

CommQuest Services

Answers the Call for Help

IMAGINE A CHILD NEEDING COUNSELING AS HE STRUGGLES WITH AN ABUSIVE FATHER AND THE ULTIMATE DIVORCE OF HIS PARENTS.



His mother wants to ensure he gets the counseling he needs, but she is afraid to use the health insurance currently available, because her child is insured through her abusive ex-husband. Billing the insurance company could reveal the location of services, and ultimately, the location of her family. This family is in need of a hero.

Enter the caring team at CommQuest.

CommQuest is a local nonprofit that provides collaborative care and advocacy through three pillars of service: mental health, addiction recovery, and social support. This year, the nonprofit found itself with a gap in funding for a critical safety-net service it provides to clients like the family mentioned above. This critical service is integrated behavioral health services, and the

Sisters of Charity Foundation board and staff supported it to ensure funding for high-risk clients without financial options for treatment.

“Many of the clients who will benefit from this program are children. They’re kids whose parents are, themselves, in unstable conditions due to job loss, homelessness, or even domestic violence,” said Elaine Russell Reolfi, chief executive officer at CommQuest. “One moment can change someone’s life, and the Sisters of Charity has helped us make sure that a lack of insurance or financial resources isn’t a barrier to getting the help a person needs when they need it.”

In that moment when a cry for help is heard, the staff at CommQuest will now be able to answer, positively impacting the lives of the most vulnerable in our community, and that is heroic! ✨

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**ELAINE RUSSELL REOLFI
CEO, COMMQUEST**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEROES AT *CommQuest Services* ONLINE AT COMMQUEST.ORG



JRC

Not all heroes wear capes,

scale buildings, and plot their next move in an underground lair.

In the eyes of the Sisters of Charity Foundation, some of our community's greatest heroes sing the alphabet song daily, create warm and welcoming classrooms where children feel safe, and look out for not only the children in their care, but the whole family unit.

JRC is a hero organization in Stark County, providing hundreds of children, senior citizens, and families with the supports they need to grow and thrive in daily life and beyond.

JRC provides two main services to the community: quality child care and early learning opportunities for children, and adult day services for senior citizens. The organization's Learning Centers (one near Meyers Lake and one on 14th Street in northeast

Canton) offer all-day early education and child care for children ages six weeks to preschool. The 14th Street Learning Center also offers before- and after-school programming, as well as Early Head Start and Head Start. Both Learning Centers have the highest quality rating in the state's Step Up to Quality ratings, denoting excellence far beyond licensing standards.

The Adult Day Center offers day-long programs for seniors on weekdays, including activities and healthy meals for participants, which in turn provides respite for caregivers and family members.

The Adult Day Center and the Learning Center are housed within the same building at the Meyers Lake campus providing the unique opportunity for intergenerational programming on a

weekly basis. JRC serves approximately 250 children and seniors (combined) annually.

When the Foundation discovered JRC was facing a gap in funding for its Learning Centers, we knew we had to help support this important nonprofit and the staff heroes who are caring for and teaching some of Stark County's littlest learners each day.

JRC has uncovered its superpowers when it comes to delivering high-quality child care, all centered around meeting the needs of each child and family. Over the years, the organization has added many internal supports that needed additional funding

such as training and professional development for teachers, coupled with special guidance from Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health to ensure teachers and staff are equipped to effectively handle behavior issues in the classroom.

"FLIP IT!® training has given our teachers a new approach to helping children self-regulate their emotions and handle challenging behaviors within the classroom," explained Learning Center Director Rene Ury. Providing these tools help teachers succeed and feel confident.

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JRC also sees value in positions like float teachers to provide extra hands in the classroom and community resource coordinators to assist families in navigating available resources outside of JRC's offerings. The Jones* family is grateful for this level of support.

"Our family appreciates that JRC has extra float teachers, because we know our child is getting a strong education and the teachers can focus on him and his needs. The community resource coordinator also assisted our family with finding some services in the community." The Jones family received referrals for early intervention and disability services thanks to one of JRC's two community resource coordinators.

It's evident that JRC cares about the people it serves and strives to provide the highest quality.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation is proud to support this longstanding organization as it continues to save the day and meet the needs of Canton families and residents. ✨

**The name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.*

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THE JONES* FAMILY



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEROES AT *JRC* ONLINE AT JRCCARES.ORG





Stark Housing Network, Inc.

Heroes supporting the Workforce

The fabric that holds our community together is made up of individuals who choose to do the work that lifts others up while carrying the weight on their shoulders. This sacrifice for others is what makes them our heroes!

This year, Foundation staff saw a need to support a group of these heroes. The team approached Marcie Bragg, executive director of Stark Housing Network, Inc., about the workforce needs in the homeless services sector. There was no denying the need for recruitment, retention, and upskilling efforts for this important group of individuals. These providers work 24/7 coordinating and offering services, shelter, and housing for some of our most vulnerable community members.

Marcie agreed, and after discussing more specifics with Program Officer Shannon McMahon Williams, began developing a proposal to offer these hardworking heroes support. In some

respects, the plan mirrored the workforce initiative the Foundation supports in behavioral health. However, each sector has a unique set of needs, and Marcie took guidance and feedback from the homeless services’ leaders to finalize the approach that was funded by the Foundation. As a pilot, the project is being monitored and fine-tuned as it wraps up its first year.

“Through the Workforce Initiative in Homeless Services Pilot, we have witnessed transformative impacts in our providers here in Stark County. The introduction of pay bonuses, incentives for working weekends and evenings, and access to human resource consulting services are just a few examples of how we have significantly bolstered our operational effectiveness,” said Bragg. “These needed enhancements have not only improved staff morale but also have elevated the quality of care we provide to our community.” ✨



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEROES SUPPORTED BY *Stark Housing Network, Inc.* AT STARKCOUNTYHOMELESS.ORG