Giving Your Way

WINTER 2014

Last-minute gift gives couple reason to celebrate

page 3

4 Tips to enhance year-end gifts

7 Act now for stock gifts

10 GCEF, Millennium grants announced
I took some time during the Thanksgiving break to reflect on a few well-known national stories that truly embody for me the limitless power of the human spirit. You’ll probably recall these two that quickly came to mind. Back in 1987, dozens of rescuers came to a small town in Texas and worked tirelessly to free 18-month-old Baby Jessica from the bottom of a well, where she had been trapped for 58 hours. Nearly 20 years later, a young man who grew up with autism got to meet the president of the United States after inspiring the nation by scoring 20 points in the only high school game he would ever play. Jason “J-Mac” McElwain was lifted in celebration onto the shoulders of his teammates and classmates in one glorious moment that touched the hearts of the entire country.

I honestly wish we all had the opportunity to witness and be inspired by the victories and triumphs that go unnoticed every day in our community: single mothers holding their families together; college students maintaining their studies while working full time. We’ll see good news if we look hard enough: Like our good news that your Akron Community Foundation headquarters re-opened in early November. We’re so grateful to the staff and contractors who spent thousands of hours demolishing, designing and re-building this vital community building for the benefit of thousands of donors, volunteers and Greater Akron leaders who utilize this space.

I also continue to receive such positive feedback regarding this year’s Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award dinner, where Rennick Andreoli was recognized for his incredible work on behalf of so many deserving and vital organizations in the community, most especially Akron Rotary Camp for Children with Special Needs. I’m pleased to report this event raised more than $200,000, with more than 500 people in attendance. Well done, Rennick — and Greater Akron — for supporting this tribute with record generosity.

We’re so proud that the community foundation’s transformation in recent years now includes this remodeled, inviting place we call home. I hope you’ll visit soon to see the vibrant, modern and cost-efficient facility we’ve built to last beyond our current generation.

Have a splendid, safe and joyful holiday season with your family.

My heartfelt regards,

John T. Petures Jr.
President and CEO

Welcome, Delinda Herman

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member, Delinda, who joins the community foundation as our development and donor engagement assistant. Her bio is available at www.akroncf.org/Delinda.
New Year’s Eve is a time of reflection and planning for many, including the Mike and Susan Zeleznik family. On Dec. 31, 2012, at the end of what had been a rewarding year, the Hudson residents chose to express their gratitude by planning for the future: They started a donor-advised fund at Akron Community Foundation, beginning a charitable legacy to engage their family in philanthropy and give back to their community.

**NEW LIFE**
While Mike and Susan had always been generous with their time and finances, a significant life event in 1997 caused a shift in their charitable thinking. The parents of a 5-year-old daughter, Natalie, they learned Susan was pregnant with not one but two babies. The pregnancy was high risk, forcing Susan to leave her job at NASA. Just after the holidays – a mere 28 weeks into her pregnancy – Susan gave birth to Steven and Christina, their tiny New Year’s twins. “At one point, Christina weighed less than two pounds,” Susan remembered. The initial months were tense, but after much nurturing, the Zelezniks watched their twins strengthen, and the couple’s desire to give back grew in tandem.

**NEW PERSPECTIVE**
Fifteen years later, all three of the Zeleznik children were thriving – and so was Mike’s insurance and business valuation consulting business. Because of his background, Mike was invited to join Akron Community Foundation’s new Professional Advisor Council. And while he had long understood the benefit of using charitable giving as a tax-planning tool, he was unaware of the myriad charitable options available through Akron Community Foundation.

Mike soon realized a charitable fund at the community foundation wasn’t just a great option for his clients but something that also made sense for him personally. And it was something he could easily do in the waning hours of the tax year. “Starting our fund was easy,” he said. “I think it took all of an hour.”

**NEW LEGACY**
As 2014 draws to an end, the Zelezniks and their children will gather to choose the community organizations they want to support as a family with a grant from their fund. It’s something they hope plants a seed for philanthropy in the future.

“We want to get the kids involved,” Susan explained. “We want them to contribute to the discussion.”

Similarly, the couple plans to let their children decide how to carry forward the Zeleznik Family Fund when the couple is no longer able to do it themselves – whether that means continuing to choose grants on their behalf or turning that duty over to the community foundation’s capable board of directors. “Our oldest daughter is in Columbus now. If she continues her life outside of Northeast Ohio, I don’t know that she would be connected closely enough to make those recommendations,” Mike said.

Regardless of what the children ultimately decide, Mike and Susan are adamant about where the fund should reside: “This is where we live,” Mike explained. “We want our charitable dollars to stay here.”

Like the Zelezniks, do you want to start a charitable fund before tax year’s end? All it takes is a minimum gift of $5,000. We can accept cash gifts through Dec. 31 and stock transfers initiated by Dec. 22. For more information, contact Margaret Medzie at mmmedzie@akroncf.org or 330-436-5610.
The end of the year is a notable time for charitable donations. Not only do the holidays inspire many people to feel generous, but it’s the last opportunity to glean an income tax benefit for the current year.

If you’re thinking about making a year-end gift, here are a few suggestions to consider:

• If giving cash, you may want to consider using your credit card. You gain the tax break for 2014, even if you don’t pay it off until 2015. Plus, you get the benefit of any points offered on your card.

• Gifts of appreciated stock offer two benefits: You avoid capital gains tax while still earning a charitable deduction. Some nonprofits are not equipped to accept stock gifts, but Akron Community Foundation can accept these through Dec. 22. (See pg. 7 for more details)

• If you have an insurance policy you no longer need, you can get a charitable deduction for the cash value of the policy.

• Even if you’re not ready to decide what causes to support, you can still get a tax break for this year. A charitable fund at Akron Community Foundation gives you the impact of the gift now, while allowing you to decide where distributions should go at a later time.

• For loved ones who insist they don’t need any more “stuff,” consider making a charitable gift in their honor. Give to your fund, establish one in their honor, or give to one of the funds already established with us.

• Talk with your professional advisor. They can help you make the most tax-advantageous decisions for your current situation.

It’s not too late to maximize your giving through Akron Community Foundation. Our office will be open Dec. 31 to accept donations, and you can contribute to any of our more than 450 funds online at any time at www.akroncf.org/givenow. You can even start your own fund before year’s end. Contact Margaret Medzie at 330-436-5610 or mmedzie@akroncf.org, or start the process online at www.akroncf.org/startyourfund.
MEMORIAL GIFTS TO:

Akron Community Foundation for:
Richard Averitte by Yvonne Averitte
H. Peter Burg by Pat & Cathy Deagan
Shirlee Frazey by John Franklin
Helen C. Gould by John Wilkinson
Anna R. Gudikunst by John Wilkinson
Margaret Jackson by Bruce & Sandy Bailey
Mrs. Thomas (Peg) Jackson by Carole Satterfield
Henry Jameson by Lucy Buxton
Joseph Donohue
Dave Fielder & Sarah Wright
Andrew & Linda Grible
Edna Hartschuh
Ryan & Betsy Hartschuh
Kathryn R. Hibbard
Martha Jameson
Irene S. Lewis
Ronald M. Pettit
Bessie MacMillan by John Wilkinson
Melvin & Evelyn McMillan by John Wilkinson
Sister Agatha Miller by John Wilkinson
Victor Owoc by Regina A. Banko
The Family of Pete Burg
Charles & Mary Beth Carroll
John F. Curley
Ruth & Walter Fowler
Richard & Joan Marsh
Robert J. McWhorter
Martin Ober
Michael & Janet Pera
Russell J. Spetino
Harvey & Linda Wagner
Bruce F. Rothmann, M.D., by Lola Rothmann
Barbara L. Steinkerchner by Chris & Maryellen Burnham
Dave Towell by Mrs. Philip F. Franz
Dr. Tom & Mrs. Mary Ann Jackson
George Byron Wilkinson by John Wilkinson
Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
Dave Towell by Josephine Brookhart
Bryan & Susan Kinnamon
Mrs. George T. Parry
Craine’s Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Fund for:
Lauren Kunklier by Bruce & Kristen Kaufman
Scott Long by Mike Downey
John N. Economou Scholarship Fund for:
Angie Kariotis by Elena Economou
Helen Manos by Elena Economou
Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
Caroline Aungst by Barbara Beiling
David Caplin by Edward Weisman
Donald Fisk by Barbara Beiling
Fran Waybright
Umrizok Gabbas by Bill & Barbara Beiling
Wanda Mouser by Stow Women’s Club
Mr. Omrizak by Fran Waybright
Lou & Helen Pinzone by Jim & Susan Falkman
Rich Rymer by Barbara Beiling
Gay Community Endowment Fund for:
Jonathan Kuhns by O.K. Investment Group
Medina County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Endowment Fund for:
Terri Dogrell by Joanne Anderson
Elliott Gonser by Marcia Cibula
Marissa Alexandra Norwood Legacy of Kindness Charitable Giving Fund for:
Marissa A. Norwood by Climon Lee III, Ph.D.
Everett L. Shumate Fund for:
Minerva Shumate by Brenda Clark Mikota
Dwight & Barbara Dieckman
Ruth Erickson
Claudia Leet
Arthurine Cole Shumate
Dr. & Mrs. Carl L. Strojan
Dr. Sarah E. Shumate
Ken & Tonie Wilson

Continued on pg. 6
Continued from pg. 5

TRIBUTE GIFTS TO:
Akon Community Foundation for:

Rennick Andreoli by
  Bruce & Sandy Bailey
  Mary K. Booth
  Madeline & Libert Bozzelli
  Ann & David Brennan
  James & Jean Broers
Cedarwood Development Inc.
  William & Rebecca Considine
  John & Betty Dalton
  Rev. Ronald J. Fowler
  William Ginter
  Dr. Terry Gordon
Joyce K. Hamaker
  Jack & Vivian Harig
Bryan & Susan Kinnamon
  Steve Marks
  Greg & Jackie McDermott
  Tom & Marilyn Merryweather
Hon. Charles J. Pilliod Jr. & Nancy Pilliod
Ernie & Mary Kay Pouttu
  Judy & Roger Read
  Bud & Susie Rogers
Ronald McDonald House of Akron
  Lola Rothmann
  Sequoia Financial Group
  Bill & Karen Silver
  Timothy & Kimberly Winter
Bonnie Lass Wojno & William C. Wojno

Rennick & Dee Andreoli by
  Ted & Carol Curtis
  Toby Gorant

Robert & Alyssa Briggs by
  Ann & David Brennan
  Judy & Roger Read

Eileen Burg by
  James J. & Amy B. Cole
  Margaret Reaman

Sue Ellen & Jose Melian by
  Ray & Sherrie Kimberly

Bonnie & Ernie Estep by
  Bryan & Susan Kinnamon

Ann Lane Gates by
  Akron Community Foundation’s Discretionary Fund
  Patricia Ackerman
  Anne Alexander
  John & Deborah Amos
  Anonymous
  Drs. Mark & Sandy Auburn
  Ednah Borders
  Carolyn Brown
  Ernest & Sara Brown
  Virgil & Anita Brown
  Mr. & Mrs. Michael Buckner
  Candies by Joyce
  Garvin & Theresa Carter
  Daisy Chandler
  Gloria Chandler
  Jasmine Chandler
  Benjamin & Letha Clark
  Milton Clark
  Dr. & Mrs. Shelton Clark
  Dr. Sharon Byrd Collins
  Angela Tucker Cooper
  Malcolm Costa
  Harold & Eunice Craig
  Walter & Gloria Cummings
  Johnnette S. Curry
  John & Betty Dalton
  Betty Jo Davison
  Sharon Dennis
  Carl & Judy Dimengo
  Geraldine Drone
  Leaton Drone
  Carol Burton Drugan
  Ervette Ellison
  Joyce Engram
  Robert Evans
  Dorothy Evene
  Leona Farris
  Willie Nell Fielding

Robert & Beverley Fischer
  Gailmarie Fort
  Fred L. Gissendaner
  Louise Gissendaner
  Vaughn & Janice Gleaves
  Angela Graves, D.D.S.
  Deborah Grimes
  Ann Grundy
  Brenda A. Haiston
  Dr. & Mrs. Milton H. Hamblin
  Annette Grimes Hammonds
  Wilhelmina Hawkins
  Ernestine Hayes
  Barbara Heard
  Dr. Gregory & Judi Hill
  Nedradine Hill
  Arthur James & Rosalind Lewis
  Lavado Jones
  Brenda Justice
  Marian Kea
  Deanna Kimbrough
  Elizabeth Kime
  Mary Annette King
  Jacquelyn Kyle
  Cappy Lane
  Mr. & Mrs. Carl A. Lane Sr.
  Wayne & Karen Lane
  Mary Lee
  Adell Lewis
  Suzanne Leyerle
  Charles & M.A. McCoy
  Edric McSween
  Eula R. Morant
  Vernon & Vivian Celeste Neal
  Steven & Vicki Nelson
  Fred Newby
  Federia Nicholson
  Eddie & Linda Omobien
  Francel & Yolanda Parker
  Ms. Valerie Peavy
  Larry & Torey Polson
  Robert & Anna Potts
  Lula Raines
  Mr. & Mrs. Horace Robinson
ACT BY DEC. 22 TO BENEFIT FROM 2014 STOCK GIFT

Did you know that cash isn’t always the best option for your year-end giving? Gifts of appreciated stock offer you a double benefit: an exemption from capital gains tax and an immediate charitable deduction for the fair market value of the securities, deductible up to 30 percent of your gross income.

Akron Community Foundation can help you turn your appreciated securities into permanent charity, but you must act soon to reap a tax benefit for 2014. Contact your broker by Dec. 22 to initiate your transfer. Or, if you have paper certificates, contact Steve Schloenbach, our vice president and CFO, who is happy to pick up your certificates and deposit them for you. Steve can be reached at 330-436-5621 or sschloenbach@akroncf.org.

A full list of transfer instructions are available on our website at www.akroncf.org/stocktransfers.
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

EDUCATION GRANTMAKING TO REACH FROM CRADLE TO CAREER

Summit County has a storied history when it comes to education. In 1847, Akron established the state’s first K-12 public school system with the mission of providing free, quality education for all.

Since 1995, Akron Community Foundation has dedicated a full quarter of discretionary grantmaking to funding education. This year, in addition to funding early learning programs, Akron Community Foundation’s board will give preference to programs that align with Summit Education Initiative’s Cradle to Career continuum.

The Cradle to Career continuum focuses on key transition points in a person’s life, such as kindergarten readiness, eighth grade math, and college and career readiness.

“We know that early learning is critical to a child’s educational success, but we also recognize how vital funding is in helping students achieve success throughout their K-12 experience,” said John Garofalo, vice president of community investment at Akron Community Foundation. “We have identified SEI’s Cradle to Career continuum as the best framework for improving and measuring education outcomes. By funding programs that align with SEI’s holistic approach, and by combining our resources with those of other local funders, we believe we can make the greatest impact on Summit County’s children.”

Beginning in December 2015, 100 percent of Akron Community Foundation’s education grantmaking will fund Cradle to Career-aligned programs.

“Summit Education Initiative is pleased to support the numerous excellent, community-based programs that work to improve opportunities for our children and youth,” said Derran Wimer, executive director of Summit Education Initiative. “We recognize that many programs strive to improve the aspirations, persistence and motivations of youth, and that improvements in these areas positively impact student achievement all along the Cradle to Career continuum.”

For more information about our education grant-making cycle, visit www.akroncf.org/communityfundgrants. For questions, contact John Garofalo at 330-436-5624 or jgarofalo@akroncf.org.

DEADLINES

March 1, 2015
MCCF Grant Deadline
Beginning Jan. 12, the Medina County Community Fund will accept grant applications for a wide range of cultural, educational, health and community service programs that benefit Medina County. For details or to apply, visit www.akroncf.org/applyMCCF.

March 1, 2015
MCWEF Grant Deadline
Beginning Jan. 12, the Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund will accept grant applications for programs that support women and children in Medina County. For details or to apply, visit www.akroncf.org/applyMCWEF.

March 1-April 1, 2015
Arts & Culture Grant Deadline
Beginning March 1, Akron Community Foundation will accept grant applications for performing and visual arts programs, historical societies and museums, and media projects during our arts and culture grant cycle. For details or to apply, visit www.akroncf.org/communityfundgrants.
On Friday, Dec. 5, Akron Community Foundation announced grants totaling $1,517,051, including $453,500 in health and human services grants, which will fund 34 local nonprofit agencies that provide for residents’ health, wellness and basic needs.

The organization also announced that funding for the competitive health and human services cycle would be supplemented by $177,195 in grants from the Howard Atwood Family Fund, H. Peter Burg Fund, Bonnie L. and Ernest R. Estep Fund, Medical Mutual Community Investment Fund, Read Family Fund, David R. and Cheryl L. Venarge Fund, and two anonymous funds. In all, 30 local health and human services programs will benefit from what Akron Community Foundation President and CEO John T. Petures Jr. calls “grant coinvesting.”

“We are pleased that so many of our fundholders find value in what we learn about local nonprofits and community needs during our competitive grant-making process,” Petures said. “We’re happy to keep them informed so they can make wise decisions with their personal philanthropy, and hopefully we can introduce them to effective programs in their areas of charitable interest.”

To see a full list of the competitive health and human services grants, visit www.akroncf.org/healthhumanservicesgrants.

This quarter, your donor-advised, designated, agency endowment and scholarship funds made 166 grants totaling $1,063,551. The following is a sampling of the programs you supported:

- **Girl Scouts of North East Ohio**
  For the Business of Babysitting course, which teaches girls how to start a safe babysitting business, $2,500

- **The Illusion Factory**
  To support children’s theater productions in area schools, $7,500

- **Kent State University Foundation**
  For the Blackstone Launchpad program, which provides entrepreneurial assistance to students, faculty and alumni, $5,000

- **Medina County Park District**
  To construct steps on the hiking trail at Allardale Park, $24,711

- **Mobile Meals Inc.**
  For free and subsidized meals for those unable to pay, $1,000

- **Torchbearers**
  To support the Detroit Learning Exchange in which young professionals visited Detroit to learn about revitalization efforts in the city, $10,000
Akron Community Foundation’s Millennium Fund for Children is celebrating 15 years of grants to children’s programs throughout Summit, Portage and Medina counties. The fund’s grants committee recently approved 30 grants totaling $38,500 to arts, education and health programs, bringing the cumulative grant-making total to $575,344.

In addition, the Millennium Fund announced the launch of a new initiative to grow the fund through corporate philanthropy. Fund leaders plan to involve local business owners through the creation of a corporate engagement committee composed of corporate donors to the fund. This group will help determine how to best increase awareness among businesses and – ultimately – grow the fund’s assets and impact. It also offers businesses a public way to show their commitment to helping local children, a cause many of their customers are passionate about.

“This is the perfect opportunity for child- and family-focused businesses to show their support for children’s causes in our community,” said Millennium Fund committee member Jan Leach.

The fund continues to seek gifts both large and small from individual residents.

For a complete list of grants awarded this year, visit www.akroncf.org/millenniumgrants.

The Gay Community Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation recently awarded 11 grants totaling $42,700 for programs that positively impact the local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Grants were awarded to programs that increase awareness about housing and employment discrimination, including a $3,500 grant to Equality Ohio Education Fund for a public campaign emphasizing the need for statewide nondiscrimination protections. The grant will help the agency increase its outreach to Greater Akron residents and educate community leaders about the lack of nondiscrimination laws in Ohio.

“It is shocking but true – there are no statewide or federal nondiscrimination protections in place for the LGBT community in employment, housing or public accommodations,” said Kim Welter, deputy director of Equality Ohio. “Yet four out of five Ohioans do not know that it is legal to be fired from your job, denied an apartment, or refused service at a restaurant because of sexual orientation or gender identity. This fundamental misunderstanding hinders momentum around making Ohio law inclusive of LGBT nondiscrimination protections.”

Other grants will provide diversity training to people who counsel LGBT survivors of sexual assault; support screenings of LGBT films in downtown Akron theaters; and offer counseling and support to LGBT senior citizens.

Since awarding its first grants in 2005, the Gay Community Endowment Fund has reinvested nearly $360,000 into local nonprofit initiatives that promote the well-being and full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens in the Greater Akron area. For a complete list of this year’s grants, visit www.akroncf.org/GCEFgrants.

To make a donation to the fund, visit www.akroncf.org/give/GCEF.
ACF Office Holiday Hours
Dec. 31, 2014
5 PM
Our office will be closed Dec. 24, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 for the holidays. Our office will be open on Dec. 31 to accept year-end gifts. Gifts to existing funds can be made online anytime at www.akroncf.org/givenow. Gifts of stock should be initiated by Dec. 22. See pg. 7 for details. Call 330-376-8522 for more info.

WEF Annual Dinner
March 12, 2015
6:30 PM
Hilton Akron/Fairlawn
The Women’s Endowment Fund will welcome Kathleen Kennedy Townsend at its annual dinner celebrating women and girls. For sponsorship opportunities, visit www.regonline.com/ForWomenForever. Tickets will be available in January.

Community Issues Session: Education
Jan. 21, 2015
5:30 PM
Akròn Community Foundation
Join us for a discussion with Rob Briggs, president and CEO of Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education. Refreshments will begin at 5 p.m., followed by the program at 5:30 p.m. RSVP to Kim Nott at 330-436-5625 or knott@akroncf.org.

See a full list of community events or submit your own nonprofit event at www.akroncf.org/AroundAkronCalendar.

‘FOR BATH, FOREVER’ CAMPAIGN AIMS TO RAISE $1M

Bath Community Fund has launched a campaign to raise $1 million in permanent philanthropic capital in time for the township’s bicentennial in 2018. The newest initiative fund of Akron Community Foundation has an immediate goal of raising $250,000 by year’s end so the fund can have $12,500 available to distribute to nonprofits in the township next year.

Donors who give to the “For Bath, Forever” campaign during December will be identified as Founding Donors of the fund, and their names will be printed on a public giving pyramid. Former residents Roger and Judy Read, who lived in Bath for 28 years and still have close ties to the community, publicly issued a challenge grant, saying they will increase their $5,000 contribution to $25,000 if another donor matches that gift.

To learn more about Bath Community Fund, visit www.akroncf.org/BCF. To become a Founding Donor, contact Jody Miller Konstand, advisory board chair, at 330-618-4477 or jmkmedia@msn.com.

CONTACT US
Akron Community Foundation
345 W. Cedar St.
Akron, OH 44307
330-376-8522
www.akroncf.org

Board of Directors
Mark Allio, Chair
Steven Cox, Vice Chair
Rev. Dr. Sandra Selby, Secretary
Paul Belair, Treasurer
Virginia Albanese
Steve Albrecht
Nick Browning
Tommy Bruno
Marilyn Buckey
Robert Cooper
Olivia Demas
Samuel DeShazior
Edward Eliopoulos
Rick Fedorovich
Sarah Friebert, M.D.
Tom Knoll
Mark Krohn
Dee Lowery
Rob Malone
Vivian Neal
Steve Strayer
Michael A. Sweeney
Mike Zeleznik

Editors
Tina Boyes
Vice President, Marketing & Communications
Tracy Burt
Director of Marketing
Kristen Ashby
Communications Associate
WELCOME HOME!

Akron Community Foundation celebrated $1.2 million restoration at grand reopening

On Dec. 5, we welcomed the community into our technologically enhanced, environmentally friendly office, completely restored since our Jan. 10 fire.

Top Left: Olivia Demas, board member, and Chris Miller, community investment officer, enjoy the open house.

Top Right: Akron Community Foundation’s newly enhanced building offers expanded meeting space.

Bottom Right: Our president and CEO, John T. Petures Jr., discusses ACF’s transformation as city council President Garry Moneypenny and Summit County Executive Russ Pry look on.

Bottom Left: Guests enjoy the new space.

Take a video tour of our newly restored facility at www.akroncf.org/home.