the Homer Pettengill summer camp, $5,000
- Ellet Women's Club, for a community sign and flower baskets, $4,000
- Ellet Women's Club, for the Community Fall Festival, $7,500
- Firestone High School Instrumental Music Association, for a community ice cream social, $1,000
- Firestone Park Home & Garden Club, for the Peace Garden and a newsletter, $1,000
- Forest Hill Community Learning Center, PTA, for the Harmony and Peace Garden, $2,000
- Greater Akron Laos Association, for Laotian youth events, $3,500
- Greater Bethel Community Development Center, for a community outreach event and health screening in East Akron, $7,500
- He Brought Us Out Ministry, for the Building Blocks Enrichment Program, $5,000
- Hereford/Highland Area Block Watch, for youth and community events, a block watch, and a newsletter, $4,000
- Highland Square Neighborhood Association, for Art in the Square, $3,000
- Kenmore Board of Trade, for various holiday and seasonal events in Kenmore, $7,500
- Let's Grow Akron Inc., for the Harvest of Hope Catholic Workers Garden, $1,535
- Let's Grow Akron Inc., for the Harvest of Hope Peace Garden in South Akron, $1,475
- Lexington Avenue Block Watch, for a block watch in North Hill, $1,000
- Minerva Foundation of Akron Ohio, to teach life skills to girls in the Buchtel cluster, $2,500
- Mount of the Lord Fellowship, for the Violence Free Zone Rally/National Night Out Against Crime event in West Akron, $3,000
- North Berwin Street Block Watch, for safety patrols and neighborhood events, $1,175
- North Howard Block Watch, for beautification and neighborhood events, $2,000
- Project GRAD Akron, for the Annual Walk for Success and Fun with Santa, $7,500
- Project Shine, to clean, paint and repair homes in Kenmore, $3,000
- Quality of Life at the Neighborhood Level Group, vacant lot clean-up and planting in Goodyear Heights, $2,000
- Residents Improving Goodyear Heights Together, for community events and a newsletter, $6,000
- Summit 2010 Buchtel Neighborhood Day, a free celebration for residents in the Buchtel cluster, $1,000
- South Street Ministries Inc., for the Princeton Urban Garden in South Akron, $1,000
- Summit 2010 Buchtel Neighborhood Group, for the Buchtel Neighborhood Group Community Day, $2,500
- Tennis All-Stars Inc., for the Summer Theater Program in North Hill, $5,000
- Tennis All-Stars Inc., for the Summer Enrichment Program in North Hill, $5,000
- Tutoring Nurtures Talent Inc., for a children’s literacy program, $2,100
- United Way of Summit County, for the Neighborhood Leadership Institute, $5,000
- United Way of Summit County, for neighborhood-based projects as part of the Leadership Institute, $7,500
- University Park Development Corporation, for the Art Fair at Grace Park, $7,500
- West Akron Community Organization, for the West Akron Day Festival, $4,000
- West Hill Neighborhood Organization Inc., for outreach and beautification, $5,500
- Westside Neighborhood Development Corporation, to revitalize Stoner-Hawkins Park in West Akron, $7,500
- Williams Challenge, for the Familyhood Initiative in West Akron, $2,000
- Woodland United Methodist Church, for after-school programs in Fairlawn, $5,000
Medina County Community Fund celebrates $300,000 in grants

The Medina County Community Fund surpassed its $300,000 grant-making milestone in June after announcing its latest round of grants.

It most recently awarded grants totaling $30,000 to 10 Medina County non-profit organizations. More than 70 percent of the fund’s grants went to programs that meet people’s basic needs, including emergency medical care and food assistance.

Since its inception in 1994, the Medina County Community Fund has distributed $309,558, including the following 2010 grants:

- **American Red Cross, Medina County Chapter**, to purchase mannequins and CPR instructional booklets, $1,600
- **Brunswick Art Works Inc.**, to support a children’s art contest to create tiles for a sculpture park, $900
- **The Children’s Center of Medina County**, to implement a life-skills mentoring program for young adults phasing out of foster care, $2,500
- **The Kidney Foundation of Medina County Inc.**, to provide residents with reliable transportation to hemodialysis treatments, $2,500
- **Medina Cares Inc.**, to provide financial assistance to residents facing a medical crisis, $1,000
- **Medina Creative Housing**, to give people with disabilities vocational opportunities at a hydroponic greenhouse, $4,500

A $10,000 grant to Medina Health Ministry this year will help purchase supplies for its free clinic.

**Medina Health Ministry**, to support the free clinic, $10,000

**Mobile Meals Inc. Foundation of Northeast Ohio**, to deliver meals to low-income, homebound individuals, $5,000

**Operation: HOMES Inc.**, for vehicle repair and maintenance for homeless clients, $1,000

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**, to support the food pantry, $1,000

ACF scholarship fund wins national award for community charity

The Northeast Ohio chapter of the Risk and Insurance Management Society earned national recognition in April thanks to a scholarship fund the group established at Akron Community Foundation. The organization received a Chapter Achievement Award for community charity, its first national award in its 51-year history.

The Northeast Ohio RIMS Chapter Scholarship Fund was established in 2009 to provide scholarships to area students studying risk management. “The national society thought (a scholarship fund) was a great way to give back to the community,” said Jerry Colonna, NEO RIMS president.

Colonna said the chapter chose Akron Community Foundation to fulfill its educational philanthropy because of the foundation’s prudent investment strategies and dedicated donor services team. “By working through Akron Community Foundation, we forge a relationship with others in the community and get additional support in identifying scholarship candidates and selecting recipients. We also value ACF’s consistent management of the investment funds,” he said.

To learn how to create a scholarship fund at Akron Community Foundation, contact Vice President of Development Suzanne Allen at 330-376-8522.
Memorial gifts to Akron Community Foundation and its affiliate funds for:

- Richard Averitte by Yvonne Averitte
- Steven Baach by Xioming Chen & Yuhong Jiang
- Beverly G. Brown by David & Gloria Brown
- H. Peter Burg by Ellen G. Kerr
- Martin O. Chapman by Mary Chapman, Roberta Chapman, and Mary Gibson
- George T. Conger by Bud & Susie Rogers West Hill Marathon
- Stephanie Duke by American Association of University Women, Medina County Ohio Branch
- Margaret Estep by Sheila & Mike Lewis
- J. Bruce Hunsicker by Robert & Carole Weisberger
- Barbara D. Mathews by Betty Dalton
- Mrs. T.F. Myers by West Hill Marathon
- Mary O’Neil by West Hill Marathon
- Conrad Ott by West Hill Marathon
- Roy Reffner by Eileen Burg
- Mignon Steere by AAA Akron Auto Club
- Roland H. Swartzlander by Mildred Ewart
- Robert Woodside by Andrew Megibow
- John S. Pflueger Jr. by Jo Brookhart
- John F. Sturdevant by Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
- Mignon Steere by Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
- Memorial gifts to the Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
  - George T. Conger by Jo Brookhart
  - Alice Gaffney by Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
  - Mrs. Frank Gaffney by Jan Parry
- Memorial gifts to the Brimfield Historical Society Fund for:
  - Clinton Hobbs by Olive Hobbs
- Memorial gifts to the Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
  - Perry Campbell by Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
- Margaret Martin by Stow Woman’s Club
- Daniel McDonald by Mr. & Mrs. William Beiling
- Ronald & Hermine Meyer
- Alice Welch by Barbara Beiling
- Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
- Ronald & Hermine Meyer
- Stow Woman’s Club
- Memorial gifts to the Charles D. Miller Leadership Fund for:
  - Charles D. Miller by Mrs. Charles D. Miller
- Memorial gifts to the HPSEF Memorial & Tribute Fund for:
  - Eugene D. Rosen by Susan Emeray
- Memorial gifts to the Medina County Arts Council Endowment Fund for:
  - Lucille M. Haight by Nancy W. Sprowls
- Jeannette League by Nancy W. Sprowls
- Memorial gifts to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund for:
  - Willette Chandler by Christine Wilder
  - Clara Gorfido by Ann Cole
  - Ruth Graham by Jen Graham
  - Dorothy Hallock by Suzanne T. Allen
- Memorial gifts to the Millenium Fund for Children for:
  - Conrad C. Ott by Anne G. Kaufmann
- Mignon Steere by Bud & Susie Rogers
- Memorial gifts to the Marissa Alexandra Norwood Legacy of Kindness Charitable Giving Fund for:
  - H. Peter Burg by Eileen Burg
- Memorial gifts to the Wilkinson-Gudikunst Designated Family Fund for:
  - Kari Fickes by John E. Wilkinson
  - John & Cora Gudikunst by John E. Wilkinson
  - Cleo Poulsen by John E. Wilkinson
  - George Wilkinson by John E. Wilkinson
- Memorial gifts to the Women’s Endowment Fund for:
  - Winifred Bishop by Gretchin Laatsch
  - Lemoine Bordern by Ken & Betty Bordern
  - Minnie Brunnett by Ilene Shapiro
  - Helen Carpenter by Ken & Betty Bordern
  - Agnes Gorbach by Debby Gorbach
- Sadie Haynes by Judi Hill
- Louise Hewett by Gretchen Laatsch
- Doris Joyner Hudson by Carolynne Breaux
- Marion K. Jones by Beverly L. Haws
- Beatrice Laatsch by Gretchen Laatsch
- Barbara Mathews by Laura & Robert Culp
- Pauline May by Kathleen Rice
- Grace Melver by Carolynne Breaux
- Eloise Menendez by Debbie Gorbach
- Pamela Rickel by Joanne Briggs, M.D.
- Margaret Roseberry by Linda Butson
- Helen Stallings by Gretchen Laatsch
- Mignon Steere by Charles & Mary Booth
- Ann Tutt by Carolynne Breaux
- Tribute gifts to Akron Community Foundation and its affiliate funds for:
  - Oscar A. Hunsicker Jr. by Robert & Carole Weisberger
  - Myles Mathews by Andrew Calabrese-Day
  - Larry & Ellen Guse
  - The Hasselruhn Family
  - Pratha Khindria
  - Merideth Kosch
  - Penny LaFountain
  - Lori Luzzo
  - Leonard & Eleanor Rau
  - Lisa Savino
  - Anna Sherwin
  - Robert Sherwin
  - Shelley Sherwin & Todd
  - Maria Sicilia
  - Steven & Jacqueline Wright
  - Nancy & Stu Parry by John & Betty Dalton
  - Judy Read by Bonnie & Ed Shemanski
  - Bud & Susie Rogers by Bryan & Susan Kinnamon
  - Tribute gifts to the Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
  - 85th Anniversary of the Akron Garden Club by Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
  - Liz Remmel
  - Bob & Christine Freitag by Peter & Lois Wilson
  - Tribute gifts to the Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
  - Jenny Bimbaum by Peggy Shaffer
  - Carole Jegley by Peggy Shaffer
  - Terry Keenan by Richard & Kathryn Brown
Foundation welcomes two new funds

The Western Reserve Historical Society established the Hole Farm & Village Endowment Fund on March 24 to provide a permanent source of support for this living history museum in Bath Township.

The Marissa Alexandra Norwood Legacy of Kindness Charitable Giving Fund was established March 26 in Marissa’s memory. The fund will support terminally ill children and animal welfare programs.

Peg Obendorfer by
Peggy Shaffer

Tribute gifts to the Gay Community Endowment Fund for:
Christopher Hisson by
Laura Gelfand

Tribute gifts to the Leadership Akron Endowment Fund for:
Rev. Ronald J. Fowler by
Rev. Dr. Diana L. Swoope

Pastor Knute Larson by
Rev. Dr. Diana L. Swoope

Mark Scheffler by
Laurie Zuckerman

Tribute gifts to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund for:
Kelly Almond by
Cheryl A. Fergus

Catherine Anderson by
Dan & Tammy Daubner

Laura Boreman by
Karen Glass

Judy Botton by
Karen Glass

JoEllen Burnett by
Christine Wilder

Jessica Daigler by
Cheryl A. Fergus

Betty Daubner by
Dan & Tammy Daubner

Jill Emrick by
Judith Emrick

Karen Fitzgerald by
Karen Glass

Jeannie Gifford by
Roberta Gifford

Karen Glass by
Jen Graham

Helen Goodwin by
Judith Emrick

Denise Gumbita by
Judith Emrick

Kate Hardalak by
Judith Emrick

Lynn Hartigan by
Roberta Gifford

Angela Huston by
Elaine Frankowski

Vickie Lewis by
Elaine Frankowski

Janice Marsh by
Susan Ponting

Betty Moeller by
Karen Glass

Judy Moffitt by
Karen Glass

Anne Moiner by
Dan & Tammy Daubner

Janet Monley by
Lisa Polo

Julie Owens by
Susan Ponting

Kathy Peterson by
Suzanne T. Allen

Cathy Posner by
Jen Graham

Delcie Pound by
Nancy Pound & Jack Heimovics

Virginia Ritchie by
Ann Cole

Carole Shelby by
Jen Graham

Christine Soska by
Dan & Tammy Daubner

Ruby Tucker by
Suzanne T. Allen

Nancy Venard by
Dan & Tammy Daubner

Bernice Wesemeyer by
Anonymous

Kathryn Lemin West by
Jeanne R. Paiker

Kim Wilson by
Jen Graham

Rhonda Wurgler by
Jen Graham

Tribute gifts to the Millennium Fund for Children for:
Noreen Foley by
Noreen Foley
Anne Merzweiler

Tribute gifts to the Women’s Endowment Fund for:
Kelley Adams by
Miriam Agins

Susan Adams by
Kristen Mooney

Peggy Allen by
Suzanne T. Allen

Faye Andress by
Suzanne T. Allen

Sandra S. Bailey by
Laurie & Robert Culp

Judie Barnes by
Suzanne T. Allen

Mindyl Bartholomae by
Betty Dalton

Joanie Belair by
Paul Belair

Elizabeth Belair by
Paul Belair

Sandeep & Gryphon Beyerle by
Dr. Theresa Beyerle

Susan D. Beyerle by
Dr. Theresa Beyerle

Wendy Bolas by
Laurie Zuckerman

Karen Boffoli by
Laurie & Robert Culp

Frances S. Buchholzer by
Madeline Boffoli

Gail Burdeshaw by
Diane Strachan

Eileen Burg by
Laurie & Robert Culp

Theresa Carter by
Laurie Zuckerman

Janice Clark by
Deborah A. Venesy

Diana Cook by
Maureen & Nick Katanic

Laura Culp by
Maureen & Nick Katanic

Willie Culp by
Laurie & Robert Culp

Marlene Czelti by
Madeline Boffoli

Alison Czelti-Van Raaphorst by
Madeline Boffoli

Kimberly Haws Falasco by
Beverly L. Haws

H. Sean Fremon by
Laurie Zuckerman

Jeni Gaffney by
Maureen & Nick Katanic

Ruthie George by
William & Lillian Rosenblatt

Maureen N. Van Duser Women’s Endowment Board

Betty Godard by
Susan Dudas

Char Graf by
Dennis & Kim Falasco

Beverly L. Haws by
Dennis & Kim Falasco

Heather Haws-Babb by
Beverly L. Haws

Edna Henretta by
Cathy Henretta

Jennifer Henretta by
Cathy Henretta

Sheila Henretta by
Cathy Henretta

Kay Hine by
Capt. Sylvia Trundle

Kathleen Hovey by
Madeline Boffoli

Sally Hughes by
Peter and Bonnie Hughes

Diane Johnson by
Madeline Boffoli

Maureen Katanic by
Laura & Robert Culp

Mimi Kent by
Ruthie George

Molly R. Litt by
Cathy Henretta

Susan Manne by
Jill Oldham

Dottie Marsh by
Jill Oldham

Ilene & Robert Shapiro

Cathy Henretta

Capt. Sylvia Trundle

Madeline Boffoli

Peter and Bonnie Hughes

Ruthie George

Cathy Henretta

Jill Oldham

Jill Oldham

Maureen & Nick Katanic

Carol Pettry by
Maureen & Nick Katanic

Renee Pinkus by
Carolynne Breaux

Norma Placke by
Suzanne T. Allen

Judy Read by
Suzanne T. Allen

Roger Read

Katie Rennard by
Donna Eckert

Betty O’Neill Roderick by
Madeline Boffoli

Libby Rosenblatt by
Ruthie George

Judy Russell by
Mary Beth Kase

Karen Roth by
Diane Strachan

Vivian Silverman by
Ilene & Robert Shapiro

Katie Smucker by
Carolynne Breaux

Maureen & Nick Katanic

Roberta Starkey by
Deborah A. Venesy

Rose Marie Strahan by
Diane Strachan

Valerie Stutler by
Diane Strachan

Ruby Tucker by
Suzanne T. Allen

An Ann by
Deborah A. Venesy

Beth Van Horne by
Maureen & Nick Katanic

Barbara A. Venesy by
Deborah A. Venesy

Kathy A. K. Vidasvics by
Barbara A. Venesy

Pearl Weinstein by
William & Lillian Rosenblatt

Maria Zakelj by
Kathleen M. Zakelj

Laurie Zuckerman by
Rita Johnson
Hip-Hop (cont. from page 1)

Al-Amin said the showcase helps encourage young, urban professionals to stay in Akron and become mentors for the next generation. It also offsets the destructive images frequently found in mainstream media and reminds people that hip-hop music and culture can be a positive influence.

“So much of the violence here in America can be attributed to the powerful and pervasive images from popular culture and the media,” Al-Amin said. “More progressive venues like the hip-hop showcase are needed to help counteract the irresponsibility of mainstream radio and television.”

Last year’s event attracted more than 6,000 people, making it the largest annual hip-hop concert in the state. In addition to showcasing both local and national artists, the festival included a hip-hop-centered youth literacy initiative.

Akron Deputy Mayor Dave Lieberth said it was a great opportunity to highlight the city’s cultural diversity.

“The city of Akron supports the use of hip-hop as a springboard for themes that advocate for a peaceful community and are opposed to violence in all forms,” he said.

A $10,000 Community Fund grant will help bring the showcase back to Lock 3 again this year. The event is scheduled for Labor Day weekend and will feature hip-hop pioneers Rakim and MC Lyte.