

# ANN MILLER OF ASHLAND HONORED AT WOMEN'S FUND EVENT

By Mike Buettner / T-G Staff Writer  
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Ann Miller, center, is the 2017 recipient of the Lucille G. Ford "Freedom from Selfishness" award presented by the Women's Fund of the Ashland County Community Foundation. Pictured are, from left: Jan Archer, 2015 award recipient; Nancy Kopp, 2016 award recipient; Miller; Lucille G. Ford, foundation president emerita; and Connie Marble, Women's Fund Steering Committee chair. - Submitted photo/Ashland County Community Foundation

A woman who embodies the term "tender-loving care" is the 2017 recipient of the Lucille G. Ford "Freedom from Selfishness" award. Named for the Ashland County Community Foundation's founding president, Lucille G. Ford, the award was presented Tuesday night at the annual gathering of the foundation's Women's Fund to Ann Miller of Ashland.

"I thought about this lady and there's so much I can say about her," 2016 recipient Nancy Kopp said. "She lovingly took care of her mother. She takes care of all the flowers at our church, the plantings outside, very lovingly, never complaining. She takes care of her husband and she took care of her children. And she's such a loving person. The TLC, tender loving care, really describes this person."

Miller, who has been involved with Trinity Lutheran Church, Junior Achievement, 4-H and Ashland Evening Lions Club, among others, said she didn't think of herself as doing anything out of the ordinary. "What an honor," she said. "This is marvelous. I don't think of myself as anything special. You just do what you need to do and you look around and see what else might need to be done. You make a list. You go down the list as far as you can each day and start over the next day.

“I’m flabbergasted by this because I don’t think I do anything that I don’t think anybody else will do but thank you very much for the honor. I appreciate it.”

Ford said Miller was being very modest. “She only gives you a fraction (of her philanthropy),” Ford said as she turned pages one, two and three of Miller’s nomination form. “And this is all small type. This woman is absolutely phenomenal.”

The “Freedom from Selfishness” award was established in 2013 by the Women’s Fund to recognize an Ashland County woman who demonstrates a long-standing commitment to philanthropy by giving of her talent, time or resources. Nancy T. Davis received the inaugural award in 2014, Janet L. Archer received the award in 2015, and Kopp received the award in 2016.

Ford said the name of the award came from a search of the dictionary. “That word philanthropy is a tough word,” she said. “What does it really mean? In our eager search, we went to dictionaries and we came across this phrase: Philanthropy is freedom from selfishness.

“It lets us have choice in this country and our philosophy of this foundation. We believe in the freedom of choice. It is so important and when you add the absence of self-focus, the freedom from selfishness, it just let’s you begin to think, ‘What can I do next that might be of value?’”

And that’s one thing that distinguishes men from women, Ford said. “Men do the most wonderful, possible things but women do the impossible,” she said.

Also during Tuesday’s ceremony at Ashland University’s John C. Myers Convocation Center, Women’s Fund Steering Committee vice chair Joy Reep announced the 2017 recipients of Women’s Fund grants. Reep said in 12 years of the program, 61 grants totaling \$98,418 have impacted 6,965 women and children.

This year’s grants were awarded to 11 organizations. Receiving a total of \$17,427 were:

- American Red Cross Lake Erie/Heartland Chapter to provide CPR classes to women residing at Safe Haven Domestic Violence Shelter.
- Ashland Care Center to purchase technology equipment to enhance counseling sessions.
- Ashland City Schools to purchase health care modules for girls in the STEM program.
- Ashland County Cancer Association to purchase LiveStrong organizational guides and planner sets for clients.
- Ashland County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to provide accommodations for 10 women in recovery for the Breaking My Boundaries conference in Columbus.
- Catholic Charities to purchase materials to be used by Pathways Peer Support participants.

- Hospice of North Central Ohio to provide funds for the bereavement coordinator to secure trauma counseling certification.
- North Central Workforce Alliance to help fund a daylong program for sixth-grade girls and their parents to explore career options.
- Olive Tree Care to provide equipment for an after-school program and storage that meets fire safety codes.
- Rape Crisis Domestic Violence Safe Haven to provide funds for a therapist to receive eye-movement desensitization and reprocessing training and certification.

Cheyenne Taylor also was introduced as the first recipient of the Women's Fund scholarship award. Taylor is attending Knox County Career Center to earn her LPN.

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