**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION awards $1,505,147**

**Canton, Ohio**(**December 5, 2017)** The Board of Directors of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton has announced **$1,505,147** in grants for the third and fourth quarters of 2017.

According to Foundation President Joni Close, “Since its inception 20 years ago, the Sisters of Charity Foundation has invested $58.1 million into programs and organizations working on behalf of the poor and underserved. We continue to focus on understanding the root causes of poverty, nurturing the growth of healthy communities, emphasizing youth and families, and measuring the outcomes of our efforts. We look forward to continued partnerships that further Foundation-led initiatives in early childhood and homelessness; strategic collaborations in employment, leadership development, bullying prevention, food security, and infant mortality; and responding to other community needs through responsive grantmaking.”

Grants were awarded to:

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| Access Health Stark County, to support an informational campaign to help low-income families learn about, shop for, and enroll in affordable health care options through the federal marketplace and expanded Medicaid | $2,000 |
| Agape Ministries, to support the *Men of Tomorrow* intensive mentoring program | $5,000 |
| Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, to support the next phase of Stark County food hub development | $35,000 |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of Summit, Medina and Stark Counties, to support youth mentoring programs in Stark County | $20,000 |
| Canton Calvary Mission, to support an after-school program | $15,000 |
| College Club of Canton, to support a board development workshop | $500 |
| Domestic Violence Project, to support the *Legal Advocacy* and *Renew* *Counseling* programs, over two years | $105,000 |
| Early Childhood Education Alliance, Inc., to support SPARK programming in Alliance, over three years | $100,000 |
| Early Childhood Resource Center, to support SPARK programming in Canton and Minerva and for general operating support | $270,237 |
| Early Childhood Resource Center, to support incentives for five SPARK focus groups | $2,500 |
| Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio, Inc., to support the *Parenting Skills Training* program, over two years | $180,378 |
| Hammer and Nails, to support purchase and renovation of a new building | $50,000 |
| Mercy Medical Center, for sponsorship support for the annual Harvest Ball  | $4,200 |
| Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association, to support a pilot mentoring program for child care centers seeking to enter the state’s *Step Up To Quality* child care rating and improvement system | $100,000 |
| People’s Baptist Church, to support a neighborhood playground | $5,000 |
| Pegasus Farm, to support the Military Family Center, over two years | $150,000 |
| Refuge of Hope, to support construction of a new facility | $200,000 |
| Salvation Army of Massillon, to support the *Pathway of Hope* program | $10,000 |
| Stark County District Library, to support the annual family book celebration | $800 |
| Stark Education Partnership, for operating support, over three years | $90,000 |
| Stark Housing Network, for operating support, over five years | $150,000  |
| Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown, for program support | $1,000 |
| Warren Township Community Center, to support the *Monday Lunch* program | $8,532 |

Established in 1996, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton is a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System. Based on the vision of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, the Foundation is committed to addressing the needs of the poor and underserved by understanding the root causes of poverty, nurturing the growth of healthy communities, emphasizing youth and family, and measuring the outcomes of these efforts.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton offers four grant cycles each year. Information on the grant application process is available at [**www.scfcanton.org**](http://www.scfcanton.org)

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