Community foundation receives highest accreditation

Ashland County Community Foundation recently received accreditation with the nation’s highest standard for philanthropic excellence.

National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations establish legal, ethical, effective practices for community foundations everywhere.

“Meeting the National Standards benchmarks is a rigorous, comprehensive process,” said Christina Gonzalez, chair of the Community Foundations National Standards Board. “This accreditation is a significant accomplishment that indicates Ashland County Community Foundation demonstrates a commitment to transparency, quality, integrity and accountability as it carries out its mission.”

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. With over 500 community foundations already accredited nationwide, the program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.

“This is critically important to our donors,” said Jim Cutright, Ashland County Community Foundation executive director. “When people make a charitable bequest or establish a fund, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to manage the investment wisely, honor their charitable wishes and, in some cases, provide lifetime income to a loved one. The National Standards accreditation says our house is in order. Also, we are especially proud that ACCF is one of only 29 of the 100+ community foundations in Ohio that are compliant with National Standards.”

Ashland County Community Foundation works to meet critical community needs and support local causes, including supporting the arts, providing educational opportunities through its significant scholarship program, assisting with the needs of women and youth and investing in community progress.

“Grantmaking is a lot like investing,” said Ken Milligan, Ashland County Community Foundation board chair. “We need to assess risks, weigh potential gains, diversify assets, monitor performance and operate fairly. With our National Standards accreditation, you can be assured that we’re doing just that.”