



As advisory board members of the Gay Community Endowment Fund, we would like to invite you to “exhALE: Advancing Lived Equality,” GCEF’s 25th Anniversary Celebration, which will take place on Friday, June 5, 2026, at 6 p.m. at House Three Thirty. Join us for a night celebrating 25 years of impact and supporting the next generation of LGBTQ+ students and allies.

In celebration of all we’ve achieved, we are excited to welcome activist Jim Obergefell as our keynote speaker. Mr. Obergefell draws from his unique experience at the heart of the Supreme Court marriage equality ruling to move and empower audiences to stand by their beliefs — and prove that love always wins. Sponsors at the \$2,500 level and above are invited to meet Mr. Obergefell at a VIP reception before the main event.

The Gay Community Endowment Fund annually awards grants to nonprofit organizations that positively impact the local LGBTQ+ community. Altogether, the fund has reinvested nearly \$925,000 into the Greater Akron community since it was founded in 2001. In addition, the GCEF Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$70,000 in postsecondary scholarships to students making a meaningful difference for the LGBTQ+ community. All proceeds from the event support academic scholarships for LGBTQ+ and allied students in Greater Akron.

Each year, the Paul Daum Award is presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated a significant commitment to LGBTQ+ causes in Greater Akron. This year, fund leaders will present the Paul Daum Award to the Founders of the Gay Community Endowment Fund.

We encourage you to make a lasting difference in the lives of LGBTQ+ students by becoming an event sponsor. All sponsorships include event tickets, complimentary drink tickets, and public recognition of your support for Greater Akron’s LGBTQ+ community. Help us build a brighter future for the next generation of LGBTQ+ students and allies.

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

Sincerely,

Thomas N. Kintz
Event Co-Chair
GCEF Advisory Board Member

Michael Derr
Event Co-Chair
GCEF Advisory Board Member

The Gay Community Endowment Fund's 25th Anniversary Celebration Sponsorship Opportunities



	Presenting Sponsor \$7,500 <i>\$6,100 deductible</i> <i>Only one available!</i>	Insight \$5,000 <i>\$3,920 deductible</i> <i>Limited availability!</i>	Enlightenment \$2,500 <i>\$1,780 deductible</i>	Wisdom \$1,000 <i>\$700 deductible</i>	Knowledge \$500 <i>\$350 deductible</i>
Number of tickets	10	8	6	4	2
Number of drink tickets per guest	3	3	2	2	2
Invitation to a VIP reception with Jim Obergefell*	✓	✓	✓		
Name/logo included in event materials, including slide deck and program	Prominent	Large	Medium	Small	Listed
Social media post acknowledging your sponsorship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
“Presented by” your name/logo on promotional materials, including invitation and evite	✓				
Name/logo included on promotional materials, including invitation and evite		✓			
Special gift	✓				
Thanked during program	✓				

*The Presenting Sponsor and all Insight and Enlightenment Sponsors are invited to a VIP reception from 5-6 p.m. with an open bar and appetizers. Sponsors and their guests will have the opportunity to meet Jim Obergefell, as well as the Founders of the Gay Community Endowment Fund and Gay Community Endowment Fund Advisory Board Members during the reception. Additional appetizers will be available to all guests after the VIP reception.

For unique sponsorship opportunities or questions about sponsorship benefits, please contact Affiliate Fund Event & Volunteer Coordinator Malia Rivera-Speer at 330-436-5649 or mrivera@akroncf.org. All phone calls and emails will be returned during normal business hours. Please note that we will gladly accept gifts from donor-advised funds and IRAs. However, per IRS regulations, such sponsorships cannot receive any benefits, including but not limited to event tickets, gifts, meals and other items of value. If you plan to make a gift from your donor-advised fund or IRA, please contact Deb Hoffman at 330-436-5614 or dhoffman@akroncf.org.

We will happily accept sponsorships until the date of the event; however, to ensure the inclusion of your name or logo in promotional materials, sponsorships must be received by April 3, 2026. Sponsorships received after this date cannot be guaranteed inclusion in all promotional materials.



Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsors who respond by **April 3, 2026**, will receive full recognition according to their sponsorship level, as outlined on the sponsorship menu. Sponsorships must be received by **April 24, 2026**, for inclusion in the event program.

June 5, 2026 | House Three Thirty

Please select your preferred sponsorship level:

Presenting Sponsor \$7,500 *(Only one available!)* **Insight Sponsor \$5,000** *(Limited availability!)*
\$6,100 is deductible *\$3,920 is deductible*

Enlightenment Sponsor \$2,500 **Wisdom Sponsor \$1,000** **Knowledge Sponsor \$500**
\$1,780 is deductible *\$700 is deductible* *\$350 is deductible*

I/We cannot attend but would like to make a fully tax-deductible gift of \$_____ in honor of the 2026 Paul Daum Award recipients, the Founders of the Gay Community Endowment Fund.

Please print your name as you wish it to appear in event materials: I wish to remain anonymous.

Name(s)/Organization: _____ Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment Options:

1. Online

Reserve your sponsorship online at akroncf.org/give/GCEF. Write "GCEF exhALE" in the comments section.

2. Credit Card

Visa / MasterCard / Discover *(circle one)*

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

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Authorized Signature: _____ This is a corporate card.

3. Check

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

Please see reverse for additional information.

If paying with a credit card or check, please return this completed form with your payment by [April 3, 2026*](#) to:

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

Additional Information:

- *We will happily accept sponsorships until the date of the event; however, to **ensure the inclusion of your name or logo in promotional materials**, sponsorships must be received by **April 3, 2026**. Sponsorships received after this date cannot be guaranteed inclusion in all promotional materials.
- Please email the names of your guest(s) to mriviera@akroncf.org. Names must be received by **June 2** to be printed on name tags.
- Corporate sponsors should email high-resolution black and color **logo files** in PNG or EPS format to oeastly@akroncf.org. To ensure inclusion in the printed program, please submit your logo by **April 24, 2026**.

Questions?

For more information, please contact Affiliate Fund Event & Volunteer Coordinator Malia Rivera-Speer at 330-436-5649 or mriviera@akroncf.org.



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