



ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends:



It is so rewarding for us to see, and to be able to show you, how our short-term and long-term investments improve so many lives. We are pleased to partner with such exceptional organizations working to meet the needs in our community. They work to feed the hungry, to make people healthier, to improve education and career paths, and to ensure access to help for

substance abuse and behavioral health issues. They work to improve the lives of those who are most vulnerable. And they work to make our whole community stronger.

We review requests to the Foundation through three lenses — Foundation-led initiatives, strategic collaborations, and responsive efforts. By narrowing our focus in this way, we ensure that our investments truly reflect and uphold our mission. Those "lenses" are described in more detail on the next page.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton will continue to seek ways to collaborate in order to strengthen systems and fund promising programs. It is a pleasure to lead an organization that is focused, intentional, and generous.

Sincerely.

Joni J. Close

Dear Friends:



As we celebrate another year of successful service to this community, it is important to pause and reflect on the many and diverse ways the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton helps so many people throughout the year.

The programs we fund can be broad and systemic or specific and focused. As a longtime board member, I've had the opportunity to

witness the impacts of the investments we make. We have awarded grants to help children develop their reading skills, to help adults earn GEDs, equip organizations to share critical medical information, to influence and change public policy, and to improve individuals' abilities to get and keep jobs. While their missions may vary, all of our grantees have in common—with each other and with us— their desire and drive to make a difference.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton will continue its commitment to improving the lives of the most vulnerable members of our community. We will strive to do more in the months and years to come.

Sincerely

Robert F. Belden

Chairman of the Board

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:

- The Health Policy Institute of Ohio, formed by the Foundation and seven other policy-focused foundations
- SPARK Ohio, a school readiness program for children ages 3-5

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

- Reducing childhood obesity
- Bringing efficiency to Stark County Behavioral Health Services

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 require funding, technical assistance, capacity building, and the staff's community involvement.

Examples:

- A cooler for fresh produce for the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
- A substance abuse treatment center for teenage girls through Quest Recovery and Prevention Services

FOUNDATION-LED INITIATIVES



"Our funders provide the core operating support that allows us to be nimble ... Because of this flexibility, we're able to track the most relevant issues that affect Ohioans."

— Amy Rohling McGee, HPIO President ringing Objectivity to Light

HP10 continues decade-long mission in affecting informed health policy

When legislators and other key individuals work to make informed decisions that affect public health, they rely on objective, timely research. Yet it's sometimes difficult to find. Issues like biased data and poorly communicated or outdated findings can hinder the decision–making process.

That's why more policymakers — and Ohioans — are turning to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO).

Founded in 2003 by the Foundation and seven other healthand policy-focused foundations, HPIO is an independent, nonpartisan source of information and analysis that can form the basis of sound health policy. The Columbus-based nonprofit has built upon its early successes to become a valued and trusted resource on relevant health issues such as the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Medicare, prevention and public health, policy basics, and more.

"We're striving to advance the health of Ohioans — it's the heart of what we do," says HPIO President Amy Rohling McGee. "We do this by focusing on issues that our stakeholders can then use to impact outcomes today and in the future."

The organization stresses three strategic priorities:

- Ensuring that Ohioans have **access** to comprehensive, integrated, and appropriate health services.
- Promoting **prevention** through healthy community environments and behaviors.
- Encouraging **payment** models that drive cost-effective and evidence-based prevention and care.

HPIO uses several targeted avenues to achieve its mission. It engages key stakeholders and looks for leadership opportunities to create an ongoing dialogue on important issues. It makes information easily accessible through scheduled communications to its stakeholders, a dynamic

online resource and publication library, and educational programming and technical assistance. HPlO also participates in sponsored research projects and is gaining interest in and recognition for its convened groups, bringing together stakeholders to discuss weighty issues, and using their input to advise a particular project or policy opportunity.

Last year, HPIO led a number of key initiatives, including:

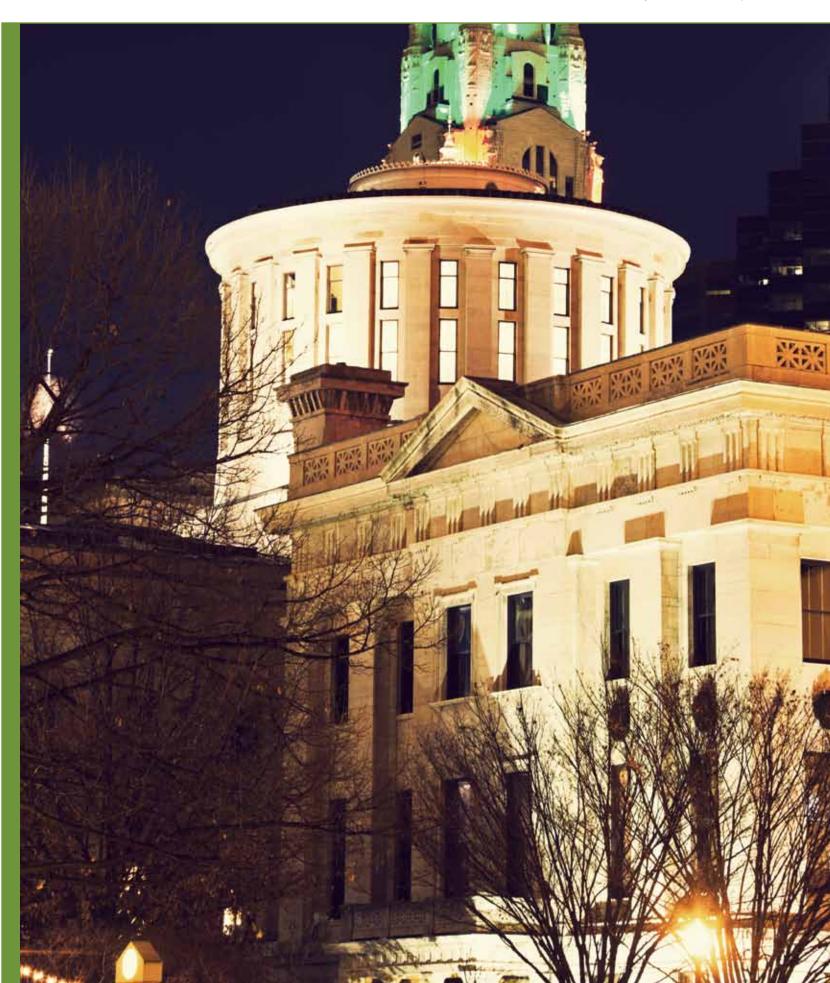
- A Medicaid expansion study conducted in partnership with The Ohio State University, the Urban Institute, and Regional Economic Models, Inc. This in-depth analysis focused on the fiscal and economic impacts the expansion has on the state, as well as coverage of all Ohioans. The study received more than 26,000 hits on HPIO's website.
- Multiple forums that addressed important health policy topics, including *From Patient Health to Population Health, and Eligibility, Consumer Assistance, and Enrollment.*
- Ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and federal health policy.

In 2013, the Foundation committed \$100,000 for two years to support HPIO's ongoing mission and operations.

"Our funders provide the core operating support that allows us to be nimble," says McGee. "We can't always foresee what the next need is going to be or the policy information that will take shape. Because of this flexibility, we're able to track the most relevant issues that affect Ohioans."

Learn more about HPIO and the objective resources and services it provides at **healthpolicyohio.org**.

Total Foundation support since inception: \$580,000. The Sisters of Charity Foundations of Canton and Cleveland were among the funding partners that established the Health Policy Institute of Ohio.





This highly effective family engagement, school readiness, and

early literacy program was established in 2003 by the Foundation

FOUNDATION-LED INITIATIVES

A DECADE OF GREAT BEGINNINGS

- SPARK began in two school districts, and now serves 17 districts throughout Ohio.
- The program served 140 children its first year, and has served more than 4,600 children to date.



\$1,699,910
5,907,193
3,088,465
2,240,655
254,620
515,963
325,007
261,358
228,784
403,478
32,225

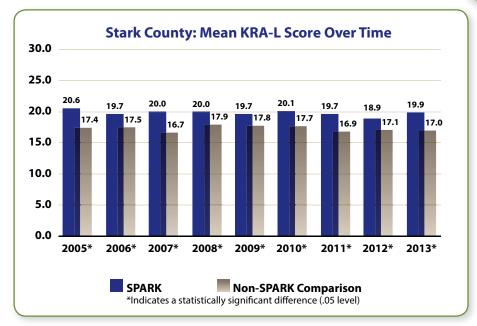
I have had the distinct opportunity to be part of the SPARK initiative for ten years.

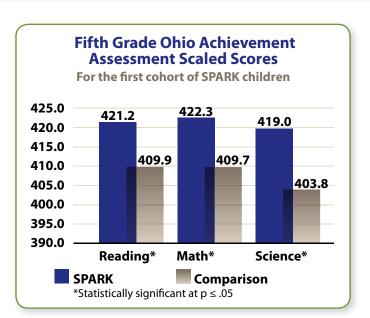
in partnership with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

...Every year SPARK has been in place in a building I have been part of, achievement has risen.

...Children come to school ready to learn, parents collaborate with teachers and parent partners to truly be their child's first teacher, and staff members learn from parents on how to best meet all the needs for their child.

...I believe in SPARK, and SPARK believes in children and families.

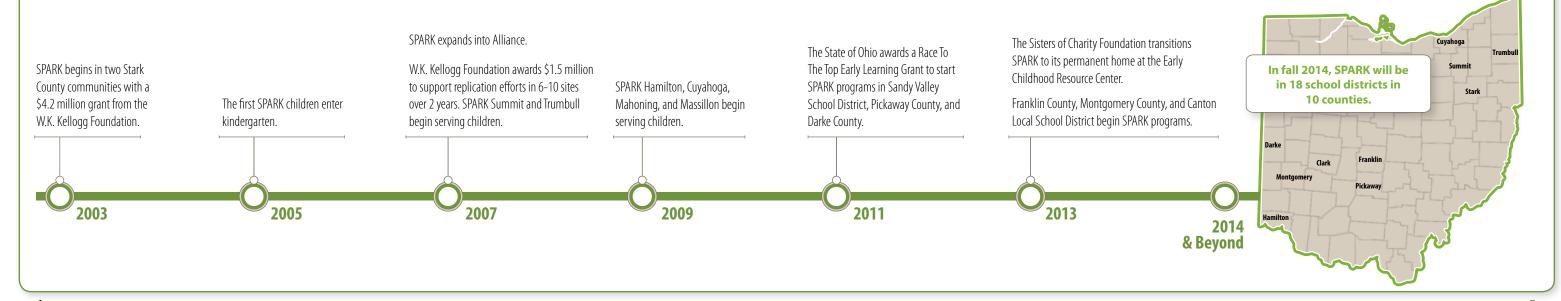




In 2005, the first SPARK children entered kindergarten, and independent evaluators began tracking their performance. That first year—and every year since—SPARK children started school significantly more ready to succeed than their peers. They consistently outscore their non-SPARK peers on the kindergarten entrance assessment that measures each child's mastery of the skills important for literacy.

SPARK children also had significantly higher scores on the Ohio Achievement Assessments, both in third grade and again in fifth grade. Even six years after leaving the program, SPARK children retained an educational advantage.

SPARK's consistently positive results are due to the efforts of the Foundation and its many collaborative partners, and of course, the hard work of thousands of Ohio families. Over the next few years, the program is on track to serve thousands more families as it expands throughout the state.



6 Foundation-Led Initiatives 7

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

nvesting in Our Future

Area organizations work to create healthier kids – and healthier communities

Healthy communities start with healthier kids.

That is the belief behind the Foundation's Strategic Plan Goal of supporting efforts that are designed to reduce childhood obesity in Stark County. In 2013, the Foundation funded several local initiatives that focused on improving the health and well-being of children and their families, particularly in low-income communities.

Friends of Stark Parks — Live Well Stark County

Through a three-year, \$109,740 grant awarded to the Friends of Stark Parks, the Foundation helped fund a new program director position at Live Well Stark County.

Live Well Stark County is a community-wide collaborative that works toward making Stark County a healthier place to live through activities aimed at curbing chronic diseases like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. The new program director, Nick Morris, will help facilitate Live Well Stark County's services and drive increased program awareness. Through an in-kind gift from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the collaborative is receiving coaching to further improve its efforts.

Live Well Stark County — Community Garden Grant Project

Fresh produce is one of the essential building blocks of a healthy diet. However, it's not always available, particularly in Stark County's five "food deserts" — areas where families don't have easy access to the nutritious fruits and vegetables available at larger grocery stores.

That's why Live Well Stark County initiated a new Community Garden Grant Program in 2013. Made possible by a two-year, \$57,000 grant from the Foundation, the program helps communities create, grow, and sustain gardens while teaching

low-income families the importance of good nutrition.

"We wanted not only to help create garden space, but also help people get more comfortable with preparing and eating fresh fruits and veggies," says Nick Morris. "Our efforts in turn support better nutrition and healthier behaviors."

JRC – Healthy Habits for Life

Each day, JRC cares for approximately 125 infants, toddlers, and children at its Learning Center in Canton. After seeing the growing epidemic of childhood obesity, and a lack of fresh food opportunities in the communities where these children live, the

nonprofit launched an initiative to combat childhood obesity and promote healthier communities.



With the support of a \$13,500 grant from an anonymous donor through the Foundation, JRC integrated a *Healthy Habits for Life* program in its Learning Center. Through this program, which is based largely on a research-based program developed by Sesame Street, JRC is implementing:

- A fresh food initiative in its cafeteria that will gradually decrease the use of processed foods and integrate more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and other healthier items.
- Nutrition education in the classroom for children and educational seminars for families.
- Increased exercise for the toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children at the center.

"We realize that the change we're promoting goes beyond a meal we serve at our center," says Tom Thompson, JRC executive director. "It has to be about changing the lifestyle and culture of our families — and beyond. That's what our program is supporting. It's really a community effort, and one that's made us shift our own culture at JRC to make healthier decisions."



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Executive Director

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— Tom Thompson, JRC

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

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strategic partnerships

like this will enact more

change in the future."

— John Aller, MHRSB

Executive Director

xploring new horizons in mental health and addiction treatment

Project aims to bring efficiency to Stark County behavioral health services

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) of Stark County partners with behavioral health agencies throughout the county to ensure that individuals with mental health, drug, or alcohol addiction issues have efficient access to high-quality, state-of-the-art care.

Last year, the Board, in partnership with four of Stark County's largest provider agencies, launched a new project to address several challenges that affect behavioral health care in Stark County. The initiative, entitled *Transforming Behavioral Health for Today's Challenges*, created a collaboration between several local funders, including the Foundation, to support systemic behavioral health improvements.

"As health care changes, public behavioral health also needs to change to become more relevant and effective overall," says John Aller, executive director of MHRSB. "Stark County residents deserve access to high-quality service. Through this project, we're able to accomplish this on a much broader scale."

Segmented into four phases rolled out between 2013 and 2014, *Transforming Behavioral Health for Today's Challenges* includes:

• Executive leadership and succession planning. As CEOs from three of the four largest provider agencies prepare for retirement in the next few years, the project funded a training specialist to educate agencies on the importance of succession planning. After determining best practices and setting goals, they developed action plans for the future. These efforts will ensure a smooth transition and retention of knowledge when new directors come on board.

• **System reconfiguration.** The MHRSB is working with Bioethical Services of Virginia, Inc. and Dr. Michael

Gillette to evaluate local populations and assess how behavioral health services are being delivered in the community to help redirect the current system. The work focuses primarily on psychiatry, access to services, and the creation of a wellness and recovery center.

- **Health information technology.** The project supports the implementation of the NextGen electronic health record software. The electronic systems will enable providers to streamline workflows, increase client safety, and improve their ability to make critical decisions about client care through a secure and protected channel. In addition, the MHRSB will determine the feasibility of developing a Health Information Exchange that will allow for the exchange of information between health care providers and hospitals.
- **Workforce transition planning.** Learning how to use the latest electronic systems can make a large dent in an organization's revenue and productivity. The project offers fiscal support to these organizations to help cover the costs of training staff on the electronic health record.

The Foundation previously awarded two grants to help local social service agencies improve their technology and infrastructures as they transition to electronic medical records. Those grants, along with the \$199,800 awarded in 2013, bring the Foundation's total investment to \$569,800. It aligns with the Foundation's Strategic Plan Goal of increasing healthcare access in identified areas by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare systems. The Foundation also played a role in convening other funders interested in supporting the project.

"The work of the Foundation and our other funders enables us to make a systemic change that we wouldn't have been able to make without multiple supporters," notes Aller. "We believe that strategic partnerships like this will enact more change in the future."





Broadening Horizons

Transforming Behavioral Health for Today's Challenges aims to make systemic improvements that will affect behavioral health care in Stark County. This includes supporting the further implementation of the NextGen Health Information Exchange practice–management software and health record, giving providers fast, safe, and improved access to patient data.

10 Strategic Collaborations 11

RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

kron-Canton Regional Foodbank

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank collects, sorts, and distributes food to member agencies in eight northeast Ohio counties, including the five counties in the Foundation's service area. These member agencies operate more than 500 food pantries, hot-meal sites, and hunger-relief programs. Approximately 16 percent of the residents in the Foodbank's service area, including nearly 84,000 children, need some form of food assistance.

Foundation support helped the Foodbank purchase a cooler to keep produce fresh until distribution. In 2013, the Foodbank gave out more than 24 million pounds of food, including 6.5 million pounds of fresh produce. It was enough to provide more than 20 million meals.

Canton Calvary Mission

For more than a decade, the Canton Calvary Mission has served at-risk youth who live in the Gibbs neighborhood, which has high rates of unemployment, gang violence, drug activity, and crime. The Foundation provided support for the Mission's After School Program, which provides nutritious snacks, academic assistance, and a wide range of enrichment activities focusing on subjects like dance, music, drama, and physical fitness. It also provides older students the opportunity to visit local colleges. Canton Calvary Mission works to embrace the entire family, in an effort to improve the community and more thoroughly engage adults in the children's lives. The Mission regularly hosts family nights and offers families hot meals, a food pantry, and a clothing distribution program.

Canton City School District

The Canton City School District's Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) program prepares participants to take the General Education Development (GED) test. Passing the GED test gives those who didn't complete high school the equivalent of a high school diploma. The ABLE program is the largest GED preparation program in Stark County. Most participants are unemployed (76 percent), and 44 percent are on public assistance.

As the state prepared to move testing to a strictly digital format, fees to take the test and the practice test increased dramatically. The \$40 paper test was discontinued, making the \$120 computer version the only available option. In addition, printed practice tests that had been free were computerized and made available for a fee. While the state subsidizes a portion of the cost for first-time test takers, it provided no such subsidy for practice tests or repeat test takers. The Foundation helped support a portion of the increased fees for 363 ABLE program participants.

Quest Recovery and Prevention Services

Foundation support helped Quest Recovery and Prevention Services open Bright House, a 12-bed residential treatment center for teenage girls with substance abuse and behavioral health issues. While Ohio has two other residential facilities that offer treatment to teen girls, neither focus on both substance abuse and mental health concerns.

"BRIGHT" stands for Bringing Recovery and Inner Greatness and Hope Together. Clients come to Bright House through the court system, the Department of Job and Family Services, or the Department of Youth Services. The center provides innovative drug and alcohol treatment services that are trauma-informed, evidence-based, and focused on recovery and developing life skills. An average 90-day stay is followed by a transitional support program to help these young women integrate back into the community.



VOUNTEE !

Responding to the needs of Stark County

The Foundation supports numerous programs that address a variety of needs in the community. They are led by community members or nonprofits and have defined life cycles. Responsive Efforts may involve funding, technical assistance, capacity building and the staff's community involvement. The Foundation is one of many supporters of these programs and has limited involvement in their implementation and evaluation.

Responsive Efforts 13

RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

The Fund for Our Economic Future is a philanthropic collaboration dedicated to advancing a growing, opportunity-rich economy for the people of Northeast Ohio through research, civic engagement, and grantmaking. Its more than 50 members include private, community, and corporate foundations; educational institutions; health care systems; public sector stakeholders; business associations and community collectives from 16 northeast Ohio counties. The Foundation has been a member for a decade.

The Fund's goal is to make the region economically robust and globally competitive. Fund members partner with business leaders to promote growth and equitable access to opportunity, helping to create jobs, elevate incomes, attract investments, and strengthen the workforce.

Through its work with regional economic development organizations and local leaders, the Fund estimates that Stark County has attracted \$2.7 million in payroll and \$7.4 million in capital in 2013 alone, in addition to prior successes totaling more than 1,000 jobs. The Fund is currently supporting the efforts of local leaders to establish a countywide 911 dispatch center, create a program to assist entrepreneurs, and help employers take advantage of the shale, oil, and gas boom. Over the past decade, the Fund's efforts throughout northeast Ohio have attracted more than 15,000 new jobs, \$550 million in additional payroll, and nearly \$3 billion in capital to the region — with two-thirds of these gains coming in the past four years.

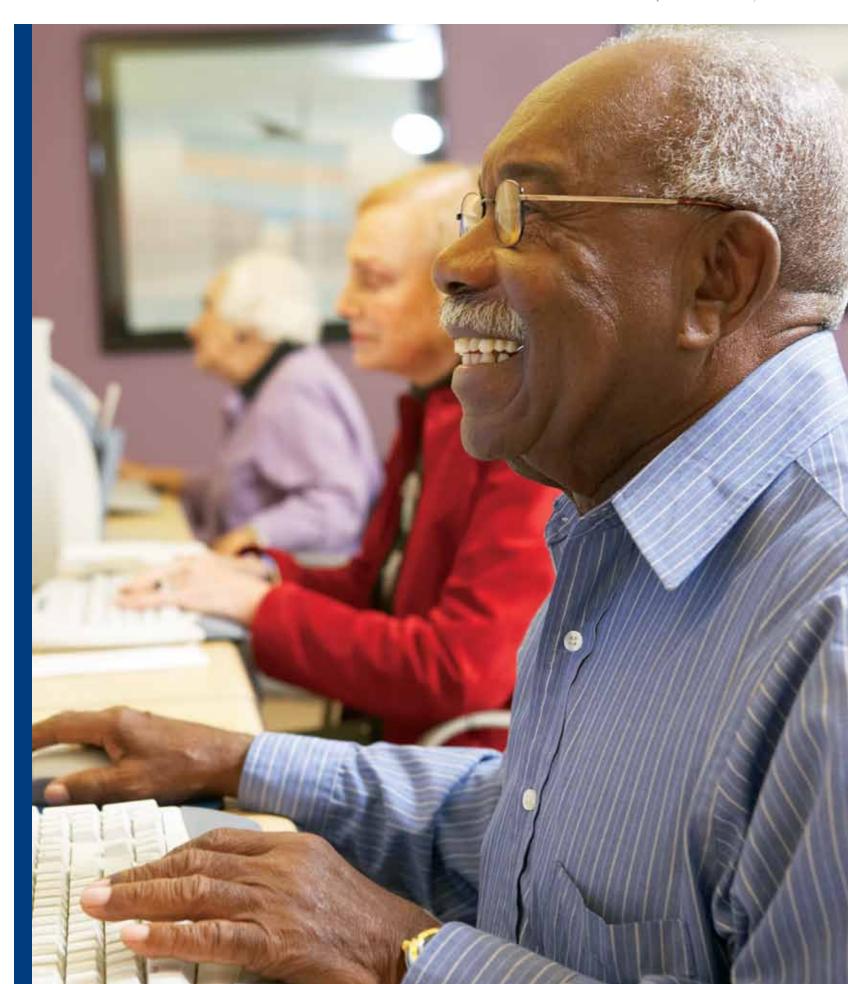
Anazao Community Partners (Formally: Your Human Resource Center)

Anazao Community Partners operates the *Breaking the Barriers* job search program offered through the Holmes County
Department of Job and Family Services. The program focuses
on job readiness, job placement, life skills, job-retention skills,
and post-employment support for the working poor and those
on public assistance. Individuals receiving Temporary Assistance
to Needy Families (TANF) benefits are required to participate in
the program.

As they prepare for employment, program participants are encouraged to volunteer in the community. Through the volunteer experience, they learn how to keep routine work schedules, dress appropriately for the position, and interact with the public. They also receive job training from organizations such as Goodwill. Local restaurants, hotels, and manufacturing operations hire *Breaking the Barriers* participants once they complete the program.

Foundation support helped Anazao provide clothing, haircuts, and personal hygiene items for 100 participants preparing to interview for jobs throughout the year.





2013 Foundation-Led Initiatives	Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County
	To support strengthening the information technology infrastructure of
Early Childhood Initiatives	community behavioral health providers in Stark County – Phase 2
Ohio Business Roundtable	Stark County Educational Service Center
To support the Early Learning Initiative	To support a part-time Olweus Bullying Prevention coordinator,
Clinton Global Initiative America	over two years
To support the Early Childhood Education Working Group	Stark County Park District
	To support the increase and expansion of community gardens in
Community Services of Stark County, Inc. To support parent partners for the Canton and Minerva SPARK Programs307,635	Stark County and establish associated programs to teach good nutrition,
to support parent partiters for the canton and militer va of Ann Frograms507,000	over two years
Early Childhood Resource Center	Stark County Park District
To support operating expenses and management costs for the	Funding for a part-time director to support the work of Live Well Stark County,
SPARK program410,956	over three years
Early Childhood Resource Center	Charle County Device of Discouring Commission
To support parenting programs – Anonymous Donor Fund	Stark County Regional Planning Commission To support the expert assistance that the Homeless Continuum of Care
Early Childhood Resource Center	of Stark County needs in order to achieve compliance with the
To support transition and operating costs for the SPARK program for	requirement of the HEARTH Act of 2009, over three years
August-December 2013	<u> </u>
JRC Learning Center (Formerly J. R. Coleman)	Subtotal \$454,040
To support <i>Healthy Habits for Life</i> , a program to reduce childhood obesity —	
To support <i>Healthy Habits for Life</i> , a program to reduce childhood obesity — Anonymous Donor Fund	2013 Grants in Response to Community Needs
Anonymous Donor Fund	Responsive Grants
Anonymous Donor Fund	Responsive Grants Akron Canton Regional Foodbank
Anonymous Donor Fund	Responsive Grants Akron Canton Regional Foodbank To support the purchase of a cooler to house fresh produce that is
Anonymous Donor Fund	Responsive Grants Akron Canton Regional Foodbank
Anonymous Donor Fund	Responsive Grants Akron Canton Regional Foodbank To support the purchase of a cooler to house fresh produce that is distributed to client agencies free of charge
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Anonymous Donor Fund	Responsive Grants Akron Canton Regional Foodbank To support the purchase of a cooler to house fresh produce that is distributed to client agencies free of charge

To support succession planning and behavioral health transformation

Stark County - Phase 1, over 16 months......49,800

efforts of community behavioral health providers in

Fund for Our Economic Future				
To support economic development in Northeast Ohio, over three years 50,000				
Mercy Medical Center				
Matching grant to support the Emergency and Trauma Services Expansion				
and Renovation Project, over two years250,000				
Project REBUILD, Inc.				
To support the <i>License to Succeed</i> Program				
Quest Recovery and Prevention Services				
To support BRIGHT House, an alcohol, drug, and behavioral health				
treatment center for girls				
Stark County Education Partnership				
To support leadership in education reform in Stark County,				
over three years				
Subtotal \$753,714				
Good Samaritan Grants				
Meta Morphosis 1				
To support the rehabilitation and re-entry program				
serving men ages 18-21				
North Canton Playhouse, Spotlight on Youth				
To support in-school performances on bullying prevention,				
over two years				
A Community Christmas				
To support the Christmas distribution program, over two years				
Canton Calvary Mission				
To support an after-school program				
Subtotal \$27,305				
2013 Other				
Special Projects				
Akron Canton Regional Foodbank				

Special Frojects
Akron Canton Regional Foodbank
Participation in the Fund Raising School at Indiana University,
Lilly Family School of Philanthropy
Contan Fu Nameham Assariation
Canton Ex-Newsboys Association
For operating support, in lieu of a holiday gift for the Foundation
Board of Directors

Subtotal \$34,70
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roject Kare or operating support, in lieu of a holiday gift for the oundation Board of Directors
hilanthropy Ohio or operating support
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Percy Medical Center Intricipation in the Fund Raising School at Indiana University, Ily Family School of Philanthropy
RC Adult Day Center (Formerly J. R. Coleman Senior Outreach Service support gap funding for adult day service for group home residents 5,00
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nild and Adolescent Behavioral Health Inticipation in the Fund Raising School at Indiana University, Ily Family School of Philanthropy

Board Honorariums	
Heritage Christian School Gift on behalf of retiring officer David Cornet	250
Central Catholic High School	
Gift on behalf of retiring officer Robert Belden	250

Subtotal \$500

2013 Total \$2,555,301

16 Total Grant Awards 17

Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County, Inc.

Sisters of Charity Foundation Board of Directors



Robert F. Belden



David Cornet Vice Chair



Ronald Becker Treasurer



Judge Sara Lioi Secretary



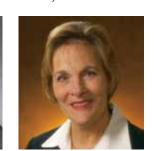
Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell



Fendrich Clark



Joni T. Close (ex officio)



Lynne Dragomier



Daniel J. Fuline



Msgr. Lewis Gaetano Patricia Gramoy





David Kaminski



Susanna H. Krey (ex officio)



Susan M. Kunkle



Sr. Mary Denis Maher Ronald Manse







Kathleen M. Poporad Geraldine Radcliffe



George T. Williams



Ronald S. Young



Staff From left to right:

Joni T. Close President **Trudy Brown** Office Assistant

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.

18 Board of Directors and Staff 19



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www.scfcanton.org

 $A\ Ministry\ of\ the\ Sisters\ of\ Charity\ Health\ System$