



# HOPE

*through Strategic Collaboration*

The Sisters of Charity Foundation offers capacity-building grants to promote sustainability and organizational health with the intention of making good organizations even better, ultimately strengthening the local social services sector and providing hope for the future.

**“ I appreciated the opportunity to showcase our new website features in person and to learn about the diverse capacity-building projects of fellow grantees. The exchange of ideas and experiences made the discussion both insightful and impactful.”**

**—JOANNA JAMES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROJECT REBUILD**

**S**ometimes, hope can be found in some of the most unusual places: a new website, a strategic plan, leadership training, and more. For many non-profits, the ability to build capacity can be the springboard to the future, enabling stronger service delivery to our community.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation offers capacity-building grants to promote sustainability and organizational health with the intention of making good organizations even better, ultimately strengthening the local social services sector and providing hope for the future. Projects range from strategic and fundraising planning to donor management systems and professional development, all with a goal to enhance operations.



Foundation staff encourage organizations applying for funding to focus on one or two projects at a time. Organizations can also apply for a capacity-building grant from the Foundation even if applying for a responsive grant in the same quarter.

Unique to our capacity-building grant process, upon completion of the project, grantees are invited to participate in a roundtable discussion with other grantees. The roundtables offer an opportunity to learn what ways other organizations are building capacity, what vendors they use, what roadblocks they've run into, and more.

**Project REBUILD**, a local non-profit that helps at-risk youth obtain a high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) while receiving construction-related, paid job training, recently built a new website with online sign-ups and updated program information using a capacity-building grant from the Foundation. Executive Director, Joanna James, expressed her gratitude for the roundtable process. “I appreciated the opportunity to showcase our new website features in person and to learn about the diverse capacity-building projects of fellow grantees. The exchange of ideas and experiences made the discussion both insightful and impactful.” [PROJECTREBUILD.ORG](http://PROJECTREBUILD.ORG) ✦



## *Out-of-School Time*

# *Education*

**T**he Foundation is dedicated to standing behind the outstanding out-of-school time (OST) providers in our communities. These organizations provide hope for countless students in the form of after school and summer programming. This programming not only sparks future career interests, encourages new friendships, and builds stronger academic skills, but it also creates safe spaces for youth to be themselves and foster new opportunities. In 2025, the Foundation supported several OST providers, and we are highlighting two that brought hope directly into the community: Orrville Area Boys & Girls Club and Stark Library.

## Stark Library

Stark Library has been a longtime education collaborator with the Foundation. At the request of the Foundation, the Stark Library created its Summer Fun School program in 2021 to bring literacy opportunities to low-income neighborhoods to help children get back on track after the pandemic. Summer Fun School is literally hope-on-wheels, utilizing Bookmobiles to bring this fun and engaging program to six Canton neighborhood sites where the Library partners with other organizations to provide food to the children and families who visit the stops weekly during the summer. In addition to the Bookmobile and food distribution, children who participate in Summer Fun School receive a free book of their choice and learning kits containing projects that promote critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving.

With funding from the Foundation, Stark Library was able to partner with the Massillon Public Library to expand Summer Fun School to three new, low-income neighborhoods in Massillon in 2025. In 2025, Summer Fun School served 134 children in Canton and 99 children in Massillon, distributing 1,864 learning kits and books.

This program has grown into something children and families look forward to each week. One mom told Library staff her children looked forward to the Bookmobile coming to their neighborhood every Wednesday. “The first thing the kids do when they get back to the apartment is the activity in the kit,” the mom explained. These family engagement opportunities are building hope through quality time and learning that feels like fun.

[STARKLIBRARY.ORG](http://STARKLIBRARY.ORG) ✨



## Orrville Area Boys & Girls Club

Based in Wayne County, the Orrville Area Boys & Girls Club (the Club) offers daily access to a range of trauma-informed programs promoting education, health, social character, service, and leadership to all youth and teens in four schools. Seeing a need in the community for before- and after-school care led the Club to open its Rittman branch in 2022. According to the Club CEO, Rittman is considered a child care desert, and the families in this small town have a lot of needs and barriers. Creating a safe space within Rittman Exempted Village Schools for families to send their children during working hours has provided so much hope and security, and it has also delivered programming that inspires young people to think bigger than their current reality.

With a grant from the Foundation, the Rittman Boys & Girls Club was able to purchase new equipment and materials to provide the students with hands-on exposure to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) experiences such as robotics, coding, and scientific inquiry. The Club hopes to motivate these students to consider STEM career opportunities, breaking the cycle of poverty and stirring inspiration for a brighter future.

[OABGC.ORG](http://OABGC.ORG) ✨