



FOCUSED

INTENTIONAL

GIVING



SISTERS of CHARITY
FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

2015 Annual Report



Dear Friends,

The challenges we face in Stark County create unique opportunities for organizations to work together to improve the lives of those who live in our community. Collaborative relationships maximize resources and provide long-term solutions toward this goal. Advancement in early education,

combating homelessness, raising people out of poverty, providing unique opportunities to individuals with disabilities, and caring for our seniors are a few areas where the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, through extensive partnerships and collaborations, is making a positive difference in our community.

It has been my privilege to serve in an organization that has long recognized the value of supporting collaborative efforts to address complex challenges. In advancing the mission of the Foundation, the staff and board are ever mindful to support programs that improve the quality of life of the poor and underserved in our community so that they can achieve their fullest potential.

The work of the organizations and programs the Foundation supports is inspiring. Even more inspiring, however, is seeing those we serve improve their lives.

Sincerely,

Judge Sara Lioi
Board Chair



Dear Friends,

I'm so pleased to share with you this year's Annual Report to the Community. As you will see, our partners are doing some powerful work. On the surface, grants represent an agreement between the grant giver and the grant recipient. But they are so much more. Our annual report is an opportunity to give you a glimpse – a

small but important one – into the incredible organizations doing the really difficult work on the front lines. I hope you'll be as impressed as we are with the significant impact that they make on the lives of so many.

How do we decide what possibilities are priorities for us? It's not easy, but first we look to our vision. Then, we prioritize based on goals we've set to advance our foundation-led initiatives and strategic collaborations, with a healthy amount of flexibility for our responsive grants.

Ultimately, we want a vibrant, healthy, and safe community that is inclusive of everyone. And we want to provide assistance that helps individuals to live to their fullest potential. We hope you enjoy this tribute to our many partners. As always, we feel honored to be sharing their stories.

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.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As a faith-based organization, we believe in ...

... approaching all that we do with deliberation, compassion, charity, integrity, prudence, inclusiveness, and humility.

... respecting and valuing cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity by operating in a manner that supports and enhances the dignity of individuals and communities.

... respecting and valuing each person's strengths and abilities by including in the decision-making process those affected by our decisions.

... addressing the root causes of poverty by focusing our efforts on nurturing healthy communities, especially with respect to the poor and underserved.

... supporting and enhancing the well-being of children and families.

... collaborating with foundations, organizations, and other systems to leverage assets and resources whenever possible.

... striving for actions that are strategic, timely, outcome oriented, and directed toward long-term systemic change.



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 outcomes are assessed by independent evaluators. Examples include:

-  Early Childhood page 9
-  Homelessness..... page 11

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 include:

-  Employment..... page 17
-  Leadership Development..... page 19

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 include:

-  Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio..... page 24
-  Golden Key Center for Exceptional Children..... page 25
-  JRC Adult Day Center..... page 26
-  Orrville Area Boys and Girls Club..... page 27
-  Stark County District Library..... page 28
-  WATOES..... page 29



FOUNDATION-LED INITIATIVES

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

—Saint Augustine

Early Childhood

SPARK EXPANSION: SUPPORTING WHAT WORKS FOR OHIO'S KIDS

The SPARK kindergarten readiness program has been the Foundation's most ambitious and enduring effort. This family-focused home visiting program harnesses the power of parent engagement to set at-risk children on a path to school and life success.

SPARK began serving families in 2003, through a collaboration between the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. During its first year, SPARK served 140 Stark County children. Since then, the program has helped more than 8,300 Ohio children get ready for school, including more than 4,300 in Stark County.

“...the program has helped more than 8,300 Ohio children get ready for school, including more than 4,300 in Stark County.”

Interest in the program has increased significantly in recent years, due to its positive outcomes and robust evaluation design. Independent evaluators have found that SPARK children consistently outscore their non-SPARK peers on the kindergarten readiness assessment that measures each child's mastery of the skills important for literacy. The benefit of participation lasts as the child progresses through school: SPARK children earn significantly higher scores than their peers on the third and fifth grade state assessments in reading and math.

Although SPARK management was transferred to the Early Childhood Resource Center in 2013, the Sisters of Charity Foundation remains committed to school readiness. The Foundation's Early Childhood Committee initiated an effort to expand SPARK services in Stark County. Sharing results with local funders led to a joint investment of \$1.06 million over six years. The Foundation's funding partners are the Deuble, Hoover, Paul and Carol David, and Stark Community foundations and United Way of Greater Stark County. Because of their generosity, SPARK will serve additional families in Canton and Massillon and is serving the Perry Local and Plain Local districts for the first time.

Other community partners have contributed as well: all Stark County SPARK families will receive their books and supplies courtesy of funding from the Stark County Department of Job and Family Services. The Stark County District Library continues to support SPARK by employing six parent partners.

There's even more good news for all SPARK sites, including sites outside of Stark County. Thanks to strong legislative support at the state level, SPARK will receive \$1 million in state funding over two years:

- In Stark County, \$400,000 will further increase the number of families served per year.
- Outside of Stark County, \$400,000 will be allocated to existing SPARK sites (in Clark, Cuyahoga, Darke, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery, and Summit counties), based on the prorated number of children each site served in 2015.
- The remaining \$200,000 will help get new SPARK sites up and running in Ashland, Ottawa, and Ross counties.

THE SPARK FORMULA FOR SCHOOL READINESS

- Engaged parents
 - + Books and supplies
 - + A caring and skilled parent partner
 - + A plan for learning
 - + Access to special interventions
- = A child who's ready and excited to succeed!

Across Ohio, SPARK is supported by a variety of funding sources, including school districts, private foundations, community organizations, libraries, hospitals, United Way chapters, individual donors, and government agencies.

These latest contributions bring the amount invested in SPARK by all sources to more than \$20 million dollars since the program was established. SPARK is now on track to serve more than 1,700 Ohio families in 2016.



Homelessness

HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE OF STARK COUNTY

Last September, the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County held a community summit hosted by the Foundation at the Kent Stark Conference Center. This event welcomed 90 community leaders and stakeholders to learn about national goals to end homelessness, local efforts to meet those goals, the funding needed to support those efforts, and the future management of our local Continuum of Care.

Jean Van Ness, the Foundation's Senior Program Officer and the local Continuum's Board Chair, shared the need to build the capacity of Stark County's homeless system.

Currently operating with a corps of volunteers and one part-time staff member, our system receives nearly \$2.3 million annually from the federal government. Hamilton County's experience suggests that, with a larger, more professional management team in place, the system could attract far more funding from outside the county to expand and strengthen local housing and service programs for the homeless.

Since the summit, Foundation and Continuum representatives have met with local political and civic leaders to discuss the financial support needed to operate the homeless system properly. Assuming that the Continuum succeeds in obtaining the funds it needs, it will move forward in 2016 to establish a nonprofit organization and hire professional staff to manage that system.

“...the system could attract far more funding from outside the county to expand and strengthen local housing and service programs for the homeless.”

Featured speakers Katie Kitchin (Director of the Ohio office of the Corporation for Supportive Housing) and Kevin Finn (President and CEO of Strategies to End Homelessness, Inc. in Cincinnati) encouraged Stark County's efforts. Both discussed the increasing pressure placed on communities around the country to upgrade their systems of care to meet federal goals for ending homelessness and qualify for federal funds. In addition, Mr. Finn explained how Hamilton County's Continuum has met this challenge by establishing a nonprofit organization to manage its homeless system and by securing public and private funding to support that organization.



FOUNDATION-LED INITIATIVES

In addition to Foundation-led initiatives in early childhood and homelessness, the Foundation has a long-standing commitment to health.



2015 Total: \$1,279,642

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Third Sector New England	\$30,000
To support the national Early Childhood Funders' Collaborative over three years and provide support for a national convening of early childhood funders	
Early Childhood Resource Center	\$468,438
For operating support for the Early Childhood Resource Center, SPARK programs in Canton and Minerva, and management of SPARK replication in Ohio	
Early Childhood Resource Center	\$59,999
For operating support for the Early Childhood Resource Center, SPARK programs in Canton and Minerva, and management of SPARK replication in Ohio, Anonymous Donor Fund	
Other	\$8,384
Early Childhood program-related expenses	

\$566,821

HEALTH

Health Policy Institute of Ohio	\$150,000
To improve the health and well-being of Ohioans by facilitating informed policy decisions, over three years	
Other	\$29,282
Health program-related expenses	



\$179,282

HOMELESSNESS

Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter	\$5,191
To support one-time expenses to enable clients to exit homeless shelters	
Alliance for Children and Families, Inc.	\$21,100
To increase shelter capacity and provide overflow shelter during the winter months	
Alliance for Children and Families, Inc.	\$30,000
To support furnishings for six apartments for families in the new B-FIRST permanent supportive housing project	
Alliance for Children and Families, Inc.	\$12,083
To support one-time expenses to enable clients to exit homeless shelters	
Community Services of Stark County, Inc.	\$7,677
To support one-time expenses to enable clients to exit homeless shelters	
Domestic Violence Project, Inc.	\$18,770
To support one-time expenses to enable clients to exit homeless shelters	
ICAN, Inc.	\$1,000
To support a staff member's attendance at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference in Washington, DC	
ICAN Housing Solutions, Inc.	\$37,500
To provide match funding for renovations of Basic Accommodations, as required by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency	
Jackson Local Schools	\$1,700
To support the attendance of a homeless liaison at the Annual Conference of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth in Phoenix, Arizona	

Refuge of Hope	\$20,171
To support one-time expenses to enable clients to exit homeless shelters	
Refuge of Hope	\$24,700
To support an overflow shelter and medical equipment and supplies	
Stark Social Workers Network	\$42,025
To document the homeless status of people who call the Homeless Hotline, obtain certifications of any disabilities claimed, and upload information into the Homeless Management Information System	
YWCA of Canton	\$15,108
To support one-time expenses to enable clients to exit homeless shelters	
YWCA of Canton	\$95,000
To support the Stark Area Rapid Re-Housing Program	
YWCA of Canton	\$1,000
To support a staff person's attendance at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference in Washington, DC	
YWCA of Canton	\$45,000
To support a new housing officer position	
Other	\$155,514
Homeless program-related expenses	



\$533,539



STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

*"I can do things you cannot; you can do things
I cannot. Together, we can do great things."*

—Mother Teresa

*Employment***DREAMING TO ACHIEVE: GUIDING CLIENTS TO LONG-TERM SUCCESS**

Earning an associate's degree, gaining customer service skills, or changing career paths: these are just some of the goals participants are working toward in the *Dream to Achieve* program offered by Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio.

Participants also possess even bigger, longer-term dreams, such as owning a small baking business or operating a rehabilitation facility for women. Each client has specific goals, and support for achieving those goals cannot be one-size-fits-all. Goodwill's program, which features intensive guidance focused on employment and educational goals, partners with individual participants as they work to achieve their dreams.

The program emerged from a collaboration between several Stark County organizations, including the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, Goodwill, Ohio Means Jobs, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, the Department of Job and Family Services, Stark State College, the Early Childhood Resource Center, and the Canton City School District.

A few of the organizations had been working separately to address current workforce trends and were forging new, engaging strategies to serve today's chronically unemployed and underemployed clients. As the organizations came together, they decided that collaboration could maximize their impact. Ben West, *Dream to Achieve's* Employment Coordinator, feels partnering created a ready network of knowledge and community resources they can call upon. "If it was a linear service, then collaboration wouldn't be necessary," Ben says.

Goodwill has traditionally provided short-term job coaching and development to large numbers of clients. Now, the agency is shifting to also serve smaller groups of people more intensively over four to five years, helping them overcome a wide range of barriers (including housing issues, criminal records, and disabilities) and guiding them as they pursue educational and employment goals. The agency has added staffing capacity to accomplish this.

"It's not a change in services, but a change in philosophy within Goodwill," says Ben. "We're not just looking at employment, but at the whole person."

With a substantial three-year grant from the Foundation, Goodwill has implemented *Dream to Achieve* with parents of children enrolled in the SPARK kindergarten

readiness program. The cohort meets monthly and participants meet individually with Ben weekly to discuss their progress, challenges, and any community resources that could assist them. In spring 2016, the program will grow further as homeless clients are referred by the Homeless Continuum of Care.

The partner organizations continue to collaborate, each offering expertise and resources where they make the greatest impact. Within Goodwill, Ben works with the social services team and "Dream Managers" to intertwine employment goals with clients' longer-term personal goals.

Goodwill aims to use the *Dream to Achieve* process and outcomes to inform its future endeavors, and the Foundation will stay at the collaborative table as the program builds.

OHIO MEANS JOBS: A KEY COLLABORATIVE PARTNER

The Stark County office of Ohio Means Jobs is piloting a comprehensive case management and employment program in response to State legislation passed in 2014 as part of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The program targets low-income youth ages 16-24, helping them work toward education and employment goals while also providing wraparound services. The agency hopes that its pilot will inform the State's decisions before July 2016, the mandated program implementation date.

Ohio Means Jobs has been a valuable partner in the collaborative, proposing ways to coordinate services to meet clients' needs. Jennifer Meek Eells, Executive Director of the Stark-Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board, states, "we want to partner with programs like Goodwill's to give young adults meaningful work experiences and educational opportunities that will not just link them to a job, but to a career path that will provide long-term employment stability and potential growth in earnings over time."



Leadership Development

INVESTING STRATEGICALLY IN THE FUTURE

The future of the vulnerable people in our community depends on the effectiveness of those leading the organizations that serve them. While a bad leader can demoralize an organization, leaving it weak and ineffective, a good leader can energize, propelling the organization toward innovation and a highly effective culture of service.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton and the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Stark County partnered to fund an exploration and development process for 10 local nonprofit leaders. Collectively, those chosen to participate oversee 1,400 employees and budgets totaling \$300 million. Their social services organizations serve over 120,000 clients.

Over 10 months, consultant Mark Plaster, of Markwood Partners, has coached the leaders by regularly meeting with them individually and as a group. Mark has helped them assess their individual strengths and challenges, develop networks and community relationships, and devise plans for organizational succession.

“...a good leader can energize, propelling the organization toward innovation and a highly effective culture of service.”

For Mark, the value of the process lies partially in supporting the leaders over a relatively long period of time. Instead of providing episodic, crisis-based guidance, he guided them as they maneuvered through the everyday challenges they will be expected to handle adeptly for years to come.

Mark, who typically serves the corporate sector, said that “working with this group of leaders has helped me appreciate the unique challenges of leadership in the not-for-profit world. Their personal commitment and sense of mission was truly inspiring—even more so when you realize many of them didn’t experience the leadership development support and resources commonly available in for-profit organizations. I had an immediate sense of satisfaction and accomplishment watching these leaders apply their learning to the critical work they do every day.”

For the participants, the process has provided perspective and the tools to sharpen their leadership skills. One participant stated, “I have truly evolved. I have a better understanding of who I am as a leader and

that my success is dependent upon my own level of self-awareness. I own who I am and how that impacts my decision-making process. I can recognize the strengths of my team and successfully challenge them, yet applaud their contributions.”

Another felt that “the leadership development process was outstanding. Meeting once a month with colleagues to discuss challenges and opportunities was invaluable to my leadership growth. I have made connections and relationships with other participants that might not have happened as easily. The development topics, such as board relationships, succession planning, and leadership assessment, were invaluable.”



As this pilot project has ended, participants have come away with a network eager to guide fellow leaders through future challenges. The funding partners are pleased with the results and are currently assessing future needs for this type of work.



STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

In addition to strategic collaborations focused on employment and leadership development, the Foundation supported other strategic collaborations in the areas of bullying prevention, food security, and infant mortality.



2015 Total: **\$527,044**

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio, Inc. **\$350,000**

To support the *Dream to Achieve* Program, over three years

JRC **\$5,451**

To support the StarkFresh program as part of The Future of Food Security in Stark County project (in collaboration with the Stark Community and Paul and Carol David foundations), over three years

Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery (formerly Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County) **\$35,000**

To partner in support of a nonprofit leadership program

Minerva United Methodist Church **\$10,625**

To support the Minerva Area Food Pantry as part of The Future of Food Security in Stark County project (in collaboration with the Stark Community and Paul and Carol David foundations), over three years

Pregnancy Choices (formerly Pregnancy Support Center of Stark County) **\$79,044**

To support the Vital Pregnancy-Infant Support pilot project, over two years

Stark County Educational Service Center **\$29,044**

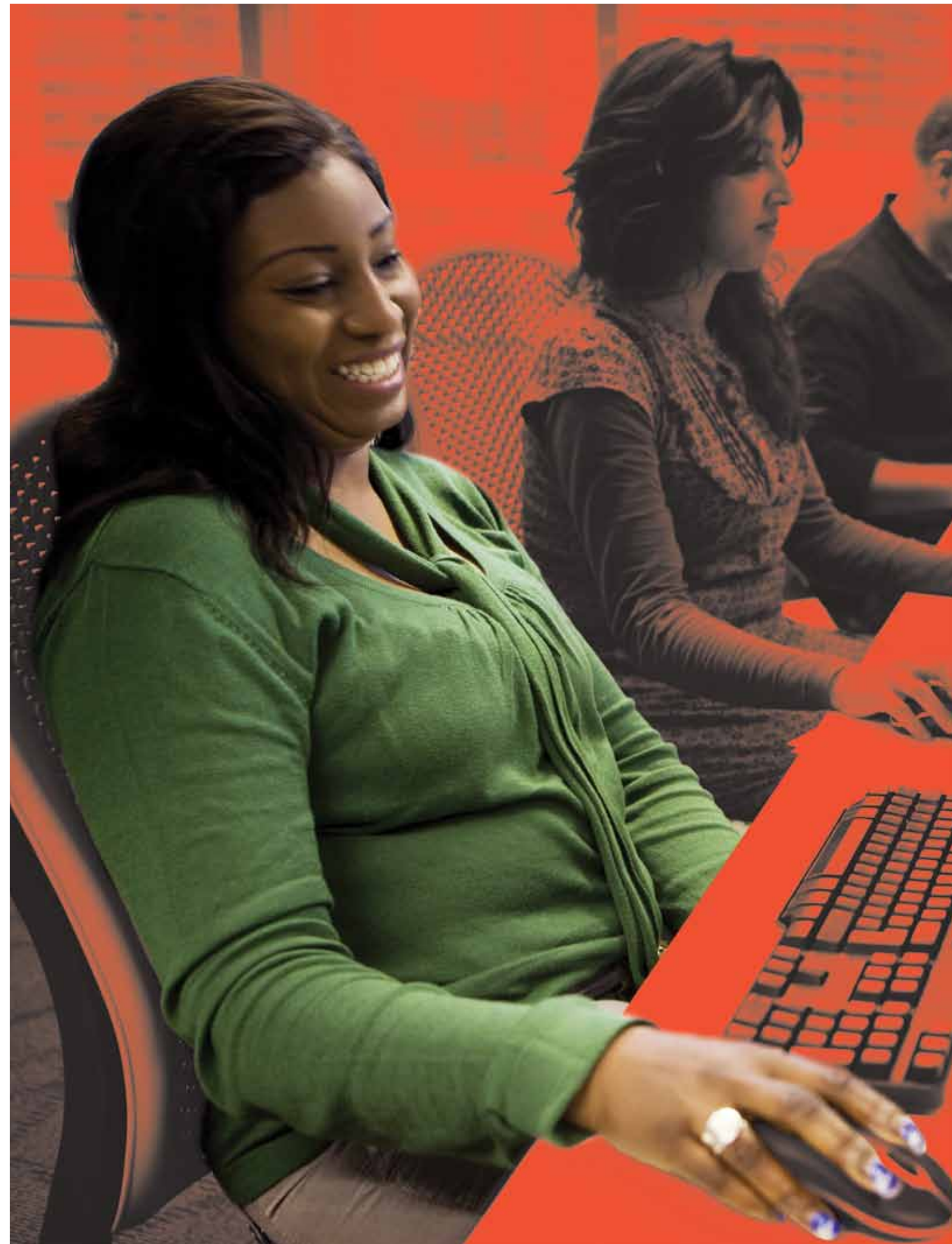
To support the Olweus Bullying Prevention coordinator's expanded hours and increase in pay

Stark County Hunger Task Force **\$17,880**

To support the Canton City Pantry Collaborative as part of The Future of Food Security in Stark County project (in collaboration with the Stark Community and Paul and Carol David foundations), over three years



\$554,926





RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

*“Those who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless.”
—Archbishop Oscar Romero*



Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio MAKING SPORTS ACCESSIBLE



More than 25 years after the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law, people with disabilities continue to face challenges in everyday life. As *USA Today* states, “In the face of these barriers, adaptive sports are gaining popularity as a fun and effective way for people with disabilities to gain confidence in all areas of their lives and build networks of support.”¹

Without the right resources, though, individuals often face significant barriers to participation, including the inability to pay for the expensive equipment needed.

Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio offers recreational and competitive adaptive sports programs. Its office in Wooster operates with a lean staff and a large collection of adaptive equipment, such as hockey sleds and wheelchairs designed specifically for basketball, soccer, track, and softball.

Until recently, programs were offered only in Wayne County. Sisters of Charity Foundation support helped the organization hire a program manager to bring programs right to Stark County. In September, they began offering a

Sled Hockey program at the North Canton Ice Arena and a Wheelchair Basketball program at the Massillon Recreation Center. They hope to have 25 Stark County participants by the end of 2017.

Stark County participant David Kolm says, “Sled hockey has given me an opportunity to participate in a team sport, something I’ve always longed for and needed to take part in. I believe that most people who would fit well into ASPO aren’t even aware of such a thing existing. They might catch a few games of adaptive sports on TV and think to themselves how cool it would be if they could take part, but they have no idea they can. They’re unaware that there are organizations where they can join a team, play a sport, and improve themselves and meet others with similar struggles in life. I have never had a commitment where a team of people expected something of me. Taking part in ASPO helps me improve myself because I cannot use my disability as an excuse to just sit at home all the time.”

1. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/newshumankind/2015/09/10/humankind-adaptive-sports-athletes-wakeboarding/71955582/>

RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

Golden Key Center for Exceptional Children LEGO®-BASED THERAPY



The Golden Key Center for Exceptional Children serves 130 children from 6 weeks to 14 years of age. Its mission is to provide high-quality child care, education, and intervention services for children and families with special needs and developmental disabilities through third grade. Golden Key is open to both special needs children and typically developing children.

“*Studies show that the LEGO®-based therapy helps children with autism improve social interaction skills.*”

The Foundation provided support for an after-school LEGO® therapy program for 60 elementary-age children who have autism and related conditions. Few social development programs are available for these children, who are often unsuccessful in mainstream social or recreational programs. Many children with autism like the

kind of play they can engage in with the blocks. Building must be done in a specific, repetitive way in order for the blocks to fit together, yet there are infinite possibilities for what to build.

Studies show that the LEGO®-based therapy helps children with autism improve social interaction skills. It helps them learn to share, take turns, resolve conflicts, make eye contact, and follow social rules and cues by focusing on common interests and goals.

The program requires collaborative and interactive building, initially for pairs of children, with gradual increases to larger group projects over time. As children progress, the teaching process evolves from structured and uniform to flexible and student-directed.





JRC Adult Day Center SERVING OUR SENIORS



Our local population is aging. The Center for Community Solutions estimates that by 2030, nearly a third of Stark County's population will be over age 60¹. Approximately 30% of JRC Adult Day Center's attendees have some type of dementia. As the demand for adult day services for senior citizens increases, the presence of additional clients requires calm spaces and decreased sensory input for those suffering from dementia.

“Memory Stations have been shown to have a positive effect on people with dementia and can have a calming effect for those experiencing restlessness, agitation, or irritability.”

JRC is expanding its adult day center to meet increased demand and integrate Montessori-Based Dementia Programming® into its existing programming. This best-practice model of care combines rehabilitation principles, educational techniques, and person-centered memory care stations.

The Foundation provided support for upgrading and adding memory care stations. Memory Stations have been shown to have a positive effect on people with dementia and can have a calming effect for those experiencing restlessness, agitation, or irritability. Memory stations often include an office station, a kitchen station, a vanity/beauty station, a craft station, and a music station. They help create an environment that feels secure and supports personal dignity.

1. http://www.communitysolutions.com/assets/docs/Research_Sl_files/NEORIO/2015/stark%20county%20seniors_emb.pdf

RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

Orrville Area Boys and Girls Club KIDSTOP: A SAFE, FUN PLACE TO LEARN AND GROW



Boys and Girls Clubs offer a safe, fun place for kids to learn and grow. They often fill the gap between the end of the school day and the evening hours, a time when kids really need structure and attention. The Orrville Area Boys & Girls Club has operated its KidStop after-school program for more than five years. In addition to individual tutoring, KidStop staff members provide group-based homework help and supervise daily activities related to art, fitness, recreation, technology, sports, and life skills. On an average day, KidStop serves approximately 175 children in grades K-6, with 95% attending every day. The program has a waiting list of 20 children. Most of the children live in households earning below 200% of the poverty level.

Once the children arrive for the after-school program, homework is the first priority. KidStop's unique relationship with the local schools helps support student success:

- Orrville City schools help get the word out by informing parents about the benefits of KidStop.

- KidStop staff receive copies of all homework assignments, allowing them to help with specific assignments and provide copies if children forget or lose them.
- With parental approval, teachers communicate directly with KidStop staff about areas in which students need more targeted assistance.
- KidStop staff help out at the school as well. If the weather is bad and kids can't get outside, KidStop staff monitor indoor play to give the teachers a break.

Since 2010, program enrollment has increased sharply, from 59 to 237 children. Foundation support helped KidStop hire tutors who previously served as volunteers. Hiring familiar faces streamlines the hiring process and helps to maintain and deepen established relationships between the schools, tutors, children, and families.





Stark County District Library
THE SMART STORE®



Since assuming her position in 2012, Executive Director Tena Wilson has helped the Stark County District Library respond creatively to decreasing state funding and dramatic changes in the ways people access information. Wilson and her team devised a comprehensive plan to transform the customer experience and increase demand while driving down costs.

Among other things, the plan called for early literacy play areas at every branch, express checkout stations, a more efficient system for moving materials between libraries, and an innovative bicycle lending program. Recognizing the library as a vital community resource, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton joined other local funders to help support transformation efforts.

These changes come on the heels of repositioning the public library as The Smart Store®, which emphasizes the library's value to today's patrons, communicated through its tagline *where everything is free*®. The new way of thinking about the library helps to educate the community about library services while transitioning to the demand for a stronger online presence. Since its launch of The Smart Store®, use of library materials has increased by 10%.

The Smart Store® focuses library services under three categories:

- Start Smart, aimed at fostering healthy early childhood development and school readiness;
- Stay Smart, designed to inspire lifelong learning; and
- Share Smart, designed to spur community connections by providing community outreach, resources, and assistance.

As part of its early childhood initiative, the library has become integral to countywide school readiness efforts, employing six parent partners who serve SPARK families in the Canton City, Canton Local, Plain Local, and Sandy Valley school districts. The library also furnishes office space for all parent partners who serve those school districts.



RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

We Are Troubled On Every Side

GOOD NUTRITION IS A FAMILY AFFAIR



We know that having regularly scheduled family meals is important for keeping families healthy and stable. But not every family has sufficient knowledge about proper food purchasing, preparation, and storage. These are crucial concepts for low-income urban families, who may be receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits but are unsure how to shop for and prepare inexpensive, nutritious food.

Foundation support for the WATOES Family Affair program will help 20 families learn to set up a clean and workable kitchen, make healthy food choices, and cook large amounts of food to freeze for use over several days or weeks. The program will be delivered monthly by volunteers, with help from a licensed dietician. The families will learn how to store and prepare foods safely and efficiently, and they'll learn about the importance of family time for a child's healthy development.

“...the WATOES Family Affair program will help 20 families learn to set up a clean and workable kitchen, make healthy food choices, and cook large amounts of food to freeze for use over several days or weeks.”

Families who complete the program will receive incentives that will help them to continue providing healthy family meals.

We Are Troubled on Every Side (WATOES) is a small nonprofit organization that has served Canton families for many years. Its outreach programs include activities for seniors, educational field trips, and year-round children's programming.



RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

In addition to Responsive and Good Samaritan grantmaking, the Foundation's responsive efforts include capacity building for nonprofits and involvement in community committees or coalitions.



2015 Total: **\$670,160**

RESPONSIVE AND GOOD SAMARITAN GRANTS

Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio	\$30,000
To support the health and wellness of individuals with physical disabilities	
Alliance City Schools	\$75,000
For capital support for the Alliance Area Career Center	
Andre's House, Inc.	\$10,000
For operating support for a group home	
Association for Better Community Development	\$20,000
To support consulting services for future planning effort	
Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health	\$65,000
To support facility renovations	
Community Harvest, Inc.	\$10,000
To support program expansion	

Domestic Violence Project, Inc.	\$20,000
Emergency shelter personnel for 2016	
Girl Scouts of North East Ohio	\$2,500
To support the In-School Journey program	
Golden Key Center for Exceptional Children	\$11,760
To support the Building Buddies LEGO®-based therapy program	
JRC Adult Day Center	\$10,000
To support a memory care room	
Mercy Medical Center	\$90,000
To support the Immigrant Health Outreach program and interpretation services for the Homeless Hotline, over three years	
Northern Ohio Planned Giving Council (Leave a Legacy Stark County)	\$6,000
To support local fundraising training by Indiana University's Fund Raising School at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy	

OhioGuidestone	\$16,000
To support the Children of Divorce program	
Orrville Area Boys & Girls Club	\$55,000
To support the KidStop program, over three years	
Stark County District Library	\$150,000
To support its capital campaign	
Stark County Hunger Task Force	\$4,300
To support the purchase of a lift gate	
Stark Development Board	\$55,000
For operating support, over three years	
Stark Social Workers Network	\$5,000
To support building repairs	
We Are Troubled On Every Side	\$10,000
To support the Family Affair program, over two years	

\$645,560

SPECIAL PROJECTS

CommQuest	\$1,500
A special holiday gift from the Foundation's Board of Directors	
Hope Outreach Ministry	\$500
A special holiday gift from the Foundation's Board of Directors	
JRC Learning Center	\$900
To purchase a new washing machine	

Mercy Medical Center	\$4,200
Sponsor support for Mercy Service League's Harvest Ball	
Regina Health Center	\$500
A special holiday gift from the Foundation's Board of Directors	
The Martin Center	\$500
A special holiday gift from the Foundation's Board of Directors	
Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina	\$15,000
To support the Crisis Relief Assistance Fund established to provide assistance to flood victims	

\$23,100

BOARD HONORARIUMS

CommQuest	\$500
Gift on behalf of retiring director David Cornet	
ICAN Housing Solutions, Inc.	\$250
Gift on behalf of retiring officer David Cornet	
Kent State University Foundation	\$500
Gift on behalf of retiring director Lynne Dragomier	
Pathway Caring for Children	\$250
Gift on behalf of retiring officer Ron Becker	

\$1,500



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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.



Foundation Staff

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A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System