Venarge fund fosters 3 generations of philanthropy

For David and Cheryl Venarge, there is no place quite like Akron. Both were born and raised here by hard-working families that struggled to make ends meet.

Today, as successful business owners and volunteers, they are passionate about giving back to the community they love through their donor-advised fund at Akron Community Foundation. The Venarges make grants to the causes they care about as a family, which, according to Cheryl, is a great way to get their five granddaughters involved in philanthropy.

“Our donor-advised fund enables us to share with our children and grandchildren how we feel about Akron,” Cheryl said. “Discussing (grants) with them brings us together as a family to help others.”

The Venarges are one of several families who have chosen a multi-generational approach to donor-advising: After they pass away, their children and grandchildren may recommend grants from their fund. Still others have chosen to have an unlimited number of succeeding generations advise their fund. In each case, advisors honor the fund’s founders by making grants in their name long after they are gone.

Many families like the Venarges find a donor-advised fund to be a great alternative to a private foundation. They can recommend as few or as many grants as they wish while the community foundation handles all of the legal, grant and financial administration. Also, gifts of cash and appreciated assets earn them a bigger tax break than their private foundation counterparts.

Through their relationship with Akron Community Foundation, the Venarges gain access to a wealth of information about local nonprofits and the causes they support. In September, they brought their granddaughters Camryn and Sydney, ages 7 and 9, to the community foundation to help make grant recommendations from their fund and to talk to staff members about local children’s programs. They hope to make these family meetings an annual event so their children and grandchildren can continue their legacy of giving in Akron.

“Teaching them to help others (through our donor-advised fund) won’t be just about the money,” David said. “It will also help develop their character so they can do other good things for people. That’s the kind of person I want my granddaughters to be.”

To learn more about how you, too, can involve your family in your philanthropy, call Dr. Suzanne Allen at 330-376-8522.

Hear the Venarges talk about giving as a family at www.akronist.com/familyphilanthropy.html

Inside This Issue

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We celebrated an unfortunate anniversary this month. Americans and others around the world paused and reflected on the morning of Sept. 11 to remember the tragic events of that day in 2001 when our world changed forever.

We all remember where we were on that terrible morning. That Tuesday was especially poignant for me, as it was my birthday. Candles were never lit; instead, we sat quietly with our children, watching this tragedy unfold and praying for a miracle to save the lives of innocent people we never met.

Ten years have passed, and we’re still riveted to TV specials depicting the resolve and bravery we saw in New York, Pennsylvania and our nation’s capital. This tragedy showed us the very worst and the very best of humanity. Beauty is now growing out of the ashes of the World Trade Center through a memorial and museum that honor the nearly 3,000 people who perished that day.

I was moved to write a poem 10 years ago that I’d like to share a few verses of:

In silence and amazement, we gazed
And we listened,
Disbelieving human beings could carry out such a mission;
Innocence and horror thrust together above a city,
We struggled with our anger, bewilderment and pity;
In an instant of terror, death rained from above,
Overwhelmed our compassion, overshadowed our love;
This unimaginable tragedy that shattered our world,
Stark visions of destruction and flags now unfurled;
What do we say so our children will know?
That our lives must continue, that our spirits must grow;
We saw acts of heroism, kindness and caring,
Firemen so courageous, policemen so daring;
Hiding our emotions seemed senseless this night,
Our quiet reflections of deathly peril and plight;
A child’s tears and compassion struck me as so sad,
But their words brought me comfort: “Happy Birthday, dear Dad”

I hope you’ll take a moment to reflect on the many blessings we have in our lives, most especially our freedom and those who have paid the ultimate price to secure it.

Have a wonderful fall season,

John T. Petures Jr.
President & CEO

The foundation’s portfolio experienced an average net gain of .26 percent for the quarter ending June 30, 2011. This brings its net return for the one year ending June 30 to 22.7 percent, and its average annualized net return for the 10 years ending June 30 to 5.7 percent.

In comparison, the Balanced Index earned .76 percent during the most recent quarter, bringing its net return for the one year ending June 30 to 20.1 percent, and its average annualized net return for the 10 years ending June 30 to 3.9 percent.

The Finance and Investment Committee continues to closely monitor the foundation’s portfolio in light of current market conditions and its long-term investment strategies.

For questions about the foundation’s investment policies or your fund, please contact Steve Schloenbach, vice president of finance, at 330-376-8522 or sschloenbach@akroncommunityfdn.org.

Join us Oct. 18 as we honor one of Akron’s most dedicated philanthropists, William H. Considine, at the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award dinner. The celebration starts at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn. Reserve your seats by calling 330-376-8522.
Discretionary grants for civic programs top $440,000

Akron Community Foundation’s board ratified grants totaling $1,310,928 during its quarterly meeting Sept. 16.

It approved 31 discretionary, or board-determined, grants totaling $442,500 for local civic programs. The board also ratified 207 donor- and committee-directed grants from 95 designated, donor-advised and scholarship funds totaling $868,428.

The following organizations received discretionary grants this quarter:

- **Akron Community Service Center & Urban League**, for general operating support, $20,000
- **Akron Inner City Soccer Club**, for free youth soccer camps, $10,000
- **Akron Marathon Charitable Corporation**, to recruit participants, enhance the course and improve signage for the 10-year anniversary race in 2012, $15,000
- **Akron Regional Development Board Educational Fund**, to build a website for the Young Professionals Network, $10,000
- **Akron Rotary Camp for Special Children Inc.**, for general operating support, $20,000
- **Akron Zoological Park**, for the Mike & Mary Stark Grizzly Ridge exhibit, which will include red wolves, grizzly bears, coyotes and black bears, some of which have never been featured at the zoo, $10,000
- **Boy Scouts of America, Great Trail Council**, for the Camp Manatoc Fitness & Aquatic Center, $15,000
- **CASA Board Volunteer Association Inc.**, to recruit and train volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in juvenile court, $12,500
- **Cascade Locks Park Association**, for general operating support, $10,000
- **Charisma Community Connection**, to help non-custodial fathers overcome the barriers preventing them from being involved in their children’s lives, including issues with child support and custody mediation, $12,500
- **City of Akron**, for the 2012 Neighborhood Partnership Program, $65,000
- **Cleveland Restoration Society Inc.**, for the Heritage Home Program, which provides low- and moderate-income homeowners in Summit County with technical assistance and low-interest loans to maintain their older homes, $10,000
- **Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park**, for general operating support, $25,000
- **Crown Point Ecology Center**, for general operating support, $10,000
- **Cuyahoga Valley Preservation and Scenic Railway Association**, to replace worn-down air brake hoses and hand brakes to ensure the trains stop safely, $5,000
- **The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio**, to teach students at three Akron high schools about the negative effects of stereotypes and discrimination, $5,000
- **Downtown Akron Partnership Inc.**, for local artists and performers for First Night Akron, $10,000
- **East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation**, for the Emergency Home Repair Program for low-income seniors, the working poor and homeowners with disabilities, $20,000
- **The Foundation Center Cleveland**, for general operating support, $2,500
- **Friends of Metro Parks**, for the Outside Is In program, an overnight camping experience for urban children, $10,000
- **Girl Scouts of North East Ohio**, to teach girls in AMHA housing sites about financial literacy, math and science careers, healthy relationships and youth leadership, $20,000
- **Good Shepherd Athletic Club**, for general operating support, $10,000
- **Habitat for Humanity of Summit County Inc.**, for the capital campaign, $10,000
- **Humane Society of Greater Akron**, to support an exercise area for abused and neglected animals, $7,500
- **Keep Akron Beautiful**, for the 2011-2012 Flowerscape program, $10,000
- **Leadership Akron**, for the orientation retreat and Torchbearers College, $12,500
- **Oriana House**, for a countywide re-entry coordinator for former offenders, $15,000
- **The Scenic Railway Association**, to ensure the trains stop safely, $5,000
- **Summit County Children Services Board**, for the Child & Family Leadership Exchange Program, which educates nonprofit leaders about social service programs in Summit County, $5,000
- **Western Reserve Land Conservancy**, to develop a land bank in Summit County, $15,000

**Funds that keep on giving**

The following discretionary funds, which donors created to support the community’s changing needs, made this quarter’s civic grants possible: Adam Fund, V.E. (Tom) Atkins Fund, Charles C. and Dorathea S. Dilley Fund, Arthur Kelly Fund, John S. Knight Fund, William C. Krisher Fund, Polsky Fund, Helen S. Robertson Fund, James G. Robertson Fund, Roush Memorial Fund, Shaw Foundation Fund, George Stevens Fund, Ronald L. Stiles Fund, and William C. and Betty J. Zekan Fund.
Recipient Spotlight

Erika Webber

For the 2011-12 academic year, 39 funds at Akron Community Foundation awarded 106 scholarships totaling $172,600:
- AAUW of Medina County Scholarship Fund
- Suzanne Deeds
- Lisa Poloha
- Acorn Scholarship Fund
- Raven Burdette
- Andrew Genemans
- Carmari Lewis
- Matthew Roberts
- Andrew Wurtz
- Richard L. Averitte Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Tessa DiTirro
- Kaylah Green
- Elizabeth Randolph
- Jasmine Wyatt
- The Black Tiger Gridiron Alumni Club Scholarship Fund
- Alexis Berdine
- Tyler Habony
- Jackson Jones
- Martin O. Chapman Humanitarian Scholarship Fund
- Bobbi Brown
- Ahmad Thomas
- Coming Together Diversity Scholarship Fund
- Brianna Reed
- Michael Corbett Memorial Fund
- Anna Lemmon
- Katharine Powell
- The Dirk J. Desanzo Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Charles Gordon
- Sara Tilley
- Mee Vue
- Dombo-Fielder Communication Scholarship for Women
- Meghan Caprez
- Travis Cruse
- Roland E. Gamble Memorial Fund
- Zefrem Vesel
- Glick-Zedak Scholarship Fund
- Cortez DeGraffenreed
- O’Neal Pointer Jr.
- Hanlon Family Scholarship Fund
- Chad Kanakkanatt
- Gabrielle Yarbrough
- Morgan Hasbrouck 4-H Scholarship Fund
- Riley Kline
- Sara Kline
- Victoria Sampsel
- Megan Schott
- Joan Lutz Scholarship Fund
- Amber Reed
- Scott T. Malson Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Rebecca McKnight
- Matt Ramsay
- Frank Meadows Scholarship Fund
- Jessica Barker
- The Medina Sunrise Rotary Fund
- Cassandra Abbate
- Allison Christy
- Janelle Shaffer
- Rachel Zacharias
- North Coast Society Scholarship Fund
- Maryann Bertele
- Matthew Gaillard
- Elizabeth Horning
- Tyler Karras
- Lauren Kingsley
- Savannah Owoc
- Adrianna Tondi
- Ruocco-Hudson Small Group Instruction Scholarship Fund
- Geena Whitney
- John T. and Julia A. Spellman Scholarship Fund
- John Barnes

ACF funds award $172,600 in scholarships to local students

Andrew Brinkerhoff
Daniel Kennedy
Melissa Marmaduke
Ashley Soyk
Summit County Pest Control Association Scholarship Fund
Tyler Olds
The Michelle M. Vasenda Fund
Erika Webber
David R. Venarge Scholarship Fund
Christina Collart
Kaitlin Hindinger
Rachel Hindinger
Kathy Hullum
Brianne Kelley
Paige Marty
Lindsey Ritenour
Witan Presidents’ Scholarship Fund
Maria Westmeyer

Hudson Public Schools Endowment Funds
- Marion Albee Scholarship Fund
- Patrick Burg
- Barlow Fund
- Wyatt Andrasik
- Lynn Barmhouse
- Patrick Burnett
- Ellen Chuang
- Ashley Estergall
- Caroline Feldman
- Sarah Hill
- Katharine Huntley-Bachers
- Anusha Sri Vaishnavi Jayaram
- Anne Kim
- Tim Lanzendorfer
- Kathryn Mailey
- Sarah Moffitt
- Patrick Murphy
- Matthew Lee Pinover
- Amanda Pinto
- Michael Samide
- Alexander Schumacher
- Jennifer Shanks
- Taylor Turk
- Eric Xie
- Peter Yao
- Helen Barlow Art Scholarship Fund
- Paige Stononik
- Harry D. Bubb Scholarship Fund
- Patrick Desing
- Arthur Caniglia Scholarship Fund
- Megan Andrus
- Scott Case Memorial Fund
- Patrick Ohanian
- Les Dingledine Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Wyatt Andrasik
- Daniella Breun
- Rosemary Gibbes Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Anusha Sri Vaishnavi Jayaram
- Hudson Bicentennial Scholarship Fund
- Hannah Mushock
- Raymond Marshall Hyser Sr.
- Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Natalie Goodson
- Michael Samide
- Pauline Klupinski Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Connor McCoy
- The Dante B. Lavelle Football Academic Scholarship Fund
- Shawn Brown
- Burton D. Morgan Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Matthew Lee Pinover
- Taylor Turk
- June Young Pak Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Andrew Circelli
- Robert Michael Popilock
- Stevenson Award Fund
- Peter Yao

The Michelle M. Vasenda Fund

Erika’s passion for nursing was sparked during her younger brother’s battle with cancer: “The nurses were not just there to start IVs, administer his chemotherapy and assess his pain levels; they practiced on a holistic basis to care for my brother on a physical, emotional and psychological level,” she said. “I wanted to be that kind of nurse one day.”

Today, she is living out her dream as a registered nurse in the oncology unit of Akron City Hospital. With the help of her scholarship from the Michelle M. Vasenda Fund, Erika will continue to work nights at the hospital while she takes classes toward her Master of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Akron.

Ultimately, Erika hopes to earn a doctorate degree in nursing and become a cancer researcher. “I want to work alongside oncologists to examine and treat cancer patients with the same compassion that was evident in my brother’s nurses,” she said.

The Michelle M. Vasenda Fund provides scholarships to local nursing students in honor of Michelle Vasenda, a career nurse who passed away in 2009 from breast cancer.
New vice president embracing role as convener for local nonprofits, donors

With a 25-year nonprofit career under his belt, John Garofalo knows what it means to rally the community around important causes.

The Sagamore Hills resident joined Akron Community Foundation Aug. 1 as the new vice president of community investment, and he is excited to roll up his sleeves and learn everything there is to know about the pressing needs of Summit County.

“My goal is to learn the nuances of what’s happening in all realms of greater Akron, including education, the arts and human services,” John said. “I want to really get a gauge for what this community needs and how Akron Community Foundation’s donors can help.”

John has already met with dozens of nonprofit and community leaders to discuss the public and nonprofit landscape, including collaborations improving the community and gaps in service.

The information he gathers is vital to the foundation’s discretionary, or board-determined, grant-making. It also benefits the foundation’s donor-advisors, who rely on the community foundation to keep them apprised of promising programs in their areas of charitable interest.

“I’m looking forward to matching those needs to donors who so generously want to give back,” he said. “My role is to give fund-holders information they otherwise wouldn’t have when making their grant decisions.”

John said he is also eager to embrace his role as an impartial convener of people and organizations who are tackling some of the key issues facing our community.

“I know the strong nonprofit history this community has, and I’m excited to bring them to the table,” he said. “Everyone has a voice, and the community foundation is the perfect place to make their voices heard.”

Although new to the grant-making side of the equation, John is no stranger to the nonprofit community. He most recently worked as senior development officer and manager of strategic community initiatives at UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital in Cleveland. His regional experience also includes senior positions at the American Red Cross, United Way, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Summit and Medina Counties.

John earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education and a master’s degree in community health management and administration from Kent State University. He is an active volunteer and was recently appointed president of the university’s Alumni Association National Board of Directors.

John is also on the board of the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, where he served as president from 2007 to 2008.

John can be reached at 330-376-8522 or jgarofalo@akroncommunityfdn.org.
Memorial & Tribute Giving
For gifts received May 1, 2011, through July 31, 2011

Memorial gifts to Akron Community Foundation and its affiliate funds for:
Steven Baach by
Chris Dunning
Jim & Pat Proffitt

H. Peter Burg by
Robert Burg
Amy Burg Cole

Staff Sgt. Samuel Hewitt by
Paula Banks

Dorothy Jameson by
Henry Jameson

Carol A. Kasa by
Paula Banks

Jason Martert by
Bryan & Susan Kinnamon

Ned Oldham by
Jan Parry

June Pak by
Eileen & George Loudenslager

Freda M. Simpson by
Lillian P. Ferguson

James V. Stewart by
Brian Hayes &
Garmiah Jones-Hayes
Mandie Kaminski &
The Cleveland Rex Team
Arthur James & Rosalind Lewis

Memorial gifts to the Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
Virginia Raasch by
Jan Parry

Memorial gifts to the Charles D. Miller Leadership Fund for:
Charles D. Miller by
Mrs. Charles D. Miller

Memorial gifts to the Dr. Sandra Kay and Magdalan E. Hausfeld Living Endowment Fund for:
Dr. Sandra K. Hausfeld by
Maxine Elias
David & Sharon Feldstein
John & Vera Hollis
Ken & Diana Jones
Noel & Ruth Jukowski
Ed & Judy Lasher
Michael & Jane Meighen
Nick Munas
Dick & Carol Sabol
Sister Patricia Sigler, OP
Daniel & Paula Wise

Memorial gifts to the Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
Steve Riter by
Bill & Barb Belling

Alfreda Stimler by
Stow Women’s Club

Morton Thomas by
Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library

Memorial gifts to the Gay Community Endowment Fund for:
David Blefus by
Rabbi David & Toby Horowitz

Memorial gifts to the HPSEF Memorial & Tribute Fund for:
Everett Shumate by
Dr. Sarah E. Shumate

Memorial gifts to the Janet K. Allio Memorial Fund for:
Janet Kay Allio by
Akron Law Department of Bridgestone Americas Inc.
Michael Allio

Patrick & Susan Baker
Dale Birtzal
Robert & Veda Bell
Barbara Zeller Biskner
Madeleine Breen
Boyd & Holly Brewer
Charles & Mary Lou Bush
Charles Callahan
The Campagnola Family
Catholic Charities Health
Human Services
CFBank
Cynthia Heiselman Chassan
Council for Smaller Enterprises
Jo Dangel & Diane Kovachik
Dolores Delorenzo
John & Esther Delorenzo
Catherine Delorenzo
Demas Fund
Tom & Judy Di Nardo
Frank & Marilyn DiMauro
Robert & Barb Doe
Gloria Donges & Julie Oliver
Tim & Kim Ede
First Friday Club of
Greater Akron
Tim & Pam Fitzwater
Mr. & Mrs. C. Grasso
Dennis & Anne Griffith
Evelyn Gunning
David & Vivian Huffman
Thomas & Marianne Kaluza
Commercial Banking Group
at KeyBank
Bryan & Susan Kinnamon
John & Elizabeth Lewis
John & Regina Lindeman
Marie/Ewing Family Foundation
Musica Properties LLC
Cindy and John T. Petures, Jr.
Family Fund
Gary & Ronda Piper
Constance Pisciotta &
Grace Ann Morris
John & Joan Primm
Roetzel & Andress LPA
Allen & Laurie Rowner
Mark & Lee Salerno
Rev. Sandra Selby
John Shannon
John & Karen Skipper
Jane Tipton
David & Mary Myers Tschantz
Todd Valenzia
Eileen Von Alt

Memorial gifts to the Medina County Arts Council Endowment Fund for:
William G. Batchelder Jr. by
Nancy W. Sprosws

Memorial gifts to the Wilkinson-Gudikunst Designated Family Fund for:
Anna R. Gudikunst by
John E. Wilkinson

Memorial gifts to the Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
Barbara Belling by
Terry Keenan
Fran Waybright
Casey Brown by
Barbara Belling
Mr. & Mrs. Lou Holtz by
Bill & Barb Belling

Memorial gifts to the Women’s Endowment Fund for:
Anna Kuhns by
Nancy Evans
Russell Clifford Neal Sr. by
Ilene Shapiro
Patricia Thacker by
Mark Scheffler
Bruce S. Bailey by
Dr. Tom & Mary Ann Jackson
Frederick & Margaret Lombardi
Sonya & James Parry
Charles E. Booth by
Kathryn M. Booth
Frances S. Buchholzer by
Robert & Carole Weisberger
Hall & Carol Cary by
Paula Banks
Laura & Rob Culp by
Eileen Burg

John Dalton by
Nancy & Stu Parry
Gina Snyder & Ben Heckerman by
Anonymous
Eleanor & Roger Lindway by
Dennis & Karen Poltrone
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Mitchell by
Karen M. Krino &
Gary L. Rickel

Jan Parry by
Jim Parry

Sona & James Parry by
Jan Parry
Barbara L. Steinkerschner by
Maureen Campion
Marc & Linda Craig
Kathleen Devlin
Elaine Downing
Roy & Monika Hilliard
Victor & Lynn Johansen
Robert & Janet Metzger
Chris & Jim O’Brien
Bruce & Bonnie Pendleton
Nancy & Patrick Roberts
Edwin Schrank
James & Tia Schrank & Family
Grandma and Grandpa

Tribute gifts to the Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
Kathy Keller by
Dianne Squire
Diane Squire by
Jan Parry

Tribute gifts to the Trimble Historical Society Fund for:
James Winkler by
Helena Parry

Tribute gifts to the Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
Barbara Belling by
Terry Keenan
Fran Waybright

Rev. Holly Rowley by
Dianne Winnen-Oldenburg, CFP
Sister Dorothy Sarachene by
Marie E. Covington

Lucille Hollinger by
Mark Dalton
Beatrice Forbes Manz by
Ruth Dean

Lisa Millisor by
Anne G. Kaufmann
Mia Jacklyn Quinan by
Lena Heyman
Margaret Roseberry by
Linda Butson
Rev. Holly Rowley by
Dianne Winnen-Oldenburg, CFP
Sister Dorothy Sarachene by
Marie E. Covington
Elizabeth Sheeler by
Patricia L. Quirk
Barbara Snyder by
May Chen
Lisa Forbes Tripp by
Ruth Dean
Melvin & Virginia Wilms by
Ilene & Robert Shapiro
As a young girl with autism, Katie Farrell could barely talk to another child; on July 12, the 16-year-old brought a crowd of 200 people to their feet.

“I’ve found that the purpose of this life is to make peace with your challenges, work on becoming the best person that you can be, and always try to turn your challenges into something positive,” she said. “Everyone is special and beautiful in their own way.”

Katie’s speech capped off an exciting and energizing 56th annual meeting of Akron Community Foundation. Present with her was her aunt, realtor Barb Hudak, who started the Hudak Family Fund in 2005 to provide resources and support to other local families struggling with autism.

“When I hear, ‘My child now talks,’ or, ‘My child now plays with other children,’ ... I know the Hudak Family Fund has provided the right thing,” Barb said in an emotional video shown during the meeting.

The crowd heard two more compelling stories about donors who are accomplishing their philanthropic goals through their Akron Community Foundation funds.

Rennick and Dee Andreoli talked about their “Hilton for Kids” initiative, which is building cabins for children with disabilities at Akron Rotary Camp. In addition, Elizabeth Brainard Sandwick told how she is honoring her late husband’s legacy while permanently supporting the Akron Art Museum through her designated fund.

Guest speaker Katie Farrell hugs her aunt, Barb Hudak, who established a fund at Akron Community Foundation in 2005 to support families struggling with autism.
Annual meeting, continued from page 7

Top left: Outgoing board Chair Pat Pacenta is recognized for her years of service.
Top right: Vice President of Development Dr. Suzanne Allen welcomes OPEN M CEO Dottie Achmoody to this year’s annual meeting.
Bottom left: ACF board member Virginia Albanese, left, greets annual meeting guests Richelle Wardell, center, and Chris Yuhasz, right, from AMHA.