



30%

Faith in Action

Faith in Action gives Massillon's seniors vital support provided by caring, trained volunteers. This grassroots organization has been in operation for over two decades.

Most clients live alone and can no longer drive. The dedicated volunteers provide reliable transportation to medical appointments, the store, the hairdresser, or the post office.

But Faith in Action is more than just rides: it's regular check-ins. It's also birthday cards, an annual health fair, a Thanksgiving dinner, and Christmas gifts. Faith in Action offers critical connections: to the community, to other seniors, and to continued independence. That can make all the difference to the homebound senior who might otherwise feel isolated and alone.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity has developed a unique and holistic program model to revitalize entire neighborhoods in Canton while helping older homeowners remain independent.

In addition to the "one home at a time" model that's become synonymous with Habitat's work, the organization has also begun targeting entire neighborhoods. The goals? Improving and strengthening communities, preserving older homes and ensuring they are safe and livable, helping seniors age in place, reducing blight, and creating green space.

Two years into Habitat's northeast Canton project, owner occupancy increased by 3%, tax delinquency decreased by 3%, and property values increased.

Now Habitat is targeting certain southeast Canton neighborhoods for revitalization. While this innovative program retains elements of Habitat's traditional model (such as the requirement for the homeowner to contribute "sweat equity" toward home improvements), it's intended to produce the kind of dramatic change that can transform a whole community for years to come.

Lighthouse Ministries

Lighthouse Ministries serves children living in one of Canton's most vulnerable neighborhoods. After school and in the summer, the children create, garden, learn, and share.

The children enjoy the outdoor classroom complete with raised garden beds, rain barrels with fish, a small observational apiary, and a chicken coop. Lighthouse also offers a butterfly peace garden and a basketball court, surrounded by murals offering messages of non-violence.

Lighthouse has a newly renovated building with art, music, and dance studios. The bright, clean atmosphere reflects the organization's belief that environments drive behavior, and every individual has the potential for remarkable achievement.

This is so much more than just a safe place for kids: research indicates that programs like those offered by Lighthouse make a real, lasting difference, influencing academic achievement and preventing the risky behaviors that derail young lives.

The Military Family Center

The Military Family Center supports and empowers veterans, military service members, first responders, and their families. The Center provides equine-assisted activities, occupational and physical exercise therapy, individual and family counseling, and social activities, all situated on 19 beautiful acres in Louisville.

This is a chronically underserved population: nearly 30,000 veterans live in Stark County, and the RAND Center for Military Health Policy Research estimates that nearly 20% of veterans suffer from major depression or post-traumatic stress disorder.¹

Equine-assisted activity is uniquely effective at helping individuals build resilience as they confront life challenges, especially those resulting from their service to country and community. Horses are non-judgmental, and they're highly responsive to the humans who interact with them. Riding, driving, or even just working with horses can reduce anxiety and promote the mindfulness and social connectivity these individuals need to heal.

The Military Family Center is managed by Pegasus Farm in partnership with Walsh University and Rotary.

Right Path for Fathers

Right Path for Fathers serves unemployed, non-custodial fathers who have fallen behind in their child support payments. The program is offered by the Stark County Department of Job and Family Services in conjunction with many community partners.

These men lack resources; punishment is neither helpful nor productive. Right Path offers a reset: child support enforcement efforts are paused while the father is participating. This gives him time to build a solid foundation for meeting his long-term obligations.

He will take parenting classes and job skills classes. He will also work individually with a case manager, who will help him meet his educational and occupational goals.

The result? A dad who's equipped with positive parenting strategies, and who's earning sufficient money to support himself and his children. In other words, it's a winning strategy for the fathers, the children, and our community.



30,000

¹https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9336.html