



SISTERS of CHARITY FOUNDATION  
OF CANTON

*Celebrating 20 Years of Focused Intentional Giving*

November 2016



## **Sisters of Charity Foundation Celebrates 20 Years of Focused Intentional Giving**

At Kent State University at Stark on Nov 2nd, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton welcomed nearly 300 stakeholders, board and staff members, grantees, community partners, and cherished friends to celebrate as it marked two decades of collaboration, philanthropy, and community stewardship.

### ***Developing Servant Leaders Grant Announcement***

To commemorate the past two decades of work, the Foundation established a *Developing Servant Leaders* grant competition, inviting Stark County students and teachers to submit proposals for projects to benefit the community. The winning grantees were announced at the celebration. The winners will be using their grant funding for a wide range of efforts, including projects to furnish children with winter coats, provide hats and scarves for the homeless, start a community garden, and help students strengthen their life skills. In all, the Foundation awarded \$15,500 for the service projects, and will partner with the Canton Repository to feature some or all of the projects in the newspaper.

### ***Father Boyle's Keynote Speech***

Keynote speaker Father Gregory Boyle gave an exceptional speech on collaborating to create a community "circle of compassion" that includes all of us, including the "easily despised and the left out."



Boyle has decades of experience working with the marginalized to create a better world; he heads up Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. Each year, over 10,000 former gang members come through Homeboy Industries' doors. They are welcomed into a community of mutual kinship, love, and a wide variety of services ranging from tattoo removal to employment services to anger management and parenting classes.

Compelling is only one word that comes to mind to describe Father Boyle's address. The room was still. As a storyteller, he possesses the ability to engage with his audience through humor, honesty, humility, and compassion. And through it all, he helped us to see why we - all of us - should show kinship. "Not serving the other, but being one with the other."

He spoke of his experiences helping ex-gang members trying to forge new lives. And he spoke about how he often has a hard time figuring out just exactly who is serving whom. And according to Father Boyle, that's the purpose of service: to ensure that all of us are serving each other in the effort to make a better society and a better world.

As the Foundation embarks upon its 21st year of service and collaboration, the board and staff will call upon their numerous community partners to expand our "circle of compassion," until it encompasses all those in our community who are powerless, voiceless, and rarely considered.

# Leave A Legacy Stark County Organizes Local Fund Development Workshops



Building capacity for local nonprofits has long been part of the Sisters of Charity Foundation's strategic plan. For many years, the Foundation has awarded grants to support part of the cost of sending selected development personnel from major local nonprofit organizations to attend training at the Fund Raising School at the Indiana University School of Philanthropy.

The Fund Raising School is the globally recognized pioneer in philanthropic education. It has been dedicated to the advancement of ethical fundraising for more than 40 years. Its courses teach an ethical, systematic, mission-focused approach to fundraising that aligns the needs of organizations with those of donors. Fund Raising School workshops help development professionals be more strategic with their fundraising efforts, so that they can raise more dollars to support their organizations.

Leave a Legacy Stark County realized that many smaller organizations cannot afford to send staff members to Indianapolis to attend these workshops. Bringing Fund Raising School faculty right to Stark County seemed like a cost-effective strategy that would help build the capacity of Stark County nonprofits.

With support from the Foundation, Leave a Legacy has already hosted two workshops. The first workshop, on planned giving, was held in June 2015. The second workshop, on developing annual sustainability, was held in September 2016. In 2017, the third workshop will focus on developing major gifts.

During the September workshop alone, 38 nonprofit professionals attended, representing 26 Stark County organizations. They spent two days learning about managing an annual fund for their organizations from a very experienced Fund Raising School faculty member.

With their lean staffs and even leaner budgets, these agencies were enthusiastic about the opportunity to access this training locally for a nominal fee. One participant stated that "you truly are helping to build a culture of philanthropy by teaching the fundamentals to our smaller nonprofits."

The Foundation thanks Mercy Medical Center for being a partner and providing in-kind meeting space for these workshops.

# *At Thanksgiving let us be grateful . . .*

Heavenly Father,

At this Thanksgiving, we thank You for all of Your Blessings and the gifts You have given us. We thank you for the precious gift of family and friends, for those who are with us today and those who are not.

We thank You for our teachers, counselors, and mentors - everyone You have brought into our lives to lead, guide, and protect us.

We are grateful for our shelter and a safe place to sleep. We are grateful for food to nourish us, and clothes to keep our bodies comfortable.

Thank you for showing us glimpses of heavenly beauty through nature, songs of praise, and warm sunlight.

We ask for Your help in remembering those less fortunate than ourselves, those who are in pain, hungry, jobless, or homeless.

Help us reach out and show our generosity to the less fortunate as You reached out to us. Amen



*The Board and Staff of the  
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton  
wish you the gift of faith and the blessing  
of hope this Thanksgiving*



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