

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND
OF AKRON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



The Gay Community Endowment Fund (GCEF) of Akron Community Foundation promotes philanthropy that supports issues and programs benefiting the Akron area's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community as well as the entire greater Akron community. Founded in 2001 and directed by a volunteer advisory board, the Fund was one of the first ten public community-based GLBT philanthropic funds in the United States, and is the largest GLBT-oriented fund in the state of Ohio with a current fund balance of over one-half million dollars.

To date, GCEF has awarded over \$72,000 in grants to local non-profit programs and initiatives that serve as a catalyst for full participation of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in our community and make it a better place for all its residents. The Fund's interest areas include health, human services, youth, education, and arts and culture.

This past year marked a grant making record for the Fund with grants totaling \$32,994 awarded to nine greater Akron nonprofit organizations, including the largest grant in the fund's history: \$10,000 for the Akron Pride Center "Building Pride" capital campaign.

In addition to growing the Fund through gifts, bequests and investments, GCEF hosts the annual Sugar Plum Tour of Gracious Holiday Homes, enjoyed by up to 500 guests each December and raising over \$30,000 annually. For more information, visit www.gaycommunityfund.org.

nominated by
Akron Community Foundation