CREATING A TEMPLATE FOR SUCCESS

ACCF is pleased to announce that Brittany Reep has joined the staff at the Ashland County Community Foundation, as of February 1, to become its Chief Financial Officer, a newly-created position.

Reep is a Certified Public Accountant, with extensive experience, having worked most recently as a senior accountant for two years at Whitcomb & Hess in Ashland and at Crowe Horwath in Columbus for six years, where she served as audit manager working closely with many non-profit agencies. She is an alumnus of Leadership Ashland and has served as a trustee on the United Way of Ashland County board. Brittany is a graduate of Miami University, and lives in Ashland with her husband, Joe, and two children.

ACCF’s board of directors approved the creation of this new three-day-per-week position at its October 2016 board meeting, after Executive Director Jim Cutright mapped out a staff support strategy that included several changes.

“Our growth rate over the past few years has been phenomenal and has given us an opportunity to build a sound administrative support base for the future. ACCF is in its 22nd year, but is quite young in terms of a community foundation. Many of our peers in surrounding counties have been in existence for fifty-plus years, with their examples providing us with models of how a mature organization is structured”, said Cutright.

Another primary staff change has long-time employee, Kristin Aspin, moving into the position of Chief Program Officer, where she will have more targeted responsibility for the Foundation’s grants programs, fitting well with her training, as she holds a master’s degree in social work.

“Apart from Dr. Lucille Ford, our founding president, no one person has been more critical to our success than Kristin. Many of the processes that we have in place have been created by her and she is relishing the opportunity to focus more on programming, while also reducing her hours to enjoy more of a work/life balance”, Cutright stated.

ACCF utilizes its staff in a very efficient manner as all, except Jim Cutright, are part-time employees.

Additional staff shuffling includes Lanie Hartge’s role expanding into that of Educational Programs Director, having managerial responsibility for ACCF’s significant scholarship program, as well as its Hess (College) Loan Fund. Executive Assistant Mindy Howman’s role also has been broadened to include providing assistance with grants administration.

Other highly-skilled, independent part-time contractors are used to fill gaps in administration, as is the case with Ginny Telego, who serves as Diversity Programs Director with oversight of ACCF’s IMPACT Youth Council and coordination of its Women’s Fund. Local residents Dan Wierbiki and Allan Andersen have long provided, respectively, web content management and website development for ACCF on a part-time subcontracted basis.

IN THIS ISSUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 Notes from the Executive Director</th>
<th>3 Scholarships/College Loans Available</th>
<th>4 LGF Award Nominations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Template for Success- Continued</td>
<td>3 Young Difference-Makers</td>
<td>5 Activities/Events/Pledge Card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Grants Awarded</td>
<td>4 Women’s Fund</td>
<td>6 Board Member Profile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.accommunityfoundation.org
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CUTTY’S CORNER)

This issue’s cover story demonstrates our commitment to strengthening ACCF’s organizational structure. While our mission to “advance philanthropy” includes building capacity in the local agencies which we serve through stewardship and grantmaking, it’s important that the Foundation builds administrative capacity, as well, to be effective in providing long-term benefit to our community as a whole.

As of December 31, 2016, an incredible 377 individual endowment funds have been created over these past 21-1/2 years of our existence. As we look ahead, we are constantly searching for ways to expand the impact in Ashland County of community assets, with which we’ve been entrusted.

Some of our goals for the next few months include maximizing the potential of our donor-advised funds, by expanding opportunities for grant review. We hope to create new ways to assist those that we call our “Partner Agencies”, whose organizational endowment assets we hold, with attracting planned gifts. Additionally, we continue to look for key collaborations in our community to leverage resources wherever possible. We look forward to sharing our progress in these areas, as 2017 promises to be another milestone year in our history.

As always, we’re extremely grateful for the support of our donors and the confidence that you’ve shown in your community foundation. Many of you receiving this newsletter may now reside outside Ashland County, but I’m always amazed at how many of you remember our community with your charitable giving.

In our Conference/Board Room, we have a “Donor Map”, displaying gifts originating from 44 different states, each representing a connection to Ashland County. Nearly every week I have the opportunity to speak with someone, who recalls an inspiring quality of life while they lived here, that now wants to invest in the future of our community and to continue a legacy of giving.

There’s a saying: “It’s only work, if you’d rather be doing something else.” I wouldn’t.

Thanks for allowing me to serve in this capacity.

TEMPLETE FOR SUCCESS - CONTINUED FROM COVER

“Each of the ladies in our office is a mother with young children and enjoys the flexible work schedule and the opportunity to serve in these important capacities. We feel by building a template, with the establishment of these specific duty assignments, that as ACCF grows, these roles will develop into more full-time positions, as our employees’ life situations may allow them to expand into these slots as needed”, Cutright stated.

ACCF currently holds assets of approximately $36 million, providing stewardship for over 375 individual endowment funds and has re-invested more than $10 million into the Ashland County community from the earnings of these funds.

Dr. Andy Stein, chairman of ACCF’s board of trustees, stated, “We are extremely grateful to our donors and agencies to be entrusted with these community assets and couldn’t be more excited about having someone as highly-credentialed as Brittaney Reep being added to our administrative team. On top of that, Cutty has certainly been the right person at the right time to guide the organization through this growth period. He has provided leadership in all the key areas, including handling deferred maintenance issues with our building, analyzing fee structures and distribution models, building important relationships with other community foundations, improving upon our agency partnerships and creating a solid staff support system. The board is optimistic that the Foundation is well-positioned for the future.”
**GRANTS AWARDED**

**2016-17 MINI-GRA NT RECIPIENTS, 13 educators, $7,701.98**

Lisa Blackley, Ashland Middle School, *Kicked! A Bullying Prevention Program*  
Lisa Bowersock/Adam Kime, Mapleton Middle School, *Literature Comes Alive*  
(ARTSDREAM)  
Kendra Carnegie, Loudonville High School, *Plasma Cutter*  
Kara Edgell, Mapleton High School, *Novels for Spanish Classroom*  
BreAnn Fennell, Reagan Elementary School, *Go, Go, Gadget*  
Linda Hawk, Taft Intermediate School, *Ukulele in the General Music Classroom* (Brown Vocal Music Fund)  
Laurie Keller, St. Edward School, *Exploring the Indigenous Culture of Uganda*  
Andrew Lewellen, Hillsdale Middle School, *Theatre Follow Spotlight* (ARTSDREAM)  
Jeri Millhouse, Ashland Middle School, *Today a Reader; Tomorrow a Leader!* (ARTSDREAM)  
Tari Mole, Ashland City Schools, *STEM for Kindergarten*  
Kevin Valentine, St. Edward School, *Jewish Culture in Music and Heritage*  

**2016-17 Community Grants, 25 grants, $153,766.80**

Ashland Area Economic Development, Inc. - Executive Pulse Software/licensing agreement  
Ashland Christian Health Center - Education/Awareness/Community Marketing & Outreach  
Ashland County Agricultural Society - Restrooms at Ashland County Fairgrounds  
Ashland County Cancer Association - Office equipment  
Ashland County Sheriff's Office - Dive team equipment  
Ashland Symphony Orchestra - Performance equipment  
Community Help Mission - Roofing renovations  
Hayesville Opera House Restoration Board, Inc. - Digital projection equipment  
Heart of Ohio Council, Boy Scouts of America - Cub Scout recruiting materials and supplies  
Kiwanis Club of Ashland - Technological and bookkeeping equipment  
Loudonville-Perrysville School Foundation, Inc. - Match to create ACCF Endowment Fund  
Mission to Amish People - Building costs for New Beginnings Housing Ministry  
Olive Tree Care - Equipment & programming for after school care  
Park Street Preschool - Multifunction School Activity Bus  
Perrysville Firefighter's Association - Rescue equipment  
Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp - Summer camp cost assistance  
Polk-Jackson-Perry Fire Department - Magnetic microphone clips  
Sullivan Township Trustees - Wreaths for Veteran’s Day program  
United Community Club Districts 1 & 2 of Mohican Twp. - Building and roof repairs  
UPWARD Basketball & Cheerleading-Youth Development Program - Scholarship awards fund

Grandfathered Organizations - Ashland Public Library, Ashland University, First United Methodist Church, University Hospitals/Samaritan Medical Center, and United Way of Ashland County.

**ATTENTION STUDENTS**

**SCHOLARSHIPS available**

for current year graduating high school seniors, recent graduates, non-traditional students and more

Apply online at  
www.accommunityfoundation.org

**Application deadline:**  
March 15

**HESS EDUCATIONAL LOANS available**

Interest-free loans of $2,000 or more for current Ashland County residents or graduates of Ashland County high schools

Apply online at:  
www.accommunityfoundation.org

**Application deadline:**  
June 15

**NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS**

**DO YOU KNOW A YOUNG “DIFFERENCE-MAKER”..?**

Nominate Ashland County Students who are “Making a Difference”  
By Giving of their Time, Talent or Treasure

Criteria: Initiative, Community Benefit, Generosity

Award Categories: Grades K-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12

**NOMINATIONS DUE: MARCH 31, 2017**  
Recognition event: May 9, 2017

Nomination forms available on ACCF website or by calling 419-282-4733

www.accommunityfoundation.org
WOMEN’S FUND

Women’s Fund Annual Gathering
This past fall, approximately 60 women gathered to recognize the impact of the ACCF’s Women’s Fund. The Women’s Fund Annual Gathering served to bring Women’s Fund donors and friends together to learn about the Women’s Fund, hear highlights of the year, recognize current year grant recipients and present the Dr. Lucille G. Ford “Freedom from Selfishness” Award. To date, 43 grants totaling $80,990 have impacted 5,531 women and children in Ashland County, thanks to the generosity of 400-plus donors to the Women’s Fund.

Are you a female non-traditional student looking to get more education to move your life forward with a better job?
If so, we encourage you to apply for the new Women’s Fund Scholarship! The goal of this minimum $500 scholarship is to create opportunity for any female Ashland County resident who may need “a boost” to create a better life for herself and her family.
Apply at www.accommunityfoundation.org - Deadline to apply: March 15

Now Accepting Grant Applications
Non-profit organizations with programs and projects to benefit Ashland County women are eligible to apply for Women’s Fund grants. Application deadline is May 15. Application forms and information are available on our website or at the ACCF office.

The 2017 grants will be awarded this summer and announced at the Women’s Fund’s Annual Gathering in September.

Mother’s Day Cards
The opportunity to honor or remember the special women in our lives will be available again this year. Be watching your mail or check our website. New in 2017 - Online giving option will be available for sending your Mother’s Day cards.

The mission of the Women’s Fund is to create a permanent legacy that enhances the lives of Ashland County women.

www.accommunityfoundation.org

DR. LUCILLE G. FORD
“FREEDOM FROM SELFISHNESS” AWARD

Nancy Kopp was named the 2016 recipient of the “Freedom from Selfishness” Award, created and named in honor of Dr. Lucille G. Ford, the Community Foundation’s founding president.
Kopp was delighted to receive this award and shared that she has been truly blessed in her life with everything she has been able to do, but she has not been able to do it by herself. “I have behind me a great support system that keeps me going and they do their jobs, yet somehow I get the credit. Thank you so much for this,” she said. Kopp also added, “I feel that you cast your bread on the waters and it returns one hundredfold. Thank you.”

Kopp has volunteered as an usher for the Ashland Symphony Orchestra for 20 years and is a distinguished member of the Ashland County Historical Society where she serves as chair of its auction. She also finds time to volunteer her services within her church, Trinity Lutheran, and in the gift shop at University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center. Kopp has also donated an abundance of needed items to Associated Charities.

The Dr. Lucille G. Ford “Freedom from Selfishness” Award was created in 2013 by the ACCF’s Women’s Fund. Recognizing and honoring Dr. Ford, who defines philanthropy as “freedom from selfishness,” this award recognizes Ashland County women who demonstrate a long-standing commitment to philanthropy.

We are currently accepting nominations. Visit www.accommunityfoundation.org/LEARN/Freedom from SelfishnessAward to nominate a woman in our community who exemplifies a lifetime of philanthropy, a giving of self without reservation. Deadline to submit nominations is August 1.

The Award recipient will be recognized at the Annual Gathering in September.
ASHLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
300 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805
419-281-4733, Fax: 419-289-5540, Email: accf@accommunityfoundation.org, www.accommunityfoundation.org
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Pledge Card
Yes, I/we believe in the work of the Foundation.
I/We subscribe the sum of $_____ for the following.

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<th>Fund Type</th>
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<th>Fellow+ (≥$1,000-9,999)</th>
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<td>ACCF Youth Empowerment Fund</td>
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<td>Individual Fund*</td>
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Total Gift $___________ Paid Herewith $___________
Pledge Term _______ year Balance $___________
To be Paid: _____ Annually _____ Other _____
Name* __________________________
Address __________________________
Signature __________________________
Date __________________________
Memorial Name __________________________

*List charity/charities for approved distribution(s)________________________

*The names of Founders, Fellows and Legacies will be printed in our Annual Report as written above unless otherwise noted by you.

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please make gifts payable to The Ashland County Community Foundation and mail to 300 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.
_____ I have included ACCF in my will/estate plans. _____ Please tell me how I can include ACCF in my will/estate plans.

www.accommunityfoundation.org
BOARD MEMBER PROFILE - MR. CHARLES A. (AL) HOLDREN

Al Holdren became a member of the ACCF Board of Trustees in 2014. He currently serves on the Finance Committee, as its Chair, as well as the Nominating Committee.

Al grew up in Mt. Cory, Ohio. He has been involved in agriculture since receiving his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree from The Ohio State University. Prior to coming to Agri-Mark in Ashland, which became Town and Country Co-op 15 years ago, Al was the CEO at two other farm cooperatives. Al has been at Town and Country for 26 years. He will be retiring from this position in March of 2017.

In the past, Al served as Chairman of the Ohio Agribusiness Association and was a board member for the National Grain and Feed Association.

Al is a 1993 Leadership Ashland graduate and served as Chair on the Leadership Ashland Advisory Committee. Currently, Al is the Chair of the United Way of Ashland County Community Investment Committee. He also has chaired United Way’s campaign the last two years. He received Ashland Mayor Glenn Stewart’s Golden Oak award for 2014.

Al and his wife Vickie have 7 children, 10 grandchildren, too many dogs, and 22 chickens.

His favorite piece of advice to give people is to remember the 11th Commandment: “Thou shalt not take thyself too darn seriously.”