

## Screening the “Babies”

A local children’s health screening program is picking up where budget cuts left off.

**Dr. Anju Mader’s own children always know when it’s screening day,** because she gets very excited to “go play with the babies.” And there are a lot of “babies.”

Over a two-year period, many young children (ages 6 weeks to 5 years) will receive preventive health screenings conducted by Dr. Mader and her colleagues for the Healthy Kids Collaborative Project of the Stark County Family Council. The screening program was funded by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton. Collaborative partners include Mercy Medical Center, Stark County Help Me Grow, Stark County Family Council, and the Stark County Educational Service Center. Families with children attending the J.R. Coleman Center, Canton Preschool, and the Canton YWCA will be offered health screenings to identify issues with vision, hearing,



Screening day at the YWCA of Canton.

oral health, hemoglobin (anemia), and lead levels, as these issues are known to cause developmental and learning delays. These particular centers serve many of our community’s most impoverished families.

All children who are found to have an immediate health

or dental need will be referred within four weeks to a provider who can address that need. Parental consent allows the collaborative partners to share information with medical and dental providers. Children will be referred to a provider for future preventive care as well, in the hopes that that

provider might become the child’s medical or dental home. The Collaborative will follow up with families and providers in six months to identify continuity of care.

According to Dr. Mader, there would be no need for this project if the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) still existed. ELI was a state program for low-income families that funded early education services as well as preventive screening tests for approximately 13,000 children throughout the state. ELI funding was completely eliminated in 2010. This happened at the same time as other early childhood funding cuts, leaving centers scrambling to do more with much less. There was simply no funding available for screenings. While annual physicals are required for admission into centers, these physicals do

*Continued on page 3*



### What’s Inside:

Vol. XVI Issue 1 Winter 2012

- President’s Message
- Surviving and Thriving
- Charting a Course
- Ohio’s Public Health System
- Welcome Jean Van Ness



# President's Message



SISTERS of CHARITY  
FOUNDATION  
OF CANTON

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.



Dear Friends,

As we begin a new year, our community faces many challenges. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 46.2 million Americans are now living in poverty — that staggering figure is the highest in the 52 years poverty numbers have been tabulated. The Foundation begins 2012 with a brand new strategic plan that we hope will help us best meet the current needs of people struggling in our community.

We're not the only ones working hard to combat the results of the recession. The more than 300 attendees of the recent *Bridges Out Of Poverty* workshop are working hard, too, every day — many on the front lines. The effort, led by Stark State College's Education and Human Services Division in collaboration with the *Bridges Out of Poverty* committee, was more than worthwhile; we all learned new ways of understanding and addressing today's social services challenges.

Just as we've streamlined our strategic direction, the state is looking to simplify by cutting inefficiency and waste. This year, we'll be supporting work to discover ways that public health agencies throughout the state can operate most efficiently. All of us will reap the benefit of tax dollars saved as a result.

We're focusing on preventive health as well. We know that it's crucial that young children get the best possible start in life. The Healthy Kids Collaborative Project will provide hundreds of children simple health screenings that can detect problems early, while they can still be treated and before they prevent school readiness. In the words of public policy expert James Q. Wilson, "Our overriding goal ought to be to save the children. Other goals...are all worthy. But they should be secondary to the goal of improving the life prospects of the next generation." I could not agree more.

**"Our overriding goal ought to be to save the children. Other goals...are all worthy. But they should be secondary to the goal of improving the life prospects of the next generation."**

-James Q. Wilson

As we move forward on new efforts and focus areas, we will continue to explore ways to build on existing efforts and identify and collaborate with strategic partners. We're so grateful that we are not in this alone.

Sincerely

Joni T. Close  
President





# Surviving and Thriving in Stark County



Dr. Ruby Payne signs guests' books.

**The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton** co-sponsored and helped to plan a November 18 conference on *Surviving and Thriving in Stark County*, featuring keynote speaker Ruby Payne, co-author of *Bridges Out of Poverty*. Dr. Payne addressed a sold-out crowd of more than 300 attendees from social services, education, health care, and other human services fields; she provided insight on the issues faced by those living in poverty and discussed ways to address those issues and improve outcomes.

The event was held at Kent State University at Stark in North Canton, Ohio. Other sponsors included Mercy Medical Center, Catholic Charities of Stark County, the Stark County Community Action Agency, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County, and United Way of Greater Stark County. This event was a follow-up to a very well-received 2009 symposium featuring *Bridges* co-author Terrie Dreussi-Smith.



## Screening the "Babies" continued from page 1

not typically include the dental and blood screenings that are so crucial to ensure proper development.

### Results and Rewards

The screening program is definitely identifying problems that might otherwise have gone unaddressed. Out of all the dental screenings conducted so far, 20% have resulted in an immediate referral to treat a serious oral health problem. These children have received dental and medical treatment from

community professionals.

Parents have responded favorably. One child's mother was so happy with the Collaborative's program that she spoke with her sister regarding her niece, who was then screened and treated by the same dental provider.

Dr. Mader has been pleasantly surprised to find very low levels of lead in the screened children, even measured against recently proposed stricter

**"The early detection of risk factors through health and developmental screenings can improve outcomes, may reduce special education placement, and in the long term, reduce costs to society."**

government guidelines. Since many at-risk families live in older homes that may still contain lead paint, this is critical. High blood lead levels pose a concern for many reasons. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

the potentially irreversible effects of lead poisoning go "beyond cognitive function to include cardiovascular, immunological, and endocrine effects."

As Dr. Mader stated in her proposal to the Foundation, "the early detection of risk factors through health and developmental screenings can improve outcomes, may reduce special education

placement, and in the long term, reduce costs to society." Because of this program, many more "babies" will have the opportunity to develop appropriately and enter school strong and ready to learn.



In 2009, as a proactive response to impending budget cuts to the state-sponsored Early Learning Initiative, Foundation staff convened a meeting with representatives from the early childhood community to identify areas in need of support. The group agreed that there would be great benefit in continuing to provide comprehensive screenings for children, with appropriate follow-up as needed. The Foundation provided a two-year grant in the amount of \$148,000 to support this effort.







# Charting a Course

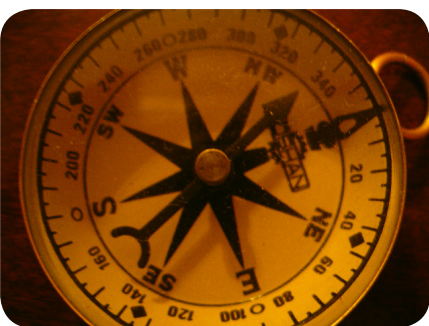
## A Strategic Direction

**A year after our strategic planning process began**, we have a solid plan rooted in our mission and tailored to the current needs of our community. Our new strategic plan is based on themes that emerged as we examined our past work, the experiences of our collaborators, and our mission. We encouraged numerous grantees and community stakeholders to share the challenges they encounter in their work and asked them how the Foundation could best help them navigate those challenges.

Collaborating with existing organizations and agencies to strengthen current efforts can sometimes be far more efficient than seeking to reinvent the wheel by creating new initiatives and programs. Our first approach, therefore, will be to strengthen current efforts and existing programs. However, where we find that community resources do not sufficiently address a challenge, we may choose to pilot or implement new programs.

### HEALTH STRATEGY

We will continue to focus on **oral health** by enrolling more families in the Bethlehem Project. We will work to inform policy decisions about oral health care for the uninsured and underinsured by showing our policymakers the dramatic community impact of the Bethlehem Project and Mercy Medical Center's Dental Clinic and General Practice Residency in Dentistry program. We will continue to promote **health care access**, by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health care systems. We will work collaboratively to build the capacity and infrastructure of providers as they implement electronic records systems and create common data collection and analysis tools. We will explore opportunities and facilitate discussions at the state and local levels among providers, health departments, and others to improve efficiencies and reduce costs.



#### New Focus

We are interested in exploring ways to reduce **childhood obesity** in our community by researching what works to combat the problem. Based on results of that

research, we will support obesity prevention and reduction programming that is found to be effective, modestly priced, and replicable.

### EDUCATION STRATEGY

We are continuing our focus on **early childhood**. At the state level, we will ensure that policymakers understand the importance of investing in successful early childhood programs. We will continue our school readiness efforts through the SPARK SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS TO ASSURE READY KIDS™ program and consider expansion as funds are available. We will focus on strengthening SPARK and addressing sustainability. We will continue to collaborate with schools as they work toward implementing research-based ready schools practices. We will also continue our support of evidence-based **bullying prevention** programming that will result in systemic changes in Stark County public and parochial schools.

#### New Focus

We are planning to extend our reach beyond early childhood, by enhancing and expanding the availability of programming for parents of young children, including programs offered through the Early Childhood Resource Center. We will explore the possibility of building a solid base of community resources for families of children in **grades K-6 in targeted schools**.

### SOCIAL SERVICES STRATEGY

We will focus heavily on **basic aid**, as there continues to be a real need in this area. We will strengthen the community safety net formed by the agencies and organizations addressing issues of poverty on the front lines. This includes continuing to work toward a common intake process and shared information and referral system for these organizations. We will also enhance the effectiveness of **homelessness prevention** efforts. In addition, we will collaborate with the Early Childhood Resource Center and others in our community to ensure that effective **parenting programs** are available and accessible to the community.

#### New Focus

We will focus on **economic development** and support programs that prepare unemployed and underemployed workers to meet the needs of a modern workforce.

*Continued on page 5*



# Ohio's Public Health System

## Planning for the future

**Late in 2011**, the Foundation awarded a grant to the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners to develop a new model for the state's public health system. The group will work to establish core standards for Ohio's 125 local public health departments based on best practices, state expectations, and national accreditation standards. The group will also develop a plan for facilitating collaboration between public health entities, and

make recommendations on regionalizing and/or merging health districts where it makes sense.

The effort is in line with the Foundation's new strategic plan, which prioritizes increasing health care access by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health care systems.

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio, an organization co-founded and supported by the Foundation, will facilitate the exploration process. The

Institute is an independent, nonpartisan organization that promotes informed health policy decision-making in Ohio through research, analysis, education, and dialogue.

This work aligns with the goals of Governor Kasich's Office of Health Transformation. According to Greg Moody, the director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, "Ohio Health and Human Service policy, spending,

and administration is split across multiple state and local jurisdictions. This inefficient structure impedes innovation and lacks a clear point of accountability and we need to share services to increase efficiency...." The ultimate goal is "to share services in a way that improves customer service, increases program efficiencies, and reduces costs for Ohio's taxpayers."



*Charting a Course continued from page 4*

### THE BOTTOM LINE

Our new strategic plan identifies tangible actions that we believe are responsive to the changes that have occurred in our community over the last few years. The continuation of many of our existing efforts helps us capitalize on the momentum built over time. The addition of some new areas of focus ensures that we address the most pressing challenges we face today. Overall, the new plan charts the most effective course toward fulfillment of our mission, given the new face of the poor and underserved in Stark County.



## The Foundation Welcomes Jean Van Ness



**Jean Van Ness** joined our team in October as Senior Program Officer/Special Projects. Jean previously served as vice president and senior program officer of the GAR Foundation and senior program officer at the Burton D. Morgan Foundation. Most recently, she served as a consultant to area foundations and worked with us to finalize goals and objectives during our strategic planning process. Jean has also served as board president for Project Grad Akron, Summit Education Initiative, and Canton Country Day School, and was on the board of the Summit County Social Services Advisory Committee. Welcome, Jean!





SISTERS of CHARITY  
FOUNDATION  
OF CANTON

400 Market Ave., Suite 300  
Canton, OH 44702

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rober F. Belden, Chair
- Ronald Becker, Vice Chair
- Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Secretary
- David Cornet, Treasurer
- Fendrich R. Clark
- Joni T. Close (ex officio)
- Lynne Dragomier
- Daniel J. Fuline
- Msgr. Lewis Gaetano
- Patricia Gramoy
- David Kaminski
- Susanna H. Krey (ex officio)
- Michael H. Linz, M.D.
- Judge Sara Lioi
- Ronald J. Manse, CPA
- John J. McGrath, Ed.D.
- Kathleen Carr Poporad
- Gerry Radcliffe, RN, MS
- Sr. Catherine Walsh, CSA
- George T. Williams, D.D.S.

STAFF

- Joni T. Close  
President  
jclose@scfcanton.org
- Trudy Brown  
Office Assistant  
tbrown@scfcanton.org
- Liz Ford  
Office Manager  
lford@scfcanton.org
- Jennifer Haude  
Communications Coordinator  
jhaude@scfcanton.org
- Dawn Miller  
Program Officer  
dmiller@scfcanton.org
- Shana Rozier  
SPARK Director/Program Officer  
srozier@scfcanton.org
- Anne G. Savastano  
Grants Manager/Mission Matters  
Designer  
asavastano@scfcanton.org
- Jean Van Ness  
Senior Program Officer/Special Projects  
jvanness@scfcanton.org
- Vashon Williams  
Program Associate  
williams@scfcanton.org

NON PROFIT  
ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CANTON, OH  
PERMIT #569

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.

*A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System*

Seeking a Grant?

Workshops on our grant process are held twice a year; all prospective grant seekers are welcome. The next one will be held on April 3rd. To register, please call 330-454-5800.

Good Samaritan Cycle

- May 1, 2012 | Concept forms are due
- June 1, 2012 | If concept is approved, proposal is due
- September 1, 2012 | Awards are announced
- November 1, 2012 | Concept forms are due
- December 1, 2012 | If concept is approved, proposal is due
- March 1, 2013 | Awards are announced

Responsive Cycle

- February 1, 2012 | Concept forms are due
- March 1, 2012 | If concept is approved, proposal is due
- June 1, 2012 | Awards are announced
- August 1, 2012 | Concept forms are due
- September 1, 2012 | If concept is approved, proposal is due
- December 1, 2012 | Awards are announced

www.scfcanton.org | 330.454.5800