

New ACCF endowment fund to benefit Brethren Care employees

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A fund to benefit the educational plans of Brethren Care Village (BCV) employees has been established at the Ashland County Community Foundation (ACCF).

"We are happy to announce that the first fund of our new fiscal year was started by a local family with a connection to Brethren Care Village," stated Jim Cutright, executive director and CEO of the Ashland County Community Foundation.

The Brethren Care Village Employees' Educational Fund was established by the McBurney family. Dean McBurney was a patient at Brethren Care Village's Wasen Rehabilitation Center. In appreciation of those who cared for Dean, his adult children established the new fund to benefit BCV employees.

"Our Dad received wonderful care at the Wasen Center. Dad was able to discuss educational plans and goals with several of the employees there -- many advancing their skills while working full-time and raising families. We hope this fund will assist those gaining additional education to keep up with the latest in health care," stated Margaret Ann Hess, Dean's daughter and a resident of Ashland. "My sisters and brother all live out of state, in larger communities. They were overjoyed to know that our Dad was receiving excellent care right here in his own community at the Wasen Center."

Suellen Scarff (Laguna Niguel, California), Donald McBurney (Raleigh, North Carolina) and Jayne McBurney (Garner, North Carolina) also co-established the fund.

Troy Snyder, CEO of Brethren Care, commented, "Our appreciation for this gift can't be expressed sincerely enough in words alone, by our organization, its Board of Trustees, but in particular by the employees that this will positively affect for many years to come. Mr. McBurney's gift is so in keeping with our original mission, 'A Community of Caring', and as a result of this gift and others, we hope to continue building our employees' knowledge and skills to better themselves, our Brethren Care Village community and the Ashland community at large. It's with much appreciation and gratitude that we acknowledge community leaders, like Dean, stepping forward to lift up our community, one individual at a time."

The income from the Brethren Care Village Employees' Educational Fund will be distributed annually by ACCF to Brethren Care. BCV currently assists employees with educational expenses, but it is hoped that the additional distribution will help even more employees.

"Others may wish to contribute to this fund at the Ashland County Community Foundation and assist BCV employees in furthering their health care education. Contributions of any amount to honor an employee or resident of BCV, or to honor or memorialize a friend can be made by anyone, at any time," said Cutright.

Dean and Marge McBurney, parents of the founders of the fund, were educators and involved in leadership development their entire lives. Although the McBurneys previously established a Donor Designated fund at ACCF several years ago to support local charities, Brethren Care was not one of the organizations named at the time.

"This new endowment fund was something we talked to our Dad about prior to his death. He was all about education, and had special appreciation for students that were working while going to school. When the four of us talked to him about doing something in appreciation of his caregivers, he encouraged us to set up this educational fund at ACCF," explains Hess.

If you are interested in learning more about Endowment Funds, Donor Designated Funds, Scholarships, or other options to support organizations that have meant much to you or your family during your lifetime, please contact Jim Cutright or Kristin Aspin at the Ashland County Community Foundation at 419-289-4733, or visit the Foundation's website at www.accommunityfoundation.org.