A new scholarship fund at Akron Community Foundation is carrying on the legacy of a local hero. Established in May as part of the Hudson Public Schools Endowment Fund family, the Dante B. Lavelli Football Academic Scholarship Fund honors the career of the Browns football legend by helping students at Hudson High School – Lavelli’s alma mater – attend college.

Dante’s wife, Joy, said she established the fund because she wanted to keep Dante’s memory alive. “He was an athlete, and he loved Hudson,” she said. “(College) expenses are so high right now that every little bit helps.”

Because of its strong partnership with the school system, Joy contacted the Hudson Public Schools Endowment Fund directly to set up the fund. HPSEF Advisory Committee chair Minerva Shumate said the fund’s affiliation with Akron Community Foundation imparts a sense of confidence in donors that their loved one’s charitable legacy will be carried on forever.

Already, news about the fund has spread, attracting gifts from NFL players and coaches all across the country. Former Minnesota Vikings offensive lineman Randall McDaniel said although he never met Lavelli, he wanted to make a gift to honor Lavelli’s accomplishments on the field.

“I believe it is important to recognize, respect and support the Pro Football Hall of Fame players who built the foundation of the NFL,” said McDaniel, who was himself inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009. “One way to do this is to contribute to the causes and memorial celebrations of their lives.”

And what a life Lavelli had. Born in Hudson in 1923, the stand-out quarterback graduated from Hudson High School, which later named its football stadium after him. Following his sophomore season at Ohio State University, Lavelli entered the U.S. Army and served in World War II, during which he fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Upon his return, Lavelli joined the newly formed Cleveland Browns as a receiver, becoming an original member of the franchise. In his rookie season, Lavelli...
I had the pleasure of meeting Hudson native and Browns legend Dante Lavelli several years ago at a fundraising event at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton. My fondest memory of that evening was a quiet moment we shared walking through the Hall of Fame gallery, which is filled with the bronze busts of each enshrinee.

This giant of a man, who stood 6 feet tall and weighed 191 pounds (a big receiver in his era), was so proud and humbled to be included among the true greats of his sport. As we stood there, he pondered his own selection as one of the greatest pass catchers in the history of professional football.

In this newsletter, you’ll read about the scholarship fund Dante’s wife, Mrs. Joy Lavelli, recently established in her late husband’s name. The fund honors Dante’s legacy and has already received the generous support of many donors, including other Hall of Famers like George Blanda, who passed away in late September, Joe Greene, Don Shula, and 2010 inductee Dick LeBeau.

Imagine preserving the memory of such a legend by investing in the education of young people who never witnessed one of the graceful catches of this Browns hero, but whose lives will be uplifted by scholarships awarded from the Dante Lavelli Fund.

Akron Community Foundation is pleased to embrace this dream of giving back by Mrs. Lavelli and thousands of others who have donated through the years to help grow our overall assets to more than $126 million. This growth, through new gifts and prudent investments, has translated into nearly $90 million in grants, advancing the work and missions of countless nonprofit organizations throughout greater Akron in the past 55 years.

You’ll also learn about our latest wave of grant-making in this newsletter. For the second year, our board decided to concentrate on funding basic needs in the community, including food, shelter and health care. We’re proud to be able to make a difference in the lives of people who need it most during these cold winter months.

I invite you to join us in serving the community during this season of gratitude. Gifts you make today will permanently impact the community, whether it’s filling backpacks with food for hungry children through the Millennium Fund, or providing medical care to people in need through the Community Fund. Together, we continue to make a difference!

My regards and holiday wishes,

John T. Petures Jr.
President & CEO

Happy Holidays

Akron Community Foundation wishes you all the best this holiday season. As you make your plans, please take note of our holiday hours:

Closed
Dec. 24, 27, 31
Jan. 3

Foundation’s portfolio gains 9.4% in second quarter

Akron Community Foundation’s portfolio finished the second quarter of its fiscal year beginning April 1, 2010, with a net gain of 9.4 percent. This brings its 10-year average annualized net gain to 4.01 percent for the 10 years ending Sept. 30.

By comparison, the Balanced Index gains averaged 7.9 percent and 2.15 percent, respectively, during the same periods. The Finance and Investment Committee recently reduced overall risk in the portfolio by diversifying the investments to minimize loss during volatile market periods. The committee continues to closely monitor the foundation’s portfolio in accordance with its long-term investment strategies.
Foundation’s board focuses funding on basic needs

Akron Community Foundation’s board approved more than $1.3 million in grants on Friday, Nov. 19.

Discretionary, or board-directed, grants totaling $462,500 were awarded to 35 nonprofit organizations, with more than half going to programs that meet residents’ basic needs.

The board also ratified 153 grants totaling $868,950 from 57 designated, donor-advised and scholarship funds.

The following organizations received discretionary grants:

- **Access Inc.**, to shelter homeless women and children, $25,000
- **Akron Blind Center & Workshop Inc.**, to provide computer training to the visually impaired, $8,000
- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank**, for the Direct Distribution program, $25,000
- **American Red Cross of Summit & Portage Counties**, for medical transportation services, $10,000
- **Battered Women’s Shelter**, for domestic violence crisis intervention, $25,000
- **Blick Clinic**, to support occupational therapy services for individuals with disabilities, $10,000
- **Children’s Hospital Medical Center of Akron**, for the Safe Kids Summit County car seat program, $15,000
- **Community AIDS Network**, for general operating expenses, $10,000
- **Community Legal Aid Services Inc.**, to support the Health Education Advocacy and Law (HEAL) project, $10,000
- **Community Outreach Resources Exchange – CORE Furniture Bank**, for the transport and handling of donated furniture, $5,000
- **Easter Seal Society of Northeast Ohio**, for capacity-building, $5,000
- **Evant Inc.**, to provide transportation for people with disabilities living in residential care, $5,000
- **Family & Community Services Inc.**, for the Senior Companion program, $10,000
- **First Glance Student Center Inc.**, for the Teen Moms program, $10,000
- **Freedom House for Women Inc.**, for programming to prevent homelessness and preserve the family unit, $15,000
- **Good Neighbors Inc.**, to purchase food, $20,000
- **Good Samaritan Hunger Center**, to purchase food, $5,000
- **Greenleaf Family Center**, to pilot a comprehensive mental health and social services program in Coventry elementary schools, $20,000
- **H.M. Life Opportunity Services**, to provide services to children transitioning from homelessness, $10,000
- **Info Line Incorporated**, for the Summit County food pantry clearinghouse, $25,000
- **International Institute of Akron Inc.**, for general operating expenses to support the basic needs of new refugees, $10,000
- **Jewish Community Center of Akron**, for the Future Fitness youth obesity program, $5,000
- **Mental Health America of Summit County Inc.**, for the PEERS Project to help parents and caregivers of children with mental health diagnoses, $12,000
- **Millennium Fund for Children**, for grant-making, $7,000
- **Mobile Meals Inc.**, for free and subsidized meals and medically prescribed supplements for children, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities, $35,000
- **NEOUCOM Foundation**, to produce an educational documentary on end-of-life issues, $18,000
- **North Coast Community Homes Inc.**, for police protection of individuals with severe mental illness in residential care, $7,500
- **Opportunity Parish Ecumenical Neighborhood Ministry**, to provide free medical treatment to the uninsured working poor, $15,000
- **The Salvation Army**, for the hot meals program, $10,000
- **Summit County Port Authority**, for the development of a strategic plan, $5,000
- **United Disability Services Inc.**, to provide employment training for severely disabled individuals, $5,000
- **Victim Assistance Program Inc.**, for general operating expenses, $20,000
- **Victory Gallop Inc.**, for the therapeutic horseback riding program, $5,000
- **Visiting Nurse Service Inc.**, to pilot a health promotion and prevention program for senior citizens in Chapel Hill Towers, $15,000
- **Waiting Child Fund**, for the Summit Permanency Collaborative, $25,000

Make your last hour’s pay of the year count for local children

What will you do with your last hour’s pay: brave crowded malls for a trinket that will likely end up in the attic, or touch the lives of local children who desperately need your help?

Akron Community Foundation and the Akron Beacon Journal ask you to ring in the holidays by giving your last hour’s pay to the Millennium Fund for Children, which supports local youth programs.

Your $50 gift could teach a refugee child English. A $35 donation could give milk to a needy child for a year. Twenty dollars could fill a backpack with healthy food for a hungry child to eat on the weekends. Even $5 could provide a day of music, food and games for a child victim or witness of violence.

Visit www.akroncommunityfdn.org/millennium to learn more about the fund.
The Gay Community Endowment Fund recently awarded grants totaling $26,435 to 11 local nonprofits. Since 2005, the fund has reinvested nearly $130,000 in community initiatives. The following grants were awarded this year:

**Akron Art Museum**, for a James Gobel painting that illustrates the pitfalls of stereotypes, $3,000

**Asian Services in Action Inc.**, for an HIV/AIDS prevention program among local Asian Americans, $2,000

**CASA Board Volunteer Association Inc.**, for a training seminar for court advocates working with LGBT youth, $1,790

**Community Health Center**, to train staff in identifying and treating addiction and mental health issues in the LGBT population, $965

**First Grace United Church of Christ**, for Project CommUnity, which records the narratives of LGBT individuals and then translates them into live theater, $2,500

**Friends of 91.3**, for KIDJAM!, an online children’s radio station that broadcasts music and anti-bullying messages, $3,500

**Fusion Magazine**, for Kent State University’s award-winning, student-produced publication, $3,000

**Mobile Meals Inc.**, to promote Mobile Meals’ food and supplement services to LGBT people in greater Akron, $1,250

**Violet’s Cupboard Inc.**, for safer sex packets for people with HIV, $1,250

**Weathervane Community Playhouse Inc.**, for “Breaking the Code,” a play about Alan Turing, an English mathematician who helped secure a victory in World War II by breaking the German cipher but was later prosecuted for his homosexuality, $3,500

**Western Reserve Public Media**, to broadcast “In The Life,” a monthly television series documenting the LGBT experience, $3,680

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**Lavelli, continued from page 1**

led the league in receptions and caught the winning touchdown pass in the 1946 championship game against New York.

Nicknamed “Gluefingers” for his phenomenal talent as a receiver, Lavelli carried the Browns to four All-America Football Conference championships and three more NFL titles.

He, along with such legends as quarterback Otto Graham and placekicker Lou Groza, helped the Browns build a dynasty in the 1940s and ’50s.

In his 11-season career, Lavelli caught 386 passes for 6,488 yards and 62 touchdowns. “He was one of the best I’ve ever seen,” said Willie Davis, a former defensive end for the Browns. “He set the mold with his running patterns and catching the ball.”

Davis said Lavelli was known for his winning personality. He never denied someone an autograph, and he often stopped to talk with fans who came to see him play.

“He was absolutely just a model of a guy,” Davis said. After being notified of Lavelli’s death earlier this year, Davis was one of the first people to make a contribution to the scholarship fund set up in his friend’s name.

“I went to college on a football scholarship,” he said. “To give something back now that gives young people the same thing is very satisfying.”

Several other organizations have stepped forward to contribute to the fund, including the Browns, the Cincinnati Bengals, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame, which inducted Lavelli into its ranks in 1975.

“Dante Lavelli was one of those players who rose above the rest,” said Hall of Fame Vice President of Communications Joe Horrigan. “He played on one of the greatest teams of all time and was an integral part of that team.”

With his fund at Akron Community Foundation, Lavelli is making it possible for the next generation of athletes at Hudson High School to excel.

“Dante was a man who, in spite of his fame, never forgot where he was from,” said Hudson football coach Tom Narducci. “(After) what he has done for our town and for so many people, the Hudson community has to make sure that legacy lives on.”

The fund awarded its first scholarship this year to Addison Carbone, an exceptional defensive tackle who is now playing for Baldwin-Wallace College and studying broadcast journalism. In the years to come, many more students will have the opportunity to go to college with the help of Lavelli’s scholarship.

“This fund will allow our kids to pursue their dream at a school they want to go to,” Narducci said. “That’s something no one can ever take away from them.”
When Uzbek refugee Bahromjon Abdurasulov fled his war-torn country in 2005, he knew re-establishing his life in the United States would be a formidable challenge. He had limited English skills, no local support system, and very few resources. What he never imagined was how quickly that bleak picture would be completely transformed.

Five years later, Abdurasulov has traded in his English dictionary for a business plan. The Tallmadge resident is now the proud owner and founder of Golden Valley Restaurant in Canton.

The restaurant opened its doors in March and specializes in traditional Middle Eastern cuisine, with menu items ranging from shish kabobs and falafel to grape leaves and Uzbek bread.

“We have good food at a great price,” Abdurasulov boasted.

But the journey hasn’t always been easy, and Abdurasulov credits a local nonprofit with paving the way for his entrepreneurial success. From the time he relocated from Louisville, Ky., to Summit County, Ohio, the International Institute of Akron has been an invaluable resource to Abdurasulov.

Case workers at the Institute helped him scout potential locations, review leases, and build the language skills he would need to run a restaurant. By the time they referred him to Akron SCORE for free business training, Abdurasulov was well on his way to becoming an entrepreneur.

“He didn’t know anything about the American ways of doing business, and to not be afraid to start, that’s impressive,” said Natalya Mytareva, the Institute’s communication programs director. “We are very proud of him.”

Owning a restaurant has also renewed Abdurasulov’s independence. As a businessman in Uzbekistan, Abdurasulov took pride in supporting his wife and three children, but upon his arrival in the United States, he had to re-start his career in entry-level factory jobs.

“Losing your home and loved ones is very hard. But the people at the International Institute gave me what I needed,” he said. “I am grateful.”

A $10,000 Community Fund grant from Akron Community Foundation this year will help the International Institute give other refugees these same opportunities.
Memorial & Tribute Giving For gifts received Aug. 1, 2010, through Oct. 31, 2010

Memorial gifts to Akron Community Foundation and its affiliate funds for:

H. Peter Burg by
Eileen Burg
Robert Burg
Cathy Deagan
Maureen Harrison-Russell
Kathleen Lindsey
Colleen Reaman

Stephanie Duke by
Bryan Gollop

Dorothy Jameson by
Henry Jameson

Jeff Kemp by
Jean Broers

Dante Lavelli by
Mary Brown

Barbara Mathews by
Edna Fitzpatrick

Patrick Reymann by
Suzanne T. Allen
Darlene & Jim Berresford
Bryan & Susan Kinnaman
Bob & Vicki Merzweiler
Suzanne E. Rickards

Joan Andrews Schrank by
Laura Harkey
Edwin Schrank

R. Bruce Silver by
Akrochem Corporation
Bud & Susie Rogers

Susan Turcotte by
John Vittum

Louella C. "Hap" Warner by
Lawrence & Katherine Oana

Memorial gifts to the Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:

Joseph Holden by
Jan Parry

George T. Longer by
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bender

John S. Pfleuger Jr. by
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bender

Patrick H. Reymann by
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bender
Jo Brookhart
Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Mrs. George Parry
Terry & Dianne Squires

R. Bruce Silver by
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bender
Jo Brookhart

Memorial gifts to the Black Keys

Alfred McMoore Memorial Endowment Fund for:

Alfred McMoore by
Barbara Tannenbaum
& Mark Soppeland

Memorial gifts to the Gay Community Endowment Fund for:

Nancy McKenzie by
Rod Wellman

Memorial gifts to the HPSEF

Memorial & Tribute Fund for:

Everett Shumate by
Dr. Sarah E. Shumate

Memorial gifts to the Jessie and Abram Kipple "Making a Difference"

Memorial gifts to the Leadership Akron Endowment Fund for:

Bill E. Giermann by
Albrecht Incorporated

Memorial gifts to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund for:

Rebecca Croom by
Ann Cole

Memorial gifts to the Brube and Peggy Silver Fund for:

R. Bruce Silver by
Harry & Joan Albrecht
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Chenoweth
Bill Choler, Karen Randall, and Associates of Bruner-Cox LLP
Susan Darrouzet
Jon & Mary Heider
William & Madeleine Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Keener Jr.
Keith & Mary Lou McNamar
Bill & Karen Silver
Richard & Charlotte Staiger
Ashley & Rich Vogel
Joan Zahoraz

Memorial gifts to the Wilkinson-Gudikunst Designated Family Fund for:

Helen Gould by
John E. Wilkinson
Charles F. Prather by
Glenn C. Burkholder
Bryon Wilkinson by
John E. Wilkinson
George B. Wilkinson by
Glenn C. Burkholder

Memorial gifts to the Women’s Endowment Fund for:

Dr. & Mrs. Walter Hoyt by
W. Greenzalis
Karim Newman by
Tracy Carter

Tribute gifts to Akron Community Foundation and its affiliate funds for:

Eileen Burg by
Eileen G. Kerr

Betty Dalton by
Bud & Susie Rogers

Mr. Frank H. Harvey Jr. by
Robert & Carole Weisberger

Frank & Robbin Harvey by
Robert & Carole Weisberger

Kathryn M. Hunter by
Dorothy Alexander
John & Jean Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Bailey
Myrna & Morrie Berzon
George & Alison Birmbaum
Barbara Black
Madeline & Libert Bozziell
Ann Brennan
Chris Burnham
Shirley Burr Darling
Ben & Betty DeGraff
Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Lorraine & Don Fair
Tim & Pam Fitzwater
Janet Gannon & Thomas Smith
William J. Ginter
Robert A. Handelman
Jean Isabel
George E. Kettlewell
Tom & Ginny Knoll
Dale Koblenzer
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Lloyd
Don & Wendy MacKay
Dominick & Mary Maimone
Jack & Nancy Opler
Jill Rango
Judy & Roger Read
Lola Rothmann
Edwin Schrank
Rev. Sandra Selby
Joan Shank
Bruce & Mary Helen Wright

Emily Sheehy by
Mark & Tracy Tronti

Tribute gifts to the Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:

Julie Deans by
Nancy Parry

Tribute gifts to the Boys and Girls Clubs Operating Endowment Fund for:

David Hastings by
Steven H. Schloenbach

Tribute gifts to the Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:

Barbara Beiling by
Peggy Shaffer

Tribute gifts to the Women’s Endowment Fund for:

Kathryn Booth by
Martha Booth

Robert A. Handelman by
Genny Karder

Michael & Kathy-Ann Karder
Ilene & Robert Shapiro
Kim & John Mihevic

Theresa Kloska by
Jackie McDermott

Cindy Petures by
Jane & Steve Schloenbach
Trailblazer Kathryn Hunter honored at foundation’s 41st Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award celebration

As the president of First Akron Corporation and the honorary chairwoman of Valley Savings Bank, Kathryn uses her knowledge of greater Akron to advocate for local nonprofits. In addition to her current positions on the boards of the American Heart Association and the Akron Roundtable, Kathryn has been a trustee for dozens of other organizations, including the United Way of Summit County and her alma maters, Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of Akron.

“Kathryn Hunter continues to be a force for women, a force for philanthropy, and a force for the community at large,” said Akron Deputy Mayor Dave Lieberth. Lieberth gave guests insight into Kathryn’s life and many accomplishments, which included conducting Ohio’s first program to assist adult women returning to school or work. Akron Community Foundation board chair Pat Pacenta presented Kathryn with the Polsky Award, saying she is “tough, business-minded, smart, witty, playful, connected, involved and generous.” “She represents the very best of what the Akron community is all about,” Pacenta said.

1. Foundation President and CEO John T. Petures Jr., left, and event chair Lois Margaret Nora, right, join Kathryn in the receiving line.
2. Board chair Pat Pacenta looks on as Kathryn accepts her prestigious award.
3. Kathryn’s grandchildren unveil a portrait that is now displayed in her honor at Akron Community Foundation’s Cedar Street office.
4. Singer Wanda Hunt serenades the crowd with a song for Kathryn.
5. Event attendees included past Polsky Award winner Dorothy Jackson, left, NEOUCOM’s Barb Palmisano, center, and Dr. Terry Gordon, right.
New fund will support national park programs

On July 24, Akron Community Foundation welcomed another fund to its growing family. The Mignon Steere Fund for Cuyahoga Valley National Park Environmental Education was established with $25,000 by the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association.

Income from the permanently endowed fund will be used for the park’s environmental education programs. It honors the life of Mignon Steere, a longtime supporter of the parks who was passionate about nature.

“Mignon loved visiting Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center. She enjoyed seeing children learn about nature and was especially enthusiastic about providing programs in the national park for children from Akron,” said Deb Yandala, president and CEO of CVNPA. “We are privileged to honor Mignon by making these experiences possible for children for years to come.”

The Mignon Steere Fund will help future generations learn to appreciate nature in our national parks.