



SISTERS of CHARITY
FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

When you read about the significant accomplishments of our community partners, keep in mind the effort that was expended to create those large impacts. Dramatic community transformation often begins with a simple meeting to set goals and chart direction. It continues slowly and systematically with the sustained efforts of many united in purpose.

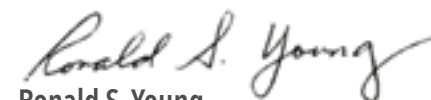
Transformation occurs through intention, collaboration, and lots of old-fashioned effort. The impacts are usually years, if not decades, in the making. Only later is it possible to step back and realize that all the work, meetings, planning, and steps taken resulted in powerful community changes.

We know that collaborating with like-minded partners will result in the needed guidance, support, and resources for the most vulnerable in our community. Toward that end, we choose our partners strategically. We partner with organizations that are good stewards of our mission and funds. We partner with

organizations that prioritize work that will transform our community for generations. Also, we partner with organizations that specialize in giving hope.

Every year, we are pleased to tell you about the exceptional work our community partners are doing. This year is no exception. We are proud to work with them to give hope and effect real change in our community.

With Gratitude,


Ronald S. Young
 Board Chair



Dear Friends,

"Faith has to do with things that are not seen and hope with things that are not at hand." – Thomas Aquinas

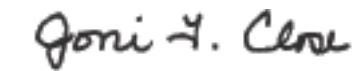
As we look back over our work this past year, a common theme emerges: *giving hope*.

More specifically, it's been about giving hope to those without a voice. Whether we're working with members of the Stark County Homeless Continuum of Care to end homelessness in our county or serving on national, state, and local committees focused on giving our youngest children the best start in life, it's about hope. When we collaborate on employment, bullying and suicide prevention, and reducing infant mortality, it is with a spirit of hope.

Our annual report is meant to celebrate two things: the power of we and the giving of hope. Even while facing some of our greatest challenges – the opioid epidemic and an increase in teen suicides – this community continues working together to provide those most in need with access to strong, innovative supports that spur real transformation – and hope.

We never work alone, which is why we use this opportunity to shine a light on the efforts of others. We profile these organizations because they provide extraordinary service to extraordinary people. As you will see, some organizations serve broadly, while others are focused on a specific need. But each is an example of mission in action. Each one gives hope, by transforming what's possible.

Sincerely,



Joni T. Close
 President



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The Goal: Respond to specific or short-term needs in our community.

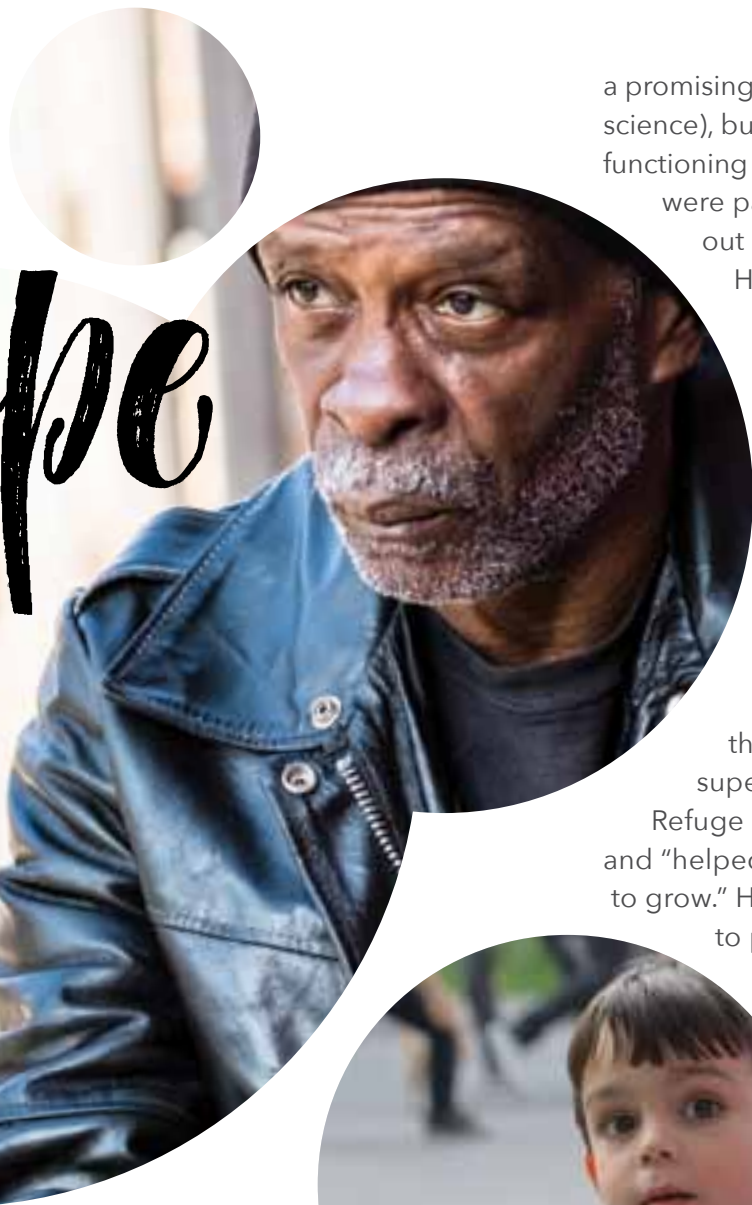
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Give Hope Through Service



a promising college student (with a great love of science), but he never developed the executive functioning skills he needed to make sure his bills were paid, and he soon found himself kicked out of college because of mounting debt. He slept outside a lot. He once tried to walk from Alliance to Canton, which took 46 hours and resulted in severe frostbite that landed him in the emergency room.

Refuge of Hope helped Jerry get his life back on track. As a resident, he started out volunteering to do basic tasks around the facility and was eventually offered a position as a resident assistant. He's been working there for four years, serving as afternoon supervisor and digital media guru. He says Refuge of Hope helped him rediscover his faith and "helped me grow in ways I did not know I had to grow." He feels he grew up there, learning how to present himself professionally and how to retain a job.

Refuge of Hope operates two programs from its current 6,500-square-foot building in downtown Canton:

- **The meal ministry** serves all who are hungry, offering eight meal times each week (more than any other site in Stark County).

The ministry has grown considerably over time. In 2009, it served 21,500 meals. In 2017, it served just under 96,000 meals. Around 200 people are served at each meal; since the dining room only seats 110, at least two seatings are required for each meal.

- **The emergency shelter** holds 34 beds, but typically sleeps between 40 and 50 with additional rollaway cots. It's the only emergency men's shelter in Stark County. It's not just a place to sleep; it's also a support center. Case management services help residents stabilize quickly to overcome barriers to housing and employment. Between 2014 and 2016, Refuge of Hope helped 307 men move into their own apartments. Only 14 needed to return to the shelter.

The need is consistently greater than the capacity. The old, overcrowded facility has a tiny kitchen and no storage space (shelter residents keep their belongings in totes). It's in such disrepair that an assessment showed renovations would cost nearly as much as a new building.

A new facility in downtown Canton will be nearly three times as large as the current space. The dining room will seat 160 at once, and the larger pantry and kitchen will provide additional room for food storage and preparation. The building will have 66 shelter beds, a day room, additional offices, a dedicated conference room, and a chapel. **To date, foundations, businesses, churches, and individual donors have pledged more than \$4.7 million to make the new facility a reality.** The Sisters of Charity Foundation is a contributing funder to the project. With more than \$2.6 million already received, the project is well on its way. Refuge of Hope plans to break ground in 2018.

And as for Jerry? He hopes to return to his studies. For now, he's happy to be on the right track, working with such a life-changing organization.

“...embody God's love by serving others and encouraging them to attain their God-given potential.”

REFUGE OF HOPE: WORKING TOWARD A NEW HOME

Refuge of Hope changes lives every day. Guided by the tenets of Christianity, the organization seeks to “embody God’s love by serving others and encouraging them to attain their God-given potential.”

Duane Wykoff serves as CEO. He feels that the Sisters of Charity Foundation and other funders aren't investing in Refuge of Hope; they're investing in the lives of its clients. As he explains it, “one of the things that we really love about the Sisters of Charity is their mission and our mission are basically the same: we serve the hungry, we serve homeless men,

and we serve people who live in poverty. Our heart is to do that; their heart is to do that also.” Jerry O'Brien is a former Refuge of Hope resident and a current employee. He grew up in foster care, living in approximately 15 different homes by the time he was eight years old. He was adopted at age 8, but after being removed from his adoptive home, he found himself back in foster care at age 16, where he remained until he aged out of the system.

Jerry came to Refuge of Hope as a young adult, after being homeless for four years. He had been



EARLY CHILDHOOD



The QCCI improved early childhood programs by providing professional development for educators, accreditation facilitation for centers and preschools, and support for family child care providers, and by raising public awareness of early childhood issues.

The Early Childhood Resource Center and the SPARK kindergarten readiness program both emerged as a result of the QCCI. The Early Childhood Resource Center continues to provide early educators crucial support, assistance, and professional development, while also working directly with families – and SPARK has prepared more than 10,000 Ohio children for kindergarten.

As demand for high-quality early childhood programs continues to increase, the Foundation is determined to keep Stark County reaching for the stars, thereby ensuring its children the best possible foundation for learning and for life.

Give Hope Through Education

STARK COUNTY: REACHING FOR THE STARS

The State of Ohio uses its *Step Up To Quality* rating system to categorize early childhood programs. More stars mean higher quality, with five-star programs at the very pinnacle of excellence. Five-star programs go far beyond basic licensing standards. Their highly trained teachers have demonstrated a commitment to partnering with families to devise and implement individualized plans for children's development and learning. Families can be confident that five-star programs are continually improving as they work to help children grow, learn, develop – and thrive.

Stark County boasts 28 five-star programs, including all of the county's largest: all Canton City School

District preschool classrooms, JRC Learning Center, and the YWCA Early Childhood Learning Center have five stars. And the number of five-star programs continues to grow.

What does that five-star designation mean to the providers themselves? According to Linnea Olbon, the Canton City School District's Early Childhood Director, it means hard work and excellence: "We're proud to offer our students, families, and community the highest quality of education, as all seven of our sites recently earned the five-star rating. Approximately 45 teachers, assistants, and specialists have worked diligently to earn this rating, which allows us to serve

over 370 students (and growing) in our program. We've been recognized for excellence in safety, teaching and learning, and compliance. So much time and effort goes into the *Step Up To Quality* process, and we couldn't be more pleased to be an exemplary program right here in Stark County."

We're fortunate that Stark County has made such great strides in early childhood quality, but it didn't happen by accident. The groundwork was laid in 1998, when the Foundation made an ambitious \$1 million investment to establish its Quality Child Care Initiative (QCCI). The QCCI was created to ensure that Stark County's children receive the finest early education and care in the country.



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We're proud to offer our students, families, and community the highest quality of education...



**THRIVE
INFANT MORTALITY
COLLABORATIVE**



Give through Hope Outreach

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS: HELPING MOMS THRIVE

Brenda Johnson is one of two Certified Community Health Workers (CCHWs) serving Alliance. The THRIVE initiative, through six partner agencies, employs nine CCHWs throughout Stark County; they serve at-risk pregnant women and moms with children under a year old. The goal is to reduce infant mortality and disparity rates by giving women the support and resources they need to deliver and raise healthy babies. Brenda has been a CCHW for a year, but she's done community-level work all her adult life. She was formerly a public school teacher and now serves as a pastor, counselor, and community youth director, in addition to her CCHW work.

CCHWs are certified through the Ohio Board of Nursing. They know infant CPR and first aid, and they have a good understanding of pregnancy issues, women's health concerns, and common chronic health issues.

Why is there a need for CCHWs? Well, as Brenda puts it, "stressed moms give birth to stressed babies." Many low-income and poor women face a slew of life stressors that prevent them from getting prenatal care.

This means pregnancy issues that could have been detected early may not be detected at all or may be detected late. This puts moms at greater risk of pre-term labor. Being born early places babies at higher risk of death or ongoing medical or developmental issues.

Brenda helps her clients navigate a complex social services web that can seem intimidating and bewildering. She sometimes makes phone calls on behalf of the moms, and she teaches them ways to make life manageable, like setting up phone reminders for medical appointments. She connects them with community resources that can help and equips them with tools they'll need to face life issues effectively. She's an encyclopedia of available resources, and she's always learning: she attends lots of seminars and meetings to keep updated and make community connections.

The CCHWs also rely on each other as resources. They regularly meet for peer support and to discuss community concerns. They receive ongoing training on relevant issues such as breastfeeding and postpartum depression. In addition, each CCHW meets with a mentor twice a month.

Brenda would love unlimited financial resources to meet all the needs she sees in her community. While that may never be possible, she strongly feels that we all can help improve our own neighborhoods, by babysitting so a mom can visit the doctor or by driving a senior citizen to the supermarket. The way Brenda sees it, when everyone connects, everyone thrives.

“
The goal is to reduce infant mortality and disparity rates by giving women the support and resources they need to deliver and raise healthy babies.”

Give Hope Through Kindness

STARK SPEAKS UP

Since 2011, the Foundation has supported collaborative local efforts to combat bullying in schools. Stark's countywide initiative is now known as *Stark Speaks UP for Kindness*. The Stark County Educational Service Center oversees the work, including the bullying prevention programming being implemented in 52 Stark County public and parochial schools.

The schools are using the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, which is an internationally recognized, long-term, system-wide program sponsored by Clemson University. It's the most extensively researched bullying prevention program available. This whole-school program engages students, staff, parents, and the community in unified and consistent bullying prevention.



In addition to coordinating program delivery and training school personnel on how to implement the program, the collaborative manages efforts that complement the in-class programming.

The annual countywide student art contest continues to grow, with nearly 400 anti-bullying art submissions received in 2017 alone. Winning 2017 artwork was featured on billboards throughout the community, with selected pieces included in a colorful 2018 calendar. The Foundation served as the major sponsor for calendar production, with additional sponsorships coming from local businesses and organizations.

Evaluation results for the 2016 - 2017 school year show that the coordinated community efforts have proven effective:

- Over three years, there was a consistent reduction in the number of students telling no one that they have been bullied.
- There was a decrease in the number of students reporting bullying 2-3 times a month or more, compared to the previous year.
- There was a 6% increase in the number of sixth through eighth grade girls who reported trying to help a bullied student.
- Empathy increased by 3% over the previous year for all ninth through twelfth graders.

- Of the teachers surveyed, 91% reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that they are committed to the Olweus program.
- Teachers strongly agreed that they have developed more positive relationships with their students (65%) and have observed more positive relationships among their students (55%). They have also seen these positive relationships reflected between staff and students (52%).

Participating schools remain engaged in their work to become Stark County's community kindness leaders. In many schools, student-led committees are supplementing the efforts of school personnel, to further embed kindness in the culture at all grades.

Although promising progress has been made, the work is far from done. A comprehensive, school-wide bullying prevention program needs to be implemented in every school building throughout Stark County to ensure that all students are safe and spared the harmful effects of bullying.

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This whole-school program engages students, staff, parents, and the community in unified and consistent bullying prevention.

Give Hope Through Healing



CHILD AND ADOLESCENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health is the primary local provider offering pediatric mental and behavioral health treatment. In 2016, the organization served 4,534 Stark County children. With support from the Foundation and Stark Mental Health and Addiction Recovery, Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health is redesigning its medical services department in order to meet community demand in innovative ways:

- Making it easier to diagnose and treat less urgent cases directly through pediatricians, in consultation with psychiatrists as necessary;
- Establishing a Center for Excellence to train medical and mental health professionals to meet the mental and behavioral health treatment needs of social services agencies and primary care practices; and
- Redesigning medical teams to expand the role of advanced practice nurses, who will manage medication regimens under the supervision of a psychiatrist.

This three-point plan will help the organization remain sustainable while ensuring communitywide access to excellent treatment.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

The Domestic Violence Project is the only Stark County organization specializing in legal advocacy services for survivors of domestic violence. Trained legal advocates help clients understand their rights, support them throughout the legal process, accompany them to court, connect them to other services, and remain in contact with them as long as necessary. They also train police and court personnel on using lethality assessments to identify high-risk abusers.

In addition, the organization provides mental health and substance abuse counseling for survivors. The counselors have specialized expertise in helping to address the root causes of trauma. Over time, counseling can help restore a sense of dignity and self-esteem.

Support from the Foundation and other funders will enable the Domestic Violence Project to continue providing these vital services.



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Awareness is the first step in healing.

– Dean Ornish

Give Hope Through Community



HAMMER AND NAILS

Hammer and Nails has completed home repair and improvement projects for more than 1,600 homeowners who are senior citizens, low-income parents, or disabled individuals.

The organization's dedicated volunteers (many of whom are skilled tradespeople) shore up porches, repair roofs, weatherize homes, and install wheelchair ramps all over Stark County.

Residents are required to work alongside the volunteers to complete projects whenever possible.

Demand for services has increased steadily in recent years, consistently outpacing the organization's capacity.

The Foundation is providing operating support and helping Hammer and Nails secure its future by devising a plan for leadership succession and board engagement. The result? Increasing numbers of Stark County homeowners will comfortably and safely remain in their own homes for many years to come.

FAIRLESS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Households in the Fairless Local School District have seen a very slow recovery since the 2008 recession. The district has lost 500 students, and demand has increased for mental health services, academic support, and help with purchasing school supplies. Many more students now qualify to receive free or reduced-price school breakfasts and lunches.

The Fairless Alumni Association recognizes that although students from low-income households can count on receiving these meals on school days, there is still a need for access to supplemental food when school is not in session. The Association plans to feed 300 students during weekends, holidays, and breaks throughout the year. The food provided is child-friendly, so the children can prepare it themselves.

Foundation support will help the Association pursue and secure sustainable funding to ensure a consistent supply of food.

STARK EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

In recent years, the Stark Education Partnership has focused its collaboration and advocacy efforts on increasing high school graduation rates and increasing the number of graduates going on to college. Great progress has been made:

- In 2005, Stark County high school graduation rates ranged from 67 to 99%. By 2014, the range was 83% to 99%.
- Since 2001, the number of Stark County students going on to college has increased by 35%.
- The number of students earning a college degree has increased substantially, from 18% in 2012 to 37% in 2014.

The Partnership also helped to develop the successful local grant proposal for the Ohio Department of Education's *Straight A* program, which has helped narrow achievement gaps and facilitate students' success.

With support from the Foundation and other local funders, the Partnership continues working to improve educational outcomes throughout Stark County.

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If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

– Booker T. Washington

Grant Recipients

2017 TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED: **\$2,186,826**

FOUNDATION-LED INITIATIVES

2017 TOTAL AWARDED: **\$1,010,452**

Early Childhood

- Early Childhood Education Alliance, Inc.** \$100,000
To support SPARK programming in Alliance, over three years
- Early Childhood Resource Center** \$2,500
To support incentives for five SPARK focus groups
- Early Childhood Resource Center** \$270,237
To support SPARK programming in Canton and Minerva and for general operating support
- Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association** \$100,000
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

SUBTOTAL: **\$472,737**

Homelessness

- CommQuest Services, Inc.** \$1,000
To support a staff member's attendance at the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Washington, DC
- CommQuest Services, Inc.** \$80,715
To support the SHAPE (Sustain Housing and Prevent Eviction) Program, over two years
- ICAN Housing** \$1,000
To support a staff member's attendance at the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Washington, DC
- ICAN Housing** \$100,000
Capital support for the Arbor Ridge permanent supportive housing project
- Refuge of Hope** \$1,000
To support a staff member's attendance at the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Washington, DC
- Refuge of Hope** \$200,000
To support construction of a new facility
- Stark Housing Network** \$150,000
Operating support, over five years

- Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority** \$1,000
To support a staff member's attendance at the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Washington, DC
- YWCA of Canton** \$1,000
To support a staff member's attendance at the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Washington, DC

SUBTOTAL: **\$535,715**

Health Access

- Access Health Stark County** \$2,000
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

SUBTOTAL: **\$2,000**
TOTAL: **\$1,010,452**

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

2017 TOTAL AWARDED: **\$165,211**

- Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank** \$35,000
To support the next phase of Stark County food hub development
- Canton City Health Department** \$13,500
To support evaluation of Stark County's effort to reduce infant mortality
- Stark County Educational Service Center** \$69,211
To support the *Stark Speaks UP for Kindness* bullying prevention program, over three years
- Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery** \$22,500
To support additional nonprofit leadership programs
- YWCA of Canton** \$5,000
To support initial consulting services for an organizational assessment and planning process
- YWCA of Canton** \$20,000
To support ongoing consulting services for an organizational assessment and planning process

TOTAL: **\$165,211**



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Kinship: Not serving the other but being one with the other.

– Father Gregory Boyle



RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

2017 TOTAL AWARDED: **\$1,011,163**

Responsive Grants

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Summit, Medina, and Stark Counties	\$20,000
To support youth mentoring programs in Stark County	
Canton Calvary Mission	\$5,000
To help with storm damage repairs	
Canton Calvary Mission	\$15,000
To support an after-school program	
Carroll County Council on Aging	\$9,600
To support the purchase of a stove for its meal program	
Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health	\$161,925
To support redesign of the Medical Department, over two-and-a-half years	
Domestic Violence Project	\$34,763
To provide start-up support for the <i>Medical Advocate</i> program	
Domestic Violence Project	\$105,000
To support the <i>Legal Advocacy</i> and <i>Renew Counseling</i> programs, over two years	
First Tee of Canton	\$15,000
To support a part-time outreach coordinator	
Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland of East Central Ohio, Inc.	\$180,378
To support the <i>Parenting Skills Training</i> program, over two years	
Hammer and Nails, Inc.	\$55,000
To provide ongoing operating support, over two years	

Hammer and Nails, Inc.	\$50,000
To support purchase and renovation of a new building	
Hannah's House 119	\$9,525
To support in-school and after-school mentoring programs	
Pegasus Farm	\$150,000
To support the Military Family Center, over two years	
Salvation Army of Massillon	\$10,000
To support the <i>Pathway of Hope</i> program	
St. Anthony/All Saints Parish	\$45,000
To support the <i>Building Bridges</i> Latino outreach program, over three years	
St. John's Villa	\$12,440
To support the purchase of a chairlift	
Stark Education Partnership, Inc.	\$90,000
For operating support, over three years	

SUBTOTAL: **\$968,631**

Good Samaritan Grants

Agape Ministries	\$5,000
To support the <i>Men of Tomorrow</i> intensive mentoring program	
Better Future Facilitators	\$5,000
To support a revolving loan fund	
Fairless Alumni Association, Inc.	\$10,000
To provide matching support for the Children's Meal Program, over two years	
Warren Township Community Center	\$8,532
To support the <i>Monday Lunch</i> program	

SUBTOTAL: **\$28,532**

Board Honorariums

Hannah's House 119	\$750
Gift on behalf of retiring director Ronald Becker	
Walsh University	\$750
Gift on behalf of retiring director Judge Sara Lioi	
Walsh University	\$1,000
Donation received and regranted on behalf of Judge Sara Lioi in recognition of ten years of Federal Judicial service	

SUBTOTAL: **\$2,500**

Special Projects

College Club of Canton	\$500
To support a board development workshop	
Mercy Medical Center	\$4,200
For sponsorship support for the annual Harvest Ball	
People's Baptist Church	\$5,000
To support a neighborhood playground	
Stark County District Library	\$800
To support the annual family book celebration	
Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown	\$1,000
For program support	

SUBTOTAL: **\$11,500**

TOTAL: **\$1,011,163**

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Mission and Vision



MISSION

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton supports and furthers the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. The principal components of their ministry are health, education, and social services. The Foundation's focus is on issues of social justice relating to the poor and underserved in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.



VISION

To improve the quality of life of the poor and underserved so they can live to their fullest potential, by initiating systemic change, enhancing community connections, serving as a community change agent to advocate for the poor, and promoting innovative strategies to impact the root causes of poverty.

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The time is always right to do what is right.

– Martin Luther King, Jr.



SISTERS *of* CHARITY
FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

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