

Responsive Grantmaking for

Heroic Efforts

While much of the Foundation's grantmaking focuses on our foundation-led initiative and strategic collaboration areas, we recognize there are many other heroes in our community responding to needs as they arise. Sometimes these organizations need a little extra support to best serve the needs of individuals in the community. The Sisters of Charity Foundation offers a responsive grantmaking process to support these heroic efforts.



Beacon Charitable Pharmacy

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy has saved the day for hundreds of residents over its last 20-plus years of existence. The organization provides life-saving prescription medication, health counseling and screenings, vaccines, and referrals to other community resources for those without access to insurance: a literal beacon of hope.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton was there in the beginning, working collaboratively with other local foundations to support the creation of Ohio's second charitable pharmacy. Working with pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, nursing homes, and now individual donations of prescription medications, Beacon is able to serve individuals at or below 250 percent of the poverty level with prescriptions for \$5 or less. Today, the Foundation is proud to continue supporting Beacon in its next chapter, with a new leader, a new facility, and new partnerships to expand services to those in need.

Executive Director Dr. LaTrice Snodgrass is excited for the future and the patients Beacon has yet to meet. "We are here to help people get and stay healthy. Our new location offers better visibility and our new mobile pharmacy unit (a Sprinter van) is helping us bring medications to those who can't come to us," explains Snodgrass. BEACONPHARMACY.ORG

Challenge Ministries

Challenge Ministries (formerly known as Men's Challenge) is a Christ-centered organization, operating a multi-faceted job readiness program that wraps holistic supports and practical knowledge around individuals who are deemed by society as unemployable. These individuals face villains from their past such as addiction and incarceration, but with the help of Challenge Ministries' heroic staff and volunteers, they can increase their confidence and overcome barriers to become gainfully employed.

"Our goal is to meet these individuals where they are and address challenges together," explained Board Chair, Michelle Collins. "By fostering personal growth, goal setting, and building a supportive community, we aim to create a lasting impact on the lives of our participants, enabling them to become providers for their families and positive contributors to their communities."

Once participants complete the four-week job readiness program, they are matched up with a mentor for additional support. The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton is proud to provide operating support to this life-changing organization. MENSCHALLENGE.ORG



Food insecurity is a reality we face here every day, and being able to provide even one solid meal can make a huge difference.”

BETTY SMITH, FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EN-RICH-MENT



EN-RICH-MENT

A spatula, an apron, and a stove may not seem like the normal tools of a hero, but at EN-RICH-MENT, they fit the bill! The local nonprofit, founded in 2012, offers classes in music, art, cooking, dance, gardening, media production, theater performance and production, percussion, and other workshops and training to youth aged five to 18. The cooking program occurs in the newly outfitted kitchen, which was supported, in part, by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton.

“Watching our students learn to cook is a true joy,” said Betty Smith, founder and executive director of EN-RICH-MENT. “These classes show them that they’re capable of creating something nourishing and beautiful—and that’s something that really stays with them.”

In addition to the cooking classes being a favorite for the students that call EN-RICH-MENT home before and after school and in the summer, the kitchen also serves all the meals and snacks for the program.

“Food insecurity is a reality we face here every day, and being able to provide even one solid meal can make a huge difference,” said Smith. “For our kids, it means they can focus on learning and enjoying their day without the distraction of hunger.”

EN-RICH-MENT.ORG

NAMI Stark County

Supporting, encouraging, and standing alongside those who battle mental illness is a very special superpower, one that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has mastered. In Stark County, NAMI plays a crucial role in advocating for the rights of individuals affected by mental illness and providing support, education, and resources for them and their families.

This year, with support from the Foundation, NAMI launched three new programs: FaithNet, Sharing Hope, and Hearts+Minds. Mirroring a national partnership, NAMI Stark County has formed a strategic partnership with community leaders to implement these programs to promote mental health awareness and reduce stigma in the Black and African ancestry communities. FaithNet is designed to harness the power of one’s faith and promote the vital role of spirituality in the recovery journey of many who live with mental health conditions. Sharing Hope is a community program that provides a supportive, healing space for honest conversation around mental wellness and support, reclaiming the narrative within Black communities. And Hearts+Minds is a wellness program designed to educate and empower individuals to manage both their mental and physical health and emphasize the interconnectedness of psychological and physical well-being.

Through these programs and partnership, NAMI is heroically breaking down barriers to care and providing access to resources and support. **NAMISTARKCOUNTY.ORG**

