

Latest Grants

30 Community Grants totaling \$263,085 were awarded to support programs and projects benefiting Ashland County residents.

23 Fall semester Teacher Mini-Grants totaling \$22,921 were awarded by ACCF to educators serving Ashland County schools.

5 Fall Semester Teacher Mini-Grants and 6 other grants totaling \$79,903 were awarded by Ashland City Schools Foundation.

83 Strategic Grants totaling \$393,473 were awarded in the first half of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

114 Donor Advised Fund Grants totaling \$389,199 were awarded in the first half of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Find complete lists of recent recipients at www.ashlandforgood.org.



Phone: (419) 281-4733 | Fax: (419) 289-5540
Email: accf@ashlandforgood.org | ashlandforgood.org
300 College Ave, Ashland, OH 44805 | Monday - Friday: 8:00am - 4:00pm

PLEDGE CARD

Yes, I/we believe in the work of the Foundation. I/We subscribe the sum of \$ _____ for the following:

	Ambassador (\$10,000+)	Supporter+ (\$1,000-9,999)	Friend+ (\$1-999)	
ACCF General Endowment	_____	_____	_____	Total Gift \$ _____ Paid Herewith \$ _____
ACCF Ford Operations Endowment	_____	_____	_____	Pledge Term year _____ Balance \$ _____
ACCF Community Grants Endowment	_____	_____	_____	To Be Paid: ____ Annually ____ Other _____
ACCF Unrestricted	_____	_____	_____	Name* _____
ACCF Women's Fund	_____	_____	_____	Address _____
ACCF Cutty Fund/Youth Empowerment	_____	_____	_____	Signature _____ Date _____
Ashland City Schools Foundation	_____	_____	_____	Memorial Name _____
Individual Fund*	_____	_____	_____	Honoree Name _____

*List charity/charities for approved distribution(s) _____
+Limited to funds held by ACCF

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please make gifts payable to Ashland County Community Foundation and mail to 300 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805



Ashland County Community Foundation
300 College Ave.
Ashland, OH 44805

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Here for Good

Spring 2025

Howes make gift in honor of family

ASHLAND - Ashland was truly a special community for Joyce Lutz Howe to be raised. Joyce credits her family and the quality of life she experienced growing up in Ashland as reasons to have recently made an honorary gift to the Ashland County Community Foundation.

Joyce and her husband, Roger's gift of \$1 million was used to establish the Joyce Lutz Howe Fund, in honor of the Howard and Eunice Decatur Lutz family, as a significant component of the foundation's Community Grants program, meeting the needs of dozens of local nonprofit agencies each year.

"My parents were civic-minded contributors to the Ashland community," Joyce said. "This is an extension of their beliefs and appropriately so honors them, as well as my sister and brother. Roger and I both believe 'giving back' is important and appropriate."

Joyce's father was a prominent local attorney and former Ashland mayor, and her mother was a schoolteacher. Her family includes one sister, the late Jayne Shipman, and brother, Edwin.

"Ashland was a wonderful city for me, my sister and my brother to be raised - very nice people, supportive philanthropic community citizens and firms made it a special place for our entire Howard and Eunice Lutz family," she said.



Joyce recalled Ashland also was a place where she received an excellent education with inspirational teachers and uplifting activities.

"This was coupled with the building of long-lasting friendships with many contemporaries," she said.

Joyce grew up to become the co-valedictorian of Ashland High School in 1953. She went on to study and major in fine arts with a graphics specialty at Miami University, where she graduated with honors in 1957.

After marrying Roger, of Wakeman, they raised four children: their late daughter, Barbara, Karen Howe Gingold (Dr. Michael), Mary Howe Davis (Palmer) and son Edwin (Juliet). They now enjoy being grandparents to nine grandchildren.

Art has played a large role in Joyce's life. Beyond her personal art career specializing in watercolor, mixed-media and oil painting, Joyce threw her support behind the arts in a variety of ways. She was a docent for the Cincinnati Museum of Art, served as a member of its board of trustees, and had long been (continued inside)

Inside this Issue



Joyce Lutz Howe's major gift honors family, boosts Community Grants



Cutty's Corner - 30th Anniversary Grants a sweeping success



Ashland City Schools Foundation joins ACCF as affiliate

Website
ashlandforgood.org

Phone
(419) 281-4733

Address
300 College Ave, Ashland, OH 44805



Cutty's Corner



WARM GREETINGS, FRIENDS...

Ever have an idea that turned out better than you could've possibly imagined? Well, then, I have quite a story for you!

Last July, as we approached our 30th year of existence

and with a desire to develop new named endowment relationships, we decided to offer a series of \$5,000 matching grants for such funds to be created.

Our thinking was that, if we could establish thirty such donor relationships over the course of our entire July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 fiscal year, we'd be doing great.

Little did we know the appeal this offer would have...wow! Thirty such new funds were created in the first six weeks. So, we thought, let's add additional unrestricted dollars to the kitty and see if as many as fifty new funds could be created. That goal, remarkably, was achieved by September 30!

Howe (Continued)

a supporter of the Taft Museum, The Contemporary Arts Center and Arnoff Center for the Arts. Joyce, who is particularly recognized for her work with watercolors, has had work shown and sold in galleries in Cincinnati, Chicago, Petosky, MI, and Boca Grande, FL.

Joyce and Roger have also given back to Miami University. Their gifts to the school have created the Howe Writing Initiative in the Farmer School of Business and the Roger and Joyce Howe Center for Writing Excellence, for the purpose of elevating students' writing skills. The Howes believe nothing in education is more important than developing a clear, concise and persuasive writing ability.

Though Joyce has lived in Maine, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, before settling in Cincinnati, she has never forgotten Ashland.

"This gift is an expression of appreciation to Ashland for my good fortune of having been a part of it during the formative years," Joyce said

Joyce and her husband chose to direct their gift to the Community Grants program because they were attracted to its purpose. These grants serve to assist area non-profit organizations and their clientele in a variety of ways, with

After huddling internally, we decided to continue with the offer, allowing it to be extended through the traditional December 31 "season of giving." To our amazement, this initiative has resulted in an incredible 93 new funds being added to our umbrella of stewardship!

We were especially pleased that an additional fourteen of our nonprofit partner organizations now have endowment funds for long-term support!

As we contemplate the impact that will result from growing our base of community support to this extent, we are humbled by the spirit of philanthropy being demonstrated by those who have placed their trust in ACCF's board and staff to use their gifts wisely to benefit the Ashland County community.

Much thanks to all of you who have continued to support us over the years, and "Welcome!" to our many new "ACCF Family" members...the more, the merrier..!

Have a great Spring/Summer and we'll see you out and about!

Jim Cutright
President/CEO

application periods twice annually.

Recent gifts to the fund, such as the Howes', enable more organizations to meet the ever- growing needs of the Ashland Community. The Howes are among nearly 60 donors that enable distributions from the foundation's Community Grants fund.

"We are extremely grateful to our donors like the Howes, who help make the vision of these nonprofits a reality," said Jim Cutright, ACCF President/CEO. "Our donors understand and appreciate that this type of fund gives our foundation's trusted staff and board members the ability to always be meeting current community needs, by making grants to great local programs and projects every year. At the same time, each individual fund can bear the donor's own name, or the name of an honoree, to create a lasting legacy."

Nonprofit organizations may apply for Community Grants twice annually by March 1 and September 1 at www.ashlandforgood.org/grants. Individuals, families and businesses interested in setting up a named fund to benefit the Community Grants program may contact Cutright at (419) 281-4733 or cutty@ashlandforgood.org.

ACCF-ACSF Affiliation

An affiliate agreement between Ashland County Community Foundation and Ashland City Schools Foundation now allows the latter to be able to better meet the needs of the City Schools while enabling the Community Foundation to increase its reach in the community.

Incorporating into the Community Foundation's operations will allow ACSF to focus its efforts on fundraising and meeting the needs of Ashland City Schools. ACSF now operates as an advisory committee to the Community Foundation. ACCF benefits by maximizing its outreach.

"In working together, we're able to make our grantmaking dollars stretch as far as possible and make the greatest impact – focusing on each entities' priorities and strategizing to meet as many needs as possible, in the greatest way possible," President/CEO Jim Cutright said.

ACCF and ACSF have worked closely together prior to this agreement, with ACCF previously holding an agency endowment



fund for ACSF. A few years ago, the organizations began working together to administer their previously-separate Teacher Mini-Grant programs. Over the years, the relationship has grown until there was talk of affiliation.

With this affiliation, donors will have the expertise of the ACCF to make sure that their dollars can be invested efficiently and with maximum benefit.

Board Member Spotlight



Brenda Uselton joined the Board of Trustees in July of 2023, and serves on ACCF's Finance Committee and Women's Fund Steering Committee.

Prior to joining the ACCF Board of Trustees, she served as vice chair and chair of the community foundation's Women's

Fund Steering Committee.

She also led the Women's Fund's initiative to build Foundations Community Childcare, which offers high quality, affordable childcare to local employees. Brenda is a founding board member of FCC, where she began as board secretary in

2022 and now serves as vice president of the board.

In addition to working as the CFO/Treasurer of BCU Electric, she oversees Mount Vernon Estate Events, of which she led the creation after hearing a need for such a venue in the community.

She is devoted to her family as a mom, wife, and grandmother, and at Grace Church where she volunteers as a greeter, and the community, where she is actively involved in many facets.

Her career success and community involvement has earned her an Ashland County Woman of Achievement award in 2022.

She and her husband Ben, who is president and founder of BCU Electric, have four adult sons and daughters-in-law, and are proud grandparents to (soon-to-be) nine grandchildren.

Project Pavise

Ashland County Community Foundation joined Ashland City Schools Foundation and Samaritan Hospital Foundation in awarding grant dollars to facilitate an innovative new idea called Project Pavise.



Ashland City Schools offered the project last fall to aid fifth and sixth grade students in being safer when using the internet.

Project Pavise was created following a response from anonymous student surveys collected in November 2023, as students in fourth through twelfth grades heard presentations from National Internet Safety speaker Jesse Weinberger. She reported that higher device time corresponds with higher anxiety and depression.

Among the goals of Project Pavise is empowering children to make good choices regarding their use of personal mobile devices and parents to keep their children accountable for these decisions.

Thanks to the grant support, students received boxes with stickers, a t-shirt, and a pair of journals for a parent and their child. The journals were designed to facilitate conversation between children and their parents.

Additionally, the students and parents received weekly videos and daily texts that reinforced the journal content. Parents could also reset their kids' devices and retrain their suggested viewing in YouTube and similar apps.

The fifth grade campaign ran from September through October, with the sixth grade campaign running from October through November.

The project was named "Project Pavise" because the goal was to provide students with a shield to protect themselves from the dangers of the internet. A pavise was a shield used in the Middle Ages to protect the body.

Find out more information at <https://projectpavise.org>.

Given Back
In 30 years, ACCF has
invested \$35,040,153
in our community.

Noteworthy

- We extend congratulations to Dorothy Stratton, our Women's Fund Steering Committee's 2024 recipient of the "Dr. Lucille G. Ford 'Freedom from Selfishness' Award."



- Congratulations to our President/CEO Jim Cutright for receiving the Jim Lingenfelter Service Award at the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Annual Meeting.

- Ashland City Schools Foundation recently dedicated the new Dr. Lucille Garber Ford Hallway inside AHS to honor Dr. Ford's contributions to Ashland City Schools and the Ashland community. Dr. Ford, who passed away last September, was a 1940 AHS graduate, was founding president of ACCF and served many years on the board of ACSF.

- At the end of February, a new look and feel was rolled out for our Advisor Portal. If you are a fund advisor and have not yet set up your online access but would like to, please email Brittane Reep (brittaney@ashlandforgood.org) for assistance.

- Ashland City Schools Foundation is accepting nominations through March 31 for inductees into its 12th class of Ashland High School Distinguished Alumni. Find the form at ashlandforgood.org/acsf.

- The Women's Fund Mother's Day Card Initiative is underway. If you make a donation to our Women's Fund by April 20 and designate one or more honorees, we will send a card to the woman being honored, or the family of the woman being remembered, the week of Mother's Day.

- Our Women's Fund is accepting grant applications from nonprofit organizations with programs or projects benefiting Ashland County Women. Apply by May 15 at ashlandforgood.org.