

Aspin's 20 years with Community Foundation honored with endowment



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The Ashland County Community Foundation honored one of its own by presenting Kristin Aspin with a \$10,000 endowment fund at its annual donor reception on Wednesday.

ACCF Executive Director Jim Cutright invited Aspin, Lanie Hartge, Mindy Howman and Brittaney Reep to be recognized for their service at the community foundation. As the chief program officer, Aspin is responsible for overseeing the grant-making programs, but started out 20 years ago working closely with Lucille Ford, the founding president of the foundation.

“Apart from Dr. Ford, no one has been more key to our success than Kristin Aspin,” Cutright said. “Our board of trustees has designated ... a permanent endowment fund to be forever known as the ‘Kristin Aspin Honorary Fund.’”

Cutright said Aspin assisted the growth of the community foundation all while pursuing an undergraduate degree, a master’s degree in social work and raising three sons.

“It’s been an absolute joy and a pleasure to be with this foundation,” Aspin said. “The team that we have is remarkable. All you donors are wonderful, you make coming to work every single day wonderful.”

Aspin will have the ability to designate what kind of fund she wants to make out of her endowment.

“It can be donor advised, donor designated, a scholarship ... a grant-making fund and then use it for whatever I’m passionate about,” she said. “With three little boys, there are a lot of things with children and youth ... that I am passionate about.”

Cutright announced the 2017-18 annual report would be distributed, and she recapped the fiscal progress the foundation had made.

“Thanks to our donors, an amazing all-time high of 43 different endowment funds were created in the last 12 months,” Cutright said.

The ACCF currently has 433 different endowment funds with 6,772 donors, totaling \$12.8 million given back to the Ashland community through grants, scholarships and individual fund distributions.

Last year, 211 scholarships were awarded to area students, 32 of which went to Ashland University. ACCF scholarships totaled \$2.3 million from 2017 to 2018.

Also in the 2017-18 period, the community foundation awarded 11 IMPACT Youth Grants totaling over \$8,000; three strategic grants totaling \$25,300; and 28 Community Grants for over \$200,000.

Cutright thanked all the donors in attendance and referenced the foundation’s efforts to plan for future generations, saying ACCF planted a “small forest” in endowment funds to ensure that those who follow in the future will be able to continue the tradition.

He expressed his belief that the foundation’s goal was to improve all aspects of the Ashland community and surrounding areas, thus benefiting as many people as possible.

“If we can build a stronger United Way or a stronger symphony orchestra, a stronger Kroc Center, our community benefits. It’s really important to understand that we are a community’s foundation,” Cutright said. “We don’t compete with these entities, we complement them.”

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