Grants strengthen countywide early learning plan

Three years ago, Akron Community Foundation prioritized its education grants to fund programs that prepare children to succeed in kindergarten.

Since then, a steering committee led by Summit County Executive Russ Pry has combined efforts with many of Akron Community Foundation’s early learning grantees to develop the First Things First initiative.

First Things First is a holistic early childhood development plan for Summit County that focuses on early learning, family support, and medical and behavioral health care, including early identification of and care for special needs. It paves the way for all Summit County children to be more successful in school and in life. It also arms parents, educators, medical professionals, and agencies serving young children with an efficient and effective means for improving kindergarten readiness. In addition, it equips funders to make more educated decisions by targeting grant dollars to programs that support the plan’s identified strategies and indicators.

One of the First Things First strategies is to provide regular developmental screenings and referrals to all Summit County children. A $25,000 Akron Community Foundation grant will help Summit County Family & Children First Council develop and implement a screening process for these children from birth to age 5.

Tonya Block, Family & Children First Council director, said the plan will help “fill the gaps where children fall through the cracks due to fragmentation, duplication, and lack of knowledge by families and professionals.”

A $95,000 grant to Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority will help implement nearly all 16 First Things First strategies in seven of its housing communities.

Donors use family fund to give turkeys at Christmas

On Dec. 22, hundreds of people stood waiting in line for food at four local churches. They came hoping to get just enough food for Christmas, but they left carrying much more: whole 12-pound turkeys.

“The look on their faces, realizing they were getting these turkeys, was just amazing,” said Mary Coppenger, food cupboard coordinator at Arlington Memorial Baptist Church. “You have no idea how much they were appreciated.”

But for Mark and Shelly Allio, donating the turkeys was not about recognition – it was about coming together as a family to meet a real community need.

In December, they approached the community foundation about making a grant from the Mark and Michele Allio Family Fund to distribute a “ton of turkeys” during the holidays.
Akron Community Foundation has welcomed nearly 65 new funds in the last three years, each of which was created by a person, organization or family that wanted to make a permanent commitment to the good of our community. That commitment has always been at the heart of our work here in greater Akron, and it translates to more than $90 million in grants distributed to thousands of nonprofit groups in our 55-year history.

In the last 12 months, we’ve seen our assets approach $130 million as the economy has continued to recover. This growth is a result of the prudent investment strategies and sound oversight of our Finance Committee and board of directors.

More than ever before, Akron Community Foundation has become a philanthropic “savings account” for local residents, who use their funds to make a difference in the lives of people in Summit County.

In this issue, you’ll read about some of the organizations that are advancing early childhood education and enriching the lives of preschoolers at a critical time in their development. Through the generosity of our donors, we’re investing in the futures of these young children and doing our part to build a community where every child has the tools to succeed.

You, too, can create a legacy of giving that improves our community forever. Like the Allio family on page 1, you can establish a fund that allows you to feed hungry people, teach children to read, preserve our area’s history, or permanently support your favorite nonprofits.

We’re here to help you accomplish your philanthropic goals and maximize the impact of your giving. One way you can increase your impact this year is by making a tax-free gift from your IRA. Through Dec. 31, people who are 70 1/2 and older can transfer up to $100,000 to charity from their IRAs without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. This is a huge opportunity for you to make a gift that will support your favorite causes forever.

In this spring season of new beginnings, I encourage you to start thinking about the legacy you want to create for you and your family. I would be delighted to personally talk with you about your goals and dreams for our community, and share with you the inspiring things our donors have accomplished through their funds at the foundation.

Our vision is that Akron Community Foundation should embrace and enhance the work of charitable people who make a permanent commitment to the good of our community.

Charitable people like you are making this vision possible every day, one gift at a time.

Enjoy the spring season,

John T. Petures Jr. 
President & CEO

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**Foundation’s investment portfolio returns 12.3% in 2010**

Akron Community Foundation’s investment portfolio finished the third quarter of its fiscal year beginning April 1, 2010, with a net gain of 7.58 percent. This brings its calendar year net return for the 12 months ending Dec. 31, 2010, to 12.3 percent.

On a long-term basis, the foundation’s average annualized net return for the 10 years ending Dec. 31, 2010, is 5.2 percent. In comparison, the Balanced Index gains averaged 3.2 percent.

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

For questions, please contact Steve Schloenbach, vice president of finance, at 330-376-8522.
Early learning takes priority as grants near $1.8 million

Remaining true to its first grant-making priority of the year, Akron Community Foundation’s board focused nearly half of its $469,000 in discretionary grants on early learning initiatives.

In all, $214,500 will support early childhood education programs throughout Summit County. The foundation’s board ratified nearly $1.8 million in total grants this quarter, including $1,292,744 from 180 designated and donor-advised funds.

The following is a complete list of discretionary grants:

**Early learning grants**

- **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority**, to continue and expand education programs, special-needs assessments, comprehensive health services and family support services for children under age 5 living in AMHA communities, $95,000

- **Asian Services in Action Inc.**, for the Ready Program, an early childhood development program for children in refugee families, $12,500

- **Child Guidance & Family Solutions Inc.**, for the Toddlers and Preschoolers Succeeding Program, which evaluates, supports and enhances the social and emotional well-being of children at child care centers in Summit County, $50,000

- **Family & Children First Council**, to plan and implement a developmental screening and referral process for all children ages birth to 5 in Summit County, $25,000

- **Project GRAD Akron**, for a kindergarten readiness camp for 50 students and their parents in the Buchtel cluster, $22,000

- **Twinsburg City School District**, for the Project Star summer reading program, which aims to improve reading proficiency in elementary school students who are reading below grade level, $10,000

- **Akron Council on World Affairs Inc.**, for the Global Scholars program, which teaches Akron high school students critical thinking skills while they interact with foreign diplomats, $7,500

- **Akron International Friendship**, to support a pilot project that teaches sixth-graders in Akron, Tallmadge and Revere schools about the importance of ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, $5,000

- **Alchemy Inc.**, for Myth, Muses & Scribes, a collaboration with Kent State University that uses myth to teach writing skills to urban adolescent males, $7,500

- **All Star Training Club**, for the Summer Academic Sports Camp for children and young adults with disabilities, $12,000

- **The Arc of Summit & Portage Counties Inc.**, for the People Together program, which increases disability awareness and acceptance among students in Summit County schools, $10,000

- **Beacon Journal Charity Fund Inc.**, to teach good oral health behaviors to third-grade students in Summit County, $5,000

- **BiOInnovation Institute in Akron**, for the BEST Medicine Engineering Fair, a science fair that encourages middle and high school students to develop solutions to medical problems with the help of professional mentors, $10,000

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve**, for after-school and summer programs that encourage good character, physical health and academic success among teens at the Eller Club in southeast Akron, $35,000

- **Charisma Community Connections**, to help unemployed and underemployed fathers find jobs in the green industry by providing them with energy efficiency training and certification, $20,000

- **First Book**, to purchase books for at-risk children, $7,500

- **Hattie Larlham Foundation**, to support a gardening employment program for adults with developmental disabilities at Crown Point Ecology Center, $20,000

- **He Brought Us Out Ministry**, for after-school and summer programming that teaches academic and life skills to low-income Akron youth, $7,500

- **Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio Inc.**, for JA More Than Money, a program that teaches workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy to students in after-school programs at the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and various Akron Afterschool locations, $10,000

- **Old Trail School**, to support a summer enrichment program for Akron Public elementary school students that combines academic classwork with outdoor recreational learning, $15,000

- **Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio**, for the Teens Talking to Teens program, which promotes healthy lifestyles and responsible choices among adolescents in Akron, $15,000

- **Project LEARN of Summit County**, to reduce the number of students waiting for classroom GED instruction by providing appropriate distance-learning and accelerated GED preparation options, $20,000

- **The Research Education & Charitable Association for the Benefit of the Chefs & Farmers (Veggie U.)**, to purchase Earth to Table science kits, which teach fourth-graders in Akron Public Schools about sustainable agriculture and healthy eating, $10,000

- **Summit Education Initiative**, for Destination College, which prepares students at six local high schools for college by helping them improve their ACT scores, complete their applications, and apply for financial aid, $20,000

- **Tri-County Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates**, to support the Dropout Recovery Program, which provides academic and employment support to Summit County youth who have dropped out of high school, $10,000

- **Young Men’s Christian Association of Akron**, to provide after-school programming that teaches social skills and healthy behaviors to at-risk girls, $7,500
For a short time, you can make the gift of a lifetime.

Qualified charitable IRA transfers to your community foundation are tax-free.

New temporary tax benefits allow qualified seniors to experience the joy of giving more during their lifetimes.

**You can give more for less.** Americans over age 70 1/2 no longer pay federal income tax on individual retirement account (IRA) funds given to charity up to $100,000 per person, per year. So your retirement funds can go further than ever before.

**You can make a difference.** Akron Community Foundation can help connect you to the causes you care about most. You can support an existing fund or establish a new charitable fund in your name or the name of a loved one. Giving is one of life’s pleasures; we can help you enjoy it today.

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*AKRON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION*
Enriching lives since 1955

There's so much more we'd like you to know.
To learn more about Akron Community Foundation, call 330-376-8522 or visit www.akroncommunityfdn.org.
Allio said his family decided to make the gift with their fund at Akron Community Foundation because they wanted to make the biggest impact possible. By using its expertise to coordinate community resources, the foundation was able to help the Allios provide feasts for 165 families at Christmas.

“During the holidays, our family collectively discusses ideas to help people in the community,” Allio said. “Our priority is basic human needs, so with our fund at Akron Community Foundation, we’re able to focus on those needs and let the foundation take care of the administration and fiduciary responsibilities.”

As the Allio fund grows, their family will be able to make an even bigger impact on their favorite causes.

“Giving through our family fund allows us to accomplish our philanthropic goals,” Allio said. “The ability to use so little in funds to provide thousands of meals is a wonderful return on any investment.”

The Vernon L. Odom Fund of Akron Community Foundation is celebrating $100,000 in grants to organizations that improve the quality of life of minorities in Summit County.

The fund recently awarded $9,000 in grants to 10 Akron-area nonprofits, bringing its cumulative grant-making total to $106,587.

The following is a full list of Vernon L. Odom Fund grants:

- **Akron Community Service Center & Urban League**, for the Elegant Evenings program for senior citizens, $830
- **Akron Inner City Soccer Club**, for the soccer program for Akron youth, $1,000
- **Akron International Friendship**, for the “Know Your World – Know Your Community” cultural diversity program for sixth-grade students, $1,000
- **Buchtel High School PTA**, for the Annual Black History Program and Taste of Culture, which provides entertainment related to black history
- **Good Neighbors Inc.**, to purchase food, $1,000
- **Good Samaritan Hunger Center Inc.**, to supply eggs for the Bags for Kids program, which provides at-risk children with high-protein groceries, $1,000
- **Gus Johnson Community Center Inc.**, for the Ready to Work Program, which prepares youth to succeed in the workplace, $750
- **Let’s Grow Akron Inc.**, for Harvest of Hope, a youth entrepreneurship farm and produce project, $1,000
- **St. Hilary Church**, for the Seeds of Change after-school tutoring program.

A $1,000 Odom grant to St. Hilary Church will support the Seeds of Change after-school tutoring program. Pictured above, tutor Allyson reads with Charnae at Helen Arnold Community Learning Center.

President John T. Petures Jr. immediately reached out to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank and ACME Fresh Market, and together, they used the Allio Family Fund grant to purchase 2,000 pounds – literally “a ton” – of turkey.

“One call to Akron Community Foundation, and it was done,” Mark Allio said.

Behind the scenes, the food bank worked diligently to coordinate the purchase of these turkeys and distribute them to four local church pantries, where people unsuspectingly stood in line for their regular food distribution.

“(They) showed up expecting to get a regular bag of food and ended up with a whole turkey right at Christmas,” said food bank CEO Dan Flowers. “The Allios’ donation could not have come at a better time.”

The pantries echoed this sentiment, with Coppenger adding that very rarely is the church able to give people fresh meat, let alone an entire turkey.

**Asian Services in Action** received a $12,500 grant to adapt many of these same strategies for the local refugee population.

In addition, **Child Guidance & Family Solutions** received a $50,000 grant to continue screening children in child care centers for behavioral and emotional issues, and to train child care providers to handle aggressive and inappropriate behavior.

In all, $214,500 of the foundation’s $449,000 in education grants supported early learning and care. For a complete list of grants, see page 3. For a copy of the First Things First planning document, contact Donae Eckert, vice president of community investment, at deckert@akroncommunityfdn.org.
Memorial & Tribute Giving

For gifts received Nov. 1, 2010, through Jan. 31, 2011

Memorial gifts to Akron Community Foundation and its affiliate funds for:
Eloise Anacki by
   Bryan & Susan Kinnaman
Richard Averitte by
   Yvonne Averitte
   Albert F. Fitzpatrick
Steven Baach by
   Chris Dunning
   Jim & Pat Proffitt
Irene Dunham Becker by
   Barbara Ann Hudak
H. Peter Burg by
   Bill & Laura Burg
   Eileen Burg
   Robert Burg
   Amy Burg Cole
   Ellen G. Kerr
   Fred & Sandy Ziegler
Martin Chapman by
   Roberta Chapman, Mary Chapman, Tony Bishop and Mary Gibson
William Edwards
Joseph W. Coleman Sr. by
   Jean Baach
Michael Corbett by
   Agnes D. Corbett
Nancy D. Fielder by
   Jean J. Wolff
William Giernmann by
   Mrs. Earl Hamlin
Joseph Holden by
   Rose Miller
Pauline Klupinski by
   Marie C. Baglio
   Dorothy Stewart
   Sarah A. Walker
Carl Looker by
   Dr. Tom & Mary Ann Jackson
George Rogers by
   Dr. & Mrs. John Detting
   Bryan & Susan Kinnaman
Joan Andrews Schranks by
   Jon Antalvari
R. Bruce Silver by
   Rose Miller
Gene Waddell by
   Robert & Carole Weisberger
Bill & Betty Zekan by
   Ross & Eva Smith
Memorial gifts to the Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
Eloise Anacki by
   Margot & Ron Schroeder
Josephine Eloise Anacki by
   Diane Squire
Jean Tremlin by
   Suzanne E. Rickards
Memorial gifts to the Brimfield Historical Society Fund for:
Walter E. Brant by
   Joyce Brant
Jim McCarron by
   Judy McCarron
Edgar & Cora Lee McCormick by
   Carol & David McDonald
Dorothy Underwood Randall by
   Frank P. Randall
Dick Scott by
   Judith Willoughby
David Frank Snyder by
   Sandra Snyder-Silvidi
George Urban by
   Jana Urban
Ray & Grace Alvira Willoughby by
   Betsy & Stephen Mako
Memorial gifts to the Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
Beverly Cain by
   Bill & Barb Beiling
Leona Caseby
   Stow Women's Club
Gertrude Adams deMeza by
   Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
Robert Dies Sr. by
   Bill & Barb Beiling
Ben Paynter by
   Bill & Barb Beiling
Ray Riter by
   Bill & Barb Beiling
Marvin & Harriet Weber by
   Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
Bob Wehr by
   Bill & Barb Beiling
Memorial gifts to the Gay Community Endowment Fund for:
Al (Bud) Jurkoshek by
   Terry Jurkoshek & Jennifer Davis
Eleanor Kish by
   Eric J. Jones
Carlla R. Shaw by
   Terry Jurkoshek & Jennifer Davis
Memorial gifts to the HPSEF Memorial & Tribute Fund for:
Deborah Krum Douglas by
   Ellen Ritter
C. Jay McWilliams by
   Minerva Shumate
Gladyrs Parsons by
   Jerry & Yolanda Reeves
Everett Shumate by
   Ellen Ritter
Memorial gifts to the Leadership Akron Endowment Fund for:
Susan Pavloff by
   Michael McGlinchy
Memorial gifts to the Medina County Community Fund for:
Steven Baach by
   Pamela Baach
   Russ Schabel
   Gertrude Gehring by
   Bruce & Judy Emrick
   Joseph A. Palker by
   Nancy W. Sprows
   Memorial gifts to the Brimfield
   Marilyn Fund for Children for:
   Dorothy G. Dombo by
   James Dombo
   Doris M. Klotz by
   Donna Schoner
   Carl R. Looker Jr. by
   Mrs. George T. Parry
   George Parry by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
   Memorial gifts to the Charles D. Miller Leadership Fund for:
   Charles D. Miller by
   Charles King III
   Memorial gifts to the Bruce and Peggy Silver Fund for:
   R. Bruce Silver by
   Robert K. and Irene Z. McNamara Fund of the Columbus Foundation
   Patricia Silver
   Memorial gifts to the Wilkinson-Gudknast Designated Family Fund for:
   Loved ones by
   John E. Wilkinson
   Ruth I. Wilkinson by
   John E. Wilkinson
   Memorial gifts to the Women's Endowment Fund for:
   Burton W. Greenwald by
   Gretchen March
   Eileen Orr by
   Deborah Orr
   Peggy & John Roberts by
   Sarah Doncaster
   Alma Singer by
   Jamie Singer
   Maxine Unk by
   Judy Joyce
   Tribute gifts to Akron Community Foundation and its affiliate funds for:
   Mal & Sue Ames by
   Phil & Sis Ames
   Steven Ames
   Doug & Pat Bigelow by
   Dr. Tom & Mary Ann Jackson
   Charles & Mary Booth by
   Susan & Michael Pallini
   Eileen Burg by
   Vince & Judy DeLuca
   Laura Culp by
   Robert L. Culp Jr.
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep by
   Chris & Amy Cline
   Bryan & Susan Kinnamon
   Kathryn M. Hunter by
   Drs. Sandy & Mark Aurburn
   Dr. Tom & Mary Ann Jackson by
   Al & Donna Loomis
   Jan Parry
   Judy & Roger Read
   Carole Satterfield
   Kristen Koly by
   Ron & Diane Schumaker
   Larry G. Poulos by
   Janise Parry
   Ruth Steere by
   Marty & Ray Wernig
   Janet Kendall White by
   Frank Kendall III & Eva Halpern
   Tribute gifts to the Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
   Jan Parry by
   Margot & Ron Schroeder
   Tribute gifts to the Brimfield Historical Society Fund for:
   Mrs. Lois Stewart by
   Richard & Judy Hendershot
   Tribute gifts to the Gay Community Endowment Fund for:
   Dr. Steven P. Schmidt by
   John Grafton & Richard Worswick
   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
   Tribute gifts to the Medina County Women's Endowment Fund for:
   Katie Horn by
   Dick & Betty Lynam
   Tribute gifts to the Millennium Fund for Children for:
   Ann & Ron Allan by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
   Rennick & Dee Andreoli by
   Joan S. Andreoli
   Dr. & Mrs. William Bauman by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
   John & Terry Bean by
   Emily & Paul Watanabe
   Kyra & Doug Bosnik by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
   Drew Boyes by
   Tina Boyes
   Naomi Boyes by
   Tina Boyes
   Dr. Everett & Michele Burgess by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
   Sandy & David Burner by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
   Drs. David & Lynne Cola by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
   Laura Culp by
   Mark Scheffler
   Mrs. Sandra & T. Clifford Deveny by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Thorpfundhonorslocalvet’scommitmenttoconservation

A new fund at Akron Community Foundation will permanently support the passion of local veterinarian Dr. Margaret Thorp. The Margaret Thorp Crown Point Development Endowment Fund was established in October by Crown Point Ecology Center, which shares Thorp’s philosophy of environmental conservation and spiritual ecology.

Thorp is a longtime supporter of Crown Point and is specifically interested in helping the center work toward its goal of becoming a zero net energy site. Disbursements from the fund will provide a stream of income to Crown Point and help it invest in sustainable practices that enhance the land’s biological diversity.

Crown Point’s executive director, Chris Norman, said they chose to establish the fund at Akron Community Foundation to ensure it would always support Thorp’s philanthropic goals.

“We were looking for a place that had a history of philanthropy in the community and a place that we felt would steward the funds in a way that was in keeping with Dr. Margaret’s intent,” he said. “ACF was a no-brainer.” Through this endowment fund, Crown Point will be able to carry on its mission forever and honor the legacy of a community leader.

“Dr. Margaret’s philanthropy and her passion have been inspiring to us,” Norman said. “She is a kindred spirit.”

ACF welcomes new funds

The following new funds were established Oct. 1, 2010, through Jan. 31, 2011. Some support the work of a specific organization. Others honor their namesakes through grants to their favorite causes. We are grateful to the funds’ establishing donors for investing in the good of our community.

Dick and Chris Chenoweth Boys and Girls Club of the Western Reserve Fund

The Koblenzer Family Fund

The Mitten Fund

Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition Endowment Fund

Summit Portage Area Health Education Fund

Richard Chenoweth Akron Community Service Center & Urban League Fund

Margaret Thorp Crown Point Development Endowment Fund

Richard Chenoweth Qualified Designated Scholarship Fund

Robert E. and Judy Everett Wilson Fund

The Friends of Ninety One Three Endowment Fund

Magdalyn E. Hausfeld Living Endowment Fund for Crown Point

The Friends of Crown Point

Thorp fund honors local vet’s commitment to conservation

For gifts received Nov. 1, 2010, through Jan. 31, 2011
Talk to us about the Akronist.com

A new citizen media website in greater Akron is gearing up for public launch, and it needs your help. The site, which was funded in part by Akron Community Foundation, is called the Akronist, a creative combination of the words “Akron citizen journalist.”

The name was submitted as part of a community-wide naming contest, which drew more than a thousand entries. The winner, Incite Creative founder Chris Hixson, also designed the site’s logo and tagline.

Beginning this spring, residents can explore akronist.com to view hundreds of news and entertainment pieces about local neighborhoods. Individuals and nonprofits are also welcome to contribute their own photos, videos and written stories to the site.

Those interested in taking a crash course in journalism and video production can sign up online for free sessions with the Akron Digital Media Center at www.akronist.com/training.

“Whether you’re a grandma who has never operated a camera before or a media-savvy student, you have the opportunity through this project to report on news and information in your community,” said foundation President and CEO John T. Petures Jr.

The Akronist is a collaboration of Akron Community Foundation, the Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com and the Akron Digital Media Center. It was created with the help of a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and aims to give even the smallest neighborhoods a public voice.

To learn more about the Akronist or to give feedback about the site, contact editor Chris Miller at cmiller@akroncommunityfdn.org.