

FOUNDATIONS

Building Community Philanthropy, Today and Forever

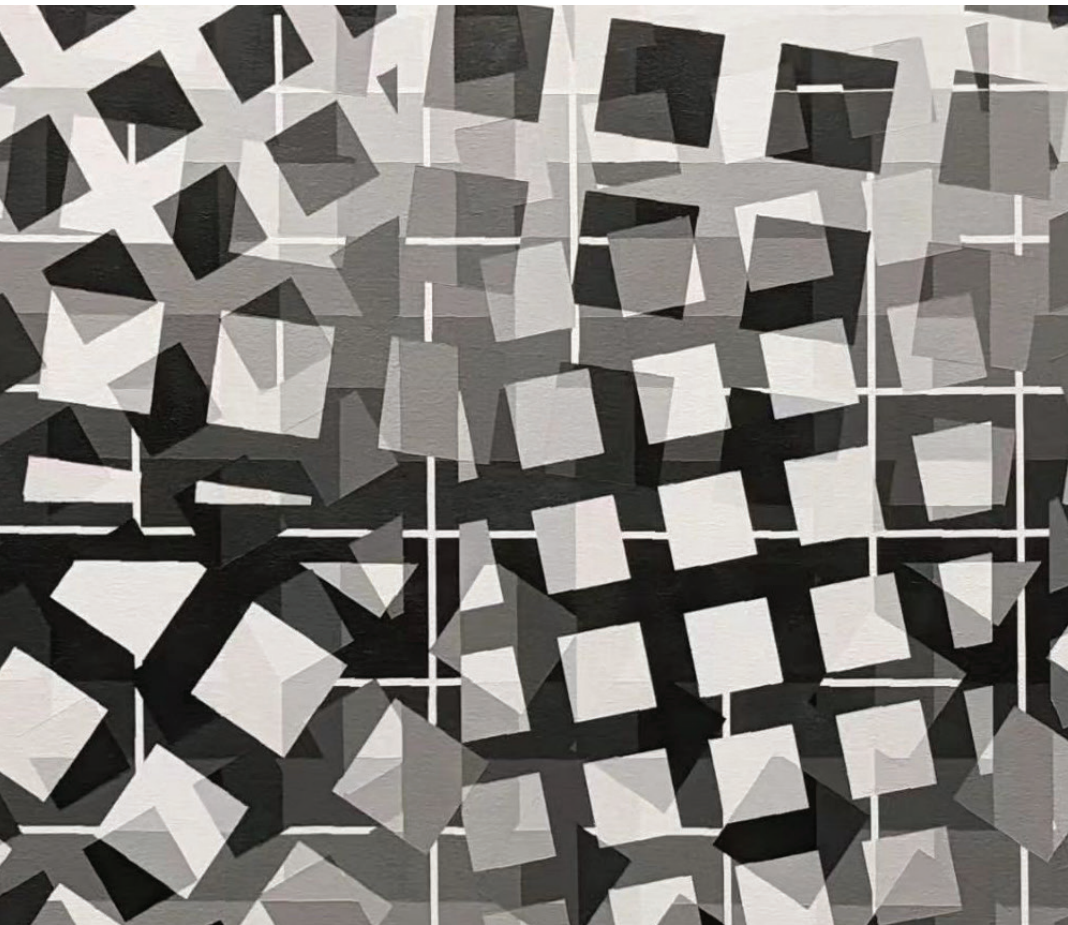


Unlocking the ABCs of Educational Achievement
ACF supports cutting-edge educational programs

President & CEO Retiring
John T. Petures Jr. will retire in 2025 after 17 years serving the foundation

Gifts That Grow Your Legacy + Provide You Income
Is a charitable gift annuity or trust beneficial for you?

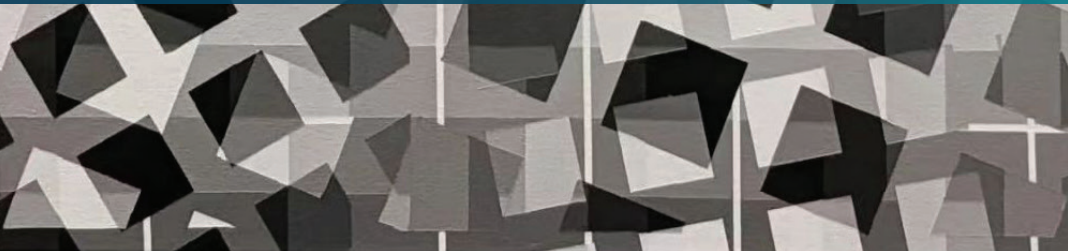




SEEN ON CEDAR STREET

Visitors to Akron Community Foundation enjoy a revolving display of work by talented local artists, including this abstract piece by David Kuntzman, whose geometric paintings focus on the use of grids and other patterns. Kuntzman's paintings are inspired by the international "Op Art" (Optical Art) movement, which emerged in the 1960s and became popular in Cleveland, which housed the only artist collaborative devoted to Op Art in the United States.

For information about this artist, or if you are an artist interested in renting your work to the community foundation, contact Chris Miller at cmiller@akroncf.org or 330-436-5627.



FOUNDATIONS

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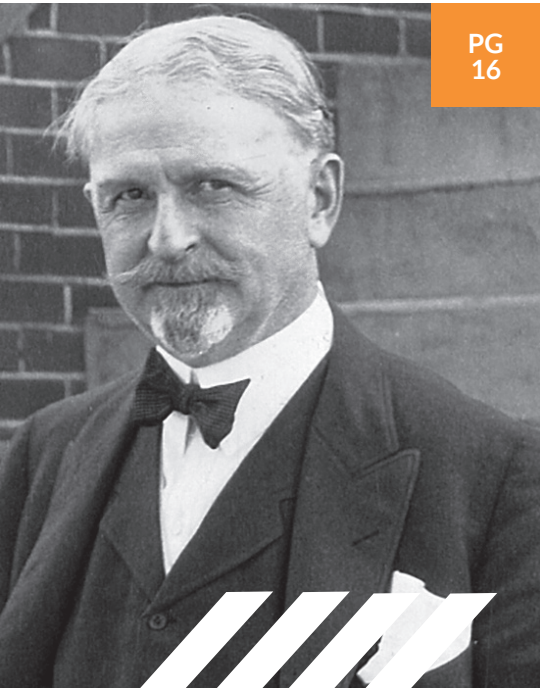


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FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

By John T. Petures Jr.

Someone once said that time moves slowly but passes quickly, which strikes me now, given the recent news of my upcoming retirement after 16 years as president and CEO of your community foundation. There is so much to be proud of: so many accomplishments and so many friends, colleagues, board members, donors, nonprofit executives, and community leaders who paved the way and embraced the vision and mission of Akron Community Foundation.

As I'm writing this message, I've just finished signing a series of checks to numerous area nonprofits that have endowments here at the community foundation. While signing, I happened to notice the check number, and I asked Dennis Jansky, our director of accounting and administration, if the number represented the quantity of checks I've signed since starting at the foundation in May 2008.

Are you ready? I have signed 68,781 checks, with a majority representing grants back into the community to countless nonprofit organizations that have touched and uplifted the lives of our friends and neighbors, while improving the quality of life where we live, work and raise our families. This is a powerful reminder of the impact our collective philanthropy has had on our community over the past 16 years.

As I reflect on my time at Akron Community Foundation, there are so many people to thank and so much to be grateful for, including the tireless devotion of our staff team, which has doubled since I joined the foundation. I'm also thankful for our passionate and "present" board of directors, including our Finance & Investment Committee members, who have thoughtfully overseen the prudent investment of our charitable assets, which have grown threefold, from \$100 million in 2009 to nearly \$300 million today. And I applaud the selfless generosity of our fundholders, who have tripled our family of funds from 300 to nearly 900, each one representing a unique charitable vision for our community.

All told, Greater Akron and Summit County continue to embrace Akron Community Foundation as our community's champion and generator of enduring philanthropy. What a pleasure and honor it has been to be a part of this remarkable work. Even though I have several months to go before I step away, I'm sensing that I'll miss it – and all of you – a great deal. I'm thankful for every one of you and the role you've played in building a legacy we can all be proud of. 🌱

our vision

We are our community's champion and generator of enduring philanthropy.

our mission

To identify, activate and support informed and passionate philanthropists who strive to improve the quality of life in our community.

our values

Passion | Excellence | Accountability
Inclusion | Quality of Life | Collaboration



Nonprofit Insights Conference / photo by Shane Wynn

FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Nonprofit Insights Conference was by far better than any daylong seminar I've attended in a very long time. Great relationship building, great setup, great speakers. I love Akron Community Foundation – you ask your constituents for feedback and then turn around and provide the resources. I also really appreciated seeing so many staff there yesterday. It was so great to connect and engage outside of our role as funder/nonprofit. You all are so connected to this community, the people we serve, and us. I am super grateful to be in your orbit.

Shana Wallenstein
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Ohio

ACF has been a huge supporter of helping us provide Akron hospitals with bereavement items for parents who experience a loss during pregnancy or childbirth. We delivered 251 baskets last month alone. We can now use a portion of ACF funds to continue to help other locations and possibly go into one or more OB/GYN offices in Akron. Thank you for understanding the importance of supporting these families.

Sara Ringle
Forget-Me-Not Baskets

Thank you to ACF for the kindness and support you've given to Legacy III. It has been my absolute pleasure working with ACF to ensure effective service delivery for homeless women is available.

Darnella Cummings
Legacy III

My team and I are truly grateful for this amazing opportunity to meet you and your board members to discuss the ISSA program. When I came into your office, I felt a very welcoming environment that really supports our community partners. This type of culture really builds up nonprofit confidence when we see we are not alone in making a difference in our community!

Haowen Ge
International Student Services Association

We are so grateful to the Gay Community Endowment Fund for your grant to OutSupport, which helps keep us moving forward for equality, support and acceptance in Medina County! There is nothing better than to be there for people who want to live their lives authentically. This grant lets us continue to offer safe spaces for individuals and families on their journeys of love and acceptance for themselves and their loved ones.

Sandy Varndell and Amy Demlow
OutSupport

Thank you to Bath Community Fund for your continued sponsorship of our Akron Symphonic Winds performances at the Made in Ohio Festival at Hale Farm & Village. Your outstandingly kind gift will touch the lives of thousands of people gathered to celebrate and enjoy this historic event. Your gift truly enables us to serve our community and meet our mission of bringing communities together through music.

Linda Simon
Akron Symphonic Winds

SOCIAL shoutouts

Victim Assistance Program
Thank you so much to Akron Community Foundation's Millennium Fund for supporting #VictimAssistanceProgram's vital services for families as we provide free child-watching services through our Children Who Witness Violence Drop-In Center at the Summit County Domestic Relations Court. Your continued support helps us empower victims of crime as we work toward healing our community through trauma-informed care.

Child Guidance & Family Solutions
Thank you, Akron Community Foundation, for your tremendous support of the TAPS program! This grant will allow CGFS to teach invaluable skills to child care teachers and administrators – positively impacting the lives of 3,000 children.

Grants Plus
Special thanks to Akron Community Foundation for hosting their first-ever Nonprofit Insights Conference, providing invaluable perspectives and forging connections among nonprofits from across the region. Grants Plus was honored to participate, with our CEO, Dana Textoris, leading a session on "Doing Good While Being Well: A Practical Guide for Nonprofit Professionals."

Brent Zimmerman
Kudos to Akron Community Foundation for bringing together young professionals and fostering such a vibrant networking environment. It's wonderful to see organizations like yours empowering local talent and making meaningful connections. Keep up the great work!

Share with us! Do you have a note of appreciation to share? Perhaps a photo of the good work our grantees or fundholders are doing? Send it to Michelle Nissel at mnissel@akroncf.org. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

FOUNDATION

news



From annual meetings and nonprofit education sessions to award events and fundraisers, Akron Community Foundation and its affiliate funds host numerous events throughout the year. For more information, visit akroncf.org/Events.

Father Norm Douglas Selected as This Year's Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award Recipient

Save the date for this year's Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award Dinner on Oct. 15, 2024, at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn, where we'll celebrate Father Norm Douglas and all he has contributed for the betterment of our community. Tickets will go on sale in late summer. For sponsorship information, contact Laura Lederer at llederer@akroncf.org or 330-436-5611.

Reserve Your Spot for Our Upcoming Annual Meeting

Please join us for our 69th annual meeting at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn on July 16, 2024. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. with hearty hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, followed by the program at 6:15 p.m. This event is free, but registration is required. Reserve your seat by Tuesday, July 9, at akroncf.org/AnnualMeeting.

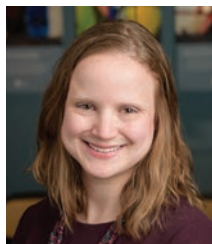
President & CEO Announces Retirement

In late March, **John T. Petures Jr.** announced he will retire from the community foundation during the second quarter of 2025, concluding 17 years at the helm of the organization and 45 years of nonprofit service in all. "Under John's leadership for the past 17 years, Akron Community Foundation has not only seen significant asset growth, but – in large measure due to his vision and innovation – the foundation has been positioned to be our community's champion and generator of enduring philanthropy," said Marty Hauser, board chair of the community foundation. "Beyond those accomplishments, I know I speak for our board, former board and staff when I say that John will also be missed for his thoughtful approach to leadership and the positive culture he's built at the foundation." To read more, visit akroncf.org/CEOretirement.



Longtime Foundation Staff Member Promoted

Kristen Ashby, who has served in various marketing and development roles at the community foundation over the past 15 years, was recently promoted to Director of Marketing. Kristen leads many of the foundation's marketing initiatives, including managing the website, overseeing the marketing work of our affiliate funds, and creating the marketing strategy for our network of professional advisors. Her keen editing skills, attention to detail, and deep experience with the foundation make her an invaluable member of the team. Congratulations on this well-deserved promotion!



ACF Welcomes New Staff Member

The foundation welcomed **Jill Sellers** to its staff in early June as its Director of Donor Engagement. In this newly created role for the foundation, Jill will be responsible for strengthening our onboarding process for new fundholders and reengaging existing fundholders. Prior to her role with the foundation, Jill was a senior associate of client experience at American Endowment Foundation, one of the nation's largest independent donor-advised fund sponsors. Welcome to the team, Jill!



ACF Celebrates Record Year of Donations, Robust Year of Grants

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of this community, Akron Community Foundation received gifts totaling \$24.4 million during our fiscal year ending March 31, 2024. In addition, our fundholders distributed \$19.1 million in grants to nonprofits working to uplift and enrich our community. For a full list of our donors, visit akroncf.org/Donors. To see recent memorial and tribute gifts and grants, visit akroncf.org/MemorialTribute.

ACF Board Members Receive Honors

Congratulations to three of our board members for receiving noteworthy distinctions, including **Sylvia Trundle**, immediate past chair, who was recently announced as this year's recipient of the Lieberth Community Vision Award from Leadership Akron. We look forward to celebrating with Sylvia at the event in November.



Kimberly Haws Falasco, managing director and branch manager at Baird, was recognized in February as a 2024 Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-In-State.



Board member **Ernie Pouttu**, president and CEO of Harwick Standard Distribution Corporation, was inducted into the Fairport Harding High School Hall of Fame in late 2023.



Congratulations to you all on these well-deserved recognitions!

Medina County Community Foundation Launched

In January, Akron Community Foundation announced the creation of a new community foundation to serve Medina County. The Medina County Community Foundation was established with the transfer of \$1.7 million from four former funds of Akron Community Foundation: the Medina County Community Fund, the Medina County Women's Endowment Fund, the Tom DeLeone Fund, and the Homestead Insurance Agency Fund. Read more about this transfer at akroncf.org/MedinaFoundation.

University of Akron Partners With Community Foundation

The University of Akron Foundation and Akron Community Foundation announced the creation of a donor-advised fund program that gives University alumni and donors the opportunity to support both the University and other charitable organizations of their choosing through a fund at the community foundation. For more information about this unique program, visit akroncf.org/UApartnership or contact Kim Cole, vice president of advancement and executive director of the UA Foundation, at 330-972-7608 or kmorgan@uakron.edu.

Congrats to ACF Staff Members

Congratulations to **John Garofalo**, vice president of community investment, for recently being named to the Akron Roundtable board. Additionally, **Olivia Eastly**, marketing and communications coordinator, was chosen to participate in the 2024 Torchbearers Class, and **Malia Rivera**, affiliate fund event and volunteer coordinator, was selected to serve on the Ideastream Community Advisory Board. Thank you all for the work you're doing to strengthen our community!

Third Class of Institute for Emerging Philanthropists Graduates

Congratulations to the third class of the Institute for Emerging Philanthropists, who graduated on June 12 following nine months of comprehensive training on strategic charitable giving. As part of this course, the class awarded \$40,000 in grants to three local nonprofits: The Well CDC, the Rape Crisis Center of Medina & Summit Counties, and Akron Cooperative Farms.

Graduating class members:

Top Row: Alex Shannon, Brandyn Neal, Benjamin Tegel and Henry Johnson Jr.
Bottom Row: Lisa Little, Melanie Korman, Rica Keith and Marie Brilmyer.



IN THE *community*

1. Members of the foundation's Professional Advisor Council gathered at Shady Hollow Lodge in May to learn about the conservation and recreation initiatives of Summit Metro Parks. Pictured from left to right: Andy Lamb, Taylor Papiernik, Jen Harvey, Benjamin Tegel, Mike Johnson and Jared Hoffman.



2. Women's Endowment Fund President Pamela Kiltau (center left) and "For Women, Forever" Celebration Chair Judge Joy Malek Oldfield (right) pose for a photo with keynote speakers Dr. Lindsay Kite and Dr. Lexie Kite at the April 18 event. Photo by Shane Wynn.



3. Barb Greene, the recipient of the 2024 Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women, shared with the crowd that she was joining the Women's Endowment Fund's Circle of Empowerment with a pledge of \$1,000 annually to support the fund. Photo by Shane Wynn.



4. April Walker, founder of Philanthropy for the People, delivered the morning keynote at Akron Community Foundation's inaugural Nonprofit Insights Conference. Photo by Shane Wynn.



5. In May, the Green Community Fund steering committee officially transitioned into an advisory board. The fund will be led by Chair Barry Hollis (center left) and Vice Chair Kelli Shultz (center right). Other members pictured include (from left to right): Valerie Wolford, Jaclyn Flossie, Carson Evans, Mike Jones, Josie McElroy and Dominic Rizzo.



IN THE *community*

(CONT.)

6. Marissa Rufe, Sam Harsh and Cortney Rosinski attended the Women & Wealth seminar on May 2 at the O'Neil House.

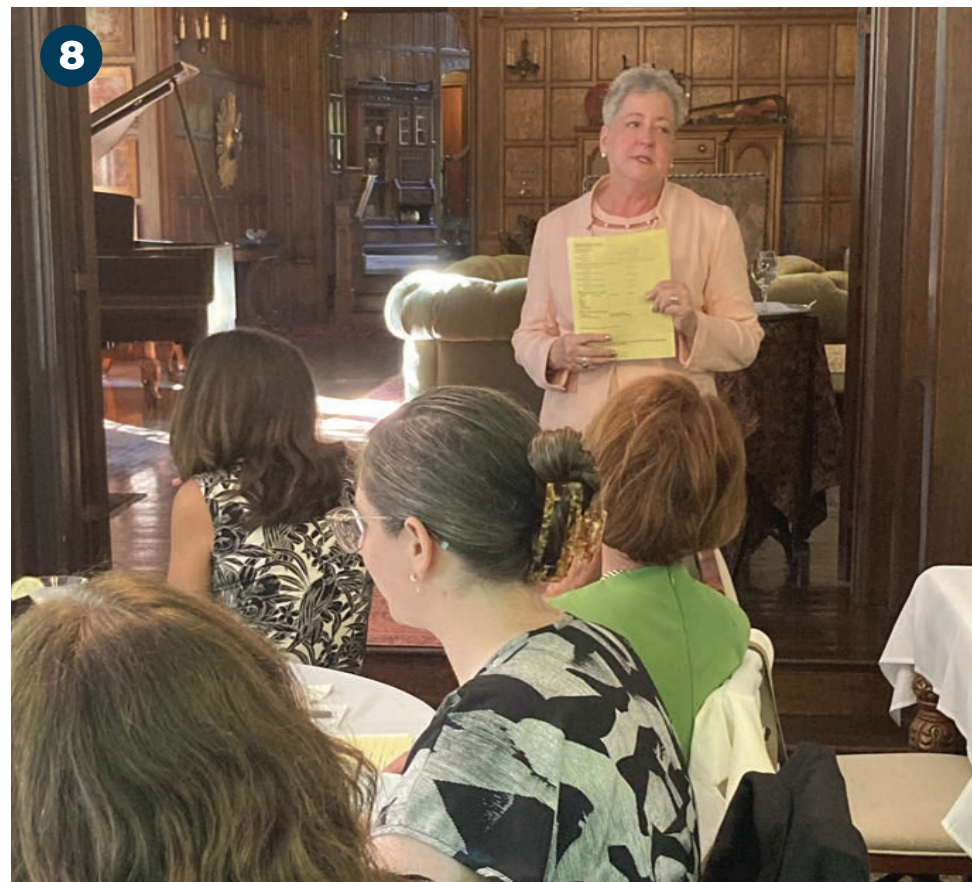
7. Akron Community Foundation served as the client for Kent State University's capstone public relations course during the spring semester and welcomed the students and professor Stefanie Moore to our office in January to learn more about our mission.

8. Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer spoke at a Women & Wealth seminar about estate planning. This spring's event was planned and hosted by the Professional Advisor Council of Akron Community Foundation in partnership with the Women's Endowment Fund.

9. Foundation marketing staff served as judges for the final presentation by Kent State University public relations students, where four teams shared their comprehensive marketing campaigns designed to increase awareness of the foundation. Pictured from left to right: Tracy Burt, Chris Miller, Kristen Ashby and Olivia Eastly.

10. Akron Community Foundation provided a total of \$10,000 to 9 Akron Public Schools eighth-grade teams who participated in the Changemaker Challenge finals on May 16, with the first-place team receiving \$4,000 to help their community project come to life. ACF staff members were invited to judge the 10 presentations. Pictured from left to right: Karen Hrdlicka, John Garofalo, Brian Reitz, Tracy Burt, Mariana Silva and Darlene Shuler.

11. Brendan Hagerty participates in one of the eight breakout sessions at Akron Community Foundation's inaugural Nonprofit Insights Conference. Photo by Shane Wynn.





unlocking the ABCs OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

By Chris Miller
Communications & Community Investment Officer

In a Tallmadge Elementary School classroom, the teacher leads first grade students in what at first appears to be choreography, with calls and responses tied to the syllables of displayed words, the sounds accompanied by matching hand signs and gestures. Throughout this lesson, the students are fully engaged – and they’re learning to proficiently read at a young age as a result. This is a typical lesson of the phonics-based “science of reading,” also known as structured literacy.

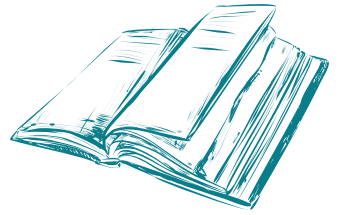
“The science of reading is essentially the study of how people learn to read and how the brain processes written language,” said Courtney Davis, director of curriculum for Tallmadge City Schools. “It delves into various aspects such as how letters correspond to sounds, the structure of sounds in language, the structure of words, the arrangement of words in sentences, the meaning of words and sentences, and the use of language in context.”

She equates structured literacy to building a house. “Each foundational skill is like a brick that contributes to the overall structure, and the science of reading is a toolbox filled with research-based strategies and techniques that educators can use to support student learning and achievement,” Davis said.

Tallmadge’s structured literacy curriculum is spearheaded by the University of Akron’s Center for Structured Literacy, whose programs are supported by Akron Community Foundation’s education-focused funding, with tangible results.

“These kids need to learn letters; kids need to learn sounds. And they need to have meaning attached to print,” said Dr. Rebecca Tolson, director of the Center for Structured Literacy, who spoke at a recent Community Issues Session hosted by Akron Community Foundation. “(Structured literacy)

The science of reading, parents as teachers, and other local education innovations: Akron Community Foundation supports cutting-edge programs across the cradle to career continuum



is like a concert – all these parts of the brain working in concert. But a child who struggles, a child with dyslexia, their brain does not process in the same areas. So, it is neurobiological.”

Indeed, structured literacy is a powerful tool that uses science to understand how the regions of the brain are affected when learning to read and process sounds and words. “Our students have become more confident in their ability to read, write and communicate effectively,” Davis added. “Success in mastering foundational literacy skills has boosted their overall confidence and motivation to learn.”

Cara Eyre, a first grade teacher at Tallmadge Elementary School, said, “Simply put, the science of reading is teaching the sounds of letters and groups of letters, as well as the rules that apply to how you pronounce each letter or group, so that those sounds can be blended together to read. The science of reading also includes vocabulary and comprehension skills, but the foundational skills needed to learn to read are the focus in first grade.”

Eyre added that kinesthetic learning is also incorporated into phonics lessons by pairing letters with symbols and songs. “Each letter has not only a sound, but a symbol and jingle to go along with it,” she said. “Our students love phonics and enjoy applying what they learn to every academic subject.”

One challenge of teaching structured literacy, Eyre said, is finding interesting “decodable” books. “Books about ‘a cat that sat on a mat’ or ‘a rat that saw a bat’ are decodable but aren’t very interesting,” she said. “We not only want students to learn to read, but we also want them to love to read.”

“When students can identify that the letters and sounds work together in systematic ways, reading becomes more automatic and successful,” added Marissa Tipton, another first grade teacher at Tallmadge Elementary School. “The second tier of this type of instruction is to ensure students build

vocabulary by introducing words systematically that include the skill we are working on in contexts that make meaningful connections. This change has helped develop foundational skills in action.”

PREPARING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Another innovative program in the local “cradle to career” continuum is Building for Tomorrow’s Early Childhood Initiative, which helps parents living in Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority communities to become their children’s first and most important teacher. Considering 90% of a child’s brain develops by age 5, those early years are critical to mapping out a person’s life.

The Early Childhood Initiative combines two programs as part of its home visitation model: Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) and Parents as Teachers. SPARK works with preschool-age children and their parents through lessons based on Ohio’s Early Learning and Development Standards to prepare children for kindergarten and enhance parents’ ability to teach. The Parents as Teachers program similarly equips parents to be their child’s most important teacher, while also helping to prevent child abuse and neglect, detect early delays, and improve maternal and child health, among other benefits.

Erica Adkins, who has had two children in AMHA’s Parents as Teachers and SPARK early childhood programs, said these programs have been crucial, especially when her oldest daughter, who’s now 12, was a participant. “For my oldest, it was super important. She didn’t go to day care or preschool, so that was the only structure she got.”

Adkins said their current Parent Partner, who conducts home visits for AMHA and helps conduct lessons based on Ohio Learning Standards, has gone “over and above” for Adkins’ 4-year-old, who’s now in the program, whether it’s connecting the family with services and resources or bringing over needed items like diapers or gift cards.

“We can help families and connect them to resources in the community that they might

not know are out there,” said Courtney Vujas, a Parent Partner for the Adkins family, who has worked for AMHA for two years. “For Erica, we were able to get her youngest daughter some sensory processing services and get her linked to the school system.”

“For families and parents, (early childhood programming) helps them feel more comfortable in their own parenting skills and being their child’s teacher,” Vujas added. “You’re not given a handbook when you have a kid. There are a lot of people out there who don’t have access to early childhood programs due to life situations – this gives them the same opportunity as others in their community.”

Kindergartners from disadvantaged families are often at risk of beginning kindergarten behind their peers. Consequently, Akron Community Foundation’s discretionary grants for AMHA’s early childhood programs are among the foundation’s largest each year. In fact, during the last year, ACF’s funding supported home visitation and early learning services for more than 2,000 residents in Summit County, including 809 youth from birth to kindergarten, through the Parents as Teachers and SPARK Ohio programs.

According to a report from the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, the benefits of high-quality early care and education can last through middle school and high school. Early learning also has long-term advantages for individuals and for society, including higher educational attainment, better adult health, and less involvement in crime.

THE CRITICAL AFTER-SCHOOL HOURS

After-school hours are crucial for students, as these hours are often when they engage in the riskiest behaviors.

“When I saw the statistic that children spend 80% of their waking hours outside of the school day, it was a huge eye-opening moment for me. There’s a lot of untapped potential for us to really help shape our kids and give them great experiences to

help them grow and achieve,” said Rachel Tecca, executive director of Youth Success Summit.

Youth Success Summit supports the area’s Out-of-School Time providers by offering educational tools and resources for both program providers and students. Their recent quarterly meeting brought more than 60 organizations to the table.

Tecca, who also presented at Akron Community Foundation’s education-themed Community Issues Session earlier this year, said the hours between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. are “prime time for juvenile crime.” She asked: “What are kids doing to keep themselves engaged and productive during that time?”

For every child in an after-school program, three more are waiting to get in, leaving 7.7 million children alone and unsupervised during after-school hours, according to the Afterschool Alliance’s “America After 3PM” report, which adds that students spend an average of 5.6 hours per week in after-school programs. Additionally, the report notes that cost, access and availability are the biggest barriers nationally to participation in after-school programs. The report concludes that 78% of parents with a child in an after-school program believe that the program helps them keep their job, and 83% agree that after-school programs provide peace of mind.

OUTCOMES

Implementing new programs like structured literacy can be challenging and resource-intensive, but the results have paid off in dividends, according to Tallmadge teachers and administrators.

“We have seen significant improvements in literacy outcomes for our students,” said Davis, the district’s director of curriculum. “This includes higher reading proficiency levels, improved spelling and writing skills, and increased confidence among our students. Another benefit has been parent engagement. Our parents are enthusiastic about structured literacy instruction because they see tangible improvements in their child’s reading, writing and spelling abilities.”

Beyond the classroom, the benefits of structured literacy instruction can have a lifelong impact on students’ academic and professional success. “By equipping our students with strong foundational literacy skills, we lay the groundwork for future learning and achievement in all areas of life,” Davis said.

Eyre, who’s part of the first grade teaching team at Tallmadge City Schools, said, “Our students are definitely growing and progressing in their knowledge and understanding, and this year we saw tremendous growth.”

Eyre noted that at the beginning of the school year, 41% of first grade students scored at or above the benchmark score on the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessment. By the end of the year, 64% of students scored at or above the benchmark.

Beginning this fall at the University of Akron, teaching students will be able to be dual certified, so that when they earn their bachelor’s degree, they may also graduate with certifications as a structured literacy interventionist. Tolson, who leads the university’s Center for Structured Literacy, said demand for structured literacy programming is expected to increase in Ohio as a result of a new law that requires schools to screen for dyslexia in grades K-3.

Outside of nonprofits and schools, other community partners are also prioritizing early childhood education, including the City of Akron, which plans to invest in universal pre-kindergarten as part of its Learning Together plan.

“Early childhood education not only improves social-emotional learning and literacy, but it also addresses parental employment constraints,” said Richelle Wardell, education and health strategist for the City of Akron. “So, remember this: Investing in early childhood helps both the workforce of today and the workforce of tomorrow.”

Another aspect of the city’s Learning Together plan, added Wardell, is making better use of Akron Public Schools’ community learning centers. “Picture this: after-school programs, mentoring, summer job opportunities, health services, legal clinics, and adult education – all under one roof seamlessly and in a manner that we are all doing it together for the betterment of our community,” Wardell said.

Investing in education programs is key to enhancing our community, regardless of which part of the continuum is addressed. Issues like public safety and economic development are tied to the support of our young people, one of our community’s most valuable assets. 🌱

To learn more about the education programs supported by Akron Community Foundation, visit akroncf.org/EducationGrants.

BY THE *numbers*



AFFILIATE FUND *news*

Through our seven affiliate funds – and the thousands of donors who support them and dozens of advisory board members who lead them – Akron Community Foundation provides creative philanthropic solutions to targeted geographic regions and areas of interest. Learn more about their ongoing work in our community.

BATH COMMUNITY FUND

This year marks Bath Community Fund's 10th anniversary, and supporters of the fund certainly have a lot to celebrate. In December 2023, the fund awarded 17 grants totaling \$50,000 to nonprofit organizations serving Bath Township. Since it was created, Bath Community Fund has invested more than \$250,000 into programs that strengthen the Bath community for current and future generations. For a complete list of grants, visit akroncf.org/BCFgrants.

Bath Community Fund will host its 2024 annual meeting on Aug. 15 at Crown Point Ecology Center. During the event, advisory board members will share exciting updates surrounding the fund's 10th anniversary and will recognize its recent grant recipients. To stay informed about upcoming activities and receive an invitation to the annual meeting, sign up for the fund's e-newsletter at akroncf.org/BCFnews.

Applications for the fund's next round of grants are due Oct. 1. Apply online starting Sept. 1 at akroncf.org/applyBCF.

BLACK GIVING COLLECTIVE FUND

The Black Giving Collective Fund has met – and exceeded – its \$50,000 match! Launched in August 2023, this newest affiliate fund was established with an initial \$50,000 gift from Akron Community Foundation, and a \$50,000 matching gift if the fund could raise the same by March 31, 2024. The fund is now approaching \$200,000 thanks to the generosity of our community.

Additionally, the fund has announced its inaugural advisory board, composed of 20 local leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds.



Members of the inaugural advisory board of the Black Giving Collective Fund gathered for a photo following their first board meeting.

Through the Black Giving Collective and other community partners like the Akron Art Museum, Akron Urban League, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the Sojourner Truth Project, a national touring exhibit called The Soul of Philanthropy, which showcases stories about philanthropy in the Black community, will be coming to Akron in November 2025. The steering committee for this group has also been selected.

For up-to-date information about the Black Giving Collective Fund or The Soul of Philanthropy, visit blackgivingcollective.org.

GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

In March, the Gay Community Endowment Fund announced 18 grants totaling \$82,000 to programs that enhance the quality of life of Greater Akron's LGBTQ+ community. This marks the fund's largest grant cycle in 10 years. A \$20,000 impact grant will support the Bayard Rustin LGBTQ+ Resource Center, a program of the Akron AIDS Collaborative that provides comprehensive support services for LGBTQ+ people of color throughout Summit County. For a complete list of grants, visit akroncf.org/GCEFgrants.

On June 7, the Gay Community Endowment Fund hosted its 2024 annual celebration, "exhALE: Advancing Lived Equality." During the event, advisory board chair Dr. Kate Raymond shared the fund's new mission and vision statements with more than 100 local activists and allies. She also presented Tom and Dona Cardone, longtime supporters of the fund, with the Paul Daum Award for their significant contributions to LGBTQ+ causes.

You can support the fund by attending its 23rd annual Sugar Plum Tour of Holiday Homes on Sunday, Dec. 8, or the virtual tour on Dec. 14 and 15. To receive event news and updates, sign up for the fund's e-newsletter at akroncf.org/GCEFnews.

GREEN COMMUNITY FUND

Green Community Fund is now entering its second year. To mark the milestone, the fund's steering committee has transitioned into an advisory board, led by chair Barry Hollis. Board members are actively working toward raising \$1 million in charitable assets. Donate at akroncf.org/give/GCF to help the fund meet its goal and be permanently acknowledged as a founding donor.

To learn more about how you can get involved with the fund, contact Deb Hoffman, affiliate fund engagement manager, at 330-436-5614 or dhoffman@akroncf.org.

MILLENNIUM FUND FOR CHILDREN

In December, the Millennium Fund for Children awarded 36 grants totaling \$61,000 to children's programs throughout Greater Akron, bringing the fund's cumulative grantmaking to more than \$1 million. This latest round of grants also represents the largest amount awarded in the fund's history. For a complete list of grants, visit akroncf.org/MillenniumGrants.

Created in 1999 as a partnership between the Akron Beacon Journal and Akron Community Foundation, the Millennium Fund for Children has grown to more than \$1.3 million in assets. Applications for the fund's next round of grants are due Sept. 1. Apply online starting Aug. 1 at akroncf.org/applyMillennium.

VERNON L. ODOM FUND

This spring, the Vernon L. Odom Fund awarded \$10,500 in grants to 12 innovative programs that promote diversity and enrich the quality of life within Greater Akron's communities of color. Several of this year's grants supported mentoring programs for local parents, including The FatherHood Meet Up, a transformative program dedicated to empowering Black fathers and fostering positive family environments. Since it was founded in 1993, the Vernon L. Odom Fund has awarded nearly \$235,000 in grants to programs that uplift everyone from Bhutanese refugees to Black youth. For a complete list of grants, visit akroncf.org/OdomGrants.

WOMEN'S ENDOWMENT FUND

In April, the Women's Endowment Fund welcomed nearly 400 community leaders to its "For Women, Forever" annual celebration at House Three Thirty.

This year's event featured a keynote address about the harmful effects of objectification, delivered by international speakers and best-selling authors Dr. Lindsay Kite and Dr. Lexie Kite. The fund also honored Barb Greene, founder of CommonGood Consulting, with the 2024 Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women.

That evening, fund leaders announced a record-breaking \$203,000 in grants to 34 nonprofit organizations serving women and girls in Summit County. For a complete list of grants, visit akroncf.org/WEFgrants.

Applications for the fund's next round of grants are due Nov. 1. Apply online starting Oct. 1 at akroncf.org/applyWEF.



Women's Endowment Fund board members pictured at their annual "For Women, Forever" celebration. Photo by Shane Wynn.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY: EDWIN C. SHAW SOCIETY



In 1955, a \$1,033,533 bequest in the will of former B.F. Goodrich Vice President Edwin C. Shaw set in motion a philanthropic endeavor that would leave an enduring impact on the Greater Akron community.

The establishment of Akron Community Trusts, now known as Akron Community Foundation, would “meet the changes in the community needs brought about by the passage of time and the variance in circumstances.”

Shaw envisioned a place where charitable people from all walks of life could join together to improve their community forever. The community foundation established by his \$1 million bequest nearly 70 years ago has since grown to almost \$300 million in assets. During that time, the foundation has also distributed nearly \$236 million in grants to a diverse range of health, education, arts and civic causes in our community.

Thousands of donors give millions of dollars to the community foundation every year, but there are ways beyond current giving to make a lasting impact on our community. Many individuals have joined our Edwin C. Shaw Society, a legacy society that celebrates those who have named Akron Community Foundation in a planned gift, such as a bequest, charitable gift annuity or life insurance policy.

Joining our legacy society is simple. All you have to do is notify us of your intention to leave a planned gift. By notifying us of your charitable plans, we can ensure the money you leave to the foundation will be used as you wish. For example, you can choose to broadly support community needs or to benefit specific interest areas or nonprofits. Many donors also choose to make a planned gift to their family’s donor-advised fund so their children and grandchildren can continue their philanthropic legacy into the next generation.

Membership in our legacy society also includes invitations to exclusive foundation events, such as our annual Shaw Society gathering, where you’ll learn about community initiatives and meet other like-minded philanthropists.

PLAN YOUR GIFT To notify the foundation of your planned gift and join the Edwin C. Shaw Society, contact Laura Lederer, vice president and chief development officer, at 330-436-5611 or llederer@akroncf.org. To learn more, visit akroncf.org/PlannedGiving.



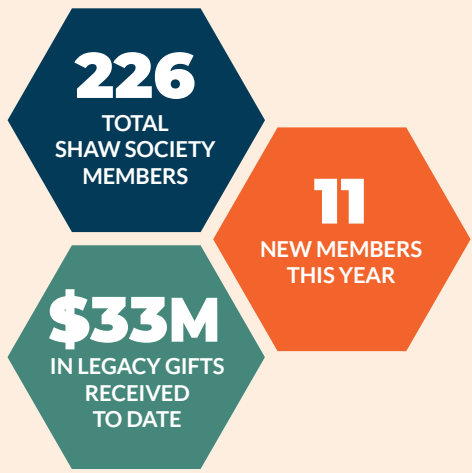
NEW MEMBERS

We’re grateful to the generous and forward-thinking individuals who joined our Edwin C. Shaw Society this past fiscal year (April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024):

- Anonymous
- Mark & Carol Bachmann
- Robert Fredenburg
- Naomi Ganoe
- John F. Garofalo
- Kryn Henderhahn
- James* & Claudia Hower
- MaryAnn McClellan
- Ranell Minear
- Sandra & Richey* Smith
- Jonathan & Krista Steedly

**Deceased*

BY THE NUMBERS



OUR GRANTS

During the past fiscal year, from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, Akron Community Foundation and its 870+ charitable funds disbursed more than \$19 million in grants and distributions to nonprofits throughout Summit County, Greater Akron and beyond. To see our full list of grant recipients, visit akroncf.org/OurGrantees.

NONPROFIT SERVICES

From listening sessions that help us better understand the needs of nonprofit organizations, to trainings and conferences, to newsletters chock-full of beneficial information, to exclusive materials and toolkits for our agency endowment fundholders, Akron Community Foundation offers a wide variety of resources for our nonprofit partners. Sign up for our monthly Nonprofit Insights e-newsletter and get access to our complimentary materials at akroncf.org/Nonprofits.

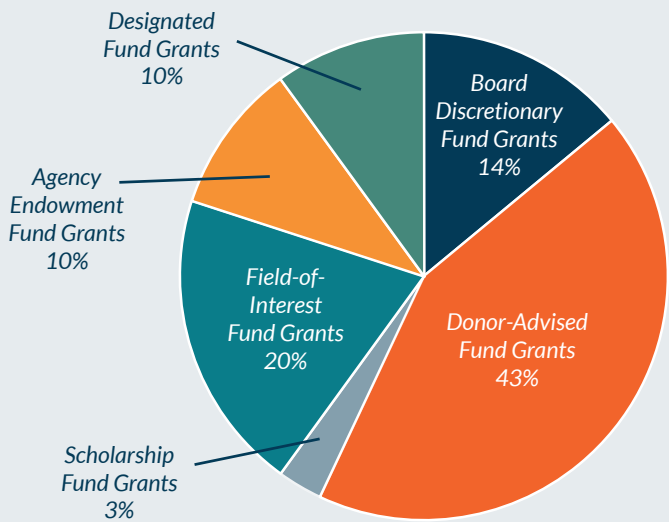
GRANT TOTALS BY YEAR



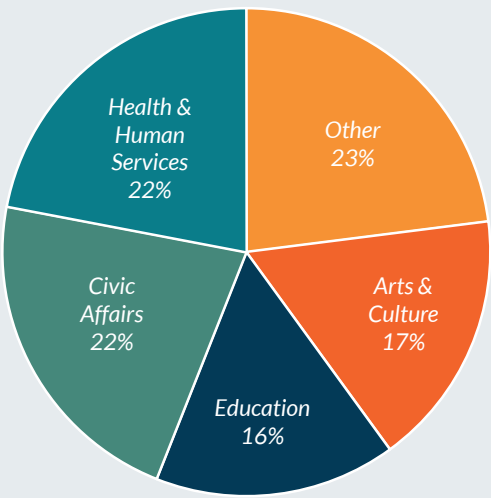
BY THE NUMBERS



GRANTS BY FUND TYPE



GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA



FUNDHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

jackie silas-butler



By Tracy Burt, Vice President, Marketing & Communications

For many people, Jacqueline Silas-Butler and Project GRAD Akron are synonymous. The local nonprofit has been around since 2002, and Jackie has been at the helm since 2006, nearly its entire existence. But leading a nonprofit was not necessarily a part of Jackie's plan for her career.

Jackie grew up in southwest Ohio in a small town called Middletown in Madison Township. "People called it the suburbs, but it was the country," clarified Jackie. When it was time for college, Jackie chose Ohio State University for her undergrad degree. It was close to home, but not too close. Then, when it was time for law school, Jackie decided she wanted to go somewhere she didn't know anyone and settled on the University of Akron.

"I hated Akron," said Jackie with a laugh. "Because of the very reason I chose it... I didn't know anyone! So, at first, I did not like it here." Jackie decided it was just a short period of time – only three years – so she could tough it out, get her degree, and then move on. But while waiting for her bar exam results, she was offered a position in the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. Jackie also met her husband, Lawrence Butler Jr., through mutual friends, so that initial three-year plan turned into more than three decades spent in the community she now calls home.

While Lawrence, or Larry as he's known by family and friends, built his career as a music teacher with Akron Public Schools, Jackie served as a magistrate in Summit County's juvenile and domestic relations courts.

For those paying attention, her future work in the nonprofit field may have been apparent early on.

"I handled a lot of abuse, neglect and dependency cases, and I was always trying to find solutions rather than just taking children from their homes," explained Jackie. "I found that, a lot of times, people just needed basic help. I think most people need resources they're not aware of. Too many people make judgments."

Jackie has always been solution-minded and tried to find simple ways to help the people she was serving.

"I knew I was getting paid and the judge was getting paid, but if court was scheduled at 9 a.m. and the person didn't have a car and the bus didn't drop off near the courthouse and they had to miss work, that was a burden," said Jackie. "Think about the people you're trying to serve versus the mindset of 'you do what I say.' So that was my attitude. It's not that hard to work together to find a solution that works for everyone."

So, when Project GRAD Akron came calling, Jackie decided it was time to put those solution-finding skills to good work, serving students and their families.

Project GRAD Akron, which stands for Graduation Really Achieves Dreams, is a national program that works with students as early as kindergarten to begin preparing them for future academic and career success. It provides mentoring, financial aid support, social-emotional learning, after-school and summer programming, and scholarships.

And while much of Jackie's community work is seen as tied to her role, she also cares about her personal giving. Jackie gives to numerous organizations and has been involved with Akron Community Foundation for many years, both because of the grants Project GRAD Akron has received, but also through Jackie's own contributions to the Women's Endowment Fund, which recognized her in 2021 with the Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women. More recently, Jackie has become a founding donor and advisory board member of the foundation's Black Giving Collective Fund.

When Jackie learned about the opportunity to create a Donor-Advised Starter Fund through the community foundation, she liked the idea because it doesn't take a lot of money up front – just an initial \$300 donation – but as it grows, she'll be able to help others.

Jackie and her husband Larry's fund, the Silas and Butler Family Fund, was established in honor of both of their parents as a tribute to their lifelong support of their children and their legacies of giving back to the community.

For donors like Jackie who prefer to grow their fund over time, a starter fund is an attainable alternative to a traditional donor-advised fund. After the initial gift, the donor can make smaller ongoing donations monthly, quarterly or annually to grow their fund to the \$5,000 level and beyond. Once it reaches that level, the donor can begin making grants to qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Jackie also appreciated that it was simple to establish her fund. "There were numerous ways I could start it, including right online," she said.

Jackie can also give to the fund in honor of loved ones who don't necessarily need or want tangible gifts for special occasions. "My mom just celebrated her 90th birthday, and Father's Day is coming up," she explained. "It's just an easy way to show your appreciation... and it can live forever."

To learn more about establishing your own Donor-Advised Starter Fund, visit akroncf.org/DAFstarter.



Fun Fact: Jackie and Larry celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary on June 14. Enjoy this throwback photo from earlier in their marriage.

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT



Mission: Through legal advocacy, we transform the lives of those in poverty to increase opportunities, fairness and stability, for a stronger community and justice for all.

Community Legal Aid believes everyone should have access to fairness, equity and justice. The nonprofit provides free legal advocacy for its clients in several key areas, from housing and health to immigration rights and tax issues.

"CLA operates within a complex legal system where having representation by an attorney is essential to protecting your rights," said Steven McGarrity, executive director of Community Legal Aid. "CLA is the only organization in our community protecting those rights."

The organization's HEAL program is a medical-legal partnership that helps find solutions to non-medical barriers that keep people from being healthy. Through this program, CLA partners with health care providers like Akron Children's to provide legal representation to individuals who otherwise couldn't afford an attorney, helping them to address issues like eviction, as housing is a social determinant of health. With funding from Akron Community Foundation, CLA provided these vital legal services to 139 Summit County clients last year.

CLA also offers classes on wellness, infant mortality, institutional racism, housing and redlining. In addition, the organization works with local families to prevent adverse childhood experiences, such as lead poisoning and bullying.

"It is hard not to be motivated when you see people's lives transformed because of your work," McGarrity said. "Several years ago, a CLA attorney successfully represented a single father who was trying to protect his daughter from sexual abuse from the child's mother and her new boyfriend. It was a complex case involving multiple states, medical evidence and counselors. And this past Christmas Day, the client called the attorney just to leave a voicemail expressing his gratitude for the life-changing legal services CLA provided and to report how well his daughter is doing now that she is protected from abuse. I don't know what could be more motivating than that."

McGarrity said funding from Akron Community Foundation has been pivotal to CLA's work in addressing social determinants of health and improving infant vitality, ultimately helping to reduce chronic disease in the Greater Akron area. In addition, he said the community foundation "has been a great help in establishing our endowment fund at ACF and providing support and training to grow the endowment."

When asked how community members can best support CLA's mission, McGarrity said it's important to learn more about the justice gap crisis.

"We have laws to protect tenants, domestic violence victims, consumers, veterans, seniors and others, but most people who need an attorney to protect their rights have no access to an attorney," he said. "If more people understood the seriousness of the crisis, there would be more widespread support for addressing it."

To learn more about Community Legal Aid, visit communitylegalaid.org.



STUDENTS

▶ On The Move

By Olivia Eastly
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

STUDENT'S JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY MIRRORS THAT OF OLDER ADULT CLIENTELE

Natalie Wammes didn't always dream of working with older adults, but after working with older adults at Akron Rotary Camp, she knew this was the population she wanted to serve.

After receiving the Joseph L. Ruby Student Scholarship from Akron Community Foundation in December 2023, Natalie's dream is closer to becoming a reality. This scholarship is awarded to at least one student each year who demonstrates a commitment to providing compassionate care for older adults.

After graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Dayton, Natalie decided to pursue a master's degree in social work from the University of Kentucky online. She aims to become a licensed social worker to better advocate for older adults.

Natalie works at Jewish Family Service of Akron as an older adult caseworker. In this role, she helps older adults understand and access the resources available to them through the government and community. The goal is to allow older adults to age in place for as long as safely possible.

In her application, Natalie explained, "In a short home visit, I can show an overwhelmed individual that there are options. I can be the person who listens as they share their fears over losing their independence or share in their grief over losing a loved one."

As part of her coursework, Natalie also must complete several field placements. For one of these placements, Natalie chose to work at Pebble Creek, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center in Akron. It was during her placement at Pebble Creek that Natalie was first introduced to Direction Home while making referrals for residents being discharged.

Natalie possibly has learned even more outside of the classroom through her hands-on experiences working with older adults. One of her most insightful observations is that aging is not about dying or even loss. "It is a time of continued self-development; a chance to enjoy life while demonstrating strength and resilience. It can be challenging to see aging that way, but I hope my work with older adults can show that," Natalie wrote in her application.

In August, Natalie will begin her final practicum placement at Jewish Family Service. Recently, she created an educational program for older adults and helped develop a Holocaust legacy project. Her work, enabled by this scholarship, will continue to impact older adults in Greater Akron for years to come.



▶ ABOUT

The Joseph L. Ruby Student Scholarship

The Joseph L. Ruby Student Scholarship was created in honor of Direction Home Akron Canton's former president and CEO, Joseph Ruby, who served the organization for more than 35 years. Ruby has been a visionary in the long-term care field and is well-regarded nationwide for his expertise. He enthusiastically supports higher education, especially degrees related to older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities awards at least one scholarship annually to students interested in gerontology, social work, nursing or a related health care field who reside or attend school in Portage, Stark, Summit or Wayne counties.

Nearly 250 students across our community received scholarships from one of Akron Community Foundation's more than 80 scholarship funds this year. From funds that help students attain specific degrees to those that benefit LGBTQ+ and allied students to those that are awarded to students attending a specific university, our scholarship funds help students achieve their educational dreams and become the future leaders of our community.



I just want to express my genuine appreciation for being awarded this scholarship. I am so excited to be able to get my college degree in child development so I can become a child life specialist and give back, like the many people who have touched my life through my medical challenges. Your scholarship will help allow me to achieve this goal, and it means so much to me. Please know how very grateful I am for your support.

Terje' Miller
Anthony Wunderle Memorial Scholarship Fund



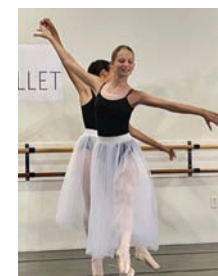
Thank you so much for selecting me as the winner of the Roland E. Gamble Memorial Fund scholarship. As well as orchestra, I've also always loved the Hudson High School marching band and would dance along to their songs as a little kid (and who am I kidding – as a high schooler, too!). I appreciate everything Akron Community Foundation does for students like me, and I just wanted to take this moment to give my thanks.

Kaitlyn Fetsko
Roland E. Gamble Memorial Fund



I want to take the time to thank you for the recognition and very generous scholarship award for another year. (These scholarships) have helped me tremendously as I further my steps into becoming an early childhood and elementary teacher.

Alyssa Rightnour
Erwin & Katherine Geis Scholarship Fund



Thank you for this scholarship and the opportunity it has given me. I am so excited to go to California for the summer. I have never been there, and I've heard it's great!

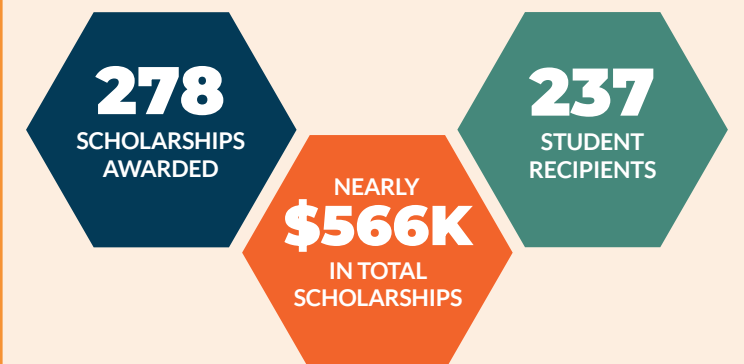
Adalyn Zorich
Kate Lieberth Lytton Education in Dance Fund



My college experience can be continued due to your kindness and generosity. Being selected for the Richard Chenoweth Qualified Designated Scholarship allowed me to continue another semester toward my goal of becoming an elementary school teacher. Without assistance and generosity from those who make the foundation what it is, I would not be able to attend school. My entire life, I have tried my hardest in school and work and always kept a bright outlook on the future. However, the past few years have been a struggle for me, having to pay for school all on my own while working full-time. Thank you for believing in me and showing me my college career is worthwhile. I will continue to do my best in school and reach my goals. Akron Community Foundation is a blessing to my life and has made me so appreciative of all who contribute to make it what it is today. Thank you for choosing me for this scholarship. My voice was heard, and I am beyond excited I will get to continue my education.

Sydnie Bovard
Richard Chenoweth Qualified Designated Scholarship Fund

BY THE NUMBERS



For a complete list of scholarship recipients, visit akroncf.org/ScholarshipRecipients.

GIFTS THAT GROW YOUR LEGACY + PROVIDE YOU INCOME: CHARITABLE ANNUITIES AND TRUSTS



If you or a family member has reached the age of 70 ½, you may have heard of a tax benefit known as the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), which allows you to direct up to \$105,000* annually from your IRA to a qualified charitable organization, like Akron Community Foundation. You won't pay income taxes on the distribution, and if you are required to take minimum distributions (RMDs) from your IRA because you have reached the age of 73, the QCD also counts toward your RMD.

One of the many components of a recent set of laws known as "SECURE 2.0" is a provision that expands the QCD by adding the opportunity for taxpayers to make a one-time \$53,000* QCD transfer to a charitable remainder trust (CRT) or another split-interest gift such as a charitable gift annuity (CGA). This part of the law is called the "Legacy IRA" provision.

Because of these recent laws, many charitable individuals and families are interested in learning more about CRTs and CGAs. CRTs and CGAs are similar because each provides an upfront tax deduction, a steady lifetime income stream, and a remainder gift to a charity, such as a designated or field-of-interest fund at the community foundation, which will receive what's left at the end of the income term, such as your lifetime.

CGAs are often easier to establish than CRTs, especially if you plan to establish the vehicle with \$50,000 or less. This makes the CGA an ideal tool to take advantage of the Legacy IRA provisions for QCDs.

A CGA, like any other annuity, is a contract. You agree to make an irrevocable transfer of cash or assets to a charity, such as Akron Community Foundation. In return, the charity agrees to pay you (or a designated beneficiary such as your spouse) a fixed payment for life. You are eligible for an immediate income tax deduction for the present value of the future amount passing to charity.

The amount of income you can receive from a CGA is determined according to national standards, and it is based on rate of return assumptions that are revised periodically based on the current interest rate environment.

By contrast, a CRT is actually a trust — a separate legal entity. To establish a CRT, you'll work with your attorney to execute a trust agreement and also work with a person or entity (such as the community foundation) who will serve as the trustee. After you transfer stock or other property — ideally highly appreciated assets — to the trust, you'll receive an income stream based on a percentage specified in the trust document (and subject to IRS parameters).

Our team at Akron Community Foundation welcomes the opportunity to work with you and your advisors to determine whether a CGA or CRT might be a good fit for your charitable plans. For example, we can explore whether you already intend to leave gifts to charity following your death, discuss your income requirements while you are living, and review the types of assets you

own and whether there is a particular highly appreciated asset (such as stock or real estate) that would make an ideal gift to a CGA or CRT to reduce your capital gains tax exposure.

As always, please reach out to the community foundation's staff whenever you or your advisors have questions about charitable planning techniques. We look forward to collaborating as you build your estate plans and consider ways to support your favorite charities and the community you love. 🌱

This content is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or financial planning advice.

**Indexed annually for inflation*



PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR PARTNERS

Thank you to the following accountants, attorneys and financial advisors for helping your clients achieve their charitable goals with a fund at Akron Community Foundation from Oct. 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024:

John Adams *Adams, Gut & Associates*
Trey Bennett *Stark & Knoll Co.*
Ken Boldt *Ken Boldt Financial Group*
Steven Cox *Roetzel & Andress*
Kevin Huebschman *Fifth Third Private Bank*
Jesse Hurst *Impel Wealth Management*
Dan Ishee *Ishee Investment Consultants*

Are you an advisor? Learn how we can assist you at akroncf.org/Advisors.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR COUNCIL

From CPAs to attorneys to wealth managers, the members of our Professional Advisor Council are adept at using philanthropy to strategically meet their clients' financial and charitable goals.

Naomi Ganoe, chair *CBIZ MHM LLC*
John Adams *Adams, Gut & Associates*
Tyler Amos *Charles Schwab*
Trey Bennett *Stark & Knoll Co.*
Gina Betti *Edward Jones*
Alane Boffa *Cohen & Company*
Thomas Clark *Clark Guillian Bertsch Wealth Management*
Neal Colby *CM Wealth Advisors*
Steven Cox *Roetzel & Andress*
Julie Firestone *Singerman, Mills, Desberg & Kauntz Co.*
Diane Johns Gilger *Key Private Bank*
Matthew Hochstetler *David J. Simmons & Associates*
Jared Hoffman *Broadleaf Partners*
Barry Hollis *PNC Institutional Asset Management*
Kevin Huebschman *Fifth Third Private Bank*
Jesse Hurst *Impel Wealth Management*
Dan Ishee *Ishee Investment Consultants*
Lia Jones *Key Private Bank*
Andrew Lamb *W3 Wealth Management*
James Lanham *Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston Ltd.*
Rob Malone *Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs*
Bill Manby Jr. *Paradigm Equity Strategies*
Don Miksch *Huntington Private Bank*
Kimberly S. Miller *Baird*
Angelina Milo *Meaden & Moore*
Mark Muntean *CAPTRUST*
Taylor Papiernik *Fairway Wealth Management*
Karyn Sullivan *Bernstein Private Wealth Management*
David Supelak *CliftonLarsonAllen*
Allan Sweet *Palumbo & Sweet*
Richard Tanner *Ownership Advisors Inc.*
Benjamin Tegel *Auxin Group Wealth Management*
Christopher Teodosio *Tucker Ellis LLP*
Samuel J. Trecaso *Wells Trecaso Financial Group*
Michael Wear *Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs*
Todd Williams *Fidelity Investments*
Kyla Williger *Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co.*
Michael J. Zeleznik *Zeleznik & Associates LLC*

NEW FUNDS

During the second half of fiscal year 2024 (Oct. 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024), we were pleased to welcome 22 new funds established by charitable individuals, families and organizations throughout our community.

Donor-Advised Funds

- Ava Rae Fund
- Michael V. Bakonyi Memorial Fund
- The Bean Fund
- Melina and Dan Boyce Fund
- Brouse Family Fund
- Nick and Cindy Browning Family Fund
- Falletta Family Fund
- John and Jill Judge Family Fund
- Locastro Family Fund
- C. Frank Marshall and Virginia Jordan Marshall Fund
- Pickard Family Fund
- Matthew and Susan Shannon Family Fund
- The Stella Fund
- Mark and Kristine Thomas Family Fund
- Topliff Family Fund
- Peter and Marilyn Tsivitse Fund

Designated Funds

- *Maki Family Scholarship Fund
- Established to support the Cuyahoga Falls Schools Foundation & Alumni Association*

University of Akron Foundation
Designated Fund
Established by the University of Akron Foundation to support a new donor-advised fund program created in partnership with Akron Community Foundation

Agency Endowment Funds

- Kohl Family YMCA Endowment Fund
- MAPS Air Museum General Fund

Scholarship Funds

- Robert W. Stanton Scholarship Fund
- Established to provide scholarships for Theodore Roosevelt High School (Kent Roosevelt) seniors who previously graduated from Stanton Middle School*

Board Discretionary Funds

- James H. Hower Memorial Fund

For a complete list of our more than 870 charitable funds, visit akroncf.org/OurFunds.

**Permanently endowed funds*

NEW FUND SPOTLIGHT: JAMES H. HOWER MEMORIAL FUND

James Hamilton Hower was always mindful of his family’s legacy in the Akron community, especially as the Hower family name is synonymous with Akron’s history – think of Central Hower High School, the Hower Building and Hower House.

Jim embodied that legacy throughout his 40-year career at his family’s multigenerational business, The Akron Selle Co., but it was while volunteering as a firefighter and paramedic that Jim developed the service-before-self mindset that would become the hallmark of his life.

Jim spent almost 50 years serving on the Bath Fire Department, where he became known for his selfless dedication, integrity and leadership. “If there was an accident, a fire, or a medical emergency in Bath Township, Jim never missed a call,” said Bill Snow, a close friend and fellow volunteer firefighter.



Beyond his fire service, Jim was a prolific philanthropist whose quiet generosity touched many corners of the community, including the Bath Horse Show, Revere Local School District, University of Akron, and Akron Children’s Hospital.

Following Jim’s death, Akron Community Foundation received a \$1.1 million gift from his estate to establish the James H. Hower Memorial Fund. This fund will benefit the Greater Akron community in Jim’s name in perpetuity and will carry on his exceptional legacy of giving.

Read the full story written by Akron Community Foundation board member Jody Miller Konstand at akroncf.org/JamesHower.

6 TYPES OF FUNDS

DO IT YOURSELF

Donor-Advised & Starter Funds

A great private foundation alternative – you choose the grants

Designated Funds

Support one or more of your favorite organizations

Agency Endowment Funds

A predictable stream of income for your nonprofit

DO IT WITH HELP

Scholarship Funds

Fund students’ education in your or a loved one’s name

Field-of-Interest Funds

Permanently advance a cause or causes you’re passionate about

Board Discretionary Funds

Meet the community’s ever-changing needs





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Akron, OH 44307-2407
T 330-376-8522
F 330-376-0202
akroncf.org

Receive Foundations by mail:

Contact Michelle Nissel
at mnissel@akroncf.org
or 330-436-5613



Sojourner Truth Statue **Unveiled**

On May 29, the 173rd anniversary of her speech known as "Ain't I A Woman?," the Sojourner Truth Statue was unveiled in the new Sojourner Truth Legacy Plaza at 37 North High Street.

Akron Community Foundation has been proud to serve as the fiscal sponsor for this important community initiative. Thank you to the women who have dedicated years of their lives to making this monument – which has been discussed in our community for decades – a reality, and to Woodrow Nash for his beautiful artistry in creating the statue. Thank you also to the United Way of Summit & Medina, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and all who contributed to bring their vision to life.

Thank You Summit Suffrage Centennial Core Committee

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Photos provided by Summit Suffrage Centennial Committee