



For Immediate Release  
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## Foundation announces \$25,000 'Community Choice' grant opportunities

ASHLAND – In celebration of its 25th Anniversary, Ashland County Community Foundation is calling on local charitable organizations to dream big.

“What will make Ashland County even better? What does our community need? These are the questions we want people to be thinking about when they submit proposals for our next round of grants,” said Kristin Aspin, ACCF’s Chief Program Officer.

The Foundation is offering three \$25,000 “Silver Anniversary Community Choice Grants” for programs or projects designed to impact Ashland County youth, women and seniors. One grant will be awarded in each category.

For the first time in ACCF history, members of the community will be invited to choose the grant recipients through an online voting process.

“We think of ourselves as the Ashland County *community’s* foundation, so we want to empower our community with a voice and a choice in directing these grant dollars,” ACCF Executive Director James Cutright said.

Any 501(c)(3) or qualifying charitable organization (nonprofit, educational institution, government agency, church, etc.) with a new or enhanced program or project that will impact youth, women or seniors in Ashland County may apply.

To be considered for a Silver Anniversary Community Choice Grant, a qualifying charitable organization must submit a letter of inquiry on ACCF’s website, [www.accommunityfoundation.org](http://www.accommunityfoundation.org), by 11:59 p.m. April 15.

An ACCF committee will review the letters and ask qualified applicants whose programs or projects meet the grant criteria to send full proposals by June 1. The committee will then choose finalists in each category.

The committee will be looking for grant proposals that meet the following criteria:

- The program/project must impact youth, women or seniors in Ashland County.
- The program/project must address a need in Ashland County.
- The program/project must have a vision for continuation or continued use.
- Collaborative programs/projects are encouraged.

Community voting will take place online July 10-July 20. Members of the public will be invited to vote for one finalist in each category.

Grant recipients will be chosen by popular vote and announced at Ashland County Community Foundation's Silver Anniversary Celebration Dinner August 20.

To ask questions or to schedule an interview with ACCF staff, contact Kristin Aspin, Chief Program Officer at [kaspin@accommunityfoundation.org](mailto:kaspin@accommunityfoundation.org) or 419-281-4733, or contact Mindy Howman, Executive/Grants Administrative Assistant at [mhowman@accommunityfoundation.org](mailto:mhowman@accommunityfoundation.org) or 419-281-4733.

**About ACCF's Silver Anniversary:** The Community Choice Grants are just three of the many "Silver Anniversary Grants" Ashland County Community Foundation is making this year in celebration of ACCF's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The foundation kicked off the special grant-making season by awarding three \$5,000 Founding Agency Partner Grants to Ashland County Cancer Association, Ashland YMCA and Hospice of North Central Ohio.

Then, ACCF offered an agency challenge grant opportunity, which allows non-profits to receive a \$5,000 matching grant if they contribute or raise \$5,000 for endowment. Eight local non-profits are participating in the challenge.

In February, ACCF provided strategic grants for special projects in each of Ashland County's eight villages.

Additional grants will be announced in the coming months. The Silver Anniversary season will culminate in a Silver Anniversary Celebration Dinner August 20.

**About Ashland County Community Foundation:** Ashland County Community Foundation advances philanthropy and improves the quality of life in Ashland County by supporting charitable activities, providing and administering planned giving programs, and serving as responsible stewards of scholarship, as well as individual and organizational funds for specific charities. ACCF has over \$60 million in invested assets and has awarded over \$15.3 million in scholarships, grants and distributions.

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