

THE GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND



A FUND OF AKRON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



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[www.gaycommunityfund.org](http://www.gaycommunityfund.org)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2006

***Our Mission***

*The mission of the GCEF is to provide grant funding to non-profit organizations and agencies in the greater Akron area that initiate and/or conduct programs or services that support or positively impact GLBT people and serve as a catalyst for full participation of GLBT people in our society.*

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Founded in 2001, the Gay Community Endowment Fund is a permanent philanthropic fund of Akron Community Foundation. The Fund provides grants to organizations and agencies in the greater Akron area that initiate and/or conduct programs or services that support or positively impact gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people and serve as a catalyst for full participation of GLBT people in our society.

The Fund promotes philanthropy within the GLBT and allied communities. In just five years, it has built a

fund balance of over one half million dollars through gifts, fundraising, and bequests. The earned income from this balance is distributed through annual grantmaking.

The interest areas of the fund include organizations, programs and services benefiting GLBT youth, the arts, health issues, operational needs and programming with a connection to the mission of the fund. The fund prefers to support organizations in which a small grant can make a big difference.

A SMALL GRANT  
CAN MAKE A  
BIG DIFFERENCE

Thanks to your tireless support, the Gay Community Endowment Fund has enjoyed a remarkable year of growth. I'm truly grateful to all our donors for their generosity and vision, most especially the Paul Daum estate's gift of more than \$350,000 and the Gill Foundation's \$25,000 Challenge Grant (which was supplemented by generous gifts from our own Claudia Bjerre and Peter Schofield to create a total challenge grant of \$35,000). In 2006, we grew the fund with another successful Sugar Plum Tour, an evening with David Sedaris at the Civic Theatre, and donations from friends old and new. The culmination of the year was the awarding of four grants to greater Akron organizations in support of programs and services benefiting our community.

At year's end, the fund stood at \$618,523, a figure that exceeded our wildest expectations. The income generated from this total and from continued donations in 2007 will give us the ability to fund more grants at higher dollar amounts than we have been able to do in the past.

But I believe we can do even better.

The immediate need is to meet the match of the current challenge grant, and I ask your support in making that a reality. However, the GCEF Advisory Board envisions a \$1 million fund, with tens of thousands more dollars available for the kinds of programs and services we have funded so successfully to date. That goal is certainly achievable, but only if all of us continue to give. I urge you to consider a special donation to the Challenge Grant, an annuity, a bequest or simple check. The gift you pledge will generate income in perpetuity, assuring a strong and vibrant GLBT community for many, many years to come.

Thank you for your generosity, your caring, and your determination to help make Akron a beacon of GLBT philanthropy.

Warm regards,  
Steve Schmidt

A REMARKABLE  
YEAR OF GROWTH

In 2006, the Gay Community Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation awarded grants totaling \$5,980 to four Greater Akron nonprofit organizations. The Akron Community Foundation board of trustees ratified the grants Friday, December 1, 2006 at its quarterly meeting.

The fund prefers to support organizations in which a small grant can make a big difference. As the fund balance has quickly grown, the GCEF is poised to begin making more significant grants in the years to come. Currently, one cycle of grants is awarded annually, with grant applications due by the second Friday in October.

**Diversity Alliance of Stark County – 2006**

**Amount: \$300**

*To support LGBT diversity awareness training for area domestic violence responders through a continuing education seminar for law officers, justice officials, attorneys, counselors, therapists and other service providers.*

**Fusion Magazine – 2006**

**Amount: \$2,000**

*For operating support and expanded circulation of Kent State University's award-winning student published magazine. Fusion provides insightful journalism about GLBT issues.*

**Portage Path Community Mental Health Center – 2006**

**Amount: \$1,680**

*To fully fund "GLBT Pride For Life," a new eight-week support and education program focusing on mental and physical health-related issues of the GLBT community.*

**Violet's Cupboard/Community AIDS Network – 2006**

**Amount: \$2,000**

*In collaboration with Community AIDS Network, to expand HIV counseling and testing services to partners of HIV positive individuals as well as testing to the general community.*

**Battered Women's Shelter – 2005**

**Amount: \$4,000**

*In collaboration with Greenleaf Family Services, for the Summit Anti-Violence Initiative Program, a domestic violence program specific to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender population.*

**Child Guidance and Family Solutions, Inc. – 2005**

**Amount: \$2,000**

*For gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender diversity awareness materials library and to address the mental health treatment needs of children and adults.*

**University of Akron Foundation – 2005**

**Amount: \$2,000**

*For "Queer Women Make History, Too." A series of presentations, including a concert by Holly Near, focusing on issues impacting the LGBT community.*

**Weathervane Community Playhouse – 2005**

**Amount: \$1,000**

*For the production of "Angels in America: Perestroika," a play portraying the human devastation caused by AIDS.*

**An Evening with David Sedaris**

When best-selling author and humorist David Sedaris spoke at the Akron Civic Theatre in April, 30 supporters of the GCEF enjoyed a private reception with him before his appearance. The event, organized by Christopher Hixson and Mitchell Kahan, raised over \$2200 for the fund. Afterward, Sedaris said, "It's amazing that a town like Akron has a gay fund this great. I was happy to help."

**Sugar Plum Tour**

The Fifth Annual Sugar Plum Tour of Gracious Homes welcomed over 400 visitors into some of the area's finest homes, lavishly decorated for the holidays. Tourgoers met Matt Fox, co-host of HGTV's Room by Room. Patron Party hosts Jack Jeter and Sarah Schultz opened their home, THE ANCHORAGE, to patrons.

The event raised more than \$24,000 for the GCEF, thanks to the hard work of 2006 Sugar Plum Tour committee co-chairs Kristine Mikolaczyk and Mark Williams, as well as committee members Annette Nicoloff, Brian Elter, Chris Hixson, Eric Jones, Jo Dangel, Rhonda Howell, Rick Krochka, Roberta DeBarr, Rosemary Reymann, Steve Schmidt and Tia Stathopoulos.



Diversity Alliance of Stark County Fusion Magazine Portage Path Community Mental Health Center Violet's Cupboard/Community AIDS Network Battered Women's Shelter Child Guidance and Family Solutions University of Akron Foundation Weathervane Community Playhouse

## GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS

### 2001-2005 GCEF Cornerstone Donors (\$5000 or more)

Claudia Bjerre  
Estate of Paul A. Daum  
Gill Foundation  
Prescott F. Griffith & Joel  
R. Wolfgang  
Harry E. Jackson  
Bruce G. Kriete  
Fred Martin  
John & Margaret McBride  
Peter Schofield

### 2001-2005 GCEF Founding Donors (\$1000 - \$4999)

Adolph Optical  
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Angel Falls Coffee  
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Jim Zwisler & Gary Zeller

### 2006 GCEF Cornerstone Donors \$5000 or more

Estate of Paul A. Daum  
Gill Foundation  
Peter Schofield

### 2006 GCEF Founding Donors \$1000 - \$4999

Fred & Laura Bidwell  
Cathy Chapman  
Jo Dangel &  
Diane Kovachik  
Prescott F. Griffith  
Mitchell Kahan &  
Christopher Hixson  
Gerald K. Larson  
Patricia J. Rubin &  
Theresa A. Smith  
Steven P. Schmidt  
Jim Zwisler & Gary Zeller

### 2006 Other Donations:

Adolph Optical  
Service Inc.  
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Diane Willoughby  
Elizabeth Wilson  
Jill Wodtley  
Tom & Patty Wolfe  
Joel R. Wolfgang &  
Associates, Inc.  
Mary Yeager  
Julie Zupke

## METHODS OF GIVING

The Gay Community Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation welcomes gifts in any amount from individuals, families, businesses and organizations. Consult your tax advisor to determine the best method of giving for you.

### Cash

*Cash gifts generally qualify for the maximum allowable income tax deduction. Checks should be made payable to the Gay Community Endowment Fund.*

### Securities or Real Estate

*When securities or real estate have been held for the required long-term capital gains holding period and then gifted to the fund, the donor can usually deduct the full fair market value as a charitable contribution and avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation.*

### Charitable Remainder Trusts

*Deferred gifts may be made to the fund in the form of a charitable remainder trust that pays a lifetime annuity to the donor, with all assets and income going to the fund at the donor's death.*

### Charitable Lead Trusts

*Conversely, a donor may create an immediate annuity interest for the fund for a period of years, with the remainder interest returning to the donor or (with the proper estate planning) passing to children or grandchildren.*

### Life Insurance

*By assigning ownership to the fund, the donor may receive an immediate income tax charitable deduction in the amount of the policy's present value. All premium payments thereafter made by the donor will also be deductible, and the full face value of the policy will be removed from the donor's estate.*

### Bequests

*This is probably the simplest and most common form of planned giving. Bequests to the fund are entirely free from federal excise tax and can, therefore, offer substantial estate savings.*

### Pooled Income Fund

*A donor may make a minimum contribution of \$5,000 and receive a pro rata share of the fund's income. Upon the death of the donor or other designated beneficiary, the remainder of the charitable gift is transferred to the fund.*

DONATE ONLINE  
www.gaycommunityfund.org

## GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND ANNUAL ACTIVITY STATEMENT

For the Period  
January 1, 2006 –  
December 31, 2006

REVENUE	
Daum estate contribution	\$380,724.13
Sugar Plum Tour (net of expenses)	24,199.22
Gill challenge grant	33,400.00
General contributions & pledges	12,002.19
Gain on investments	46,448.04
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$496,773.58</b>
EXPENSES	
Grant awards	(5,980.00)
ACF administrative fees	(1,519.93)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(7,499.93)</b>
Net change in fund balance	\$489,273.65
ADD: January 1, 2006 beginning fund balance	\$129,249.96
<b>Ending December 31, 2006 fund balance</b>	<b>\$618,523.61</b>

### 2006 GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND ADVISORY BOARD

Steve Schmidt, Chairman  
Claudia Bjerre  
Cathy Chapman  
Carol Dezso  
Scott Griffith  
Chris Hixson  
David Horowitz  
Diane Kovachik  
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Jerry Larson  
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