

## AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

# Habitat, YMCA get \$200,000 each

Corbin Foundation's grants will help fund new gym, headquarters

By Katie Byard  
Beacon Journal staff writer

Plans for the Akron Area YMCA's new facility east of downtown and a new Habitat for Humanity headquarters are getting a boost from an area foundation.

The two nonprofits are each getting \$200,000 from the Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation.

In all, the Corbin Foundation is giving away \$773,000 to area nonprofits for its fall 2009 distribution.

That amount is more than the Akron foundation has given away in each of its twice-yearly distributions, in at least the last three years, the organization's president, Joseph M. Holden, pointed out.

The foundation - named for David Corbin, who co-founded City Chevrolet in 1944, and his wife, Mary - distributes grants in the fall and spring.

The foundation had to pull back on its giving after its investments took a hit in the battered stock market.

With the market's recent uptick, the foundation is "making up the shortfall" in awards from the previous years, Holden said.

Assets stood at \$17.6 million at the end of last month. That's up from below \$14 million earlier this year. The foundation's

### Port authority issues bonds for the YMCA

Beacon Journal staff report

The Summit County Port Authority on Monday approved issuing \$12.1 million in tax-exempt bonds for the Akron Area YMCA.

The YMCA has announced plans to build a 60,000-square-foot, \$11 million fitness center at East Market and Adolph streets, on Summa Health System property next to Akron City Hospital.

The money raised will be used for the new facility and to secure a lower interest rate on other debt, port President Chris Burnham said.

"We're glad to help them out," he said.

portfolio peaked at about \$50 million at the end of March 2000.

The foundation's seven trustees, who decide which charities get grants, are impressed with the YMCA's and Habitat for Humanity's work in the community and "are convinced of their need" for new facilities, Holden said.

The Akron Area YMCA will use its award to construct a new fitness center/community gathering spot next to Akron City Hospital.

Work on the building -

### Charities receive grants

The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation at its Nov. 9 trustees meeting awarded \$773,000 in grants and gifts to charities and charitable activities.

Recipients include the Akron Community Foundation, \$10,000 for Food Pantry Capacity Fund; Akron Area Arts Alliance, \$5,000 for Summit Artspace and other projects; the Boy Scouts of America, Great Trail Council, \$10,000 for tent replacement and the Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet, \$10,000.

Also receiving funds were the Downtown Akron Partnership, First Night Akron, \$3,000; the Akron Symphony Orchestra, \$2,000 for library/learning center; Mobile Meals of Akron Inc., \$10,000; and North Coast Community Homes Inc., \$20,000 for rent subsidies.

which will replace the downtown Y - is to begin later this year at East Market and Adolph streets. Construction is expected to take 14 months.

Habitat for Humanity will use its award for its new headquarters at a former store at 2301 Romig Road in Akron, across from the closed Rolling Acres Mall.

Habitat bought the former Handy Andy building for \$1 million and is spending about \$750,000 on renovations.

The new facility will allow the local affiliate of the home-building charity to move its entire operation to one location. The new building is to be ready the end of this month.

The \$200,000 is one of the largest gifts received by Habitat for Humanity of Summit County, said Rochelle Fisher, the charity's executive director.

David Corbin made his money in Akron and wanted his money spent in the city and Summit County.

The Corbins, active in civic and cultural activities, left the bulk of their estate to their private foundation, established in the 1960s. Mary Corbin died in 1977 and David Corbin died in 1989. The couple had no children.

For information concerning grant applications, call 330-762-6427. Applicants also may write to the foundation's office at 910 Key Building, Akron, OH 44308; e-mail it at corbin@nls.net or go to <http://www.foundationcenter.org/grantmaker/corbin>.

Katie Byard can be reached at 330-996-3781 or [kbyard@thebeaconjournal.com](mailto:kbyard@thebeaconjournal.com).