



# A New Path Forward

The African-American Community Fund 2024-25 Report



## A Message from the President

As I begin my first year as president of the African-American Community Fund, I am filled with deep excitement, renewed energy and a clear sense of purpose to carry forward the extraordinary legacy established by our founding board members, John E. Moore, Sr., and Lloyd E. Lewis, Jr. These two visionary leaders had an unwavering commitment that strengthened and uplifted the Dayton African-American community.

This past year, many of us have witnessed a concerning shift in our nation: one where the progress of African Americans and other marginalized communities has been challenged, and where rhetoric, policies, and systems have resurfaced that fuel inequity, division, and discrimination. These realities remind us that progress is never permanent; it must be protected, nurtured, and advanced. And because of that truth, AACF is moving with intentionality, unity and clarity to create a path forward that will address present issues facing our community.

Last year, AACF welcomed several new board members,

each bringing invaluable expertise in strategic fundraising, grantmaking, and community partnership. With our collective experience and shared passion, we are reimagining what is possible with the development of a strategic plan to better serve our community.

Additionally, we are streamlining our annual report to be more efficient; saving time and resources, but also increasing our focus on what matters - the legacy stories behind the AACF and our current impact to our community.

Together we are shaping a **new path forward**, one that honors our history, strengthens our present, and positions AACF to serve our community with even greater impact for generations to come.

**Richard L. Hairston, APR**

President, African American Community Fund



## About the Cover:

Greater Edgemont Community Coalition, a 2025 AACF grantee, and its recent cohort of incubator farmers. Learn more about its urban farming initiative and the impact this and other Black-led and Black-serving organizations are having on our region.

## New Charitable Checking Accounts<sup>SM</sup> (CCA)

The Baker, Bobyan, Burney Family Fund  
est. by Bonnie D. Baker-Tattershall

Dayton Impact Journalism Initiative  
est. by Eric Harmon

Tamala G. Moore & Family Fund  
est. by Tamala Moore

Alonzo Patterson II Fund  
est. by Alonzo Patterson III

Clarissa M. Patterson Fund  
est. by Clarissa Patterson

Donnie Saunders Memorial Fund  
est. by Donnica Hawes-Saunders

Note: For a full listing of AACF funds and fund descriptions, visit [aacfdayton.org](http://aacfdayton.org).

## AACF Legacy Donors

Dr. Gina Austin-Lewis

Mr. Darryln (Darryl) L. Bennett Sr.

M. Alice Callier

Ms. Faye Johnson

Ms. Carol Mason

Ms. Alvarene Owens

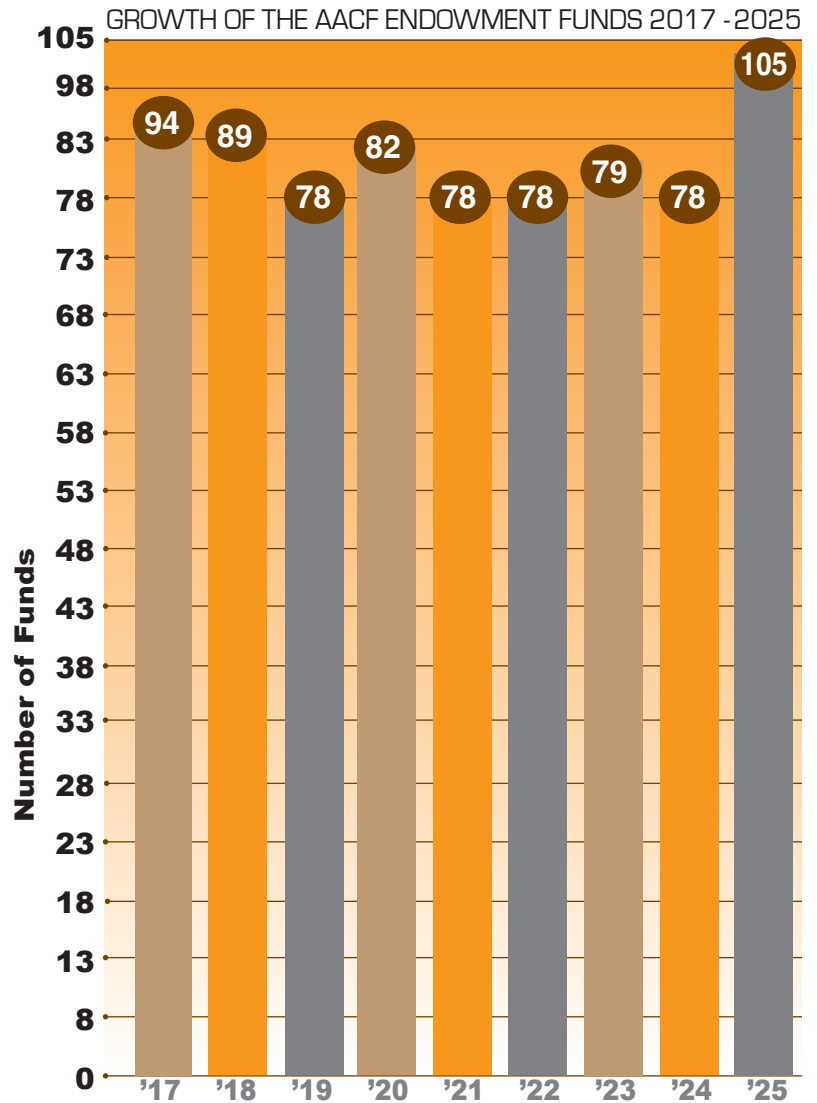
Ms. Pauline Puckett

Mr. Jerry N. Smith

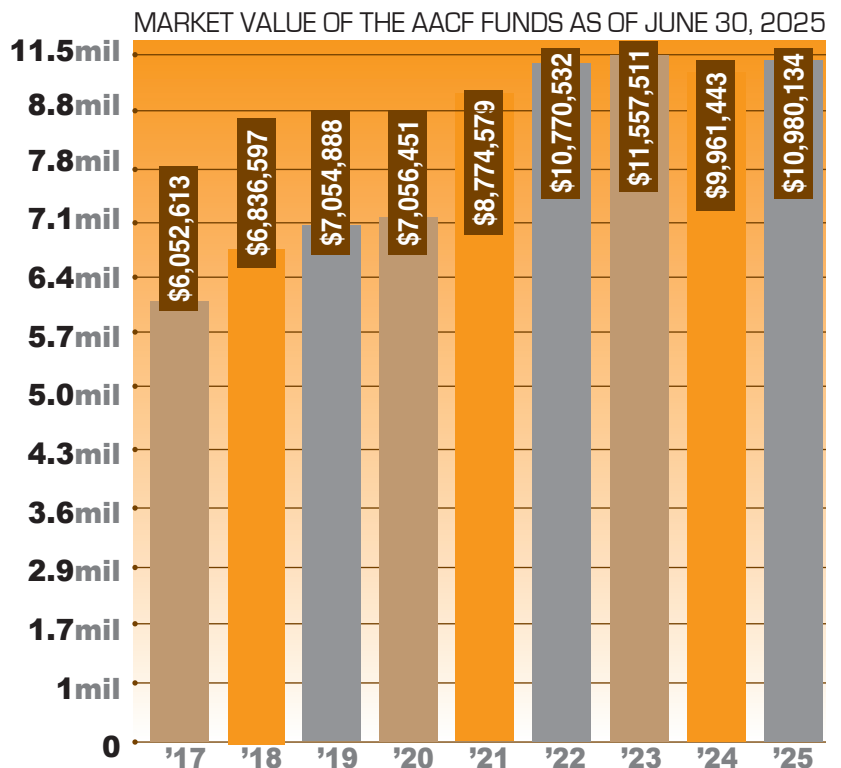
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Terrell



## FUND GROWTH



## ASSET GROWTH



## How to Apply

The African-American Community Fund issues discretionary grants annually with the initial process beginning each year in June. Grants applications are due each year on September 30. For more information, visit our website at [aacfdayton.org](http://aacfdayton.org) or email [aacf@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:aacf@daytonfoundation.org).

## 2025 AACF Scholarship Recipients

**Idotha Bootsie Neal Scholarship Fund**  
Nicolas Collier

**Hazel Carter Scott Scholarship Fund for  
the National Association of University  
Women, Dayton Chapter**  
Mya Smedley

**Marquette D. Colbert/Colbert Family  
Health Scholarship Fund**  
Ahriana Canales

**Pearl A. Dale and Audrey Parker  
Scholarship Fund**  
Ayodele Awoshakin  
Brooklyn Walker  
Mary Ely-Holden  
Jayla McCloud

**Robert S. Early, Sr. Memorial  
Youth Scholarship Fund**  
Christopher Chapman

**C. J. McLin, Jr., Scholarship Fund**  
Mirna Hourani

**Doris H. Wilson Scholarship Fund**  
Jayla McCloud

**Deloris L. Winslow Scholarship  
Endowment Fund**  
Aubree Wright

**Yokley-Gamblin Family  
Scholarship Fund**  
Samirra Stewart

## Grants in Action

Each year the African-American Community Fund awards discretionary grants to deserving nonprofits in the Dayton Region. With the changing needs in our community, individuals who dedicate their dollars to the unrestricted fund allow us to award discretionary grants. For the 24-25 grant cycle, the AACF issued nine discretionary grants in the amount of \$10,000 to meet the needs of the community.

### **The Bottom Line, Inc.**

• \$1,000  
To support the College Access Program which helps students of color graduate high school and make an affordable college choice.

### **Boys and Girls Club of Dayton**

• \$2,000  
To support the Future Ready program which provides young people with critical academic intervention, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) learning opportunities and healthy meals and snacks.

### **Circle of Faith**

• \$2,000  
To support the Structure for Families program that promotes healthy family structure through positive youth development and parental guidance.



### **Dayton Performing Arts Alliance**

• \$1,000  
To support the Norma Ross Memorial Stained Glass Series bringing the Dayton Philharmonic

Orchestra to local, African-American churches.

### **Excellence to Entrepreneurs**

• \$1,000  
To support empowered education for family foundations, developing life-skills for undeserved individuals in the Northwest Dayton community.



### **Father Your Hood**

• \$1,000  
To celebrate the Fatherhood Initiative participants by hosting an end-of-summer cookout.



### **Greater Edgemont Community Coalition**

• \$1,000  
To support a volunteer recruitment strategy for participants to maintain the organization's 2.5 acre garden.

### **Good Neighbor House**

• \$1,000  
To provide hygiene kits to homeless clientele via the Hygiene with Hope for the Homeless initiative.

### **The Salvation Army - Dayton Kroc Center**

• \$1,000  
To expand the Smart Kids Strong Kids program that promotes improved academic performance, healthy living and foster family engagement.



## Ellenae Hart Henry-Fairhurst Legacy Fund: **AACF Receives \$550,000 Unrestricted Gift**

**A** quick Google search on Dayton native Ellenae Fairhurst reveals numerous articles detailing her remarkable life as a pioneer in the automobile industry. Behind the headlines about the woman who broke barriers to become the first African-American woman to own Infiniti and Lexus dealerships, however, was a generous spirit who strove to help others overcome the obstacles she faced during her lifetime.

"Ellenae was fearless and didn't take no for an answer. She was a quiet giant who was reserved and resilient," said Ellenae's colleague, Jenell Ross, who is the president of Bob Ross Auto Group and the first African-American woman owner of a Mercedes-Benz dealership. "Ellenae was a trailblazer. Her leadership, vision, philanthropy and dedication left an indelible mark."

After Ellenae's passing in 2024, The Dayton Foundation received word of an unexpected and extremely generous gift from her estate. More than \$550,000 has been received to bolster the African-American Community Fund's discretionary grantmaking process, making it AACF's largest single unrestricted gift to date.

"AACF is eternally grateful to the Fairhurst family for making this wonderful donation. Countless lives will be impacted by this very generous act of benevolence," said Kevin Washington, former president of AACF. "AACF exists to improve the lives of those in our community and this sacrificial act from Ellenae Fairhurst allows us to continue this service."

An accomplished businesswoman and entrepreneur, it's hard to

believe that, as a child, Ellenae had no idea what career path she would follow. After graduating from Dunbar High School in Dayton in 1961, she attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and earned a business administration degree in 1965. In a 2016 interview with Auto Trends with JeffCars.com, she recalled picking that major because she might enjoy working in an office, like she had seen in television shows.

"I spent many years in great conflict and frustration because when people asked me, 'What do you want to do when you grow up,' I could never come up with an answer," Ellenae said in the interview. "It all evolved through many amazing processes."

**Read the full story of  
Ellenae Hart Henry-  
Fairhurst's legacy at  
[aacfdayton.org](http://aacfdayton.org).**



# Charitable Options

Your charitable gifts through the African-American Community Fund are greatly appreciated and make a difference in the community in which we live. This is a brief introduction to some of the best, tax-savvy methods of charitable giving. However, we do urge you to discuss your financial situation with your tax, legal or other professional advisors. Charitable options that may be of consideration include:

## Gifts of Cash

Most gifts are in the form of cash, via a check written by the donor or a donation online with a credit card. If you itemize your taxes, your outright gift is fully deductible for federal income tax purposes up to 60 percent of your adjusted gross income.

## Gifts of Stock and Other Marketable Securities

Giving long-term, appreciated stock offers you two-fold tax savings. First, you avoid paying long-term capital gains tax on the increase in the value of the stock on the date of the gift. For income tax purposes, the value of such gifts is deductible up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income.

## Life Insurance

Life insurance can be one of the easiest ways to give by designating a

percentage or all of the policy proceeds to the African-American Community Fund as a beneficiary. If the policy has a cash value, you can take a charitable deduction approximately equal to the cash value at the time of the gift.

## Bequests

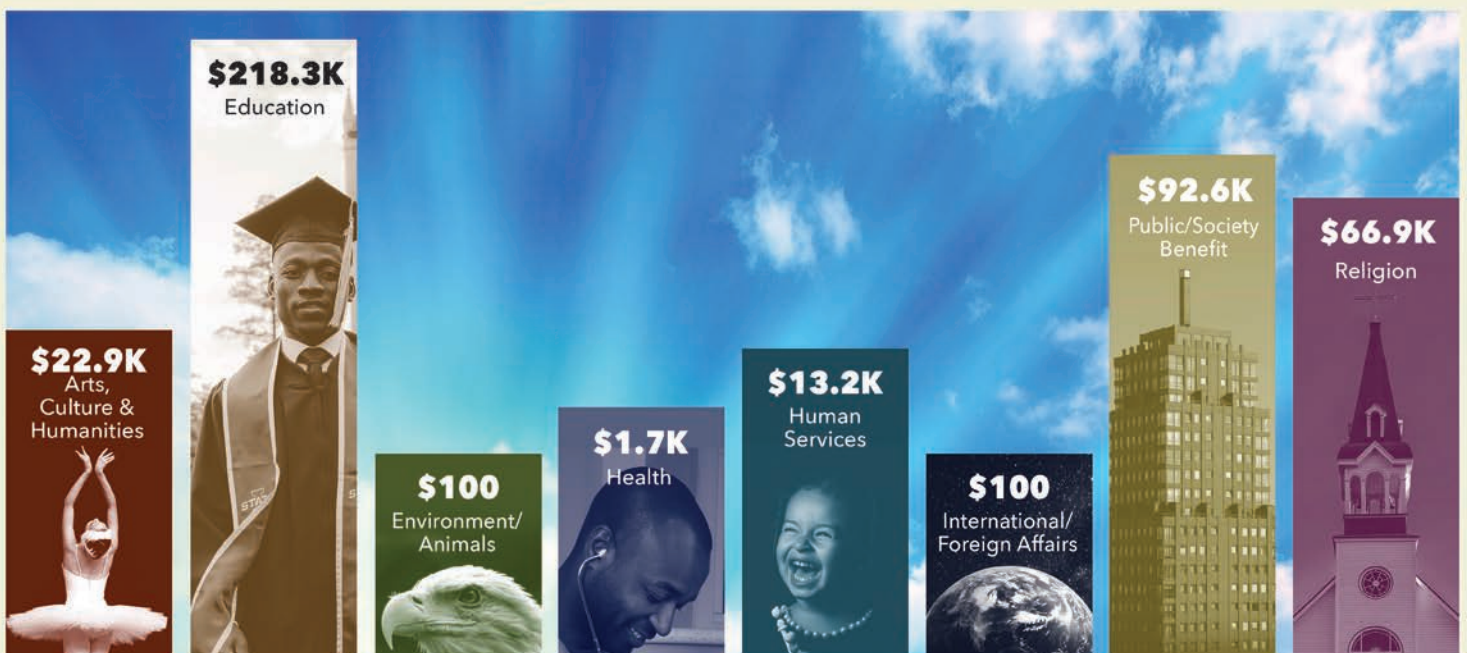
Through a deferred gift such as a bequest, your long-term charitable intent can be outlined during your lifetime. The African-American Community Fund can be named as a beneficiary in your will through a simple amendment called a codicil. Another option is to establish a payable on death (POD) or transfer on death (TOD) account. This designation will allow you to transfer bank accounts, brokerage accounts and certificates of deposit directly to your fund or charitable organization upon your passing.

## IRA

Individuals 70 ½ or older can donate up to \$111,000 as a qualified charitable distribution to a 501(c)(3) public charity and not have it show as income for tax purposes. Individuals who have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), may elect to donate their RMD to the African-American Community Fund and avoid claiming it as income by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). IRA QCDs may be used to create Scholarship Funds, Field-of-Interest Funds, Community Impact Endowment Funds or Designated Funds.

Have questions about these charitable giving options? Contact The Dayton Foundation's Development and Donor Services department at (937) 222-0410.

# What AACF Gives To



AACF Total Grants for 2024-2025 - **\$415.8 K+**



The Dayton Foundation  
 1401 S Main St., Suite 100  
 Dayton, Ohio 45409

Nonprofit Org  
 U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Dayton, OH  
 Permit 688

## 2024-25 AACF Advisory Board and Affiliations



**Kevin Washington**  
 Outgoing President  
 APG Office Furnishings

**Richard Hairston**  
 Incoming President  
 Premier Health Partners

**Danya N. Berry**  
 Dayton Early  
 College Academy

**Joshua Copeland**  
 Learning 2 Cope, LLC

**Danielle Edwards**  
 Sweet P's Handcrafted  
 Ice Pops/ New Impact  
 Partners

**Dr. Tina Hummons**  
 Sinclair Community  
 College



**Ryan C. Ivory**  
 Anthem Blue Cross/  
 Blue Shield

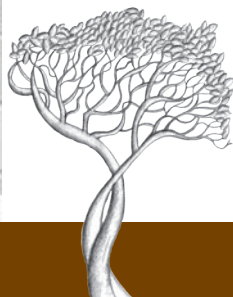
**Dr. Xavier L. Johnson**  
 Bethel Missionary  
 Baptist Church

**James Magwood**  
 University of Dayton

**Brandon C. McClain, Esq.**  
 Magistrate/  
 Acting Judge at  
 Dayton Municipal Court

**Tierra McGee**  
 Dayton Public School  
 District

**Desiree Tims**  
 Innovation Ohio



**Barbara Ward**  
 Omega Baptist Church  
 and YWCA

“I chose to serve on the African-American Community Fund Advisory Board because this work matters – not someday, but right now. Today the AACF is investing in the education, dreams, talent and future of Black communities across our region, and I want to be part of that movement for generational change.”

- Demarus Crawford-White, Incoming Board Member 2025-26, NPower