



**Uplifting Women and  
Girls, Now and Forever**

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November 1, 2024

Thank you for your past support of the Women's Endowment Fund's signature event, "For Women, Forever." This year's celebration will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at House Three Thirty and hosted by emcee Sara Shookman, career journalist and founder of Storyglow Studio. This event is expected to sell out, so we encourage you to secure your reservation now by becoming a sponsor.

This year's keynote address will be delivered by Valerie Mayén, the founder of Yellowcake, a socially conscious fashion brand based in Cleveland, Ohio. As a Latinx entrepreneur, Valerie leads a diverse team focused on creating high-quality, handmade garments designed for everyone. Valerie's passion for fashion began despite a conservative upbringing and financial challenges. She studied illustration at the Cleveland Institute of Art and Otis College of Art and Design, eventually teaching herself garment construction. Her innovative designs gained international recognition through "Project Runway." Beyond fashion, Valerie's work promotes environmental responsibility and emboldens individuals to express their authentic selves.

During the event, the fund will also honor Katie Smucker with the 2025 Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women. Katie has called Akron home since 2002, after living and working in numerous locales from Colorado to Brazil to Canada. She has been happily married to Mark Smucker for 25 years and considers being a mom to her children, Jackson and Phoebe, to be the best job in the world. As a dedicated community volunteer, Katie has served on the boards and committees of many local nonprofit organizations, including the Women's Endowment Fund, Akron Community Foundation, Love Akron, the Akron Art Museum, and Junior Leadership Akron. During her tenure on the Women's Endowment Fund Advisory Board, Katie chaired the fund's signature "For Women, Forever" event and its biennial Forum on Women and Girls. Prior to moving to Akron, Katie worked in various marketing and operations roles in Latin America. She is a graduate of Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and Catholic University Quito Ecuador.

The mission of the Women's Endowment Fund is to uplift women and girls by funding programs that significantly impact their well-being, now and forever. As a permanent endowment fund committed to improving the lives of local women and girls, it is the only fund of its kind in Summit County. Each year, the Women's Endowment Fund awards grants to nonprofits that support the health, safety, and economic empowerment of women and girls. To date, the fund has awarded nearly \$2.3 million in grants to nonprofits throughout the community. You can learn more at [womensendowmentfund.org](http://womensendowmentfund.org).

We invite you to make a difference in the lives of local women and girls by renewing or increasing your contribution as an event sponsor. Your commitment to this important cause will be recognized at the dinner, which is annually attended by more than 500 community leaders. Enclosed is a list of sponsorship opportunities for your consideration. Each level of sponsorship offers recognition across several of the fund's events and activities. For more information, please contact Affiliate Fund Event & Volunteer Coordinator Malia Rivera-Speer at [mrivera@akroncf.org](mailto:mrivera@akroncf.org). Thank you for your support of women and girls in our community.


Please respond by January 2, 2025, for special recognition.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Huff  
Chair, "For Women, Forever"  
Advisory Board Member

Donna Cerdas-Delgado  
Co-Chair, "For Women, Forever"  
Advisory Board Member

# 2025 Sponsorship Opportunities

 <b>WOMEN'S ENDOWMENT FUND</b> <small>An Akron Community Foundation Fund</small>	Community Partner \$25,000	Empower \$10,000	Uplift \$7,500	Inspire \$5,000	Support \$2,500
	<i>\$23,480 deductible</i>	<i>\$8,480 deductible</i>	<i>\$6,740 deductible</i>	<i>\$4,240 deductible</i>	<i>\$1,740 deductible</i>
<b>Exclusive Community Partnership</b>					
Representative invited to nonprofit site visit(s)	✓				
Representative invited to speak at WEF's annual celebration and biennial Forum on Women and Girls	✓				
<b>"For Women, Forever" Annual Celebration</b>					
Complimentary tickets	16	16	8	8	8
Logo or name included on all promotional materials, including invitation, evite and press release	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Acknowledgment in the program	Full page	Full page	Half page	Half page	Listed
<b>Biennial Forum on Women and Girls</b>					
Logo or name included on promotional materials, including evite	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Name or logo included on day-of materials, including program and presentation	✓	✓	✓		
Name or logo included on event registration site	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Presenting Sponsor recognition at event	✓				

All sponsors will receive VIP tickets to the "For Women, Forever" Annual Celebration. This includes an invitation to a pre-celebration VIP reception with an open bar. The keynote speaker will be in attendance at the VIP reception. Sponsors and their guests will each receive a ticket that can be redeemed for one free drink during the main program. A cash bar will be available to all guests after the VIP reception.

If you have questions about the sponsorship benefits, please contact Affiliate Fund Event & Volunteer Coordinator Malia Rivera-Speer at 330-436-5649 or [mriviera@akroncf.org](mailto:mriviera@akroncf.org). All phone calls and emails will be returned during normal business hours.



## Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsorships must be received by February 13, 2025, to be included in the event program. Sponsors who respond by January 2, 2025, will receive special recognition on the event registration page.

### Annual Celebration

March 20, 2025

Please select your preferred sponsorship level:

**Community Partner \$25,000** (exclusive to one)  
*\$23,480 is deductible*

**Empower \$10,000**  
*\$8,480 is deductible*

**Uplift \$7,500**  
*\$6,740 is deductible*

**Inspire \$5,000**  
*\$4,240 is deductible*

**Support \$2,500**  
*\$1,740 is deductible*

I/We cannot attend but would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of Katie Smucker, the 2025 recipient of the Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women.

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

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Name / Organization

Contact Name (if different)

---

Street Address

City/State/ZIP

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Phone

Email Address

### Preferred Payment Method

Reserve online at [akroncf.org/give/WEF](http://akroncf.org/give/WEF). Write "WEF Celebration" in the comments section.

Check made payable to Akron Community Foundation, with "WEF Celebration" in the memo line

VISA  MasterCard  Discover  This is a corporate card.

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Name as it appears on card

Signature

---

Card Number

Exp. Date

Please list the names and emails of your attendees:

Name	Email
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____

Please email [mrivera@akroncf.org](mailto:mrivera@akroncf.org) with the names of any additional attendees. Names must be received by March 13, 2025, to be printed on name tags. Or, list the names on a separate sheet and return with this form to:

**Akron Community Foundation**  
Women's Endowment Fund  
345 W. Cedar St.  
Akron, OH 44307  
Fax: 330-376-0202

**Logo inclusion for corporate sponsors: Please submit a black-and-white/grayscale AND a full-color PNG or EPS file** of your company's logo to [oeastly@akroncf.org](mailto:oeastly@akroncf.org) by January 2, 2025.

**Program Acknowledgments: Please send a print-ready black-and-white/grayscale PDF file according to your sponsor level to [oeastly@akroncf.org](mailto:oeastly@akroncf.org) by February 13, 2025.**  
Full Page: 5"W X 8"H; Half Page: 5"W X 4"H.

**Please note:** We gladly accept gifts from donor-advised funds and IRAs. However, per IRS regulations, sponsorships from donor-advised funds and IRAs cannot receive any benefits, including but not limited to event tickets, gifts, food, beverages and other items of value. If you plan to support the event with a gift from your donor-advised fund or IRA, please contact Deb Hoffman at 330-436-5614 or [dhoffman@akroncf.org](mailto:dhoffman@akroncf.org).

**Questions? Contact Malia Rivera-Speer at 330-436-5649 or [mrivera@akroncf.org](mailto:mrivera@akroncf.org).** All phone calls and emails will be returned during normal business hours.

*The Women's 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.*