



The late Ernest E. Bynum with Ernest A. Bynum,
AACF co-founders

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY FUND

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Greetings from the African American Community Fund!

We enter 2023 filled with gratitude for all we have achieved together and with optimism about the opportunities that lie ahead – thanks to your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

The African American Community Fund (AACF) is committed to growing resources that change lives, elevate the quality of life, and address disparities in Appalachian Ohio's African American communities. We do that in partnership with community leaders, volunteers, and generous donors and with support from the AEP Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, The Longaberger Family Foundation, and U.S. Bank.

To date, we have raised nearly \$600,000, including donations that were matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to funding from the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO).

Your generosity – be it large gifts or small monthly donations – allows us to invest in projects and programs that better lives and strengthen communities. Thanks to your support, this fall we were able to award a record 17 grants benefiting Black-led and Black-serving nonprofit and public organizations throughout Appalachian Ohio.

Our AACF committee has grown, and, in November, we were honored to receive FAO's Changemaker Award in recognition of our work in advancing transformative changes within the region.

This report spotlights only a few of the many ways we are making a difference in our region. Your love, support, hard work, and generous spirit are at the heart of everything we're able to provide for our residents and our communities today and for years to come.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(PICTURED ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT)

ERNIE BYNUM, CHAIR

ROSETTA CARTER

DR. TEE FORD-AHMED

KEN MASON

DR. MICHELE REYNOLDS

RALPH SMITHERS JR.



Want to learn more?

For more information about planned giving, to make a gift to AACF, or to create a fund to support a cause closest to your heart, please contact us!

www.AppalachianOhio.org/AACF



AACF@fao.org



740.753.1111

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

With the support of our donors, we award grants to nonprofit and public organizations for projects and programs that benefit African Americans throughout our region, focusing on five areas essential to creating transformative and sustainable change: arts and culture, community and economic development, education, environmental stewardship, and health and human services.

PRESERVING HISTORY AND MAKING IT ACCESSIBLE

Appalachian Ohio's pioneering history is steeped in Black American history and achievements. Resources and training are needed to preserve, share, and own those narratives.

Perry County's Rendville was one of the nation's earliest integrated communities. The Rendville Historic Preservation Society was established to preserve the village's history, heritage, and physical structures – and leave a legacy for future generations.

A 2021 AACF grant funded a Black in Appalachia project, in partnership with the Rendville Historic Preservation Society and Ohio State University's Center for Folklore Studies. The grant was used to process and digitize 1,500 items associated with Joe William's personal historical collection from the 1890s to 1950s and to train volunteers on



the digitization and cataloging process for future preservation efforts.

A 2022 ACCF grant to Black in Appalachia is supporting a photo exhibit highlighting the stories and experiences of the Black community in Gallia and Lawrence counties.



WORKING TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE FOOD INSECURITY

The USDA has designated the city of Youngstown and many communities in the Mahoning Valley as food deserts – areas with limited access to affordable and healthy food.

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OUR IMPACT IN 2022

FALL 2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

AACF was pleased to partner with the AEP Foundation for our fall grant round to create more than \$57,000 in opportunities across 17 grants supporting African American communities:

- ACTION: Dress To Succeed
- Black in Appalachia
- Books with Badges
- Carver Community Center
- G.O. Community Development Corporation
- John Gee Black Historical Center
- Kool Boiz Foundation
- Lawrence Funderburke Youth Organization
- Minority Business Resource Network
- Mount Zion Baptist Church Preservation Society
- Muskingum County Social Justice Coalition
- Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council
- Promised Land Project
- RISE Community Youth Group
- Tablertown People of Color Museum
- Youngstown Lifeguard Academy
- Zanesville Civic League

WORKING TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE FOOD INSECURITY (CONTINUED)

For the past several years, the Alliance for Congregational Transformation in Our Neighborhoods (ACTION) has been spearheading efforts to change that, starting with pop-up markets that provide fresh food from local farmers – but only during the warmer months of the year.

In May 2022, ACTION launched its Mahoning Valley Mobile Market, a 28-foot bus equipped with freezers and refrigeration units that offer fresh and healthy food year-round. The mobile market operates at 25-30 locations a month and has served more than 5,000 local residents.

The pop-up markets and mobile market received support from many funders, including the African American Community Fund, which awarded ACTION grants in 2020 and 2021.



\$655,000

IN ASSETS UNDER THE AACF UMBRELLA



\$98,000

AWARDED IN GRANTS AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN 2022



CHARITABLE FUNDS PARTNERING WITH AACF IN SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

1. Black Appalachian Regional Community Fund
2. Ernest E. Bynum Memorial Fund for African American Communities
3. Ken & Adele Mason Family Fund
4. Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church