Akron Community Foundation

Record gift establishes foundation’s 400th fund

Akron Community Foundation received the largest gift in its 56-year history Feb. 24 when it welcomed Medical Mutual of Ohio as its 400th fundholder.

Jared Chaney, Medical Mutual’s chief marketing and communications officer, presented a $5 million check to Akron Community Foundation Chair Michael A. Sweeney at the foundation’s quarterly board meeting.

“While we are headquartered in Cleveland, we very much believe we are an Akron company,” Chaney told the board. “This fund will allow us to better support the needs of this community, where we have a significant number of members and employees.”

The corporate-advised fund will be the company’s charitable arm in the Akron area, where it will break ground on a new office later this year.

Akron Community Foundation’s largest previous gift of $4.74 million came in 1994 from the John A. McAlonan Trust, which established the John A. McAlonan Fund. Since then, the fund has made $5.1 million in grants and has grown to $9.5 million in assets, nearly entirely from its initial gift.

According to Chaney, the main reason Medical Mutual established the fund is Akron Community Foundation’s ability to gauge the needs and emerging issues of greater Akron: “You have your finger on the pulse of this community,” he said.

“Working with Akron Community Foundation gives us a partner who understands local issues and who can help us use our charitable dollars to maintain a vital, healthy community for our policyholders.”

The fund’s advisory committee will meet periodically with community foundation staff to recommend grants that support a broad range of programs in Summit County.

Akron Community Foundation President and CEO John T. Petures Jr. said he is “thrilled” to be partnering with Medical Mutual to make greater Akron “a more vibrant community.”

He said he views the partnership as a model of how community foundations can work with charitable people of all kinds, be they individuals or organizations.

“Akron Community Foundation exists to help charitable people make a permanent commitment to the good of the community – whatever ‘good of the community’ is to them,” Petures said. “We are excited to be partnering with this great organization, and we can’t wait to work together to improve Summit County’s quality of life.”

Chaney concluded, saying, “We can think of no better partner in the Akron area to help us with (our) mission than Akron Community Foundation.”

See the check presentation at www.akronist.com/MedicalMutual.html.
President’s Letter

Someone recently asked me what my vision is for Akron Community Foundation. Without hesitating, I responded, “To be the go-to organization in greater Akron for charitable people, businesses and organizations that want to make a permanent commitment to the good of our community.”

Every day, we celebrate and applaud the imagination of donors whose philanthropy will have a lasting impact on the health and well-being of the community in which we live, work and raise our families.

In February, we were very proud to welcome Medical Mutual of Ohio as our 400th fundholder. Their record-breaking gift of $5 million shows an outstanding commitment to the people of this community.

But their gift is just the beginning: As it is invested and grown over time, Medical Mutual’s grant-making impact will increase significantly. Our knowledgeable staff will also serve as a resource about the most pressing needs in our area, helping them make the most informed grants possible.

Medical Mutual is one of hundreds of organizations and families that have decided to give through a fund at Akron Community Foundation, and we embrace the generosity of all our donors, both large and small.

Whether you are an individual who wants to support your favorite charity forever; a corporation that wants to build a charitable legacy; or a family that wants to teach its children and grandchildren about the importance of philanthropy, we can help make your vision a reality.

We take great pride in embracing and enhancing the work and dreams of charitable people in Summit County. Every day, your gifts make a difference in the lives of your friends, neighbors and people you will never meet. I am personally inspired by the generosity of this community and the devotion of the volunteers and contributors who so selflessly improve the human condition around them.

I hope you won’t hesitate to reach out to me, or any member of our staff, to learn how Akron Community Foundation can help you make a lasting and rewarding difference.

My regards for a wonderful spring,

John T. Petures Jr.
President & CEO

New phone system

In January, we updated our phone technology to better serve our donors and grantees. The new system includes direct dial numbers for each staff member, and we encourage you to update your records. A complete list of numbers can be found on the “Meet the Staff” page of our website.

ACF’s investment portfolio returns 6.6% in 3rd quarter

Akron Community Foundation’s investment portfolio finished the third quarter of its fiscal year with a net gain of 6.6 percent. This brings its average annualized net return for the 10 years ending Dec. 31, 2011, to 5.1 percent.

By comparison, the foundation’s Policy Index return averaged 5.7 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively, during the same periods.

The Policy Index is a new benchmark that allows us to more precisely examine our investments within each category of our asset mix.

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

If you have questions, please contact Steve Schloenbach, vice president of finance, at 330-436-5621 or sschloenbach@akroncommunityfdn.org.

We are also available to review with you in person your fund’s history, performance and spendable income. To set up a meeting, contact Dr. Suzanne Allen, vice president of development, at 330-436-5610 or sallen@akroncommunityfdn.org.
Early learning takes priority as grants exceed $1.5 million

A Akron Community Foundation’s board focused nearly half of its $490,000 in discretionary grants on early learning initiatives this year. In all, $222,500 will support early childhood education programs throughout Summit County.

The foundation’s board ratified more than $1.5 million in total grants this quarter, including $1,047,068 from 97 designated, donor-advised and scholar-ship funds.

The following is a complete list of discretionary grants:

**Early learning grants**

- **Asian Services in Action Inc.,** for the Ready Program, an early childhood development program for children in refugee families, $12,500
- **Building for Tomorrow,** to continue early education programs, special-needs assessments, comprehensive health services, and family support services for children under age 5 living in AMHA housing communities, $95,000
- **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, $65,000
- **Family & Children First Council,** to implement a standardized developmental screening and referral process for all children ages birth to 5 in Summit County as part of the First Things First initiative, $25,000
- **Project GRAD Akron,** for the Bridge to Kindergarten school readiness camp for students and their parents in the Buchtel cluster of Akron Public Schools, $25,000

A Akron Council of Parent Teacher Associations, to support a leadership training program for parents, $15,000

- **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, $5,000
- **All-Star Training Club,** for the Summer Academic Sports Camp for children and young adults with disabilities, $10,000
- **Arc of Summit & Portage Counties,** for the People Together program, which increases disability awareness and acceptance among students in Summit County schools, $10,000

- **Big Brothers & Sisters of Summit & Medina Counties,** for community- and school-based mentoring programs for at-risk youth, $10,000

- **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, health and academic success in at-risk teens, $70,000

- **Cleveland Museum of Natural History,** to provide free health and science programs to Akron Public Schools students, $5,000

- **First Book,** to purchase books for children living in poverty, $10,000

- **Hattie Larlham Foundation,** to support a housekeeping vocational program for adults with developmental disabilities, $20,000

- **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

- **Pastoral Counseling Service of Summit County,** to provide social-emotional and behavioral counseling to elementary school students serving an out-of-school suspension, $10,000

- **Project LEARN of Summit County,** 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

- **Tri-County Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates,** to purchase Earth to Table science kits, which teach fourth-graders in Akron Public Schools about sustainable agriculture and healthy eating, $10,000

- **Soceity of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Hilary Church,** to provide computers to low-income families with young children, as well as local nonprofit agencies, $5,000

**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

- **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

- **Young Men’s Christian Association of Akron Ohio,** to provide after-school programming that teaches life skills and healthy behaviors to at-risk girls, $7,500

A grant to Veggie U. will help fourth graders learn about healthy eating and sustainable agriculture. **Above:** Teacher Heidi Jones helps one of her students, April, poke holes in the soil. **Right:** A radish that the students planted begins to sprout.
Community Issues Session focuses on state of local arts

One of the greatest advantages of giving through a community foundation is the ability to tap into its wealth of knowledge about the local nonprofit community. On Jan. 25, a group of passionate donors, fundholders and other arts supporters had the opportunity to do exactly that as part of the foundation’s new Community Issues Sessions.

The sessions, which will be held once each quarter, will give community foundation partners a glimpse into the emerging issues that affect our community. At the first session, held in January, Summit County Executive Russ Pry and GAR Foundation Program Officer Julie Rittenhouse spoke about the state of the local arts community in preparation for Akron Community Foundation’s upcoming Arts and Culture grant cycle.

Pry discussed the importance of collaboration among arts organizations. One of those collaborations, the Akron Area Arts Alliance, includes approximately 50 groups. In 2001, the Alliance opened Summit Artspace, which features a creative business suite, galleries and work spaces for local artists. Pry said this is part of a larger climate of local collaboration, much like Akron’s business incubator and the Austen BioInnovation Institute.

The county’s general fund has decreased due to the economy, Pry said, forcing the local government to focus on necessities. This presents a serious funding challenge for arts organizations, many of which are turning to foundations for increased support. “We can’t do things the way they’ve been done before,” Pry said.

To remedy these funding concerns, Summit County may want to look at what neighboring counties are doing, said Rittenhouse, who presented the findings from a regional arts learning tour.

She pointed to Mahoning Valley’s “Power of the Arts Initiative,” which brings together 250 people from area organizations to create a sustainable structure for the arts community. In Cuyahoga County, a “sin tax” on items like cigarettes brings in about $17 million a year for the arts, Pry added. And in Stark County, the “Arts in Stark” nonprofit group awards more than $1 million a year in grants, shared Rittenhouse.

Following the presentation, fundholders had the opportunity to ask questions and talk about their own ideas for enhancing the arts community in Summit County. Mark and Sandy Auburn, who have a donor-advised fund at Akron Community Foundation, said they attended the meeting to learn more about the current landscape surrounding local arts organizations.

“These sessions give us insight so that we can be knowledgeable about what is happening in our community,” Sandy said. “It helps us make good decisions with our giving.”

Through their connection to Akron Community Foundation, Sandy and Mark are able to participate in discussions about local issues and make a bigger impact with their fund. “It gives us great pleasure to know that we can continue to care about the community that has given us so much, even after we are no longer living,” Sandy said. “Those grants will continue in our names forever.”

Odom fund awards $7,500 to area diversity programs

The Vernon L. Odom Fund recently granted $7,500 to eight Akron-area nonprofits that promote ethnic and racial harmony. The following is a full list of grants:

- Akron Inner City Soccer Club, for the soccer program for Akron youth, $1,000
- Asian Services in Action Inc., to support an international festival for students in North Hill, $1,000
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve, for an after-school program in northwest Akron that focuses on academics, self-esteem and positive recreation, $500
- Gospel of Christ Ministries, for a tutoring and mentoring program for at-risk youth, $1,000
- Opportunity Parish Ecumenical Neighborhood Ministry, for a leadership program for young men from inner-city neighborhoods, $1,000
- Portage Path Community Learning Center, for Rolling Down Hill, a program that uses Soap Box Derby cars and robotic car kits to teach students about engineering and physics, $1,000
- St. Hilary Church, for the Seeds of Change after-school tutoring program at Helen Arnold Community Learning Center, $1,000
- Urban Vision, for an incentive program that allows youth participants to purchase school supplies with the “dollars” they’ve earned through good behavior, attendance and grades, $1,000
Increase the impact of your giving with a planned gift

When making your 2012 charitable gifts, consider this: By choosing a planned gift such as a bequest, charitable gift annuity or life insurance policy, you could leave a significant legacy at very little cost to you.

Often, these alternative giving options allow you to contribute far more than you ever could through outright gifts of cash or stock, said Marie Covington, one of the founders of ACF’s Women’s Endowment Fund. She and her husband, Harry, created a charitable gift annuity in December to support the fund’s mission of improving life for women and girls.

In exchange for their gift, Harry and Marie will receive a lifetime stream of income, along with a current-rate partial tax deduction. Later, when they both have passed away, the remaining balance will support the Women’s Endowment Fund. “We simply could not resist the idea of establishing an annuity that produces some income now and whose principal goes to the Women’s Endowment Fund,” Marie said.

Another tax-advantaged option to consider is a gift of life insurance. If you are carrying more insurance coverage than your family needs, you can donate your paid-up policy with a simple change of ownership form. Alternatively, you could take out a new policy and name Akron Community Foundation as the owner and sole beneficiary, thus creating a future gift at a lower cost.

This is exactly what WEF President Tracy Carter did. “I wanted to do something bigger, bolder, more courageous in my giving,” she said. “So I sat down with my financial counselor, looked at my priorities, and saw that a gift of life insurance was the best opportunity for me.”

Tracy said she encourages people to learn about the many ways of giving and find out how they, too, can make a big impact. “You will discover that you can benefit others in ways you never could have imagined,” she said.

To learn more about planned giving through ACF, call Dr. Suzanne Allen at 330-436-5610.

Media center moves to library

Residents will have increased access to free digital media training, thanks to a partnership between Akron Community Foundation and the Akron-Summit County Public Library. The Akron Digital Media Center reopened in February in a new space on the first floor of the library’s downtown branch. The media center helps cultivate local storytelling and community news by offering free multimedia workshops in blogging, news writing, photography, videography and video editing.

To become a citizen journalist or see the training schedule, visit akronist.com/training. Learn more by contacting director Chris Miller at 330-436-5627.
Memorial gifts to Akron Community

Foundation for:

Richard Averitte by
Yvonne Averitte
Albert F. Fitzpatrick

Steven Baach by
Chris Dunning

Thomas R. Buonfigli by
Barbara Hudak & Family

H. Peter Burg by
Eileen Burg
Amy Burg Cole
Anne Griffiths
Ellen G. Kerr
Mark & Colleen Reaman

Dr. James Claypool by
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Mather

Grace Collins by
John & Betty Dalton

Anthony Gorant by
Barbara Hudak & Family

Josephine Joza by
John Garofalo
John & Cindy Petures
Steve Schloenbach

Pauline Klupinski by
Sally Walker

Dante Lavelli by
Joy W. Lavelli

Barbara D. Mathews by
David, Suzanne & Darren Skolnik
Anna Stockreff

Pearl Mitchin by
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Wightman

Ludwig Stern by

Mildred Thompson by
Mary & Glenn Thomson
Cindy Weisheit

Robert B. Warn Ill by
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Mather

Memorial gifts to the Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
Grace Collins by
Robin & Michael Hardman
Ann Myers Miller by
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Mather
Richard Staiger by
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Mather

Ruth Steere by
Jan Parry

Memorial gifts to the Akron Marathon Sustainability Fund for:
Mary Kapper Barry by
Nick & Ruthie George

Memorial gifts to the Brimfield Historical Society Fund for:
Edgar & Cora Lee McCormick by
Carol & David McDonald

David Frank Snyder by
Sandra Snyder-Silvidi

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

Memorial gifts to the Dr. Sandra Kay and Magdalen E. Hausfeld Living Endowment Fund for:
Josa Fava by
Steve Feldstein
Sandy Hausfeld by
Steve Feldstein

Memorial gifts to the Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
Michael Danny George by
Bill & Barb Beiling
Rose Marie LaMonica by
Barbara Beiling

Memorial gifts to the Gay Community Endowment Fund for:
Roy Copeland by
Rod Wellman
Paul Daum by
Louise Kuhns Harvey

Bud Jurkoshek & Carlia Shaw by
Terry Jurkoshek & Jennifer Davis

Memorial gifts to the Medina County Arts Council Endowment Fund for:
Ruree McFall by
Medina County Arts Council Inc.

Memorial gifts to the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund for:
Howard & Kathleen McNeil by
Sharon McNeil

Memorial gifts to the Millennium Fund for Children for:
Dorothy G. Dombo by
James Dombo
Rev. Mary Kapper by
Maryann Carlin
Kathy McMahon by
Sandra Gallagher

Richard Staiger by
Carmen R. Pierson

Memorial gifts to the Wilkinson-Gudikunst Designated Family Fund for:
George E. Wilkinson by
John E. Wilkinson
Parker Wilkinson Sr. by
John E. Wilkinson
Ruth I. Wilkinson by
John E. Wilkinson

Memorial gifts to the Women’s Endowment Fund for:
Ramona Ferguson by
Jerilyn Ferguson
Theresa Brogan Kloska & Esther McDermott by
Greg & Jackie McDermott
Teresa Milan by
Dianne Winnen-Oldenburg, CFP

Agnes C. Smith by
Bryan & Susan Kinnaman
Maxine Unk by
Judy Joyce

Tribute gifts to Akron Community Foundation for:
Mal & Sue Ames by
Michael Ames
Phil & Sis Ames
Anonymous
Charles E. & Mary K. Booth by
Susan & Michael Pallini
Robert W. Briggs by
Jan Parry
William H. Considine by
Akon Children’s Hospital
Chris & Maryellen Burnham
Nick & Ruthie George
Robert & Leslie Littman
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Mather
Les & Linda Radwany

Dr. Pamela Culp by
Laura & Robert Culp

Betty Dalton by
Joan S. Andreoli

Dr. Ernest & Mrs. Bonnie Estep by
Chris Cline
Bryan & Susan Kinnaman

Janice Illington by
Anonymous

Thomas & Jeanne LaRose by
Frank & Melinda LaRose
James & Joel LaRose
Mark & Marianne LaRose
Thomas LaRose
Thomas & Kelly LaRose
Ann LaRose-McIntyre

Myles Mathews by
Noelle Cassel
David, Suzanne & Darren Skolnik

Caroline Parry by
Rosemary Dickerson

Judy & Roger Read by
J. Michael & Joan Kolk

Susie Rogers by
John & Betty Dalton

John & Matt Shannon by
Robert P. Weisberger

Tribute gifts to the Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
Ellen & Matt Shannon by
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Mather

Jan Parry

Tribute gifts to the Akron Garden Club Frank Fund for:
Kathleen VanDevere by
Akon Garden Club

Tribute gifts to the Akron Garden Club Sewell Fund for:
Marguerite Tremelin by
For gifts received Nov. 1, 2011, through Jan. 31, 2012

Memorial & Tribute Giving

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- Improve life for future generations of Summit County residents

... all with a gift that will cost you nothing during your lifetime? Learn more by calling Dr. Suzanne Allen or Laura Fink at 330-376-8522.
ACF treats All-Stars to skating fun

As the major sponsor of Holidayfest’s Countdown to First Night Advent calendar, Akron Community Foundation receives free skating passes for the Lock 3 ice rink. The foundation traditionally gives these passes to a local nonprofit group so their clients can enjoy the rink. This year, that group was All-Star Training Club. All-Star Training Club’s mission is to provide integrated sports programming for people with and without disabilities, where everyone can be “a rising star.”

Pictured above are several of All-Star Training Club’s leaders and clients having fun on the ice.