

FOUNDATIONS

Building Community Philanthropy, Today and Forever

Our mission

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

INCLUSION | QUALITY OF LIFE | COLLABORATION



Introducing Our New President & CEO
Meet John F. Garofalo

Health and Safety Innovation
\$45M supporting organization will target local opioid crisis

Long-Term Care Planning
Preserve family harmony and build a charitable legacy



SEEN ON CEDAR STREET



Visitors to Akron Community Foundation enjoy a rotating display of work by talented local artists, including this infrared photo of the Hower House taken by Zackary Hoon. To create this unique aesthetic, Hoon employs a camera that can capture the infrared light spectrum, which is outside of the visible spectrum. His work features landmarks from Akron, Cleveland and other cities around the globe. Hoon is also a regular artist at Gallery+ in Cleveland's Gordon Square neighborhood. Local artists who are interested in exhibiting their work at Akron Community Foundation are encouraged to contact Chris Miller at cmiller@akroncf.org.

FOUNDATIONS

An Akron Community Foundation Magazine
Volume 2 • Issue 4 • Spring/Summer 2025

Magazine Staff

Tracy Burt *Editor*
Kristen Ashby *Managing Editor*
Chris Miller *Contributor*
Olivia Eastly *Contributor*
Michelle Nissel *Editorial Assistant*
Ryan Humbert *Designer*

Board

Jim Pickard *Chair*
Theresa Carter *Vice Chair*
Brian Moore *Secretary & Community Investment Co-Chair*
Ernest Pouttu *Treasurer & Finance Chair*
Jody Miller Konstand *Governance Chair*
Dr. Carla Chapman *Community Investment Co-Chair*
Kimberly Haws Falasco *Community Relations Chair*
Keeven White *Strategic Planning Chair*
Angelina Milo *Audit Chair*
Marty Hauser *Immediate Past Chair*
Tim Able
Mark Bachmann
Dennis Butts Jr.
Tracy Carter
Laura Culp
Steve Dimengo
Tracy Dowe
Doug Kuczynski
Jolene Lane
Shefali Mahesh, M.D., MBA
Ron Paydo
Kendra Philon
J. Bret Treier
Angie Wells

We Strive For Accuracy

If you discover an error in this publication, please contact kashby@akroncf.org or 330-436-5618

Address Changes

mnissel@akroncf.org
330-436-5613

Cover Photo

John F. Garofalo by Shane Wynn

Foundations is published twice a year by:
Akron Community Foundation
345 W. Cedar St., Akron, OH 44307

All rights are reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. A digital copy is available online at akroncf.org/Publications.

IN THIS *issue*



- 2** **Introducing Our New President & CEO**
Meet John F. Garofalo

- 5** **Nonprofit Spotlight**
Greenleaf Family Center

- 6** **Foundation News**
News about the foundation and its board members, staff and fundholders

- 8** **In the Community**
Photos from recent foundation, affiliate fund and community events

- 12** **Urgent Crisis, Enduring Change**
New supporting organization will fund innovative programming to address opioid crisis, emerging health and safety concerns

- 16** **Affiliate Fund News**
All the latest updates from our seven affiliate funds

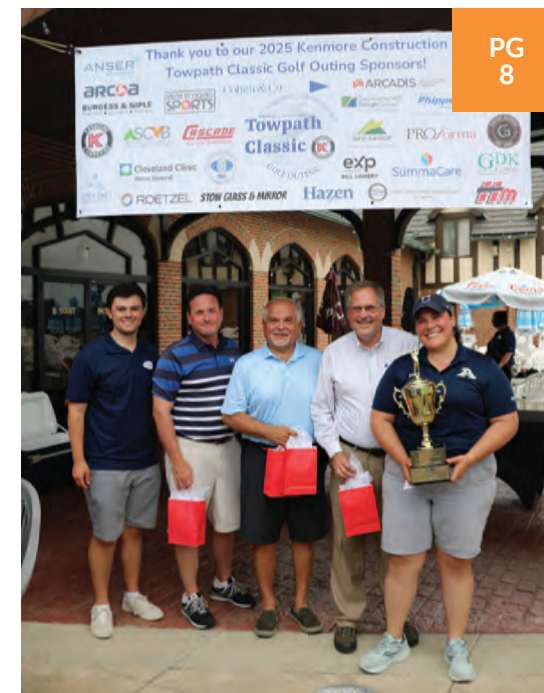
- 18** **Students on the Move**
Our scholarship funds help students pursue their educational dreams

- 20** **Building a Charitable Legacy Through Long-Term Care Planning**
By integrating long-term care and charitable planning, families can protect assets earmarked for philanthropic goals and create a lasting legacy

- 22** **Lessons in Legacy**
Retired teachers join Akron Community Foundation's Edwin C. Shaw Society

PLUS+

- 4** From the Community
15 By the Numbers
23 Our Grants
24 New Funds



A professional portrait of John F. Garofalo, a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red tie with a small white pattern. He is seated at a desk, with his hands clasped in front of him. The background is a blurred office setting with a window and some papers.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT & CEO...

John F. Garofalo

Photo by Shane Wynn

For nearly 14 years, John F. Garofalo has been a steady and trusted presence at Akron Community Foundation. Previously serving as Vice President of Community Investment, his name became synonymous with grantmaking strategy, nonprofit partnerships and a thoughtful, community-centered approach to philanthropy.

Now, he steps into a new role – one that builds on his experience and relationships – as the foundation's new President and Chief Executive Officer. It's a natural transition that has been met with enthusiasm from board members, staff, donors, grantees and community leaders alike – because while the title may be new, the commitment and care John brings to his work are anything but.

A DEEP COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

In his previous role, John oversaw the distribution of more than \$125 million in grants to nonprofits across Greater Akron and beyond. But to him, it was never just about the dollars. It was about relationships. His vision of philanthropy is deeply collaborative: one that brings donors, nonprofits and the community together to solve challenges and embrace opportunities.

"I've always seen this work as a partnership," John said. "Whether we're funding early childhood education or helping grassroots organizations grow, the heart of it is listening and lifting up the people doing the work."

Long before arriving at Akron Community Foundation, John had already built an impressive career dedicated to improving lives. He held leadership and development roles at organizations like UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, United Way of Greater Cleveland, United Way of Greater Stark County, and the American Red Cross.

Throughout those roles, John honed expertise in nonprofit management, strategic planning, fundraising, grantmaking and community engagement. He also earned and has maintained his Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE)

credential since 2004, demonstrating his longstanding commitment to excellence and ethics in the field.

His education also reflects that same commitment: John holds both a Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education and a Master of Education in Community Health Management and Administration from Kent State University.

While John's résumé is impressive, what truly sets him apart is his love for Akron. A resident of Northwest Akron, he not only works to improve the community professionally but also gives back personally. He currently serves on the boards of ArtsNow, Akron Roundtable, the Downtown Akron Development Corporation, and the county-appointed Social Services Advisory Board. He is also a member of the Leadership Akron board and will become chair of the organization next summer.

LOOKING AHEAD

As he begins this new chapter, John is excited to continue building the legacy of the foundation while preparing it for the future.

He inherits a foundation that has more than tripled its assets and funds under management over the past two decades, while more than doubling its total grantmaking to nearly \$260 million. Yet John is the first to say this isn't about one person; it's about community.

"I'm incredibly honored to lead Akron Community Foundation, but I don't do this work alone," he said. "It's done alongside a phenomenal staff, dedicated board, generous donors and visionary nonprofit leaders. Together, we can keep moving Akron forward."

Because, while Akron Community Foundation now has a new CEO, it still has the same commitment: to connect people, passion and purpose for good. And with John at the helm, that future is in very capable hands. 🌱

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

FROM THE COMMUNITY

On behalf of all of us at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, I want to thank Akron Community Foundation for its grant to our educational programming for students in Akron Public Schools. We also appreciate the additional grant from a donor-advised fund! I also want to commend you on an outstanding panel discussion about early learning and mental health. It was wonderful for us, being based in Cleveland, to learn more about the groups and resources available in Akron to support early learners. Thank you for bringing people together to discuss these critical issues.

Julia Mitchell
Cleveland Museum of Natural History

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for organizing such an informative, motivating and impactful nonprofit conference. I always find tremendous value in gathering with fellow nonprofit professionals – to learn, be inspired, and reaffirm why and how we do what we do.

Kim Cole
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio

Thank you to Akron Community Foundation for awarding us a systems capacity grant to empower renters to learn about their legal rights to safe and healthy housing. This funding will allow us to help tenants living in unsafe and unhealthy conditions to put their rent in escrow through the court system to force landlords to make necessary repairs.

Steven McGarrity
Community Legal Aid

Thank you so much for selecting The Well to be a recipient of a proactive grant! We are so grateful for this generous gift and for your continued belief in our team and the work we are doing in Middlebury.

Jen Meade
The Well CDC

As the chair of the Margot Eiseman Scholarship Fund begun by the Artists of Rubber City, I had the privilege of working with Diane Schumaker for many years. Diane was always a pleasure to work with and was generous in dealing kindly with applicants or their references. (And I learned we shared a passion for the same triple chocolate ice cream!) I was so sorry to hear of her passing. May the fund in her memory help her kind and generous spirit continue its blessings.

Laurel Winters
Margot Eiseman Scholarship Fund

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.

SOCIAL shoutouts

International Welcome Center
We are deeply grateful to Akron Community Foundation for their generous grant, which will help us continue our mission of empowering refugees in our community. This support strengthens our efforts to provide essential services like legal assistance, household items, life skills coaching and transportation. Thank you, Akron Community Foundation, for standing with us!

Rachel Shanower
I had a wonderful experience at the Akron Community Foundation Nonprofit Insights Conference today! I am grateful to be part of a community and have access to a foundation that provides accessible professional development for philanthropy, leadership, business development, grant management and more!

Nathan Briggs
Excellent conversations at Akron Community Foundation's Listening Session for Health & Human Services and Education! I was thrilled to represent the Autism Society of Greater Akron with the local leaders who gathered together to discuss the trends, challenges and opportunities we have to overcome obstacles and deliver on our missions for our shared community.

Christopher Strnad
It's incredible to see how Cycling Schools is not only introducing kids to the wonders of Cuyahoga Valley National Park but also helping them connect with nature and history. Kudos to Akron Community Foundation and the Millennium Fund for Children for supporting such impactful initiatives!

Donte Cargill
Patricia Ann Cargill Charities is truly grateful for support from Akron Community Foundation! PACC's impact has been felt across the community. Feeding, educating and empowering more than 17,000 people this year was not an easy task, but seeing the smiling faces and feeling the appreciation makes all the difference. This contribution will benefit thousands more!

Elizabeth Kargbo
OPEN M is deeply grateful for the generous and ongoing support of Akron Community Foundation for our Health Services programming. The OPEN M Clinic relies on our generous funding partners like ACF to continue to serve uninsured individuals with low income who are currently in the health care benefits gap. OPEN M is thankful for ACF's support in operating Summit County's only true free clinic that has no cost to patients and does not bill Medicaid or Medicare.

Leah Davis
What an inspiring day at the Akron Community Foundation Nonprofit Insights Conference! I had the incredible opportunity to soak up knowledge, connect with amazing professionals, and hear from some truly inspiring speakers. The energy was electric, and the insights were invaluable. The Akron community never fails to amaze me with its passion and dedication. Already looking forward to next year's conference!



NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

Greenleaf Family Center



Jill Oldham,
Greenleaf CEO



Mission: We strengthen families in our community through counseling, education and support.

For more than 20 years, Greenleaf Family Center's PEERS (Parent Education, Empowerment, Resources and Support) program has empowered families of children with complex needs by training parents to navigate multiple systems of care and become lifelong advocates for their children. Backed by longtime support from Akron Community Foundation, PEERS has helped countless families maximize their children's chances for success through education, guidance and emotional support.

Now, thanks in part to a \$79,000 proactive grant from Akron Community Foundation, Greenleaf is building on this legacy by launching the PEERS Center for Family Engagement. This bold new initiative will amplify parent and caregiver voices, particularly those raising children with mental health challenges, and work with organizations across Summit County to adopt more family-driven care practices and reduce stigma. The Center model will expand Greenleaf's work from individual support to systemic change, offering group advocacy training, peer facilitation, and leadership development to help families move from crisis to influence.

Founded in 1912 by civic leaders including F.A. Seiberling, Harvey Firestone and Bert Polsky, Greenleaf Family Center serves individuals and families across five counties, including Summit, with a wide range of services, including counseling, education and behavioral health support. From individual, family and group counseling to parenting programs and youth services, Greenleaf helps people manage life's emotional challenges with compassion and skill.

"I'm particularly passionate about expanding our ability to help people navigate emotional systems, whether as part of a family, workplace or community," said Greenleaf CEO Jill Oldham. "When individuals come to us, they're often focused on immediate life challenges, which can lead to anxiety, conflict, communication breakdown or other symptoms. What excites me is the potential to not only help them with these immediate needs, but to also help them recognize how their reactions and behaviors are interconnected with those around them."

To learn more about Greenleaf Family Center, visit greenleafctr.org.

To see the full list of Akron Community Foundation's recent proactive grant recipients, visit akroncf.org/ProactiveGrants.

FOUNDATION *news*

ACF Welcomes Two New Staff Members

Akron Community Foundation recently welcomed **Liz Szczukowski** to our team as our Scholarship Administrator. Liz is filling the role following the unexpected death of our beloved colleague Diane Schumaker, who had served in that position for nearly three decades (see more about Diane and the fund established in her memory on page 25).



Liz manages the community foundation's scholarship program, which provides vital educational funding to area students. In her role, Liz oversees all aspects of the scholarship program, including creating the application process, coordinating award distributions, managing relationships with selection committee members, and ensuring compliance with program guidelines.

Denikka Ray also joined the team as our Finance & Accounting Administrator. In this newly created role, Denikka will be responsible for the foundation's daily accounting and financial operations, such as gift processing, accounts payable and fund reporting.



ACF Welcomes Four New Board Members

The foundation is pleased to welcome Steve Dimengo, Jolene Lane, Ron Paydo and Angie Wells to its board of directors. They join the board following the end of board service for Steve Schmidt, Katie Smucker, Bill Steere and Sylvia Trundle.

Steve Dimengo is the managing partner of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, a business law firm serving Akron, Canton and Cleveland markets. In addition to his leadership role with the organization, Steve has focused his practice on Ohio sales, income and commercial activity taxes, as well as transactions with federal tax implications. Steve also serves on the boards of many local organizations, including Summit Education Initiative and Archbishop Hoban High School.



Jolene Lane is the president and founder of Equity Lane LLC, a consulting firm located in Akron that



focuses on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility strategy. She joins the board after serving on a variety of boards and committees for the foundation's affiliate funds, including the Women's Endowment Fund Advisory Board and The Soul of Philanthropy Akron Steering Committee, as well as numerous organizations in the Greater Akron community.

Ron Paydo is Huntington Bank's market president for the Akron/Canton area. Ron has served in various leadership roles at Huntington and FirstMerit banks. Additionally, he is active in the community, serving on boards for the Greater Akron Chamber and the American Red Cross of Greater Akron and the Mahoning Valley.



Angie Wells is the vice president of operations for GPD Group, an 800-person architectural and engineering firm headquartered in Akron, where she has overseen hundreds of projects nationally for both the public and private sectors. In addition to her work, Angie has served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the United Way of Summit & Medina and the University of Akron's Women in Engineering Program.



Three Staff Members Promoted

Brian Reitz, who has been with the foundation since September 2017, was recently promoted to Director of Agency Engagement and Endowments. In his work with nonprofit organizations throughout our community, Brian cultivates new relationships and provides our agency partners with endowment-building support and training opportunities.



Mariana Silva was recently promoted to Community Investment Officer. Mariana joined the staff in September 2023 and assists in cultivating and maintaining relationships with grant seekers, grantees, donor-advised fundholders and other partners by providing guidance on the foundation's community investment processes.



Olivia Eastly, who joined the staff in March 2022, was recently promoted to Marketing & Communications Specialist. Olivia works closely with the foundation's affiliate funds to promote their impact through newsletters, social media and other publications.



Congratulations to Board, Staff Members for Awards & Recognitions

Board member **Kim Haws Falasco** recently received two recognitions for her work and dedication to the community. In March, she was recognized with Summit County Historical Society's Woman of the Year Award for Inspiration. She was also named a 2025 Best-in-State Wealth Advisor by Forbes.



In April, board member **Kendra Philon** received the 2025 Dr. Frank L. Simonetti Distinguished Business Alumni Award from the University of Akron.



Tracy Burt, our vice president of marketing and communications, was named a 2024 Notable Leader in Communications by Crain's Cleveland Business.

Institute for Emerging Philanthropists Selects Class of 2025-26

We're pleased to announce the fourth class of our Institute for Emerging Philanthropists, a comprehensive training program that teaches innovative, evidence-based methods of practicing strategic philanthropy. Congratulations to class members Gina Betti, Mar-quetta Boddie, Donte Cargill, Paula Christ, David Kleckner, Jessica Korzhiletskiy, Austen Rau, Jess Rist, Jessica Robb and Elizabeth Saraceno.



Year-End Gifts and Grants

Thank you for another generous year of giving back in Summit County! For our fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, Akron Community Foundation received \$18.6 million in gifts, while also distributing \$16.7 million in grants to nonprofits working to improve our community. To see the full list of donors, visit akroncf.org/Donors. To see recent memorial and tribute gifts and grants, visit akroncf.org/MemorialTribute.



David & Cheryl Venarge

UPCOMING *events*

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.

David & Cheryl Venarge Selected as 2025 Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award Recipients

Save the date for this year's Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award Dinner on Oct. 14 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Akron Fairlawn, where we'll celebrate David and Cheryl Venarge and their enduring impact on our community. Tickets will go on sale in late summer and sponsorships are available now. For sponsorship information, visit akroncf.org/PolskySponsor or contact Laura Lederer at llederer@akroncf.org.

Save the Date: The Soul of Philanthropy Akron Awards

Join the Black Giving Collective on Nov. 14 at House Three Thirty as it kicks off The Soul of Philanthropy Akron exhibit and celebrates eight inspiring individuals at this inaugural celebration of Black philanthropy. To learn more about The Soul of Philanthropy Akron, visit TSOPakron.com.

IN THE *community*

- 1.** Members of the Bath Community Fund Advisory Board received a Letter of Commendation from the General Assembly of the State of Ohio to commemorate the fund's 10th anniversary.
- 2.** On March 20, former Women's Endowment Fund Advisory Board member and Akron Community Foundation board member Katie Smucker accepted the 2025 Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women. Photo by Shane Wynn.
- 3.** In February, members of our Professional Advisor Council, Young Professional Advisor Council, and staff visited Haven of Rest Ministries. Our volunteers enjoyed serving a meal and making cards for guests at the shelter.
- 4.** In June, Akron Community Foundation board and staff members joined a group of representatives from Akron for the National Civic League's All-America City Award Event in Denver. Akron was one of the winners of the award. From left to right: Jolene Lane, John F. Garofalo, Marty Hauser and Ron Paydo.
- 5.** Akron Community Foundation's Young Professional Advisor Council hosted a networking and hiking event on June 7 at Sand Run Metro Park. Young professionals in the fields of accounting, law, financial planning and related areas had the opportunity to grow their business network while learning about nonprofit initiatives in our community.
- 6.** On June 6, John T. Petures Jr., Judge Joy Malek Oldfield, Tracy Burt, Matt Melton, Cindy Petures and John F. Garofalo kicked off Pride Month at the Gay Community Endowment Fund's annual celebration, "exhALE: Advancing Lived Equality."



IN THE community

(CONT.)

7. Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro (right) and Jeff Wilhite (center), Summit County Council representative and executive director of Family Promise of Summit County, spoke about the impact former President & CEO John T. Petures Jr. made on the community during his tenure at Akron Community Foundation.

8. From left to right: Kim Nott, De Shawn Pickett and Cathy Kemp greet guests at former President & CEO John T. Petures Jr.'s retirement party on May 1.

9. Former President & CEO John T. Petures Jr. was joined by his wife, Cindy, and his three children, Brittany, Stephen and Ashlee, to celebrate his career at his retirement party.

10. Mayor Shammass Malik presented former President & CEO John T. Petures Jr. with a proclamation from the City of Akron dedicating Thursday, May 1, 2025, as "John T. Petures Jr. Day."



Photos by Shane Wynn



FAREWELL TO AKRON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

By John T. Petures Jr.

What a wonderful ride on this farewell tour
I'm touched by the tributes and praise
What started out as a year's long search by our board
Has been whittled down to just days

Keep in mind we're all temporary stewards
Who help guide, inspire and teach
We strive to improve the human condition
That just might be within reach

Remember, I'm someone who's not from here
With little history or much knowledge of this place
Who humbly accepted this role as a leader
So grateful for the community's embrace

Think for a moment about this work that we do
How vitally important it must be
Good intentions have never really moved our world
Investing in each other is key

At the heart of our work are the people
The best I've ever met, this I'm sure
Who simply care about giving and granting
Always knowing there's a need to do more

We raise money, award grants, celebrate leaders
Millions raised and awarded, it's true
People give to people, not causes, today
Is something that I always knew

With a spirit of caring so strong and inspiring
Such selfless desire to give back
Lifting lives of families and strangers in town
Reaching out, meeting needs, filling gaps

With heartfelt gratitude I step away from my calling
Blessed by these moments to serve
Thank you wholeheartedly for trusting and believing
And I hope that these rhymes touch a nerve

Some might say it's my calling
To listen, to learn, and to lead
Surrounded by a team: a board and staff
Lifted by such commitment indeed

Enduring philanthropy is at the heart of our mission
Place-based, right here through the ages
Our history is written, we see our work mattered
Captured as we glance at the pages

My career took me to three different states
Raising our family as we made a new home
Lessons learned all along the way
From mentors and colleagues I've known

I've told many that I'm certain I'll miss it
To have led such a remarkable team
We planned our work and we worked our plan
We dared to think big and just dream

Thank you seems terribly inadequate
To capture this gratitude I feel
To have felt the embrace of this special place
I've gotten the best end of the deal

I'll keep watching and celebrating your progress
Achievements and challenges will come
Our community will be better and enriched by this work
Congrats, in advance, and well done!



URGENT CRISIS ENDURING CHANGE

*Supporting Organization
Targets Health Crisis*

By Chris Miller,
Communications & Community Investment Officer

Amid a nationwide epidemic, Summit County remains deeply impacted by one of the most pressing public health and safety challenges of our time. As of June 30, 2025, the county has recorded 487 suspected overdoses this year – an average of more than two each day.

Fifty-two of them have been fatal.

The numbers are tragic, but they're not just numbers. They represent lives lost, families shattered, and communities reeling from a crisis fueled by prescription opioids and compounded by newer, more complex threats.

Increasingly, these overdoses involve multiple substances – fentanyl mixed with meth, alcohol laced with cocaine – combinations that make treatment increasingly more complicated. These polysubstance overdoses have become a leading concern for public health professionals. They often require specialized “dual diagnosis” care – treatment that addresses both substance use and underlying mental health conditions, according to Donna Skoda, recently retired health commissioner for Summit County.

Add to this the stigma that addiction carries: Many people still view addiction as a moral failing rather than a diagnosable disease. There's also a misconception that treatment and recovery are “one size fits all.”

Yet even in the face of these grim realities, there is hope. And it's coming in the form of one of the largest single investments in Summit County's public health and safety history.

A GROUNDBREAKING SETTLEMENT

When Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro joined a federal lawsuit against prescription drug manufacturers, she never expected the county to receive a penny. Not only was Summit County awarded a settlement, but it became a bellwether for legal cases across the country. It placed the county at the forefront of a systemic remediation to the devastating role prescription narcotics have played in a national health crisis.

The initial federal court settlement led to Summit and Cuyahoga counties reaching agreements in principle with drugmaker Teva Pharmaceuticals and drug distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson. Per the proposed settlement agreements, Teva was ordered to pay \$20 million in cash and provide \$25 million worth of addiction treatment drugs to the two counties, while AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson were required to pay a combined \$215 million in cash. Summit and Cuyahoga counties split the settlements at 38% and 62%, respectively.

Thanks to that initial settlement, a \$45 million investment will be used to establish the Summit Health and Safety Innovation Fund at Akron Community Foundation. The fund will operate as a separate, tax-exempt, charitable organization of Akron Community Foundation known as a supporting organization.

“When we first received the settlement funds, I had three goals,” Shapiro said. “First, to get money out into the community to stop overdoses and enhance pathways to treatment and recovery. Second, to purchase a software platform that would allow providers and other stakeholders to better coordinate care for those with substance use disorder and reduce barriers to accessing care. Today, the Unite Us platform is free to any community organization in Summit County. Finally, I wanted to identify a mechanism that would allow a portion of the funds to be available in

perpetuity to fund innovative programming that could address the health and safety issues of today, but also whatever challenges await us in the future.”

A UNIQUE ARRANGEMENT

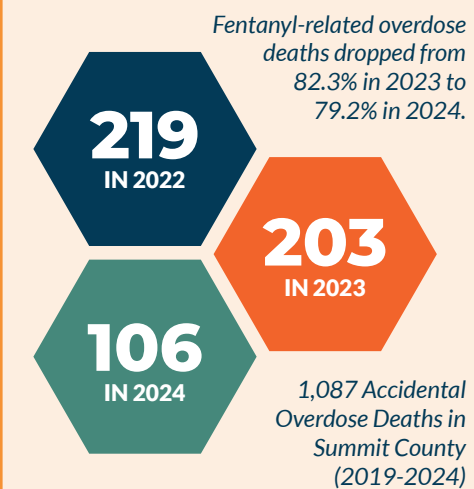
According to the IRS, a supporting organization's classification as a nonprofit is unique in that it is a distinct legal entity, but it relies on its relationship with a public charity, often a community foundation, hospital or university. A local example of a supporting organization is the Barberton Community Foundation, which was established using proceeds from the sale of the former Barberton Citizens Hospital and is a supporting organization of the City of Barberton and the Barberton City School District.

The creation of a supporting organization will enable the Summit Health and Safety Innovation Fund to have maximum community impact: The fund will be permanently endowed

and invested according to an investment policy that may mirror Akron Community Foundation's, but it will exist as its own Ohio nonprofit corporation. The fund will also have its own governing board of directors charged with management of the organization and grantmaking, among other responsibilities.

“In establishing the supporting organization, we expect three outcomes,” Shapiro said. “First, it will support innovative approaches to health and safety by providing startup funding for good ideas that need legs to get off the ground. Second, it will act as a convener to attract sustained funding for proven ideas. Finally, it will have the flexibility to respond to whatever health and safety issues emerge in Summit County. Today it is opioids; tomorrow it could be something completely different.”

BY THE NUMBERS



The decision to partner with Akron Community Foundation and create this organizational structure was made after thorough research.

“After investigating our options, we identified the supporting organization structure,” Shapiro said. “It was a no-brainer to ask Akron Community Foundation to host it. Having served as a board member and been a witness to the impact of this organization, I knew the community foundation was well-suited to help us make it a reality.”

“Akron Community Foundation’s role has always been to connect resources with community needs,” said John T. Petures Jr., former president and CEO of Akron Community Foundation. “By housing this fund, we’re helping to ensure that settlement dollars stay local, support innovation, and adapt to the evolving health and safety challenges facing Summit County for generations to come.”

The fund is more than a financial vehicle – it’s part of a larger ecosystem of support in Summit County, which is home to a wide network of community-based recovery organizations.

“Akron is the birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous and is very fortunate to have a variety of self-help groups, anonymous support groups, and community-based organizations,” Skoda said. “In addition, there is a web of peer support, grassroots and nonprofit agencies focused on both substance use and mental health support. Peer supporters are people with lived experience of substance use or mental health concerns who have found their own recovery and now use their experience to help others.”

Peers, she said, can get specialized education and training to be licensed through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, offering a vital avenue for people in recovery to connect in ways they can’t with clinicians and doctors.

In addition, Skoda said, “Many grassroots and nonprofit organizations in Summit County also provide support not just for those struggling, but for their children and families, offering opportunities and resources for healing that spread far beyond the individual.”

LEGAL WIN SPARKS COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

This isn’t the county’s first collaboration with Akron Community Foundation. Following the settlement, Shapiro and a group of stakeholders, including

Akron Mayor Shammass Malik and Summit County Public Health, helped assemble the Opiate Abatement Advisory Council, which provides oversight to ensure funding from the settlement goes to Summit County programs that help to abate the opioid epidemic by addressing four priority areas: Harm Reduction, System Coordination, Evidence-Based Prevention and Education.

In 2021, the OAAC established the Summit County Opioid Healing Fund at Akron Community Foundation, which has distributed more than \$1.2 million in grants – up to \$25,000 each – for peer support services, recovery events and community education.

In total, the OAAC has deployed nearly \$16 million in opioid settlement funds, but the supporting organization takes those efforts a step further – it’s a permanent, community-led strategy for the long haul.

The Summit Health and Safety Innovation Fund was approved by Summit County Council in December 2024 and is estimated to be fully established and funded with the initial \$45 million investment at Akron Community Foundation by the end of 2025. In addition, the county approved the creation of a separate \$5 million fund at the community foundation to specifically support programs that address the significant health and safety issues faced by minority and disadvantaged residents in Summit County.

Once in operation, the supporting organization will likely generate

more than \$1 million in funding for nonprofits in the community each year – resources that weren’t available before.

“This isn’t just about responding to a crisis,” Petures said. “It’s about creating the kind of community where prevention is possible, treatment is accessible, and innovation thrives.”

A silver lining to a heinous epidemic, it’s a chance to heal some of the damage done in neighborhoods across Summit County.

To stay up to date on developments with the Summit Health and Safety Innovation Fund, visit akroncf.org/SummitHealthFund.

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

In December 2024, Bath Community Fund awarded 22 grants totaling \$50,000 to nonprofits serving Bath Township. Since it was founded in 2014, the fund has reinvested more than \$300,000 into programs that strengthen the Bath community for current and future generations. For a complete list of grants, visit akroncf.org/BathGrants.

Bath Community Fund will host its 10th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, Aug. 1, at 6 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Akron Fairlawn. The event will commemorate the fund's first 10 years of impact in the community

and celebrate its successful "For Bath, Forever" endowment campaign, which to date has raised more than \$430,000. Tickets for the 10th Anniversary Celebration are available at akroncf.org/BCFcelebration.

BLACK GIVING COLLECTIVE FUND

The Black Giving Collective is preparing for the launch of The Soul of Philanthropy exhibit, which will be on display at the Akron Art Museum from Nov. 15, 2025, to Feb. 14, 2026. In addition to the national touring exhibit, the display will feature eight local philanthropists who have made an impact on the Black community in Summit County.

These eight philanthropists will also be recognized at an award event on Nov. 14 at House Three Thirty.

To learn more about The Soul of Philanthropy Akron, visit TSOPakron.com. To contribute to or learn more about the Black Giving Collective, visit blackgivingcollective.org.

GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

In March, the Gay Community Endowment Fund announced 17 grants totaling more than \$80,000 to programs that support the Greater Akron LGBTQ+ community. Since the fund's establishment nearly 25 years ago, it has invested

almost \$920,000 into local causes that advance the right of all LGBTQ+ individuals to live safely, openly and authentically. For a complete list of grants, visit akroncf.org/GCEFgrants.

On June 6, the Gay Community Endowment Fund hosted its annual celebration, "exhALE: Advancing Lived Equality." During the event, board chair Dr. Kate Raymond presented members of the Akron Pride Festival Steering Committee with the 2025 Paul Daum Award for their significant contributions to the LGBTQ+ community.

Save the date for the 24th annual Sugar Plum Tour of Holiday Homes!

This year's festivities begin with a live tour on Sunday, Dec. 7, and continue with a virtual tour from Dec. 13 to Jan. 4. Sponsorships will be available in July, and early bird tickets will go on sale during the Akron Pride Festival on Aug. 23. To receive event news and updates, sign up for the fund's e-newsletter at akroncf.org/GCEFnews.

GREEN COMMUNITY FUND

During its first grant cycle, the Green Community Fund awarded eight grants totaling \$15,000 to nonprofit programs that serve Green residents. Among this year's grant recipients is FellowshipWorks, which received a \$2,500 grant to provide new athletic shoes to preschool through third grade students attending Green Local Schools. The success of this inaugural grant cycle is due in part to generous donations from the Evans family/Jeff Evans Insurance Agency, the Hollis family, the Shultz family, and the Read family. For a complete list of grants, visit akroncf.org/GreenGrants.

Save the date for the Green Community Fund's first annual meeting on Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Lodge at Brier Creek. Grant recipients will be present to share inspiring stories of community impact. For more information, visit greencommunityfund.org.

MILLENNIUM FUND FOR CHILDREN

In December 2024, the Millennium Fund for Children awarded 35 grants totaling more than

\$60,000 to children's programs throughout Greater Akron. Several organizations received grants to support innovative mental health programs, including a residential camp for teens in foster care.

Since its creation in 1999, the Millennium Fund has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to programs that meet children's basic needs, teach life skills, enrich students' lives through visual and performing arts, and much more. For a complete list of grants, visit akroncf.org/MillenniumGrants.

VERNON L. ODOM FUND

This spring, the Vernon L. Odom Fund awarded \$11,400 in grants to 12 programs that enrich the quality of life within Greater Akron's communities of color. Among this year's grant recipients is The Vincent House, which received a \$1,000 grant to provide boxing lesson scholarships for children in the Middlebury neighborhood.

Since it was founded in 1993, the Vernon L. Odom Fund has awarded more than \$245,000 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

During this year's "For Women, Forever" celebration, leaders of the Women's Endowment Fund announced 30 grants totaling more than \$190,000 to nonprofit organizations serving women and girls. This latest round of grants



brings the fund's cumulative grantmaking total to nearly \$2.5 million. For a complete list of grants, visit akroncf.org/WEFGrants.

In addition to the grant announcements, the event featured a presentation from Cleveland-based Latinx fashion entrepreneur Valerie Mayén. Her socially conscious fashion brand, Yellowcake Shop Clothing, promotes inclusivity and environmental responsibility. The event culminated with the presentation of the 2025 Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women to Katie Smucker.

This fall, the Women's Endowment Fund will once again host its biennial Forum on Women and Girls. This year's forum, "Empowering Our

Community: Understanding & Addressing Domestic Violence," will take place Friday, Sept. 19, at the Hilton Garden Inn. For more information, visit womensendowmentfund.org.

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Aug. 1 – Sept. 1:
Millennium Fund for Children

Sept. 1 – Oct. 1:
Bath Community Fund

Oct. 1 – Nov. 1:
Women's Endowment Fund

Learn more and apply at akroncf.org/AffiliateGrants.



STUDENTS

▶ On The Move

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WHO BREAK THE MOLD

By Olivia Eastly, Marketing & Communications Specialist

Karen Towne works full time as a faculty member at a small private university in Northeast Ohio, where she enjoys mentoring students and helping them find their path in the nursing profession. A married mother of two, Karen is also a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. In addition to these accomplishments, Karen recently earned a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Kansas School of Nursing.

Like Karen, many nursing students who pursue advanced degrees do not fit the typical description of a college student.

During the spring 2025 semester, Karen completed her dissertation research on the relationship between disaster-related prenatal stress and pregnancy outcomes. For Karen, this research was more than a graduation requirement – it was a critical part of her identity as a nurse advocate.

“I became an advocate because, as a young cancer survivor, I felt my highest and best good was to work on preventing disease from beginning in the first place. That is what drew me to the field of public health. Research provides much-needed credible evidence to policymakers, which is why engaging in public health nursing research is my next commitment to advocacy,” Karen said.

Scholarships like the Summit, Portage, Stark, Carroll Nursing Scholarship (SPSCNS) Fund at Akron Community Foundation have allowed Karen to fully engage in her research without worrying about financial constraints. In her application, Karen wrote: “Having the ability to focus on what one of my professors calls the ‘deep work’ of research is a luxury that is difficult to achieve when working full time as a faculty member and taking care of my young children. To be a scholarship recipient would change my life tremendously, alleviating the financial stress of this incredible goal, which I otherwise have the will and ability to achieve.”

Karen has a clear vision for her future as a Ph.D.-prepared nurse. She hopes to research major public health issues – like disaster response, environmental health and climate change – and share her findings to help drive meaningful change. She plans to work with health organizations, policymakers and fellow researchers to turn her work into action and improve community health.

Karen is also passionate about mentoring the next generation of nurses and scholars. Thanks to support from this scholarship, she is one step closer to making her vision a reality. 🌱

KAREN TOWNE



▶ ABOUT

The Summit, Portage, Stark, Carroll Nursing Scholarship Fund

The Summit, Portage, Stark, Carroll Nursing Scholarship (SPSCNS) Fund was established in 2023 to provide support for registered nurses pursuing an advanced nursing degree who live or work in Summit, Portage, Stark or Carroll counties.

More than 260 students across our community received scholarships from one of Akron Community Foundation's 88 scholarship funds during the past fiscal 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.



Thank you endlessly for your generous scholarship that has bettered my future. At Ohio State University, I have made many professional connections and fostered lifelong friendships. Additionally, I have joined two clubs that have made a positive impact on my life: one to better my faith and another to challenge my writing skills. My first year at OSU has been a tremendous success thanks to your generous scholarship. I am so appreciative!

Mia Ross

John T. and Julia A. Spellman Scholarship Fund



Since receiving this scholarship, I have completed my first semester at Miami University. Through my continued dedication to my academic pursuits, I am thrilled to report that I have been named to the dean's list in the Farmer School of Business, placing me in the top 20% of students at Miami University. I have excelled in the courses related to my dual major in accounting and finance, which have furthered my progress toward my ultimate goal of attaining my Certified Public Accountant designation and owning a firm of my own.

Sam Galich

Richard L. Averitte Memorial Scholarship Fund



Receiving the Morgan Hasbrouck 4-H Scholarship means so much to me. I will be attending the University of Findlay in the fall, majoring in pre-veterinary medicine. I am very excited to begin my college career, and this scholarship will help make it possible.

Allison Miller

Morgan Hasbrouck 4-H Scholarship Fund



With this scholarship, I will be able to start my educational journey at graduate school, pursuing my master's in social work. This opportunity will assist me in better supporting older adults and their needs. Thank you for your support.

Grace Czerwony

Joseph L. Ruby Student Scholarship Fund

BY THE NUMBERS

308
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED

264
STUDENT
RECIPIENTS

NEARLY
\$660K
IN TOTAL
SCHOLARSHIPS

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

BUILDING A CHARITABLE LEGACY THROUGH LONG-TERM CARE PLANNING



By Richard Tanner
CEO and Founder
Ownership Advisors



The landscape of long-term care planning has evolved significantly over the years, especially post-COVID, as more families realize the challenges of aging and chronic care extend beyond financial considerations. Increasingly, affluent families are recognizing that long-term care planning isn't just about protecting wealth – it's about preserving family harmony, reducing emotional stress, and ensuring stability during what can be a deeply challenging time.

For high-net-worth individuals, long-term care planning can also be part of creating a charitable legacy. By integrating long-term care and charitable planning, families protect assets earmarked for philanthropic goals, making it easier to make significant charitable decisions.

Additionally, a carefully crafted long-term care plan allows future generations to focus on stewarding and advancing the charitable intentions of their loved ones, as they are less likely to be consumed by the emotional and financial burdens of caregiving.

SELF-FUNDING VS. INSURING

While most Americans have been self-funding long-term care expenses from current assets, many are wondering if this is the most efficient use of their assets. Market volatility and escalating costs of care have created fear and anxiety about the financial and emotional impact of a long-term care event. At the same time, traditional insurance policies have come under scrutiny due to unexpected premium increases. The good news is the insurance industry has made significant progress by creating better and more flexible products with stronger guarantees that cover both benefits and premiums for life.

The following are several advanced planning ideas to discuss with your advisors:

Life Insurance: Many life insurance policies now have efficient long-term care riders that allow policyholders to split benefits between charity and family long-term care needs. For example, a \$1 million permanent life insurance policy with a \$500,000 long-term care rider can designate surplus benefits to charity upon death.

Charitable Trusts: High-net-worth individuals often use charitable trusts to combine philanthropy with tax planning goals. A personally owned life insurance policy with a long-term care rider creates an asset that preserves estate assets during a person's lifetime while leaving a leveraged death benefit to complete legacy planning goals.

Donor-Advised Funds: By contributing to a donor-advised fund at a public charity like Akron Community Foundation, individuals can create a multigenerational family philanthropic plan. A personally owned long-term care policy guarantees estate assets earmarked for charity will not be depleted during the donor's lifetime and can be designed with a residual death benefit to endow the fund upon death.

Irrevocable Trust Strategy: A specially designed irrevocable life insurance trust funded with a long-term care policy reduces the taxable estate and provides tax-efficient capital to cover long-term care expenses. This strategy involves risk shifting and leverage that many wealthy families already use and turns an irrevocable trust into a more flexible family wealth planning tool. For example, when a claim is paid, the trustee can choose to keep the

proceeds in the trust or move tax-free dollars to the insured. The trust-owned policy can also be designed with a residual death benefit earmarked for charity. Only contracts with an indemnity payment option can be used with this approach.

The growing interest in long-term care planning, particularly among high-net-worth individuals, reflects a broader shift in how people view aging and caregiving. It's no longer just about managing financial risk; it's about ensuring stability, preserving family relationships, and planning for the unexpected.

As awareness continues to grow, the role of long-term care insurance in comprehensive wealth and family planning is also likely to grow. Coordinating charitable giving with long-term care planning creates a lasting legacy that reflects family values and impacts future generations.

Donors who can work with their advisors to effectively integrate long-term care into traditional financial, estate and charitable planning will be uniquely positioned to achieve peace of mind and build stronger, more sustainable relationships.

For more strategic ways to build a legacy through philanthropy, contact Laura Lederer, vice president and chief development officer, at llederer@akroncf.org or 330-436-5611.

Ownership Advisors, Inc. is a member of M Financial Group. Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. 6100 Oak Tree Blvd. South, Suite 420, Park Center Plaza I, Cleveland, OH 44131 / EL 216.328.5538 / www.ownershipadvisors.com

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

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, 2024, to March 31, 2025:

Diane Johns Gilger Key Private Bank
Russ McLaughlin Gembala, McLaughlin & Pecora
Sheri Peters Sheri A. Peters Co., L.P.A.

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.

Michael Wear, chair Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs
John Adams Adams, Gut & Associates
Tyler Amos Charles Schwab
Jim Barsella Clearstead
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.
Naomi Ganoe CBIZ MHM LLC
Diane Johns Gilger Key Private Bank
Jamie Haren Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs
Matthew Hochstetler David J. Simmons & Associates
Jared Hoffman Broadleaf Partners
Barry Hollis PNC Institutional Asset Management
Jesse Hurst Impel Wealth Management
Dan Ishee Ishee Investment Consultants
Lia Jones Key Private Bank
David Koly W3 Global Accounting
Andrew Lamb W3 Wealth Management
Rob Malone Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs
Bill Manby Jr. Paradigm Equity Strategies
Don Miksch Huntington Private Bank
Kimberly Miller Baird
Angelina Milo Meaden & Moore
Mark Muntean CAPTRUST
Taylor Papiernik Fairway Wealth Management
Karyn Sullivan Bernstein Private Wealth Management
David Supelak CLA Akron
Allan Sweet Palumbo & Sweet
Richard Tanner Ownership Advisors Inc.
Benjamin Tegel Farther Finance
Christopher Teodosio Tucker Ellis LLP
Jessica Tepus Bober Markey Fedorovich
Jim Thompson Sequoia Financial Group
Samuel Trecaso Wells Trecaso Financial Group
Todd Williams Fidelity Investments
Kyla Williger Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co.

CREATE YOUR LEGACY: EDWIN C. SHAW SOCIETY



OUR GRANTS

During the past fiscal year, from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, Akron Community Foundation and its 900+ charitable funds disbursed nearly \$17 million in grants and distributions to nonprofits throughout Summit County and beyond. To see our full list of grant recipients, visit akroncf.org/OurGrantees.

Seventy years ago, Edwin C. Shaw made a bold move to invest in the future of Greater Akron. With a \$1 million bequest in his will, the former B.F. Goodrich executive helped establish what is now Akron Community Foundation, planting the seeds for a legacy that has grown to more than \$316 million in assets and nearly \$260 million in community grants.

Now it's your turn. By joining the Edwin C. Shaw Society, you can take your place among the visionary donors who are shaping our region's future. This special group honors those who have made a commitment to Akron Community Foundation through a planned gift – such as a bequest in a will, charitable gift annuity, or life insurance policy.

Why join the Shaw Society? Your gift will ensure the causes you care about are supported for generations to come – whether that's broad community needs, a specific nonprofit, or even your family's donor-advised fund. We'll work with you to make sure your gift is used exactly as you intend.

Becoming a member is easy. All it takes is a conversation. Once you let us know about your planned gift, you'll gain access to exclusive events, including our annual Shaw Society gathering, where you'll connect with other legacy-minded philanthropists and hear how your future support will fuel lasting change.

FUNDHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

Lessons in Legacy: Retired Teachers Join Shaw Society

When two lifelong Akron residents met with attorney Sheri Peters to talk about their estate plans, they knew they wanted charitable giving to be part of their plan.

As retired educators with no children of their own, the donors care deeply about providing educational opportunities for students. They also have several other charitable interest areas connected to their personal experiences, including disaster recovery and women's causes. In particular, one of the donors grew up with a single mother during a time when there was not a lot of support for single women, so they would like to give back to women facing a similar situation. Growing up in that environment also taught them the importance of budgeting and making a dollar stretch, so it's no surprise that the couple wanted to find a way to make their gift last beyond a one-time impact.

Sheri had a solution for them: creating a charitable fund at Akron Community Foundation through their will. While they discussed the option of leaving gifts through a trust, she explained that a fund at the community foundation would give them the flexibility to change the causes they want to benefit in the future, while also helping their gift endure long after their lifetimes.

This was an A+ idea for the couple, who then met with the foundation's staff to get the process started and become members of the Edwin C. Shaw Society. 🌱

To learn more about the variety of ways you can make an impact with your own legacy gift, visit akroncf.org/PlannedGiving.

NEW MEMBERS

We're grateful to the generous and forward-thinking individuals who joined our Edwin C. Shaw Society during the past fiscal year (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025):

Dwite Barger

Phil & Mindy Bartholomae

Dr. Kenneth A. Boatright

Honorable Carol J. Dezso

Jeffrey Hohman

John & Joan McDonnell

Mark Mitten

Cheryl Morse & Debra Peterson

Harvey & Kim Nelson

Carla Parker

Alex & Gina Shannon

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



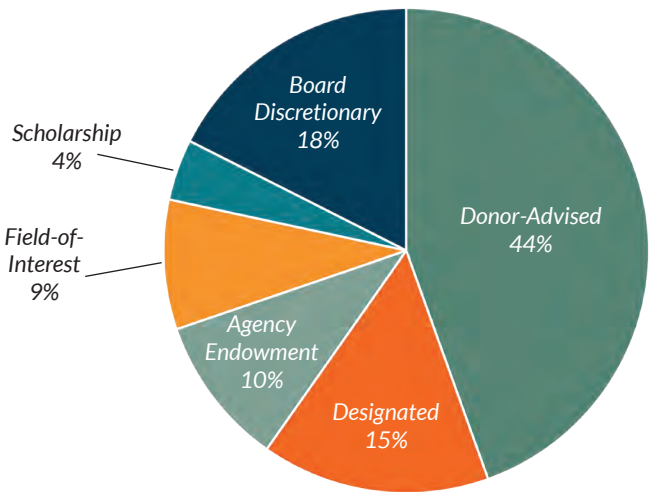
BY THE NUMBERS

\$16.7
MILLION IN
TOTAL GRANTS &
DISTRIBUTIONS

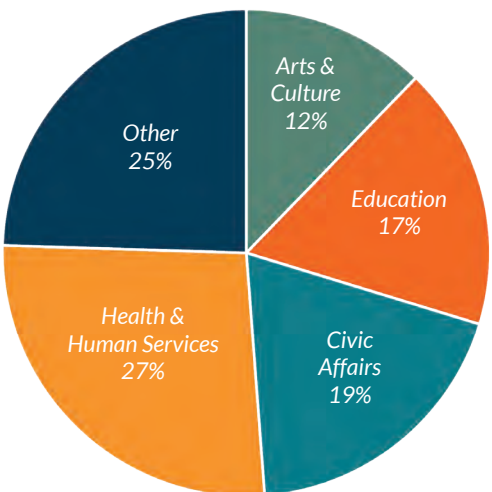
2,317
GRANTS
AWARDED

783
NONPROFITS
SERVED

GRANTS BY FUND TYPE



GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA



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.



NEW FUNDS

During the second half of fiscal year 2025 (Oct. 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025), we were pleased to welcome 28 new funds established by charitable individuals, families and organizations throughout our community.

Donor-Advised Funds

- Auker Family Fund
- Phil and Mindy Bartholomae Fund
- Steven A. Dimengo Fund
- DiMeo Family Fund
- Fuenning Family Fund
- Kargbo Family Fund
- Jonathan Donald Kuhns Memorial Fund
- Kristen Manes Fund
- Newman Grandchildren Fund

Designated Funds

Sebastian Matthew Appleby Memorial Scholarship Fund
Established to support scholarships for graduating seniors at Ellet Community Learning Center

Diane M. Schumaker Memorial Fund
Established to honor and memorialize Diane Schumaker, who served as Akron Community Foundation’s Scholarships & Grants Administrator for nearly three decades. The fund preserves Diane’s legacy of enriching the lives of both pets and people in our community through annual grants to the Summit County Humane Society.

***Dr. Larry D. Snider Percussion Fund**
Established to support scholarships for percussion students at the University of Akron

Agency Endowment Funds

Alchemy Inc. Endowment Fund
Established to support Alchemy Inc.’s mission of helping urban adolescents to develop a sense of personal purpose in life and to thrive as members of a family, school, community and world-at-large

Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet dba Ballet Excel Ohio Legacy Fund
Established to support Ballet Excel Ohio’s mission of providing professional-level training and performance opportunities to talented young dancers and educating young audiences in the art of ballet

Global Ties Akron Endowment Fund
Established to support education programs and internships at Global Ties Akron

Greenleaf Family Center Endowment Fund
Established to support Greenleaf Family Center’s mission of strengthening families in our community through counseling, education and support

JewishAkron Endowment Fund
Established to support JewishAkron’s mission of sustaining and inspiring Jewish Life while keeping our community safe and engaged, whether in Greater Akron, Israel or throughout the world

Dr. George Knepper and Dave Lieberth History Fund of Summit County Historical Society
Established to support the Summit County Historical Society, with preference for supporting history interns

***Lock 3 Maintenance Endowment Fund**
Established to support special enhancements to the maintenance of Lock 3 in downtown Akron

Jack Schantz Endowed Trumpet Chair Fund (Cleveland Jazz Orchestra)
Established to endow an orchestra chair in honor of Jack Schantz, a former artistic director of the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra

South Street Ministries Endowment Fund
Established to support South Street Ministries’ mission of equipping and inspiring the restoration of community, economy and faith within the South Akron, Summit Lake and reentry communities

Summit Choral Society Chris & Maryellen Burnham Family Choral Scholar Fund
Established to support the Choral Scholars Program, which provides area college students with experience in arts management while sharpening their musicianship skills

Scholarship Funds

Dee Dee Andreoli IAPBC Scholarship Fund
Established by the Italian American Professional Business Club to provide scholarships for high school seniors of Italian American descent living in Summit County

Mario & Luisa Caponi Family IAPBC Scholarship Fund
Established by the Italian American Professional Business Club to provide scholarships for high school seniors of Italian American descent living in Summit County

Carlisle and Troiano Scholarship Fund
Established to provide scholarships for graduating high school seniors who are pursuing a postsecondary degree and are enrolled in Akron Public Schools or any public school district serving Medina County

***Susan B. Kosich Endowed Scholarship for Marketing Communications**
Established by the American Advertising Federation of Akron to provide scholarships for students at an accredited Northeast Ohio college or university who are pursuing a bachelor’s degree in a communications-related field

Field-of-Interest Funds

Summit County Field of Interest Fund for Minority & Disadvantaged Residents
Established by the County of Summit to support programs that address the significant health and safety issues faced by minority and disadvantaged residents

Board Discretionary Funds

George H. “Mike” Lewis III Fund
Established with a bequest from George H. “Mike” Lewis III to support nonprofit organizations in the Greater Akron and Summit County community, with consideration given to the Great Trail Council of Scouting America, of which Mike was a longtime board member and supporter

For a complete list of our more than 900 charitable funds, visit akroncf.org/OurFunds.

*Permanently endowed funds

NEW FUND SPOTLIGHT

Diane M. Schumaker Memorial Fund

For nearly 30 years, Diane Schumaker served as Akron Community Foundation’s Scholarships & Grants Administrator, processing grants and distributions to thousands of students and numerous nonprofit organizations throughout our community. Diane demonstrated a meticulous and tireless commitment to her work, and she played a pivotal role in ensuring local students could pursue their dreams of higher education.

After Diane’s sudden passing in November 2024, Akron Community Foundation’s board of directors created a new charitable fund to recognize her many years of service and leadership. The Diane M. Schumaker Memorial Fund will forever support the work and mission of the Humane Society of Summit County, preserving Diane’s legacy of enriching the lives of both pets and people in our community.

To make a gift in memory of Diane, please visit akroncf.org/give/SchumakerMemorialFund.



6 TYPES OF FUNDS

DO IT YOURSELF

Donor-Advised Funds & Starter Funds
A great private foundation alternative – you choose the grants

Designated Funds
Support one or more of your favorite nonprofits

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 the causes you’re passionate about

Board Discretionary Funds
Meet the community’s ever-changing needs



AKRON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
ENRICHING LIVES SINCE 1955

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
AKRON OH
PERMIT NO. 918

345 W. Cedar St.
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

LIVE FOREVER

BUILD A LASTING *legacy.*



FIND OUT HOW



AKRON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION