A Heartwarming Story

When she received the $8,000 check from the Herbert and Julie Guenther Family Charitable Fund at Ashland County Community Foundation, Associated Charities Executive Director, Chris Box, was blown away. It was enough money to fund the organization’s “Coats for Kids” program for the entire season.

The Guenthers recently decided to use distributions from their donor advised fund to provide annual support for the “Coats For Kids” program.

“Our passion is helping disadvantaged youth, so when ACCF President/CEO Jim Cutright suggested directing dollars from our donor advised fund to ‘Coats For Kids,’ it seemed like a great fit,” Herb Guenther said. “We love knowing our fund will sustain this vital program year after year.”

As an expression of gratitude for the couple’s generosity, Associated Charities is renaming the program “Guenther Family Coats For Kids.”

“For us, it’s not really about having our name on something, but we do hope our willingness to do this publicly inspires others in our community to find ways to make their own impact,” Guenther said.

And that’s exactly what happened. Inspired by the Guenthers’ story, another donor family reached out to inquire about other needs at Associated Charities. When Box described a need for kids’ shoes, the donor pledged to fund the organization’s footwear purchases annually.

Thanks to these two donor families, Associated Charities can take advantage of sale prices to stock up on clothes, shoes and coats strategically. In the past, the organization would purchase items piecemeal as cashflow allowed.

More importantly, these gifts will ensure no Ashland County children will have to go to school without appropriate clothing or outerwear.

“What a wonderful testament to the generosity of our community, and to the good we can do together as a community foundation,” Cutright said. “We cannot people who care with issues that matter, and that’s why we’re Here For Good!”

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Latest Grants & Scholarships

26 Community Grants totaling $245,221 were awarded to organizations serving Ashland County.

11 Teacher Mini-Grants totaling $8,798 were awarded to local educators.

7 Strategic Grants totaling $82,000 were awarded in the first half of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

86 Donor Advised Fund Grants totaling $358,009 were awarded in the first half of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Find complete lists of recent grant and scholarship recipients at www.ashlandforgood.org.
Cutty’s Corner

GREETINGS, FRIENDS...

The team here, at your community foundation, continues to be amazed at the spirit of generosity that exists in Ashland County!

In the December-ending quarter of 2021, a record 28 new named funds were created, bringing the total number of funds under our stewardship to 514.

How is that level of growth possible? Simple really, it’s all about that passion and that we will carefully manage permanent endowment assets, ensuring that their wishes are met well into the future.

Beyond that long-term thinking, though, is the excitement of seeing your charitable dollars at work right now, which is why “donor advised funds,” which serve as your family’s charitable grantmaking instrument, have become the fund of choice for many of our donors.

In fact, 10 of the 516 donor advised funds we hold have been established in just the past 10 years, including 8 of those funds in the past quarter.

While we will always encourage sustainability of organizations and programs through endowment, we recognize that community progress is an ever-changing landscape, and that fluidity and flexibility is key in charting our course.

At ACCF, we take pride in our donors being catalysts for good in our community, and the role that our board and staff can play in helping turn visions into reality. If you’d like to learn more about how you can join the “ACCF Family” of those making a difference, feel free to reach out. If you’re already one of more than 7,200 donors who are assisting us in improving the quality of life in Ashland County, thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

Have a Great Day!
Jim Cutright

100 Years Loved

On New Year’s Eve, we welcomed the pleasure of the 100th birthday of Ashland community mainstay and ACCF founding president, Dr. Luella Garber Ford.

Dr. Ford marked the milestone by receiving guests at a celebration hosted by the Brethren Care Wellness Center, founded by her husband Dr. Carter Ford and led by its first founding president, Dr. Lucille G. Ford.

On New Year’s Eve, we had the pleasure of celebrating the 100 years of a life well-lived.

Congratulations, Dr. Ford, on your milestone milestone of 17 years. Dr. Ford is admired as a trailblazer and leading a visionary. Meanwhile, her impact on the individuals in our community, organizations and programs and projects serving local youth.

In Loving Memory

Hearts are heavy at ACCF following the passing of one of our trustees, and a great supporter of the Foundation, Jay Myers. Jay died on December 8, 2021—his 65th birthday.

Jay served as a trustee for 15 of ACCF’s 27 years and was a close friend of ACCF President/CEO Jim Cutright.

“Jay was humble, kind and generous with both his time and resources, but he also had that fighting spirit that made our time together so enjoyable,” Cutright said.

Jay was Vice President and minority owner of Simonson Construction Services, Inc., where he spent 22 years supporting the growth and development of his hometown. He also served on many boards in Ashland, including the boards of Brethren Care Village, Trinity Lutheran Church and the Ashland Cemetery Association. ACCF held a memorial service for Jay on December 16. He is survived by his best friend and love of his life, Liz.

In Loving Memory

Making an IMPACT

High school students on our IMPACT Youth Council have enjoyed learning about philanthropy through hands-on experiences in their community. This spring, the council will make a grant award from the IMPACT program to support local youth.

Noteworthy

• Kristin Agee, our Chief Program Officer, was inducted into the Ashland County Women of Achievement in November. In addition to her leadership role at ACCF, Kristin sits on the boards of Rotary Club of Ashland and Park Street Brethren Church, and is a member of the United Community Investment Committee and as treasurer for the Ashland County Humane Society.

• Our Women’s Fund’s Mother’s Day Card initiative will make a donation to our Women’s Fund by April 28 and designate contributions to the ACCF-endorsed Second Sanctuary Fund as a memorial for the woman or family our Mother’s Day card is remembered.

• We are accepting applications for Lives Educational loans through June 15. These competitive loans are for Ashland County residents of Ashland County high schools who have a GPA of 2.5 or higher and a household net worth less than $50,000. Loan amounts are interest-free during the time the student is in college and are payable in addition.

• Lori Gottfried was the recipient of the Women’s Fund’s 2021 Lori Kettner Gottfried Education Award. We extend our congratulations to our community’s outstanding, who has been known as a pillar of the ACCESS homeless shelter program.

Donor Feature

For Cam and Jordan Peden, one of the last stops on the way out of Ashland was among the most meaningful.

The couple was busy preparing for a January move to Portland, Maine, where Cam accepted a job as a U.S. Navy officer. They made space for both in their schedule and in their budget to visit a donor advised fund at Ashland County Community Foundation.

“Ashland was always great to us. It’s important that we share those feelings back,” Cam said. “We’re like having a legacy, the right thing to do, especially in the hands of an organization we trust strongly. ‘We think the ACCF share is incredible, and we are proud to play a small part in that’”

The Pedens say they look forward to adding dollars to their fund in the coming years, as well as to using their fund distributions to support their favorite charitable causes.

For more information about the benefits of donor advised funds or to set up your own fund, contact Jim Cutright at 419-281-4733 or cutty@ashlandforgood.org.

Given Back

In 27 years, ACCF has given back $20,855,576 to our community.

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