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INTENTIONAL



SISTERS *of* CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

GIVING



2014 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends:



Lasting change can take place when collaboration and partnership are standard operating procedure. By joining with others, we greatly strengthen our efforts to ensure that every child has high-quality early experiences, every person has access to housing, and every family has the opportunity to thrive.

As Chairman of the Board of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, I've had the privilege of seeing first-hand the benefits of collaboration, as well as the benefits of supporting efforts to improve quality of life throughout our community.

It has been an honor to work with the Board and Staff to keep the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton a stable and strong organization helping to create systems that move people out of poverty.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Belden

Chairman of the Board

Dear Friends:



If you look through the feature articles in this report, you will see a theme emerge: collaboration.

In our efforts to help the poor and underserved, the challenges are real and the systems are extremely complex. Fortunately, our community is blessed with many foundations, organizations, and individuals

who are not afraid to work together to tackle major issues. This chronicle of our work over the past year shows the power of coming together to address major community challenges.

I invite you to take a closer look at how we and our partners are collaborating to address homelessness, support early learning, strengthen families, empower men who need jobs, and get to the root causes of infant mortality. Through these partnerships — along with the focused efforts of some pretty amazing organizations throughout our community — we continue to strive to fulfill our vision to improve the quality of life for the poor and underserved in our community.

As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Sincerely,

Joni T. Close

President

Our 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.

Focused Intentional Giving

The Motivation Behind our Grantmaking

Each year, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton receives dozens of requests. While each has merit, our Foundation is strategic in its giving, directing funds to three categories of need. This report provides examples of the programs we fund. Here's how we evaluate applications and programs.

FOUNDATION-LED INITIATIVES

The goal: Develop and hone programs focused on systemic change.

These long-term programs are initiated, led, and monitored closely by the Foundation. Programs in this category target policy changes and public funding at the local, state, and federal levels. Our board and staff remain involved in these programs and our outcomes are assessed by independent evaluators.

Examples:

- Early Childhood Efforts
- Homeless Initiative

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

The goal: Join with others to launch programs that enhance efficiency in community services.

These programs are led by a collaborative group that includes the Foundation. Together, we find ways to improve or streamline community services. Because these programs may take a few years to get off the ground, they may be funded for multiple years, but are ultimately designed to run on their own. Processes are evaluated and refined over time.

Examples:

- Men's Challenge
- THRIVE Infant Mortality Collaborative

RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

The goal: Address short-term human needs in our community.

Led by community members or nonprofit organizations, these programs have defined life cycles and address a variety of needs. The Foundation is not the sole funder for these programs and has limited involvement in their implementation and evaluation processes. Responsive efforts may include funding, technical assistance, capacity building, and the staff's community involvement.

Examples:

- Providing Internet Access to St. John's Villa
- Supporting the Purchase of a New Van for the Stark County Hunger Task Force

FOUNDATION-LED INITIATIVES



**HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE
OF STARK COUNTY**

“ The HCCSC achieved a lot in 2014. We look forward to a new year of securing additional housing units, identifying additional sources of funding, and finding new ways in which our community can work together to combine our efforts to help end homelessness in Stark County. ”

—Jean Van Ness, Senior Program Officer/Special Projects

Finding a Place to Call Home



Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County

HCCSC leads the way in ending homelessness in our community

Homelessness isn't an issue that only affects big cities. It's a crisis that impacts our own community – sometimes just a few miles away from where we live.

Fifteen percent of Stark County residents live in poverty. In Canton, the number more than doubles to 32 percent.¹ With the state of the economy, a lack of affordable housing for low-income individuals, and an increase in mental health and substance abuse issues, homelessness is a growing problem in Stark County.

That's why a group of individuals, agencies, and organizations, including the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, joined together to form the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) in 2013 to continue and expand the work formerly done by the Stark County Homeless Council and, before that, by the Stark County Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Fifteen percent of Stark County residents live in poverty. In Canton, it more than doubles to 32 percent.

"We've always had a place at the table in working to combat homelessness in our county," says Jean Van Ness, senior program officer/special projects at the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton. "The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

has long required that communities have an independent group in place (now called a 'Continuum of Care') to collect data on homelessness, develop plans to provide housing and services for the homeless, and submit an annual consolidated application to HUD for the grant funding local service providers need to support their homeless programs. When, in 2011, HUD issued regulations imposing heavy new requirements on Continuums of Care, we knew we had to take a more active role to ensure that Stark County satisfied these new requirements and continued to qualify for the federal funding our service providers need."

In 2014, the HCCSC made great strides in meeting HUD requirements and helping the homeless in our community and those dedicated to serving them, including:

- **Creating operating rules and procedures for the HCCSC's central intake system, the Homeless Hotline**, which help ensure that homeless individuals with the most acute needs are served first.
- **Reassessing and reallocating funding to support rapid rehousing**, a HUD-supported intervention that seeks to put homeless people back in housing quickly and provide temporary financial support while helping them solve the problems that contributed to their homelessness.
- **Addressing the local need for more permanent supportive housing**, the long-term, subsidized housing needed by people with serious disabilities. Last year, the HCCSC engaged in a year-long study and determined that Stark County needed at least 45 new permanent supportive housing units. Plans are now underway to develop those units.
- **Finding ways to strengthen the capacity of Stark County's homeless system**, by, among other things, updating the HCCSC website with new and relevant information, increasing HCCSC annual membership meetings from twice a year to three times a year, selecting new software for the Homeless Management Information System, diversifying sources of funding for service providers, and recruiting to the HCCSC Board individuals representing all the organizations which HUD expects to play a part in ending homelessness.

"The HCCSC achieved a lot in 2014," says Van Ness. "We look forward to a new year of securing additional housing units, identifying additional sources of funding, and finding new ways in which our community can work together to help end homelessness in Stark County."

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton partnered with the Austin-Bailey, Deuble, Fred Silk, Hoover, and Stark Community foundations to provide funding for the Homeless Hotline and Homeless Management Information System.

¹ *The Ohio Poverty Report, Ohio Development Services Agency, Research Office – a State Affiliate of the U.S. Census Bureau, January 2015.*

FOUNDATION-LED INITIATIVES



YWCA EARLY HEAD START PARTNERSHIP

Despite the fact that funding seemed out of reach and applying seemed a Herculean task, the group decided to go for it because of one very compelling reason: the children.

YWCA Early Head Start Partnership: It Was Meant To Be

In Stark County, partnership and collaboration are standard operating procedure. And Cathy Jennings, Chief Operating Officer of the YWCA of Canton, knows it. That's why she was willing to begin the daunting task of applying for a Federal Early Head Start Partnership grant. And that's why the partnership – led by the YWCA – was a success. Cathy is the first to give credit to her partners: the **Early Childhood Resource Center, First Baptist Childcare, JRC Learning Center, Oak Park Preschool, Stuckey Family Interfaith Child Development Center, and three in-home family providers.**

Foundation President Joni Close initially learned about the funding opportunity and knew it was just right for Stark County. She invited Cathy and other partners to a meeting to discuss the opportunity, and the Foundation paid for a grantwriter with early childhood experience.

"The Foundation brought this partnership together," Jennings explains. "We would have missed this opportunity. It would never have taken off – it would have seemed too huge." Despite the fact that funding seemed out of reach and applying seemed a Herculean task, the group decided to go for it because of one very compelling reason: the children.

Cathy and her partners are very glad they did! The five-year renewable Early Head Start grant will provide just under \$2 million per year for comprehensive child development and family support services for 155 Stark County children who range in age from six weeks to three years and live in low-income households.

One reason this grant is such an exceptional opportunity is that it supports far more than just child care slots. It supports year-round slots in high-quality settings, as well as a comprehensive network of supports for families and educators. Along with other partners, Help Me Grow will provide home visits for the families and services for children who need early intervention. Canton Health Department nurses will conduct health and dental screenings and review the children's health records for any concerns. The Resiliency Project will provide support services to teachers and to families with children who are experiencing behavioral or social-emotional concerns. In addition, every educator serving these children will have the opportunity to take at least one professional development course per year through the Early Childhood Resource Center.

"The collaboration on this was incredible," according to Cathy.

"It was meant to be." She believes that partners were eager to get involved with this effort specifically because it came from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, and "because of their commitment to providing high-quality services to the children of Stark County."

Cathy has been a part of the Canton early childhood community for decades, and she's witnessed the impact of the Foundation's long-term focus on improving early childhood programs and services. She feels this grant award is a true testament to what can happen when "we put the children of Stark County first."



STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS



MEN'S CHALLENGE

“ One of the intangible benefits of the grant was that the Sisters of Charity Foundation provided us valuable insight into how we can run a better organization,” says Goodwin. “We look forward to expanding our reach and helping even more underserved men throughout Stark County. ”

—Gil Goodwin, Men's Challenge Chaplain

Accepting the ‘Challenge’



Men's Challenge receives \$90,000 grant to extend job-building services to men throughout Stark County

Empowering men who feel powerless.

It's the cornerstone behind the mission of Men's Challenge, a faith-based, nonprofit organization that reaches out to adult males who society considers "unemployable." It provides job skills training, mentorship, and support to men 18 and older so they can succeed beyond their circumstances and become assets to their families and communities.

In 2014, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton awarded a three-year, \$90,000 grant to Men's Challenge to extend its services beyond Alliance, where the program began with grants from the Foundation and other community partners. The new program, called Men's Challenge – Canton, began in 2014.

"We recognized that close to 28 percent of the guys coming to our classes were from Canton," says Ray Hall, Men's Challenge board chair and one of its original founders. "The grant allowed us to staff our second location in downtown Canton and expand our reach throughout the county."

The programs and services Men's Challenge provides include:

- **Job Skills Training Classes.** Topics for these weekly classes include how to search for a job, how to get ready for an interview, and how to manage finances after gaining employment.
- **Mentorship.** Mentors meet with participants weekly to offer guidance and encouragement. "A majority of our guys never had a positive male role model or father figure in their lives," says Gil Goodwin. Goodwin serves as Men's Challenge chaplain and wraparound service coordinator, and he was also a co-founder of the organization.
- **Employment Skills Workshops.** For four weeks, MC Workshops provides on-the-job training to individuals who completed the Job Skills Training Classes. From

learning how to operate a forklift to understanding how to work inside a factory, participants earn a minimum wage and receive free meals and transportation to and from the training facility.

- **Wraparound Services Referral.** Many who participate in Men's Challenge are in need of additional services. Local agencies such as Quest Recovery Services and Refuge of Hope partner with the organization to ensure that their immediate needs are met.

"One of the intangible benefits of the grant was that the Sisters of Charity Foundation provided us valuable insight into how we can run a better organization," says Goodwin. "We look forward to expanding our reach and helping even more underserved men throughout Stark County."



STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS



The situation is critical. Not only are we losing too many Stark County babies, but African-American babies are failing to thrive at more than double the rate of Caucasian babies, both locally and across the state.

THRIVE: Getting to the Roots of Infant Mortality

Stark County
Births
40 Deaths
4091

According to *The Repository*, “Of the 4,091 babies born in Stark County in 2012, 40 never made it to their first birthday.”¹

Governor Kasich has designated Canton as one of nine “hotspot” communities for infant mortality. The situation is critical. Not only are we losing too many Stark County babies, but African-American babies are failing to thrive at more than double the rate of Caucasian babies, both locally and across the state.

The reasons why infant mortality rates are high – and why there is such a huge racial disparity – are numerous and complex. A collaborative group called Stark County THRIVE (Toward Health Resiliency for Infant Vitality and Equity) has been investigating the problem. THRIVE brings together more than 50 representatives from Stark County’s hospitals, health departments, and other organizations serving moms and families, including two representatives from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton. Stark County THRIVE met throughout 2014 and will continue working through 2016 to determine the causes and devise a plan for addressing the problem.

This is not an easy problem to solve, and it’s not nearly as straightforward as it might seem. Our community is blessed with exceptional medical resources. And indeed, it appears that moms who receive prenatal care and medical attention for themselves and their babies do have a dramatically lower infant mortality rate. The problem seems to stem from a complex combination of cultural, social, and economic factors.

While we know that low birth weights, premature births, and unsafe sleep practices all play a role, they’re not the whole picture. To learn first-hand from actual families who have been affected, THRIVE established a Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Board.



By investigating the circumstances surrounding individual infant deaths, research shows that FIMR boards improve future services and resources that are available for women, infants, and families.

Although that dubious “hotspot” distinction means that some state funding has been allocated for addressing the issue, more help was needed. THRIVE advocated for a dedicated staff member to oversee the FIMR board and help keep other activities on track. With support from the local hospitals and the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, the Canton City Health Department now has the resources to hire a project coordinator.

While much more investigation lies ahead, the THRIVE team hopes to employ a combination of strategies to address the problem, including the following:

- **The Centering Pregnancy program** is an evidence-based model of group care for women that integrates health, education, and support. Eight to twelve women with similar due dates meet regularly, participate in facilitated discussion, and receive appropriate health assessments and support. Research shows that participants have fewer preterm births, breastfeed more often, and increase the spacing between pregnancies. Although this program is offered at both Aultman and Mercy hospitals, only a fraction of those who need the program are currently participating. THRIVE hopes to make the program available to many more women, right in the neighborhoods where they live.
- **Safe Sleep Education** is imperative to lowering the infant mortality rate. According to the Ohio Department of Health website, three Ohio babies die every week in unsafe sleep environments. These deaths are preventable. THRIVE is working with the Stark County Health Department’s Safe Sleep Task Force to identify gaps in safe sleep education and recommend ways to improve and expand current efforts.

THRIVE leaders plan to continue to reach out to others in the community to better understand and address this complex community issue.

¹ <http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20150124/NEWS/150129551/10283/NEWS>

RESPONSIVE EFFORTS



ARTSINSTARK

The Genius Project will challenge 500 Summit neighborhood families to work together to solve problems using art, sports, and science. During the course of a year, six Genius Project challenge events will take place throughout the neighborhood.



ArtsinStark: Summit Neighborhood *Genius Project*

The arts are often seen as a frivolous afterthought rather than a serious tool for addressing community issues. But ArtsinStark believes creativity can re-energize communities and instill a sense of neighborhood pride.

In 2014, the Foundation partnered with ArtsinStark to pilot its neighborhood revitalization program – the Genius Project – in the Summit neighborhood of downtown Canton. The Genius Project will challenge 500 Summit neighborhood families to work together to solve problems using art, sports, and science. During the course of a year, six Genius Project challenge events will take place throughout the neighborhood.

The project is based on ArtsinStark’s 2014 Genius Awards competition, which was billed by *About* magazine as a “grown-up science fair.” That competition pitted teams from 13 local businesses against each other and challenged them to use a random assortment of objects to devise an innovative obstacle course. The competition generated a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm. The hope is that similar neighborhood-based competitions might do so as well. If the Genius Project is well received, the organization hopes to offer it in neighborhoods throughout the city.



Liberty Center Connections: Case Management Improvements

Liberty Center Connections is a substance-abuse treatment, education, and prevention services organization that’s served Wayne and Holmes counties for nearly 30 years. It’s the only organization in its region that provides case management services to victims of domestic violence and individuals with addiction and mental health issues.

When Liberty Center surveyed their clients and received a 75 percent satisfaction rate with their case management services, yet a 95 percent satisfaction rate with all other services they provided, they knew they had to take action.

Excellent case management is essential to ensuring clients’ long-term recovery. It means higher rates of client abstinence from alcohol and drugs and more clients establishing long-term housing, maintaining employment, and avoiding legal problems.

With Foundation support, Liberty Center was able to improve its case management services by developing a customized training model for case managers and a screening tool to identify well-qualified candidates for the case manager position. These steps will lead to improved client outcomes, higher client satisfaction, and greater community stability.

30 Years Served



RESPONSIVE EFFORTS



St. John's Villa: Internet Access

If you only had \$75 a month, what would you spend it on? Chances are, Internet wouldn't make the list. But Internet access is becoming necessary for education, communication and recreation, not to mention accessing crucial government and social services assistance. Lack of Internet access was rapidly becoming a quality of life issue for the low-income, developmentally disabled adults served by St. John's Villa, many of whom only receive \$75 each month in discretionary income.

St. John's Villa looked to the Foundation for help in ensuring that its residents would have access to this vital service, regardless of their ability to pay. With Foundation support, St. John's now provides Internet access and computers to keep residents connected to their friends, families and community, while providing numerous opportunities for education and recreation.



Stark County Hunger Task Force: Pantry Support Program

The Stark County Hunger Task Force serves more than 27,000 people every month through its partner network of 31 emergency food pantries. Many of the food pantries operate on shoestring budgets; they rely on Task Force trucks to transport food to them from the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.



Funding from the Sisters of Charity, Deuble, Hoover, Timken, and Paul and Carol David foundations allowed the Task Force to retire its 14-year-old transport truck and purchase a reliable new vehicle with increased capacity and efficiency. The new vehicle has cut the needed number of trips to the food bank in half, so volunteers spend less time loading and driving and more time distributing food to those in our community who need it most.



Westark Family Services: Geriatric Case Management

Westark Family Services has served the greater Massillon area since 1944. In 2015, Foundation support helped fund operating costs and allowed Westark to increase the hours of its case managers. It also allowed Westark to host a client luncheon event.

Westark's Geriatric Case Management program helps homebound clients ages 60 and older. The program meets individual needs so clients can continue living safely and independently in their own homes for as long as possible. Some clients need help paying bills or completing Medicare paperwork. Some need help with having food delivered or coordinating home cleaning services. Whatever a client needs, Westark's case manager sees to it. The case manager also serves as an important social and emotional support for clients, whose family and friends may not be close by. All services are provided at no charge.



2014 FOUNDATION-LED INITIATIVES
\$1,421,980

Early Childhood Initiatives

Clinton Global Initiative

To support the national early childhood workgroup \$2,350

Early Childhood Education Alliance, Inc.

Operating support for SPARK in Alliance, over three years \$120,000

Early Childhood Resource Center

Statewide support for new SPARK parent partner kits \$5,000

Early Childhood Resource Center

To support operating expenses and SPARK programming \$450,276

JRC Learning Center

To support ongoing quality improvements in the early childhood center \$20,000

Ohio Business Roundtable

Support for Ohio's federal Preschool Expansion Grant application . . \$5,000

SPARK Ohio

Restricted fund to support expansion of the SPARK program to more Stark County schools \$250,000

YWCA of Canton

To support grant writing for a Federal Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grant \$2,500

Other

Early Childhood program-related expenses \$9,725

SUBTOTAL \$864,851

Health Care Access Initiatives

Mercy Medical Center

For operating support and a panoramic X-ray unit for the dental clinic, over two years \$147,000

Prescription Assistance Network of Stark County, Inc.

For operating support, over two years \$175,000

Other

Health Care Access program-related expenses \$36,129

SUBTOTAL \$358,129

Homeless Initiative

ICAN, Inc.

To help homeless persons access social security and disability benefits, over two years \$51,000

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County

To support the costs of software and staffing for a new Homeless Management Information System \$100,000

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County

To support the Homeless Hotline and Homeless Management Information System \$40,000

Stark County Regional Planning Commission

For partial funding of the Continuum of Care Planner \$8,000

SUBTOTAL \$199,000

2014 STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS
\$227,656

Proactive Grantmaking

Canton City Health Department

To support the Stark County effort to reduce infant mortality \$24,000

Men's Challenge

For a training and employment program in Canton, over three years \$90,000

The Ohio State University Extension

To support the Healthy Children, Healthy Families program \$31,000

Stark County Educational Service Center

To support the Olweus Bullying Prevention program serving Stark County's public and parochial schools, over three years \$82,656

SUBTOTAL \$227,656

RESPONSIVE EFFORTS
\$724,006

Responsive Grants

ArtsinStark

To support the launch of the Genius Project in the Summit neighborhood \$10,000

Canton Calvary Mission

To support an after-school program serving Canton's Gibbs Elementary School neighborhood, over three years \$45,000

Canton City Schools

To support summer and extended literacy programs in Canton City elementary schools, over two years \$22,575

Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio, Inc.

To support a new client tracking system \$16,200

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Stark and Carroll Counties, Inc.

For partial support of one house each year for five years \$82,500

Hammer and Nails, Inc.

To provide ongoing operating support, over two years. \$55,000

Holy Cross Academy

To build organizational capacity in marketing, development, and student retention and recruitment, over three years \$260,000

Liberty Center Connections, Inc.

To improve case management services for individuals with mental health and addiction issues \$22,536

Pathway Caring for Children

To support the therapeutic foster parent recruitment and retention incentive program \$10,000

St. Anthony's/All Saints Parish

To support the Building Bridges Latino outreach program, over three years \$55,000

St. John's Villa

To provide wireless internet access in residential homes for adults with developmental disabilities \$14,995

Stark County Agricultural Society

To support the grandstand renovation project \$75,000

Stark County Hunger Task Force

Toward the purchase of a truck used to transport food to Stark County food pantries \$10,000

United Way of Greater Stark County

To support leasehold improvements for United Way's new offices. \$20,000

Westark Family Services, Inc.

To support geriatric case management, over two years \$10,000

SUBTOTAL \$708,806

Good Samaritan Grants

Aunt Susie's Cancer Wellness Center

To support a program that provides assistance to women fighting cancer \$5,000

Community Services of Stark County

To support an Adult Basic Reading and Math program offered to Samaritan's Table participants \$2,500

SUBTOTAL \$7,500

Special Projects

Mercy Medical Center

Sponsor support for Mercy Service League's Harvest Ball. \$4,200

United Way of Central Stark County, Inc.

To support the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County's effort to end veteran homelessness in 2015, in lieu of a holiday gift for the Foundation Board of Directors \$2,500

SUBTOTAL \$6,700

Board Honorariums

ALS Care Project

Gift on behalf of retiring director Geraldine Radcliffe \$500

Central Catholic High School

Gift on behalf of retiring officer Robert Belden \$250

Pathway Caring for Children

Gift on behalf of retiring officer Ronald Becker \$250

SUBTOTAL \$1,000

2014 TOTAL \$2,373,642

We effect change by targeting specific areas for a sustained period of time, while responding to other community needs through responsive grantmaking.”

— Joni T. Close, Foundation President

Sisters of Charity Foundation Board of Directors



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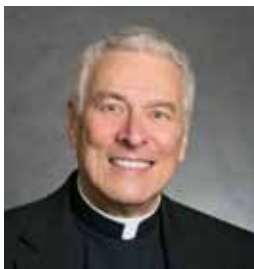
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Staff

From left to right:

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Joni T. Close *President*
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Jean Van Ness *Senior Program Officer/Special Projects*
Jennifer Haude *Communications Specialist*
Anne G. Savastano *Grants Manager/Communication Manager*
Dawn Miller *Bethlehem Project Director/Program Officer*
Liz Ford *Office Manager/Administrative Assistant*

Our 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.



SISTERS *of* CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

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