Sale of local business turns opportunity into charity

page 3
In early December, I emailed our board of directors about the incredible success and growth we’ve experienced in this third year of our Donor Engagement Plan: We’re on pace to exceed $20 million in gift revenue, doubling our all-time income high of $10.1 million just two years ago, and we’re just two funds shy of establishing a record 41 new funds. (Call me if you’re interested in putting us over the top.)

In response to my message, one board member innocently replied: “You guys are on fire!” What he didn’t realize was the statement would become all too true on Jan. 10 when a fire of unknown origin destroyed the entire 2003 addition to our building. Our lobby, fund development wing, kitchen, bathrooms and board room all suffered severe damage and now resemble a construction site. Fortunately, the disaster occurred when the building was vacant, so no one was injured, and insurance will cover the cost of rebuilding. We’re grateful for the forethought of prior board and staff leaders who invested in safeguards that prevented the total loss of the building. Historical records and the server were not affected, and we didn’t miss a single grant payment or gift acknowledgment.

I am proud of our entire staff – particularly Controller Dennis Jansky – who, even as the building was still smoldering, rallied to ensure the vital work of Akron Community Foundation went uninterrupted. I am also touched by the counsel, generosity and assistance from board members, nonprofits, and community and business leaders who have volunteered everything from advice to meeting space. A special thanks to Brouse McDowell and our former board chair Mike Sweeney for hosting two senior members of our development team for the past two months.

Since Jan. 21, our 16-person team has been operating in a space built for a group half our size. We recently learned we must relocate for the next six to nine months so the building can be abated of all smoke damage. While a move can seem inconvenient and the damage disturbing, please know our staff feels energized by the opportunity to rebuild.

Yes, friends, Akron Community Foundation is indeed “on fire,” and we’re also built to last. We vow to always embrace and enhance your philanthropy for the good of our community – now and forever – regardless of location or circumstance.

My fond regards and gratitude,

John T. Petures Jr.
President and CEO
Steve Shechter, son of a grocer and third-generation Akronite, never considered himself a philanthropist. That all changed in 2013 when he sold his business and established a fund at Akron Community Foundation. Now, Steve and his family can give to the causes they love and the community that has given them so much.

All in the family

Business runs in the Shechter blood. In 1904, Steve’s grandfather launched a fruit and vegetable business in South Akron, a bustling enclave of rubber workers. The Shechter grocery took off and became a “nationally recognized store – the first in the country to sell frozen foods,” according to Steve. Under Steve’s father, the store served the West Hill carriage trade, including the foremost industry leaders of the time. As the industry started to change, Steve’s father noticed that supermarkets were overtaking independent grocers. So, in the 1950s, he made the choice to sell his business to a long-time employee.

A new legacy begins

Like his father, Steve had a keen sense of opportunity. After working for a publicly traded, multinational insurance agency for a few years, Steve’s friend Ron Buzek approached him about purchasing Evans Insurance Agency, a fixture in the local community since 1876. For a man to whom longevity and community meant everything, it was a perfect fit. Over the years, Steve became managing partner and was often approached about selling. “The Evans Agency is not for sale: I’ve probably said that line more than anything over the last 25 years,” Steve recalls. Having built his career on relationships, the propositions never felt quite right. “I wanted to leave behind the best possible opportunity for the people who had earned my loyalty.”

Opportunity begets charity

“Our favorite holding period is forever,” Warren Buffett once said. While Steve is certain no one has ever confused him with the business magnate, this is one sentiment he could easily attribute to himself. When an offer came in January 2013, Steve finally felt compelled to give selling some thought. Confident his employees would get the respect and opportunities they deserved, he sold the agency to AssuredPartners. Not only did the decision benefit Steve, it’s helping the community. Through the Cherie and Steve Shechter Charitable Giving Fund, the couple and their son, Colin, will support organizations near to their hearts both now and long after they are gone. “Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, the Knight Brothers: It’s wonderful what those people do, but this (fund) makes it possible for a family like us to pass our values on to the next generation,” Steve said.

You, too, can leverage a liquidity event to create a charitable legacy. Contact Margaret Medzie, vice president of development and donor engagement, at 330-436-5610 or mmedzie@akroncf.org. Watch more of the Shechters’ story at www.akroncf.org/ShechterVideo.
In the life of a business owner, selling their business is inevitable at one time or another. As I’ve seen with my clients, a liquidity event such as this can be a challenging yet rewarding experience. While the sale of a business can result in the largest check a client has ever received, the subsequent tax bill is often the largest check they’ve ever had to write. Proper tax planning is important to help clients take advantage of all of the tax provisions available to them.

One effective tax-planning tool that can be used during this process is charitable giving. The tax benefit, combined with the ability to help others, makes charitable giving a win-win for everyone. While there are various ways to achieve philanthropic goals, we encourage clients to make contributions that are fully deductible in the year of the business sale since their tax rate will be high. However, clients are often not ready since they’ve been busy with their business sale and haven’t researched charities.

There are two ways clients can make a deductible charitable contribution while deferring the decision of which charities will benefit: through a donor-advised fund like those offered by Akron Community Foundation or by starting a private foundation. Private foundations are legal entities that require a 5 percent annual distribution and include a lot of maintenance by the funder, including filing tax returns and following strict governance. While still beneficial, private foundations add a layer of complexity at a time when clients are looking to simplify.

Instead, donor-advised funds tend to be the preferred choice. These funds offer more favorable deductibility and don’t require the same level of maintenance as a private foundation. In addition, they don’t require a minimum distribution, are not subject to the net investment income excise tax, and don’t require clients to file a tax return or manage the funds. Akron Community Foundation handles virtually everything a client would be required to handle with a private foundation. They also provide online tools, allowing clients to make contributions from anywhere, anytime, and can educate clients on successful organizations in the community that align with their interests.

If you’re thinking about selling your business, make sure to talk to your advisor about how charitable giving can make the sale the most beneficial for you and the community.

Mark Goldfarb is a senior managing director at SS&G, advising both business and individual clients. He has experience in tax, estate and succession planning, particularly in the field of family-owned businesses. To learn more, visit www.SSandG.com.
WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW FUNDS

Marilyn Meyers Buckey Family Fund
Donor-advised fund established by our board member and W.E. Wright Co. President Marilyn Buckey.

Costa Family Fund
Donor-advised fund established by Akron Summit Community Action Inc. President and CEO Malcolm J. Costa.

Mary DiDonato Fund
Designated fund established to support six local nonprofits.

Kathryn Warther and Thomas William Dindo Family Fund
Donor-advised fund established by our former board chair Kitty Dindo and her husband, Thomas.

Franklin C. and Patricia R. Harrah Fund
Donor-advised fund established by Franklin and Patricia Harrah. After their lifetimes, the fund will permanently support their favorite nonprofits, including One of a Kind Pet Rescue, Stan Hywet and the Summit County Historical Society.

Hudson Fire Department Association Scholarship Fund
For scholarships to Hudson High School seniors who have a parent serving on the Hudson Fire Department and are pursuing a degree in public safety.

Beatrice K. McDowell Family Fund
Donor-advised fund started by the C. Blake Jr. and Beatrice K. McDowell family in their honor.

Ollie Mueller Fund
Designated fund established by John Mueller in memory of his cousin, Ollie, to support the Hattie Larlam Center for Children with Disabilities.

Post-Coleman Fund
Donor-advised fund established by Medina resident Jayne “Jan” Coleman, whose family owns Standard Welding & Steel Products.

Cherie and Steve Shechter Charitable Giving Fund
Donor-advised fund established by Evans Insurance Agency Inc. President Steve Shechter and his wife, Cherie.

Bruce & Harriet Smith Foundation Fund
Donor-advised fund established by Silver Lake residents Bruce and Harriet Smith.

Stow-Munroe Falls Library Foundation Endowment Fund
Agency endowment fund established by the Stow-Munroe Falls Library Foundation to support its mission of securing the ongoing excellence of the library system.

ALAN J. WOLL FAMILY FUND
In December, Alan Woll sold Network Polymers to A. Schulman and started a donor-advised fund so he and his family can give back to the community they love. Considering selling your business? Charitable giving could help you avoid costly taxes, too. Read more on pg. 4.

Memorial gifts to Akron Community Foundation for:
Janet K. Allio by Thomas Allio Jr.
Thomas Allio Sr. by Thomas Allio Jr.
Sue Ames by Charlotte Essner Stinnett, Padrutt & Aranyosi Co.
John and Marie Tuccillo
Steven Baach by Chris Dunning
Veda Bell by Robert Bell
Evelyn Gunning
John & Joan Primm
Peggy Betzhold by John Wilkinson
Charles E. Booth by Robert & Marge Handelman
Al & Donna Loomis
Dr. Susan Merzweiler
Lynn & Ed Metzger
Michael Moldvay
Susan & Michael Pallini
Kathleen Parks
H. Peter Burg by Eileen Burg
Robert Burg
Anne Griffiths
Lochridge Family Charitable Fund of Schwab Charitable Fund
Deborah Ciraldo by Louis & Eleanor Ciraldo
John L. Dotson Jr. by Richard & Mary Lou Woodcock
Willis Else by Betty Oberdorfer
James Hartenstein by Don & Lorraine Fair
Kathryn M. Hunter by Mary E. Spalding
Helen Moss by Robert Weisberger
Frances Murphey by Mike & Joan Kolk
Joan Andrews Schrank by Laura Harkey
George & Ruth Wilkinson by John Wilkinson
Ruth Wilkinson by John Wilkinson
Ruth I. Wilkinson by John Wilkinson
Memorial gifts to Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
Kathleen J. "Kay" Bauman by Mrs. George T. Parry
Memorial gifts to Akron-Summit County Public Library Endowment Fund for:
Carole Mary Marino by Priscilla Campana
Memorial gifts to Richard L. Averitte Memorial Scholarship Fund for:
Richard Averitte by Yvonne Averitte
Memorial gifts to Beacon of Light Initiatives/Sgt. Brandon Allen Memorial Fund for:
Brandon Richard Allen by Lori Rothschild
Memorial gifts to Brimfield Historical Society Fund for:
Walter Brant by Joyce Brant
Lawrence E. Bryner by Barbara Bryner
Phyllis Hecker by Ruth Weigand
Hilda Rohlf by Barbara Bryner
Charles & Lois Chase
John & Carol Tosenberger
Ruth Weigand
Linda L. Smith by Mr. John T. Smith
David Frank Snyder by Sandra & Alfred Silvidi
Stella Alling Sparhawk by Don & Joan Reisig
George E. Urban by Jana Urban
Ray & Grace Alvira Willoughby by Betsy & Stephen Mako
Memorial gifts to Martin O. Chapman Humanitarian Scholarship Fund for:
Martin Chapman by John Deadwyler
Memorial gifts to Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation Program Fund for:
Jane Comunale by Steve Comunale Sr.
Memorial gifts to Michael Corbett Memorial Fund for:
Michael P. Corbett by Amy Washabaugh
Memorial gifts to Margot Eiseman Scholarship Fund for:
Margot Eiseman by Larry Wallerstein
Laurel Winters
Memorial gifts to Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
Dolores-Arlene Stebbins Long by Fran Waybright
Helen Moss by Bill & Barbara Beiling
Stanley by Bill & Barbara Beiling
Memorial gifts to Gardeners of Greater Akron Endowment Fund for:
Alfred T. Eddy by Sharon Aaron
Frank & Eileen Field
James Fee by Frank & Amy Mitch
Memorial gifts to Gay Community Endowment Fund for:
Bud Jurkoshek by Terry Jurkoshek & Jennifer Davis
Carlla Shaw by Terry Jurkoshek & Jennifer Davis
Memorial gifts to Dr. Sandra Kay and Magdalyn E. Hausfeld Living Endowment Fund for:
Sandy Hausfeld by Steve Feldstein
William Shively by Steve Feldstein
Evelyn Sigler by Steve Feldstein
Memorial gifts to Millennium Fund for Children for:
Christopher T. Brown by Richard & Robin Thompson
Dorothy G. Dombo by James Dombo
Tom Johnson by Tina & Ryan Boyes
IN MEMORIAM

Our dear friend and fundholder Marna Becker passed away on Saturday, Feb. 1.

An expert on the life of abolitionist John Brown, Marna created the Preservation of the Abolitionist Movement Fund in 2007 to restore Akron’s John Brown monument and educate people about the importance of freedom and human rights.

Read more about Marna and the fund at www.akroncf.org/AbolitionistFund. Or, give in Marna’s memory at www.akroncf.org/give/AbolitionistFund.
Community foundations across the nation celebrate centennial

Northeast Ohio isn’t just the birthplace of rock ‘n’ roll. Although we’re proud of our musical roots, we’re also home to another movement that has swept the country: community foundations.

In January 1914, just a few miles north, the Cleveland Foundation became the first community foundation ever. Its formation democratized philanthropic giving across the country and, ultimately, the world by encouraging collaborative, community-based philanthropy.

Now, 100 years later, there are more than 700 community foundations in the United States and 1,700 worldwide. U.S. community foundations account for approximately $4.5 billion in funding each year.

Akron Community Foundation was among the first community foundations, established in 1955. A bequest in the will of Edwin Shaw created an institution that would “meet the changes in the community needs wrought by the passage of time and the variance in circumstances.” Since then, Akron Community Foundation and its forward-thinking donors have been working together for the betterment of the community and future generations.

Starting with just $1 million, Akron Community Foundation has grown to more than $181 million in assets and 442 charitable funds. Thanks to you, our fundholders and donors, we have granted more than $111 million to vital programs and nonprofits in Summit County and beyond.

We’re so proud to be a part of this vibrant field of community philanthropy — 100 years and growing!

Learn more about what makes community foundations special at www.akroncf.org/CommunityFoundations. Or, read about our founder, Edwin Shaw, and see a copy of his will at www.akroncf.org/EdwinShaw.
EDUCATION & EARLY LEARNING

On Friday, Feb. 21, Akron Community Foundation’s board of directors approved $1.93 million in grants, including $502,000 from discretionary, or board-directed, funds for 22 grants to educational programs.

Nearly half of the board discretionary funding went to early care and education programs, bringing total support for such programs to $1,361,500 since announcing our early learning funding priority in 2008.

A $35,000 grant to Summit Education Initiative will create consistent measurement tools for out-of-school providers in the county. This initiative will help providers better align the outcomes of their participants with the countywide Cradle to Career metrics that area schools already use to measure student success. The grant will also help pay for an out-of-school program facilitator to work with these providers and to help develop the metrics.

“This initiative will help funders like us become even more strategic,” said Steven Cox, chairman of the community investment committee. “Summit Education Initiative is the consistent link between all Summit County schools and is the go-to source for measurement data. By extending its expertise to out-of-school programs, funders will have consistent information we can use to compare programs and, ultimately, continue progress toward countywide goals.”

Other grants went to programs that prepare children for kindergarten, prepare students for success in their post-secondary education, and teach children how to treat and understand people who live with developmental disabilities.

To see a full list of our board-directed education grants, visit www.akroncf.org/EducationGrants.

YOUR GRANTS

This quarter, your donor-advised, designated, agency endowment and scholarship funds made 323 grants totaling $1,430,923. The following is a sampling of the programs you supported:

Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund Inc.
To provide scholarships and financial assistance to surviving children of military service members who died in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, $250

Northeast Ohio Technology Coalition
To create a network that links Northeast Ohio polymer companies with University of Akron professors’ engineering and scientific expertise, $40,000

Paws Assistance Dogs Inc.
To provide service dogs to wounded veterans, $500

University of Akron Foundation
To support the College of Business Administration building addition, $100,000
INITIATIVES

WOMEN’S GRANTS HELP HOMELESS WOMEN PROSPER

The Women’s Endowment Fund recently awarded $72,050 to nonprofit organizations that improve life for Summit County women and girls.

More than one-third of the grant funding supported programs for women who are transitioning out of homelessness, including a $10,000 grant to Bridges Summit County for its Getting Ahead program. During this 16-week program, participants examine what keeps them in poverty, assess their existing resources, and develop a plan to build those resources as part of their move to self-sufficiency.

The grant will help women living in transitional housing units, such as ACCESS, Legacy III, Harvest Home and Freedom House for Women. This funding will provide them with the next layer of tools, including career assessment and counseling, financial literacy, conflict resolution and stress management training. The goal is to help women make the giant leap from survival to stability.

“This grant allows for the services of these sheltering agencies to be leveraged by a new, robust Getting Ahead program, providing the best chance for these women to break the cycle of generational poverty,” said Donae Ceja, senior vice president of community impact for the United Way of Summit County, the fiscal sponsor for Bridges. “As a new model, it also has the potential to inform the entire Getting Ahead effort.”

To see the rest of the programs funded by the Women’s Endowment Fund, visit www.akroncf.org/WEFGrants.

ODOM FUND GRANTS

The Vernon L. Odom Fund awarded $7,800 in grants to programs that promote diversity and enrich the quality of life within local minority communities.

Two grants went to partners of the newly formed Summit County Fatherhood Initiative, a collaboration spearheaded by Akron Community Foundation to pool resources to end father absenteeism locally.

The Williams Challenge grant will cover the Man 2 Man Fatherhood Building Program, a series of educational workshops for men who are transitioning out of the court system or have otherwise been absent from their children’s lives. The free program teaches fathers important parenting skills and provides a supportive environment for men who need help finding employment, gaining visitation rights, and re-entering society from prison.

Similarly, a grant to Fathers and Sons of Northeast Ohio will provide fatherhood education classes for homeless men at the Haven of Rest shelter. Men in the program will receive child support debt counseling and learn how to navigate the court system to request parenting time. They will also receive employment coaching specifically designed for people with a history of felony convictions and substance abuse.

Other grants this year will teach leadership skills to inner-city adolescents, prepare at-risk students for college, and provide financial literacy training to minority youth.

See a full list of Odom Fund grants at www.akroncf.org/OdomGrants.

GG9 PROGRAM FUNDING

The Gay Community Endowment Fund awarded seven grants totaling $25,725 to programs that support Gay Games 9. Grants went to dance performances, concerts, theater productions and conferences held before and during GG9 to raise awareness of LGBT issues. See all of this year’s GCEF grants at www.akroncf.org/GCEFGrants.
GIFTS CONTINUED

Cont. from pg. 7

John & Ann Marie Najeway by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Dr. Nina Njus by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Mrs. George T. Parry by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Stu Parry by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
John T. Petures Jr. & staff by
   Robert B. Cooper
Laura & Chip Preston by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Drs. Nancy Ray & Joel Porter by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Rich by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Bud & Susie Rogers by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Rick & Alita Rogers by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Dr. Bill & Nancy Schrader by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Tara & Dave Scott by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Joanie Sher by
   Barbara Ann Hudak
Mark E. Steinkerchner by
   Dan & Lauren Steinkerchner
Drs. Helen & Leonard Torok by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Lynn & Scott Veney by
   Vince & Judy DeLuca
Drs. Vivian von Gruenigen & Dominic Bagnoll by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Douglas & Peggy Porter Wagner by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Charlie & April Walton by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Dr. & Mrs. John Wegryn by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
David H. Wilkinson by
   John Wilkinson
Lynn & Mark Yanke by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Ramsey & Tess Yoder by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Joseph & Debbie Zaroni by
   Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
Tribute gifts to Akron Garden Club Endowment Fund for:
   Beth Brumbaugh by
   Colleen Wernig
   Gene Culler by
   Mrs. George T. Parry
   Kathy Keller by
   Colleen Wernig
   Diane O’Neill by
   Colleen Wernig
Tribute gifts to Akron Garden Club Frank Fund for:
   Elizabeth Frank by
   Rose S. Miller
Tribute gifts to Crane’s Cholangiocarcinoma Crew Fund for:
   Lisa & David Crane by
   Cindy Pollard
Tribute gifts to Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Endowment Fund for:
   Bill & Barbara Beiling by
   Margaret Shaffer
   Jake & Diana Tipton
   Arlene McKeever by
   Fran Waybright
   Staff at Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library by
   Judy Cohen-Baer
Tribute gifts to Gardeners of Greater Akron Endowment Fund for:
   William Bacon by
   Judge Harold White
Tribute gifts to Ann Lane Gates Scholarship Fund for:
   Ann Lane Gates by
   John Deadwyler
Tribute gifts to Gay Community Endowment Fund for:
   All Akron volunteers for Gay Games 9 by
   Thomas Nobbe
GCEF board by
   Peter Schofield & Charles Wetmore
John Grafton & Richard Worswick by
   Frank Comunale
Jody Van Buskirk by
   Sylvia Trundle
Tribute gifts to GCEF Scholarship Fund for:
   Rick Krochka by
   Pamela Watson
Tribute gifts to Millennium Fund for Children for:
   Dee Andreoli by
   Hon. Charles J. Pilliod Jr. & Nancy Pilliod
   Naomi & Drew Boyes by
   Tina & Ryan Boyes
   Beth & Joe Langton by
   Martha Mazak
   Irving Olson by
   Mrs. George T. Parry
   Kimberly Tuesday by
   Mr. John Tuesday
Tribute gifts to Lillian and William Rosenblatt Fund for:
   Lillian Rosenblatt by
   Patti & Ron Weinstein
Tribute gifts to Witan Presidents’ Scholarship Fund for:
   Karen Clark by
   Margaret Lamb

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Kristen Ashby
Communications Associate
Community Issues Session:
Arts & Culture Assessment
April 30, 2014
5 PM
Location TBD
Join us for our community issues session taking place during our Arts & Culture grant cycle. The session will feature speakers who will talk about arts assessment results. Visit our Around Akron Calendar at www.akroncf.org/AroundAkronCalendar for the latest details on the event location.

Women's Endowment Fund Annual Dinner
April 24, 2014
5:30 PM
Quaker Square Inn at the University of Akron
Join the Women's Endowment Fund as it celebrates women as philanthropists and raises money for the endowment. This year’s event will feature Dee Haslam, the CEO and founder of RIVR Media. Register: www.regonline.com/forwomenforever.

Walking Tour:
Arts & Culture
April 3, 2014
2:30 PM
Akron-Summit County Public Library
Grab some comfortable shoes and join us for a walking (and talking) tour of the Akron Digital Media Center, Akron Art Museum and Summit Artspace, part of the Akron Area Arts Alliance. To reserve a spot for this event, contact De Shawn Pickett at dpickett@akroncf.org or 330-376-8522.