



Dear Gay Community Endowment Fund Supporter,

As advisory board members of the Gay Community Endowment Fund, we would like to personally invite you to “exhALE: Advancing Lived Equality,” GCEF’s annual celebration, which will take place Friday, June 6, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Akron Civic Theatre. Guests will enjoy hearty hors d’oeuvres, beverages, and an inspiring program highlighting the fund’s recent grant and scholarship recipients.

The Gay Community Endowment Fund annually awards grants to nonprofit organizations that positively impact the local LGBTQ+ community. Recent grants have created safer environments for LGBTQ+ youth, combated phobias of the LGBTQ+ community, and supported mental health and suicide prevention programs for LGBTQ+ people. Altogether, the fund has reinvested nearly \$840,000 into the Greater Akron community since it was founded in 2001. In addition, the GCEF Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$60,000 in postsecondary scholarships to students making a meaningful difference for the LGBTQ+ community. All proceeds from the event support academic scholarships for LGBTQ+ and allied students in Greater Akron.

Each year, the Paul Daum Award is presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated a significant commitment to LGBTQ+ causes in Greater Akron. This year, fund leaders will present the Paul Daum Award to the Akron Pride Festival Steering Committee.

We encourage you to make a lasting difference in the lives of LGBTQ+ students by becoming an event sponsor. Your commitment to inclusion and equality will be recognized at the event, which is annually attended by nearly 150 community leaders and supporters. This is an excellent opportunity to show your support for Greater Akron’s LGBTQ+ community and help us build a brighter future for the next generation of LGBTQ+ students and allies.

Enclosed is a list of sponsorship opportunities for your consideration. For more information, please contact Affiliate Fund Event & Volunteer Coordinator Malia Rivera-Speer at 330-436-5649 or [mriviera@akroncf.org](mailto:mriviera@akroncf.org). Thank you for your generosity!

Sincerely,

Kim Rivers  
Event Co-Chair  
GCEF Advisory Board Member

Mar-quetta Boddie  
Event Co-Chair  
GCEF Advisory Board Member

AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION

# exhale

ADVANCING LIVED EQUALITY



**GAY COMMUNITY  
ENDOWMENT FUND**  
An Akron Community Foundation Fund

**BENEFITING THE GCEF SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**June 6, 2025 | 6 p.m. | The Akron Civic Theatre**

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*Your generosity will support academic scholarships for LGBTQ+ students and allies.*

- Enlightenment Sponsor: \$1,500 (\$1,050 is tax deductible)**
  - Six event tickets, including access to an open bar for the duration of the event
  - Prominent logo or name placement in promotional materials, including event invitations and program
  - A post acknowledging your support of the event on the Gay Community Endowment Fund's social media accounts
  
- Wisdom Sponsor: \$1,000 (\$760 is tax deductible)**
  - Four event tickets, including two complimentary drinks per guest
  - Logo or name in promotional materials, including event invitation and program
  
- Knowledge Sponsor: \$500 (\$380 is tax deductible)**
  - Two event tickets, including two complimentary drinks per guest
  - Logo or name included in the event program
  
- Learning Sponsor: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (fully tax deductible)**  
 I/We cannot attend but would like to make a tax-deductible gift in honor of the 2025 Paul Daum Award recipient, the Akron Pride Festival Steering Committee.

**Please print your name as you wish it to appear in event materials:**

I wish to remain anonymous.

Name(s)/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(see reverse)

## Payment Options:

### 1. Online

Fill out this sponsorship form online at [akroncf.org/exhale-sponsorship](http://akroncf.org/exhale-sponsorship) and email the completed form to [mrivera@akroncf.org](mailto:mrivera@akroncf.org).

### 2. Credit Card

Visa / MasterCard / Discover (*circle one or select from the dropdown menu*)

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  This is a corporate card.

### 3. Check

Enclose a check made payable to **Akron Community Foundation** with "GCEF exhALE" written in the memo line.

**If paying with a credit card or check, please return this completed form with your payment by April 3, 2025\* to:**

Gay Community Endowment Fund  
c/o Akron Community Foundation  
345 W. Cedar St.  
Akron, OH 44307

*\*See additional information below for details about payments accepted after this date.*

## Additional Information:

- We will happily accept sponsorships until the date of the event; however, to **ensure the inclusion of your name or logo in promotional materials**, Enlightenment and Wisdom sponsorships must be received by **April 3, 2025**. Sponsorships received after this date cannot be guaranteed inclusion in all materials.
- Please email the names of your guest(s) to [mrivera@akroncf.org](mailto:mrivera@akroncf.org). Names must be received by **June 3** to be printed on name tags.
- Sponsors should email high-resolution **logo files** in PNG or EPS format to [oeastly@akroncf.org](mailto:oeastly@akroncf.org).
- We gladly accept gifts from **donor-advised funds and IRAs**. However, per IRS regulations, sponsorships from donor-advised funds and IRAs cannot receive any benefits, including but not limited to event tickets, gifts, food, beverages and other items of value. If you plan to support the event with a gift from your donor-advised fund or IRA, please contact Deb Hoffman at 330-436-5614 or [dhoffman@akroncf.org](mailto:dhoffman@akroncf.org).

## Questions?

For more information, please contact Affiliate Fund Event & Volunteer Coordinator Malia Rivera-Speer at 330-436-5649 or [mrivera@akroncf.org](mailto:mrivera@akroncf.org).



The Gay Community Endowment Fund is a fund of Akron Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity. Your tax acknowledgment card will confirm your reservation. Sponsorships and tickets are nonrefundable, but tickets may be transferred. Please notify Akron Community Foundation of any changes to contact person(s) or company names by calling 330-376-8522. Learn more about the fund at [gaycommunityfund.org](http://gaycommunityfund.org).