

WOMEN'S ENDOWMENT

A fund of Akron Community Foundation

Fall 2004



Inspiring charitable giving and responsive grantmaking for women & girls in Summit County



Building the Future for Women and Girls Fund's 10th Anniversary Marks Banner Grantgiving Year

In 2004, the Women's Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation marked its 10th anniversary serving the women and girls of Summit County. To commemorate this milestone, it awarded grants totaling \$34,444 to four greater Akron nonprofit organizations. Each supports programs that benefit homeless teenage girls all over Summit County.

Akron Public Schools' Project

R.I.S.E. received \$4,500 for its photo literacy program, which was designed to help homeless teenage girls grades 9 - 12 gain self-esteem while challenging them verbally, artistically and emotionally.

For seven weeks, 18 young women met at various locales across the city to learn photography skills from artist Anitra Redlefsen and her husband, Dain. They examined shadows, the difference between light and dark, and how to use sameness and difference in photography.

After keeping journals and taking photographs with disposable cameras, participants wrote stories about how they viewed themselves as women in the world and how it related to the photos they took. The result was more than 60 pieces of original art, which were displayed Sept. 10 - Oct. 8 at Akron's Charles Mayer Studios in an exhibit titled "PhotoSynthesis: Me, My World and Me as a Woman in the World."

While the artists' works spoke volumes about their lives, only their initials accompanied them. In one piece of art, 17-year-old S.W. reflected on her past. "My life to me is like a work of art," she wrote. "It tells a story of its own, a story of good and bad times. It's also something I can say belongs to me and only me."

Sixteen-year-old C.G. gave visitors a glimpse into her dreams for the future. "There are times when I think about acting, but only from a distance, just like in the picture," she wrote. "Maybe someday I will get closer and try my skills at acting. Until then," she wrote, "I'll keep taking pictures."

While reflecting on the young women who took part in the photo literacy program, Redlefsen said she enjoyed watching their perceptions change about themselves, the world and what they are able to accomplish in that world. "I think (we) succeeded in



Mayer Studios displayed the works created during Project R.I.S.E.'s photo literacy program. The exhibit was titled "PhotoSynthesis: Me, Myself and Me as a Woman in the World."

creating a safe place for them to talk, be heard, express and create," she said, pointing to the comments of one young participant who summed up the program quite aptly:

"Just take a look at all the art we have created that is hanging on the walls. We are girls that range in age from 13 - 17. Just think of what we might do in the future when we are older."

Girl Scouts of the Western Reserve was awarded \$10,000 for its Decisions and Positive Futures programs, both of

See *Building the Future*, page 3



'04 Mother's Day Campaign Honored More Than 200

The 2nd Annual Mother's Day Campaign was a great success, raising a total of \$9,370 for the Women's Endowment Fund. This year, 75 people sent Mother's Day cards to 231 women. Each informed its recipient that someone had made a contribution to the fund in her name. The 2005 campaign is expected to kick off during the final weeks of March. Watch your mailbox for details, or call 330-376-8522 for more information. ♦

A Letter From the President

What a year it has been! This newsletter is filled with articles recapping highlights of the past year. First, I'd like to welcome new board members Karen Lefton, Judy Nicely, Marty Robb, Patti Satterfield and Ilene Shapiro. We bid a fond farewell this year to Cathalynn Kammer Thompson, who served the WEF as a board member for nine years. Cathalynn continues to be involved on the grants advisory committee, proving her strong commitment to WEF and women and girls.

WEF and the community lost a dear soul when Sister Libby Schaefer passed away in December. She was a gentle but mighty force for social justice in general and for women in particular and she is sorely missed.

On October 12, WEF held its forum to discuss the highest priorities for building the future for women and girls in our community. The forum is hosted every two years to bring together individuals who serve women and girls. For the second time, Fifth Third Bank was our generous corporate sponsor for this important dialogue. We were joined by an energized group of women who

jumped in and participated fully, sharing their unique perspectives on what is happening in our community for women and girls and what is needed. This is always an event where new alliances are made and collaborations are born. WEF has a fresh, informed outlook as we begin our annual process of requesting proposals and reviewing them.

You probably are well aware of the financial challenges the nonprofit community faces in these tough economic times. A number of important programs have struggled and, in some cases, closed their doors. What losses for all of us! This was one of the factors that resulted in the WEF advisory board's decision this year to open proposals to any program that benefits women and girls.

In the past, as the endowment fund grew, we had modest amounts of money to grant, so it made sense to set a funding focus and invite proposals that addressed an identified area of need. As the fund nears its first million dollars, WEF can make more significant grants and as programs struggle just to survive, we want to know about



opportunities to support them, regardless of their particular projects.

Please remember the Women's Endowment Fund as you consider your year-end contributions. Many of you helped establish the fund, many more of you have helped to grow it; it will take all of us to get to our first million dollars.

Carrie Herman, President
Women's Endowment Fund

Help Us Reach Our Goal

The year end is fast approaching and we need your help to reach our \$1 million goal. If you have not made a donation this year, please consider a new or renewed gift or pledge to Women's Endowment Fund using the enclosed envelope. Together, we can help make Summit County a better place for women and girls.

Women's Endowment Fund Advisory Board 2004



Officers pictured left, from left to right: Louise Kuhns, vice president, Carrie Herman, president, Marilyn Jacob, secretary

Advisory Board: Carla P. Barner, Marie Covington, Ruth Dean, Kimberly Haws Falasco, Carrie Herman, Marilyn Jacob, Louise Kuhns, Karen Lefton*, Judy Nicely*, Sue Peirce, Martha (Marty) Robb*, Patti Satterfield*, Ilene Shapiro*, Carla Sibley and Janet Kendall White*

*new members

Building the Future, from page 1

which encourage at-risk girls to make healthy, informed decisions that will positively impact their lives.

Combined, the Decisions and Positive Futures programs aim to prevent chronic homelessness among young women. Their outreach staffs meet with 400 homeless teenage girls at Safe Landing Youth Shelter, Summit County Juvenile Detention Center and Hudson Youth Development Center. In small-group settings, they discuss the many options available to the girls and the consequences of their actions.

Much of the programming is educational and preventative in nature, and includes tips for dealing with relationships and other basic life skills. The Girl Scouts also enlisted the aid of subject-matter experts to discuss these issues with the girls. One such organization is Planned Parenthood, representatives of which speak to girls and provide them with the most accurate, up-to-date information on birth control and STD prevention.

The Decisions and Positive Futures programming is also a regular component of Pregnancy Care of Summit County's Teen PREP curriculum.

Shelter Care Inc. received \$11,944 for the Living Legacy Project. This is the second year Women's Endowment Fund has funded the Living Legacy Project.

Cleveland actress, producer and educator Rasheryl L. McCreary started the program in 1995 to transform the lives of

individuals by having them examine their personal, family and cultural histories. Through oral history, research, creative writing and theater arts, participants are empowered to make better choices that will build stronger lives and legacies for themselves and their families.

Participants at Safe Landing Youth Shelter gathered oral histories from one another regarding their most significant life experiences. The girls then created prose, poetry and songs based on those experiences, which - with the help of McCreary - they wove into a performance script. The program culminated with a final stage production with the girls acting out their hardships, struggles and successes.

Debra Manteghi's arm of the Akron Public Schools, Project R.I.S.E, served as Shelter Care's partner organization in last year's Living Legacy Program. She sees the performances as being both cathartic and challenging events. "I (am) moved to tears hearing about the struggles these women encountered in their addictions and recoveries, and the power they found to act it out on a stage," she said.

For the participating group of young women, Safe Landing staff believe the seven sessions of Living Legacy were as effective as one or two years of counseling.

For more information on the program, visit www.livinglegacyproject.org.

The University of Akron was awarded \$8,000 for a research project titled

"Caregivers' and Advocates' Perceptions of Homeless Teenage Girls: Identifying Approaches to Promote Success In School." It is Phase II in the study "A Situational Analysis of Homeless Teenage Girls in Akron: Identifying Approaches to Promote Success in School," which Women's Endowment Fund also financed.

The purpose of this second phase is to find out what caregivers and advocates of homeless girls view as being the key factors affecting their success in school. Through the eyes of these specialists, Professor Karen Flynn of the University of Akron Department of Classical Studies, Anthropology and Archaeology sought to identify the factors that make homeless teenage girls vulnerable to homelessness in the first place; the obstacles that have negatively affected their school experiences; the factors that have enhanced their school experiences; and the most promising opportunities for expanding Project R.I.S.E. and Safe Landing's outreach to better facilitate these girls' success in their respective schools.

Flynn is currently interviewing 25 caregivers and advocates with questions that parallel those she asked girls during her first study. Once finished, she hopes the combined results can help the Akron Public Schools identify how to provide better outreach to homeless teenage girls.

Flynn says that she looks forward to completing the study in spring 2005, and will share the final results with the Women's Endowment Fund. ◆

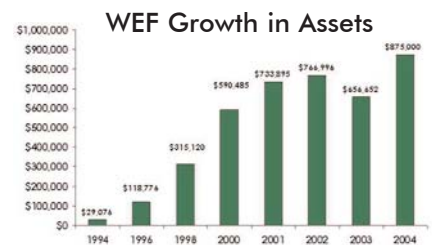
Growth is Steady as Fund Reaches Ten-Year Mark

Ten years ago, 106 women each pledged \$1,000 to start a fund that would serve women and girls in Summit County. Today, the endowment has grown to more than \$875,000.

Women's Endowment Fund received \$53,633 in gifts and more than \$24,400 in new pledges during the past year. It gave grants to four organizations for a combined total of more than \$34,000. That nearly doubled the amount it distributed in 2003. Since its inception, the Women's Endowment Fund has awarded more than

\$132,000 in grant money.

Women's Endowment Fund Vice President Louise Kuhns pointed out that the more the fund grows, the more it can help the women and girls in the community. "As the Women's Endowment Fund celebrates its 10th year, the board is working energetically to reach the \$1 million goal," Kuhns said. "The fund is having an impact on women and girls in the Akron community, and reaching the goal will create additional funds to invest in the programs that help build better futures for this constituency." ◆



◆ Memorial & Tribute Giving ◆

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Tribute gifts to the Women's

Endowment Fund for:

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Mary Booth

Susan M. Pallini

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Martha Booth by

Mary Booth

Susan, Michael and Matt Pallini

Mary Booth by

Jody Bacon

Martha Booth

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Joan and Bob Nau

Susan, Michael and Matt Pallini

Joan E. Booth-Weitendorf

Vicki and Sydney Booth by

Mary Booth

Vicki Lex Booth by

Susan, Michael and Matt Pallini

Martha E. Boyle by

Jody Bacon

Robert P. Brecht by

Ilene Shapiro

Ann Amer Brennan by

Jody Bacon

Mary Ann Jackson

Anne Brennan by

Ann Amer Brennan

Beth Brennan by

Ann Amer Brennan

Kathleen Brennan by

Ann Amer Brennan

Nancy J. Brennan by

Ann Amer Brennan

Jeanette Grasselli Brown by

Jerry F. Wareham

Kaeth Brown by

Libby Jacobs

Mary Beth Bruggeman by

Amie L. Bruggeman

Pamela Bruggeman by

Amie L. Bruggeman

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Pat McKay

Jennifer L. Conn by

Jody Bacon

Dr. Georgette Constantinou by

Laurie B. Zuckerman

Sharon Coudriet by

Becky S. Michael

Marie and Harry Covington by

Cinda, Jim, Benjamin and

Justin Dehner

Marie E. Covington by

Jody Bacon

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Ruth Graham Fowler by Judith L. Fowler	Judith L. Fowler	Ruth Lemire by Deb Lemire	Carol Parish by Cynthia Parish
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Robin Grace by Sharon and Kevin Silver	Rita M. Johnson by Laurie B. Zuckerman	Linda McDonald by Jody Bacon	Dr. Andrew and Janice Raynor by Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Estep
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Susan Herbster by Becky S. Michael	Louise M. Kuhns by Jody Bacon Marie E. Covington	Evalyn Neff by Leianne Neff Heppner	Ilene Shapiro by Ruth Dean Kimberly Shapiro
Carrie Herman by Jody Bacon Ruth Dean Ellen Whitehill	Chris Lackney by Martha Booth	Mary Lou Neff by Leianne Neff Heppner	Eleanor Shapiro by Ilene Shapiro
Elizabeth Herman by Carrie Herman	Anthony and Katie Lancianese by Ilene Shapiro	Jeanne Nelson by Froncie Repetti	Kimberly Shapiro by Ilene Shapiro
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Beverly Hillegas by Susan Paserba	Allison Bruggeman Lawrence by Amie L. Bruggeman	Judy Nicely by Ruth Dean	Kris Shultz by Pat Shultz
Jennifer Hills by Martha Hills	Alison Bruggeman Lawrence by Amie L. Bruggeman	Kim Nott by Jody Bacon	Debbie Silver by Sharon and Kevin Silver
Lisa Hills by Martha Hills	Martha Leeson by Laura Leeson Novak	Helen Okolish by Lisa Okolish Miller	Sandra R. Smith by Jody Bacon Patty Graves
Maggi Hinman by	Karen C. Lefton by Ruth Dean	Molly Opas by Dr. Sandy Auburn	
	Deb Lemire by Carrie Herman	George P. Paidas by Ilene Shapiro	
	Marie Lemire by Deb Lemire	Susan M. Pallini by Mary Booth	

Charitable Gift Annuities: Income for Today, a Gift for Tomorrow

The Women's Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation is pleased to offer you a new giving opportunity: one that provides you or someone you love with lifelong income while creating a lasting way of supporting the women and girls of Summit County.

A charitable gift annuity, in partnership with Akron Community Foundation, presents you with immediate tax benefits and also benefits the Women's Endowment Fund. Fixed rates range from 5.7 percent to 11.3 percent, depending on your age.

Setting up a charitable gift annuity is easy. Make your tax-deductible gift of cash or securities to the Women's Endowment Fund. Then, your gift will be invested and you will receive fixed payments for the rest of your life. The unused portion of your gift will go to the Women's Endowment Fund upon your death to continue your support for women and girls in our community. Annuitants must be at least 60 years old for an immediate annuity or 45 for a deferred annuity. You may purchase a charitable gift annuity with a gift of at least \$10,000. And, you will gain the satisfaction of knowing the causes you care about most today will be supported forever.

For more information about a charitable gift annuity, call Sandy Auburn at Akron Community Foundation today at 330-376-8522. ◆



Possible Annual Annuity Payments for a \$20,000 Gift

Age	Annuity Rate	Annual Income	Tax Deduction
60	5.7%	\$1,140	\$5,995
65	6.0%	\$1,200	\$6,894
70	6.5%	\$1,300	\$7,732
75	7.1%	\$1,420	\$8,731

This chart is for illustrative purposes only. Contact Akron Community Foundation at 330-376-8522 so we can prepare a proposal specifically for you.



At the 2004 annual meeting, 2002 International Scientist of the Year Dr. Jeanette Grasselli Brown discussed inspiring girls in math and science. Above she is pictured with annual event chair Marty Robb.

Annual Meeting to Take Place April 27

Mark your calendars for the Women's Endowment Fund Annual Meeting, which will take place April 27 at the Hilton Akron-Fairlawn.

The 2005 meeting will wrap up our 10th anniversary celebration and will build on our theme: Building the Future for Women and Girls.

This year's featured speaker will be Janet Leach, professional in residence at the Kent State University School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Leach became the first female editor of the Akron Beacon Journal in 1998. During her five-year tenure as editor, the paper received the "Best Newspaper in Ohio" award three times. It also became known for its community efforts, including its Millennium Fund for Children support and a well-known fundraising campaign to purchase a fire truck for New York City firefighters after 9/11.

Last year's meeting drew nearly 200 people, so make your reservations early. Call Akron Community Foundation at 330-376-8522 for more information. ◆

Forum Offers an “Open-Space” for Discussing Women’s Issues

More than 50 women from varied interests and walks of life convened at Shaw Jewish Community Center of Akron Oct. 12 with one common purpose: building a better future for women and girls in our community.

For the first time, this year's forum participants utilized a meeting process called Open Space Technology, a self-organizing technique that encourages flexibility and open communication. Board member Janet White and past president and founding member Laurie Zuckerman served as the forum's facilitators.

Attendees developed their own topics for discussion based on what they saw as being the most pressing needs of local women and girls. Subjects included single parenting, children and the arts, teenage girls and sexuality, and encouraging young women to become volunteers.

Ronda Page, fundraising director for the Akron Black Law Enforcement Officers Association, led the forum's discussion on domestic violence.

"I think the Open Space format was very creative, (and) allowed for collection of facts, statistics and ideas from many organizations," Ronda said. "What I liked most about this event was that we became one body...to provide additional insight regarding popular issues women



More than 50 attendees sat in a circle during one of the forum's two general sessions, conducted by Janet White and Laurie Zuckerman.

and girls are faced with. As a result, we recognized (they) are constantly changing."

And those changing needs are the reason Women's Endowment Fund established the forum. President Carrie Herman explained that while it originally was created to set the agenda for the year's funding needs, the forum provides additional benefits. Many times, women from various organizations meet each other for the first time and establish collaborative projects as a result.

"Collaboration is one of our favorite things to encourage in the community," she said. "Wonderful things happen when good women come together."

Herman also announced that the fund's advisory board would open up the grant proposal process to all programs,

not just those that meet a particular focus. She encouraged attendees to visit the Women's Endowment Fund section of the Akron Community Foundation Web site for the 2004 request for proposals and grant guidelines. Proposals will be due in December, and recipients will be announced in March.

Finally, she stressed the importance of making a donation to the fund.

"We are happy to have more than \$40,000 to give away each year," Herman said, an amount that has steadily grown as the fund's assets increased to a current \$875,000. "We hope to reach our first \$1 million by the annual meeting," she said, while pointing out that no donation is too small. "Every dollar counts," she said.

Fifth Third Bank sponsored the event. Senior Vice President Sue Milligan was on hand, and praised the Women's Endowment Fund for bringing local women together for a worthy cause. "I really applaud this organization and its focus on the priorities of women and girls," she said.

If you too are interested in supporting the Women's Endowment Fund, please call 330-376-8522. ◆

Tribute Giving from page 5

Tamara Smith by
Susan Paserba
Barbara Sobey by
Carrie Herman
Ann Marie Spirk by
Carol Garren
Mrs. Robert Stafford by
Kathy L. Stafford
Rainy Gates Stitzlein by
Patty Graves
Jane Swinehart by
Dr. Sandy Auburn
Linda Tarson by
Jody Bacon
Anne Terry by
Anonymous
Cathalynn M. Thompson by
Claudia C. and A. Ronald Kammer

Melissa Thomson by
Ruth Dean
Sarah Tomlinson by
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Grant History



1995 - Young Women's Christian Association, for the Women's Personal Enrichment program, \$2,500
1996 - Akron Art Museum, for "A History of Women Photographers" preview reception, \$1,000; Continuation of the Women's Personal Enrichment program, \$2,500
1997 - Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Summit County, for household items for women establishing independent living, \$500
1999 - Black Women on the Move, for expansion of the Phenomenal Young Women's Saturday Enrichment program, \$2,500; Western Reserve Girl Scout Council, for the Teen Drop-In Center, \$2,500; Women's Endowment Fund – "A Celebration of Girls" community event, \$2,500; Young Women's Christian Association, for expansion of the Y-Teens program, \$2,500
2000 - The Junior League of Akron, Ohio Inc., for a joint forum on relationship aggression, \$5,000; University of Akron, for "Children's Career Day: An Interactive Experience," \$2,400; Western Reserve Girl Scout Council, for the Teen Drop-In Center, \$3,000; Women's Network Inc., for production of the play, "Mother Wove the Morning," \$1,298.75; Young Women's Christian Association, for a Youth Adolescent Development program, \$3,000
2001 - Caring Communities of Summit County, "Destiny Starts Today: Financial Fitness for Life," \$8,500; Family Services of Summit County, for the program "Having Fun with Money," \$9,500; Western Reserve Girl Scout Council, for the Teen Drop-In Center, \$4,000
2002 - Caring Communities of Summit County, "Destiny Starts Today: Financial Fitness for Life," \$7,000; Community Financial Education Inc., for the 2002 financial planning series "Women & Money," \$5,000; Family Services of Summit County, for the program "Having Fun with Money," \$9,500; Western Reserve Girl Scout Council, for the Teen Drop-In Center, \$6,000
2003 - Project R.I.S.E., Akron Public Schools, for the Living Legacy Project, an oral history project for girls residing at Safe Landing, \$6,110; Shelter Care, for a youth development workbook for residents, homeless and high-risk youth, \$3,016; University of Akron, for "A Situational Analysis of Homeless Teenage Girls in Akron: Identifying Approaches to Promote Success in School," \$8,300
2004 - Girl Scouts of the Western Reserve, for the "Decisions and Positive Futures" programs serving girls, \$10,000; Project R.I.S.E., Akron Public Schools, for the photo literacy project for teenage, homeless girls, \$4,500; Shelter Care Inc., for The Living Legacy Project at Safe Landing Shelter for Girls, \$11,944; The University of Akron, for "Caregivers' and Advocates' Perceptions of Homeless Teenage Girls: Identifying Approaches to Promote Success In School," \$8,000

The mission of the Women's Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation is to provide grant funding to organizations and programs in the Greater Akron area that support women and girls, to serve as a catalyst for needed projects and to assist women in their growth as philanthropists.



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Women's Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation

This newsletter is published semi-annually by Akron Community Foundation. The Women's Endowment Fund is an affiliate of Akron Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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