Business owners have heart for Bath

page 3
I can’t believe March is already here. Although any passing of time that can help us forget this bitterly cold winter is OK by me.

As of Feb. 19, the coldest night of the year so far, I’m proud to say I’m officially a medalist. “What event did you win, John?” you might be asking yourself. And that’s where the story becomes less about me.

As you may be aware, the Gay Community Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation was a platinum sponsor of Gay Games 9, a major sporting event that came to Cleveland and Akron this past August. On Feb. 19, I was proud to join Ronn Richard, my counterpart from the Cleveland Foundation, at the City Club of Cleveland, where it was announced that this was the most profitable event in the more than 30-year history of the Gay Games. Ronn and I received Gay Games medallions (similar of course to those earned by the competitors) in recognition of the generous support from both of our organizations – and especially our Gay Community Endowment Fund, which will receive $27,000 of the net profit from the games to continue its work in the Greater Akron community. I’m proud to extend congratulations to John Grafton, one of the founding donors of the fund 14 years ago, for being a part of the panel at that event.

In other exciting news, we’re proud to announce that you started a record 16 new funds in December alone, bringing us ever closer to the mark of 500 funds established at your community foundation. As we look ahead to this new year, there are other significant milestones on the horizon, from celebrating our 60th anniversary this coming June to approaching $200 million in assets thanks to the generosity and permanent commitment to the community of individuals like you. Talk about medalists! Thanks, Greater Akron, for your continued confidence and generosity, which has doubled the philanthropic capital at the community foundation over the past five years, allowing for so much more good work to be done in our community.

We’re also in the process of creating and shaping a program that will help charitable people like you realize the many opportunities available for planned giving (from bequests to life insurance to charitable gift annuities). We’re so grateful to our board of directors and Professional Advisor Council for their help in the creation of these events and materials. Stay tuned for more information about this program later this spring. And please feel free to give me a call if you’d like to help.

Goodbye winter, hello spring!

John T. Petures Jr.
President and CEO
Two years ago, when Kevin Kroskey bought a home and an office building in Bath Township, it wasn’t just a business decision. It was a matter of the heart.

“Bath had always spoken to us,” said Kevin of himself and his wife, Brandy. “There is a resounding sense of community pride and hope for the future that resides here.”

The same holds true for Caroline Gronowski, a Merriman Valley native who, with her husband, Mark, relocated from Chicago 16 years ago. “When we had kids, I wanted to move back,” she explained. “Mark loved the open spaces, and it has been the best place to raise three active kids while pursuing our individual dreams.”

The fund began last year after a group of residents pooled their collective thoughts and resources. “There had been discussions about creating a community fund in Bath for years, and a group of us started researching what it would take,” said Nadine Clar, founding donor, Bath Community Fund board member and Bath Homeowners Association president.

The decision to start the fund was influenced by a number of factors, including statewide changes in inheritance tax regulations. These changes eliminated a revenue stream – which sometimes totaled hundreds of thousands of dollars annually – that had historically been used to benefit the community, whether through the purchase of safety equipment or retiring bonds early. By establishing an endowment fund, the founders were able to create a consistent, permanent source of support for Bath.

The fund’s premise happens to also be a philosophy Caroline and Yoga Bliss both espouse.

“We can achieve more together than alone,” she said. “If we want our community to be great, a place where we can all thrive and reach our potential, we have to make sure that people aren’t being overlooked. It is also our responsibility to care for our beautiful natural resources.”

For Kevin, his reason for giving is even closer to home. “What does Bath Community Fund mean to us? It means our daughter will grow up seeing her mom and dad as people who love their community and who make continual efforts to improve it,” he said. He encourages others to do the same. “If you call Bath Township home and have benefited from this wonderful community, I encourage you to do your part.”

Do your part. Join Kevin and Caroline as Founding Donors by contacting Jody Miller Konstand, advisory board chair, at 330-618-4477. Or give online at www.akroncf.org/give/BCF.
Three months after the public launch of its “For Bath, Forever” endowment campaign, Bath Community Fund is nearing its initial goal of raising $250,000 in permanent philanthropic capital for the Bath community. To help meet that goal, former Bath residents Roger and Judy Read have pledged to increase their gift of $5,000 to $25,000 if another donor matches that gift. This generous offer would propel the fund toward its quarter-million dollar goal.

The following memorial and tribute gifts to Bath Community Fund were made from Nov. 1, 2014, to Jan. 31, 2015:

**Gifts were made by:**
- Anonymous
- Marie & Harry Covington
- Robert Hemphill, M.D.
- Robert & Joanne Konstand
- Richard & Mary Anne Krejci
- Nancy L. Ray & Joel A. Porter
- Mary M. Ryan
- Linda Van Fossen
- Dianne Powers Wright & Richard Wright

**In memory of:**
- Cynthia H. Abell
- Al Alameda
- Mary Kay Hudak
- Dr. Thomas Schlueter
- Susanne C. Wyatt

**In honor of:**
- Terry & Lynne Abramovich
- Kenneth & Joyce Baldwin
- Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Bartell
- Gary & Libby Bauman
- Dr. & Mrs. William Bauman
- Dr. & Mrs. Theodore Bobinsky
- Jeff Brunty & Melanie Schenk
- Mr. & Mrs. Allen Bunner
- Chris & Maryellen Burnham
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Corbett
- Marie Covington
- Dr. & Mrs. Robert Donahue
- Employees and volunteers of Bath Township
- Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Estep
- Drs. Thomas & Mary File
- John & Carol Fondran
- Robert & Christine Freitag
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- Dr. & Mrs. John Jeanmaire
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- Hannah Krumheuer
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- Harold & Elaine Marsh
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- Mr. & Mrs. James Nelson
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- Gary & Rachel Post
- Ernest & Laura Preston
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- John & Joanne Sahl
- Sue Serdinak
- David & Peggy Shriber
- Vito & Debbie Sinopoli
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- Dr. & Mrs. Chris Van Devere
- David White
- Peter & Lois Wilson
- Chuck & Pat Witmer
- Dr. Henry Wong
- Dianne Wright
- Dr. Ian Wright & Kelly Wright
- William Zavarello & Dr. Elizabeth Bender

Memorial and tribute gifts to Bath Community Fund can honor and recognize a friend, colleague or loved one in a special, enduring way. Make your own gift at www.akroncf.org/give/BCF.
NEWS FOR GIVING

FAMILY PHILANTHROPY: TEACHING CHILDREN TO GIVE
By: Margaret Medzie, Vice President of Development & Donor Engagement

As busy as we are on a daily basis, opportunities often pass us by to teach our children how to give. I recently read “Raising Charitable Children” by Carol Weisman, who writes on the importance of engaging children in volunteering and giving. She states that children today are inundated with all kinds of messages about being consumers – to want for themselves rather than to give of themselves.

Involving your children and grandchildren in activities and discussions that impact our community plays an important role in their current and future value system and how they will participate later.

Here at the community foundation, it has been our experience when working with families who engage both their children and grandchildren in their fund that amazing projects have surfaced. Instead of a normal birthday party for a child, we’ve seen that child request donations to a local shelter for those in need instead of gifts for herself. Another donor has been working closely with their adult children – who will one day act as advisors to the family’s donor-advised fund – to identify organizations that are important to them now, allowing them to make grant recommendations to their charities of choice.

Multigenerational participation and discussions about charitable giving and priorities can go a long way toward ensuring the continuity of family values. Family-based giving is an excellent way to teach financial stewardship and giving back.

In Dorothy Law Nolte’s poem “Children Learn What They Live,” one of the lines in the poem states: “If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.” This line certainly captures the essence that is philanthropy. So often we write our checks to our favorite charities, or have the automatic payment sent from our account, and our children never see us being philanthropic.

Involving your children and grandchildren in activities and discussions that impact our community plays an important role in their current and future value system and how they will participate later.

MEET THE AUTHOR
On Thursday, June 11, Akron Community Foundation and hosts David and Cheryl Venarge will welcome Carol Weisman to discuss family philanthropy. For more information, contact Delinda Herman at dherman@akroncf.org or 330-436-5613. To be invited, register for our e-news at www.akroncf.org/enews.
Although tax year 2014 ended in December, winter has remained a busy season for Greater Akron’s professional advisor network, thanks in part to Mike Zeleznik, local CPA and chair of Akron Community Foundation’s Professional Advisor Council. Mike leads this 13-person group of tax, estate and financial planning experts to educate and engage peers on the subject of philanthropy in their client relationships. Here is a sampling of their progress:

**Continuing Education:** “Charitable Tax Planning for Sale of a Business Interest” is an accredited continuing education course, which has already been presented to more than 100 local professionals in conjunction with the Akron Tax & Estate Planning Council and at firms like CBIZ and Cohen & Company. “We recognized this was a critical topic given the transfer of wealth in our region. We’re happy to take the show on the road,” said Mike.

To request continuing education at your firm, contact Laura Fink, director of development, at lfink@akroncf.org or 330-436-5611.

**Planned Giving:** Currently under development is a planned giving series that will educate the public on a variety of legacy giving options, from bequest giving to gifts that provide income or protect assets. “Using a cross-section of local talent from the legal, financial and insurance fields, we hope to encourage clients and open the door to their future plans, not just with their family members, but also their advisors,” Mike said.

To learn more, contact Margaret Medzie, vice president of development and donor engagement, at mmedzie@akroncf.org or 330-436-5610.

**Networking Events:** On Feb. 11, Akron Community Foundation and the Professional Advisor Council welcomed Sandy Pianalto, former president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, for a discussion on interest rates during this time of economic uncertainty. Its next event will feature an expert on the subject of business development. “We’re here to support the advisor community in all areas, including building their business,” Mike said.

See photos from the Feb. 11 event at www.flickr.com/akroncommunityfdn.

**New Advisor Resources**
Visit www.myakronlegacy.com for up-to-date tools and information, including:
- Free access to our charitable tax reference for every state in the country
- Tax deduction calculators for a variety of giving scenarios
- Print-on-demand literature about clients’ planned giving options

Stay updated. Register for our e-news at www.akroncf.org/advisorenews.
Welcome to the following new funds

Cynthia Hurd Abell Memorial Fund
Designated fund established by Robert and Joanne Konstand to benefit Bath Community Fund, particularly for programs that benefit youth.

Bruce S. and Sandra S. Bailey Family Fund
Donor-advised fund established by former bank president and Akron Community Foundation board member Bruce and his wife, Sandra.

Blick Clinic Endowment Fund
Established to enhance the lives of people with disabilities by providing comprehensive services, including clinical outpatient, residential and day programs.

James D. and Mary Jo Boyes Fund
Donor-advised fund established by the retired educators to support their favorite charities.

Michael and Susan Ciccolini Family Charitable Fund
Donor-advised fund established by the couple with the help of wealth advisor Chad Immel.

MAH Fund
Donor-advised fund established by an anonymous donor to benefit their favorite causes.

Mascio-Medzie Family Fund
Donor-advised fund established by Akron Community Foundation’s vice president of development and donor engagement, Margaret Medzie.

Benjamin E. Parke Memorial Fund
Designated fund established by Morgan and Kathie Parke in memory of their son Benjamin to support Wadsworth schools.

Mary Beechy Pfeiffer MHS Student Foreign Travel Fund
Designated fund established by Charles W. Pfeiffer in memory of his wife, Mary, to support Medina High School students’ travel to foreign countries to study language abroad.

Cherie and Steve Shechter Designated Fund
Designated fund established by the couple to support three of their favorite local nonprofits.

Cynthia L. Slezak Fund
Donor-advised fund established by Cynthia Slezak to benefit animal welfare programs, among other causes.

Steere Family Fund
Donor-advised fund established by William Steere and his wife, Patricia.

Leo G. Walter III and Mary Ann Walter Family Fund
Donor-advised fund established by Leo and Mary Ann with the help of Ted Walter, president of Fifth Third Bank.

Wiskind Designated Fund
Designated fund established by Milt Wiskind to benefit five of his favorite causes in the community.
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Akron Community Foundation for:
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Steve & Wendy Ames
Steven Baach by
Chris Dunning
Brownie (Mary Ellen) Baker by
Dr. Linda L. McDonald
Edward Bayer by
Mr. & Mrs. George Emershaw
R.J. Hemphill, M.D.
Marilyn Bednar Kasarda
Bryan & Susan Kinnamon
Margaret L. Lawrence
Frank & Peggy Lopresty
Harold & Catherine Lundstrom
Marjorie E. Melton
Anna Marie Schellin
Walter & Donna Scott
Irving & Beth Sugerman
Deric & Susie Wallace
John Wilkinson
Al Beckwith by
E. James Beckwith
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Eileen Burg
Robert Burg
Ellen Kerr
Deborah Ciraldo by
Louis & Eleanor Ciraldo
Kathleen Colao by
Barbara Ann Hudak
Martin Disque by
Barbara Ann Hudak
Phyllis Disque by
Barbara Ann Hudak
Patrick Feeney by
Don & Lorraine Fair
Carmelo Garofalo by
Bryan & Susan Kinnamon
Judy & Roger Read
Bob & Geri Gudikunst by
John Wilkinson
Mary Kay Hudak by
Rennick Andreoli
Tina & Ryan Boyes
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Henry Jameson by
Edythe E. Clark
Mrs. Eleanor Morris by
Carol Barber
Frances Murphey by
Mike & Joan Kolk
Jean O’Neal by
Bruce & Sandy Bailey
June Young Pak by
Dr. Samuel Pak
Sonya T. Parry by
Bruce & Sandy Bailey
Joan Schrank by
Edwin Schrank
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Maureen Campion
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John Wilkinson
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Brandon Allen by
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Brimfield Historical Society Fund for:
Allan E. Bennett by
Kim Davis
Lawrence Bryner by
Barbara Bryner
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Marie Cannon
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Jana Urban
Raymond & Grace Alvira
Willoughby by
Betsy & Stephen Mako
Pauline Workman by
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Howard Palmer
Judge Harold White by
Frank & Eileen Field

Gay Community Endowment Fund for:
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David L. Jesse
Roy Copeland by
Rod Wellman
Jonathan Kuhns by
Drs. Mark & Sandy Auburn
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Mara Lou Hartenstein by
The Patricia and J. Harvey Graves Family Foundation
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Sonya Thomas Parry by
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Becky Mckee

Millennium Fund for Children for:
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Sid & Sandra Landskroner
Ruthann Collins by
Tina & Ryan Boyes
Dorothy Dombo by
James Dombo
Leonard Filaseta by
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Rennick Andreoli by
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Froncie & Greg Repetti
The Richard and Alita Rogers
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Brimfield Historical Society Fund for:

The Bradstock Family by
Linda B. MacDougall

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Lisa Craine by
Annie Laurie Chelovitz

Dominic by
David Moore

Food Pantry Capacity Fund of Akron Community Foundation for:

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Katherine McMillan

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All of the friends of the library by
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The Friends of The Summit Endowment Fund for:

Jenny Birnbaum by
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Gay Community Endowment Fund for:

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Katie Carney

John Grafton &
Richard Worswick by
George Vassos

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Wilbur by
Amanda Iacona

Medina County Women’s Endowment Fund for:

Nancy Pound by
Delcie Pound

Carol Starrick by
John & Virginia Jeandrevin

Millennium Fund for Children for:

Drew & Naomi Boyes by
Tina & Ryan Boyes

The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Garry & Elizabeth Light by
Sylvia Davis

Elizabeth Dalton by
Sylvia Trundle

Laura Fink by
Carolyn W. Cox

John & Alyce Hunsicker by
Bonnie Filer-Tubaugh

Jan Leach by
Marie & Harry Covington

Erwin Maseelall, M.D., by
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Raynor

Our five grandchildren by
Bryan & Susan Kinnamon

Mary B. Robinson by
Irene Robinson

Shaun Schweitzer by
Kim Nott

Benjamin E. Parke Memorial Fund for:

Wadsworth Drama Boosters by
Michele Adams

Stewart’s Caring Place Endowment Fund for:

Rennick Andreoli by
Joe & Suzanne Henninger

Witan Endowment Fund for:
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Diana & James Snider

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Doris Antal

Diana Snider by
Dana & Patricia Noel

Andrea Wlaszyn by
Christine Krinsky
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

COMMUNITY REPORT SHOWS ISSUES’ INTERCONNECTEDNESS

To commemorate our 60th anniversary of building community philanthropy, Akron Community Foundation released an assessment of the most pressing quality-of-life issues facing Summit County.

This 16-page report, titled “Creating Measurable Community Impact,” examines the issues of employment, early childhood poverty, food insecurity and transportation, as well as an emerging issue, the growing senior population. The report provides data on each issue, examines how they impact one another, and suggests opportunities for improvement.

“Understanding the interconnectedness between key community issues like this helps us better target our funding,” said John Garofalo, vice president of community investment at Akron Community Foundation. “For instance, research indicates that poverty in early childhood can impact eventual employment success, so we prioritize a portion of our educational funding on early childhood initiatives knowing that these initiatives can have positive effects on the children involved for years to come.”

The report was the result of a study Akron Community Foundation commissioned from The Center for Community Solutions, a Northeast Ohio nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank specializing in applied research, public policy and advocacy. Akron Community Foundation will share this report with other area funders, nonprofits, local leaders and philanthropists to help target funding and encourage collaboration on these prevalent and emerging issues.

“Work to address some of these issues is already well underway at Akron Community Foundation and throughout the community,” said John T. Petures Jr., president and CEO of the organization. “We are eager to collaborate around these issues with fellow leaders, funders, nonprofits and philanthropists so we can make systemic, enduring improvements that benefit all Summit County residents.”

You can download “Creating Measurable Community Impact” for free at www.akroncf.org/communityreport.
EDUCATION GRANTS ANNOUNCED

In February, Akron Community Foundation announced grants totaling $1,822,249: $1,322,749 from designated, donor-advised, agency endowment and scholarship funds, and $499,500 in competitive education and early learning grants.

More than 90 percent of education funding was awarded to programs that align with Summit Education Initiative’s Cradle to Career continuum, a priority the community foundation announced in November. Grants will fund programs that address key transition points in a child’s life, from kindergarten readiness to college and career readiness. The board awarded a $35,000 grant to SEI to continue aligning the work of out-of-school providers with student needs based on data from schools. The community foundation funded the creation of the program in 2014.

“This program really bridges the gap between formal and informal educators,” said John Garofalo, Akron Community Foundation’s vice president of community investment. “Not only is SEI providing the data directly from schools that out-of-school providers need to reinforce what is taught in the classroom, they’re helping these providers align their metrics, refine their measurement tools, and direct their programming to support the larger countywide effort to educate our children.”

In addition to the competitive education grants Akron Community Foundation’s board awarded this quarter, the following donor-advised funds have offered an additional $82,500 in grants to education and early learning programs: Howard Atwood Family Fund, Marilyn Meyers Buckey Family Fund, H. Peter Burg Fund, and an anonymous fund.

To see a full list of the competitive education grants, visit www.akroncf.org/educationgrants.
INITIATIVES

WEF AWARDS $85,000 TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

The Women’s Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation recently awarded $85,000 to 12 nonprofit organizations that improve life for Summit County’s women and girls. This latest round of grants was ratified by Akron Community Foundation’s board on Friday, Feb. 20, at its quarterly meeting.

Among this year’s funding priorities were health and wellness, safety from violence, and economic empowerment for local women and girls. Two of the grants supported programs that advance women’s careers, including a $7,500 grant to the American Red Cross of Summit & Portage Counties for its Nurse Assistant Training program.

The program trains young women to become home health aides and state tested nursing assistants (STNAs). A recent report on job outlooks identifies home health aides as one of the top two fields for projected growth in the next few years. Workforce development programs like those at the Red Cross not only fill the demand for qualified employees but also benefit the personal economies of women who could otherwise be living on the brink of poverty.

“By providing a pathway for young women to enter the workforce in a growing field, we’re empowering them to improve the quality of life of their own families and the community as a whole,” said Katie Smucker, Grants Committee co-chair of the Women’s Endowment Fund.

ODOM FUND AWARDS $13,000 IN GRANTS

On Friday, Feb. 20, the Vernon L. Odom Fund of Akron Community Foundation awarded $13,000 in grants to programs that promote diversity and enrich the quality of life within local minority communities.

More than half of the grants will support programs for minority youth, including a $1,000 grant to Crown Point Ecology Center for the 2015 Summer Farm & Science Camp. The weeklong camp offers area children a unique, hands-on learning experience on a 115-acre farm and nature preserve. While there, kids have the opportunity to grow produce in an organic garden, collect chicken eggs, take a peek inside the beehive, and discover living creatures in the pond.

Thanks to this year’s grant from the Vernon L. Odom Fund, 75 low-income, minority youth from Summit County will have the chance to experience the camp, including children from Proyecto Raices, a bilingual program of Akron’s St. Bernard Parish that provides cultural enrichment for area Latino children. For many of these children, it will be their first time on a farm, said Nancy Wolf, Crown Point’s executive director.

“Many children today do not have easy access to green space and spend increasingly more time (in front of) a screen,” Wolf said. “Our camp offers an antidote to these trends.”

Other grants this year will provide diversity training for people who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; support a math and reading tutoring program for minority students; and help African-American fathers develop closer relationships with their children.

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

For a complete list of this year’s grants, visit www.akroncf.org/OdomGrants.
**SAVE THE DATE**

**Arts & Culture Grant Deadline**

April 1, 2015
Akron Community Foundation

Akron Community Foundation is accepting grant applications for performing and visual arts programs, historical societies and museums, and media projects. For details or to apply, visit [www.akroncf.org/communityfundgrants](http://www.akroncf.org/communityfundgrants).

**Bus Tour: Arts & Culture**

April 23, 2015
2:30 PM

Join us for an afternoon filled with performing arts as we visit 91.3 The Summit and Magical Theatre Company. To reserve your spot, contact De Shawn Pickett at dpickett@akroncf.org or 330-376-8522.

**GCEF Annual Meeting**

April 26, 2015
2 PM
Hilton Garden Inn Akron

Hear from Judy Shepard, from the Matthew Shepard Foundation, at this year’s annual meeting. Sign up for GCEF’s e-news to be one of the first to hear about tickets at [www.gaycommunityfund.org](http://www.gaycommunityfund.org).

**WOMEN’S ENDOWMENT FUND HOSTS ANNUAL DINNER**

The Women’s Endowment Fund welcomes Kathleen Kennedy Townsend as this year’s featured speaker for “For Women, Forever,” its signature fundraiser being held on March 12.

Townsend is a political trailblazer and author who served as the first woman lieutenant governor of Maryland. Townsend, the eldest child of Robert and Ethel Kennedy, will share her experience in women’s leadership and philanthropy with hundreds of guests at the annual dinner.

“For Women, Forever” celebrates women as philanthropists and raises money for the endowment.

Tickets for the event start at $75 per person and include a 5:30 p.m. cocktail reception with the fund’s most recent grantees, followed by dinner and the program at 6:30 p.m. Learn more or purchase tickets at [www.akroncf.org/WEFAnnualDinner](http://www.akroncf.org/WEFAnnualDinner).

See a full list of community events or submit your own nonprofit event at [www.akroncf.org/AroundAkronCalendar](http://www.akroncf.org/AroundAkronCalendar).

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The LGBT community and its friends and allies gathered on Thursday, Feb. 19, for an exciting recap of the games that took Northeast Ohio by storm in August 2014. After the most profitable year in Gay Games history, event officials announced the Gay Community Endowment Fund will receive $27,000 of the net profit from the games, bringing the fund’s endowment to nearly $1 million.

John T. Petures Jr., president and CEO of Akron Community Foundation, and John Grafton, Gay Community Endowment Fund board member, spoke to the crowd during the event and helped release “The Final Report: By the Numbers,” which summarizes the impact of the games on Northeast Ohio.

To download the report, visit www.gaycommunityfund.org. Or, to help the fund reach its $1 million milestone, visit www.akroncf.org/give/GCEF.