

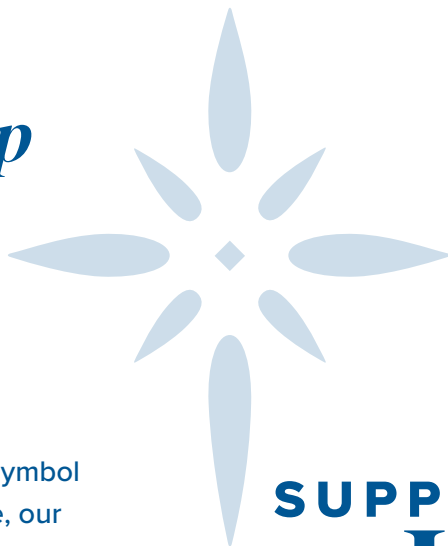


SISTERS of CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

SUPPORTING
Community **Heroes**

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER *from our* Leadership



Dear Friends,

The radiant cross pictured above is a symbol that graces our letterhead, our website, our eblasts, and this annual report. It is a symbol of light and hope that shines through the work of our Foundation in the name of our founders, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine.

SUPPORTING *Community* Heroes

Our Foundation illuminates this light through the heroes in our community—the nonprofit providers of services and programs that serve the poor and marginalized. These heroes are constant reminders to us of our founders who came to the United States more than 170 years ago to lift others up through love and support.

The work of our Foundation is clearly defined and outlined by our mission and strategic plan, but ultimately, we are a resource, partner, convener, and supporter for these heroes in our community whom we help to deliver vital services to people in need.

This year, there is no shortage of heroes to highlight: organizations that served the homeless, children, families, and those with behavioral health needs. Thanks to these compassionate and caring organizations, people in our community were housed, employed, fed, nurtured, and warmly embraced with love and support.

A hero, as defined by Webster's Dictionary, is ***"a person admired for achievements and noble qualities ... someone who shows great courage."*** Just like our founders, courage only begins to describe the great feats of these miracle workers.

As we reflect on 2024, join us in our gratitude to the amazing people in our community who put others before themselves and serve with hope, light, and love. Read on as we shine the warm light of the radiant cross on their work throughout this annual report, and continue to have faith and hope because of their efforts.

With Gratitude,



Judge Sara Lioi
CHAIR



Marisa R. Rohn
PRESIDENT

2024



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CommQuest Services

Answers the Call for Help

IMAGINE A CHILD NEEDING COUNSELING AS HE STRUGGLES WITH AN ABUSIVE FATHER AND THE ULTIMATE DIVORCE OF HIS PARENTS.



His mother wants to ensure he gets the counseling he needs, but she is afraid to use the health insurance currently available, because her child is insured through her abusive ex-husband. Billing the insurance company could reveal the location of services, and ultimately, the location of her family. This family is in need of a hero.

Enter the caring team at CommQuest.

CommQuest is a local nonprofit that provides collaborative care and advocacy through three pillars of service: mental health, addiction recovery, and social support. This year, the nonprofit found itself with a gap in funding for a critical safety-net service it provides to clients like the family mentioned above. This critical service is integrated behavioral health services, and the

Sisters of Charity Foundation board and staff supported it to ensure funding for high-risk clients without financial options for treatment.

“Many of the clients who will benefit from this program are children. They’re kids whose parents are, themselves, in unstable conditions due to job loss, homelessness, or even domestic violence,” said Elaine Russell Reolfi, chief executive officer at CommQuest. “One moment can change someone’s life, and the Sisters of Charity has helped us make sure that a lack of insurance or financial resources isn’t a barrier to getting the help a person needs when they need it.”

In that moment when a cry for help is heard, the staff at CommQuest will now be able to answer, positively impacting the lives of the most vulnerable in our community, and that is heroic! ✨

“One moment can change someone’s life, and the Sisters of Charity has helped us make sure that a lack of insurance or financial resources isn’t a barrier to getting the help a person needs when they need it.”

**ELAINE RUSSELL REOLFI
CEO, COMMQUEST**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEROES AT *CommQuest Services* ONLINE AT COMMQUEST.ORG



JRC

Not all heroes wear capes,

scale buildings, and plot their next move in an underground lair.

In the eyes of the Sisters of Charity Foundation, some of our community's greatest heroes sing the alphabet song daily, create warm and welcoming classrooms where children feel safe, and look out for not only the children in their care, but the whole family unit.

JRC is a hero organization in Stark County, providing hundreds of children, senior citizens, and families with the supports they need to grow and thrive in daily life and beyond.

JRC provides two main services to the community: quality child care and early learning opportunities for children, and adult day services for senior citizens. The organization's Learning Centers (one near Meyers Lake and one on 14th Street in northeast

Canton) offer all-day early education and child care for children ages six weeks to preschool. The 14th Street Learning Center also offers before- and after-school programming, as well as Early Head Start and Head Start. Both Learning Centers have the highest quality rating in the state's Step Up to Quality ratings, denoting excellence far beyond licensing standards.

The Adult Day Center offers day-long programs for seniors on weekdays, including activities and healthy meals for participants, which in turn provides respite for caregivers and family members.

The Adult Day Center and the Learning Center are housed within the same building at the Meyers Lake campus providing the unique opportunity for intergenerational programming on a

weekly basis. JRC serves approximately 250 children and seniors (combined) annually.

When the Foundation discovered JRC was facing a gap in funding for its Learning Centers, we knew we had to help support this important nonprofit and the staff heroes who are caring for and teaching some of Stark County's littlest learners each day.

JRC has uncovered its superpowers when it comes to delivering high-quality child care, all centered around meeting the needs of each child and family. Over the years, the organization has added many internal supports that needed additional funding

such as training and professional development for teachers, coupled with special guidance from Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health to ensure teachers and staff are equipped to effectively handle behavior issues in the classroom.

"FLIP IT!® training has given our teachers a new approach to helping children self-regulate their emotions and handle challenging behaviors within the classroom," explained Learning Center Director Rene Ury. Providing these tools help teachers succeed and feel confident.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE >



JRC also sees value in positions like float teachers to provide extra hands in the classroom and community resource coordinators to assist families in navigating available resources outside of JRC's offerings. The Jones* family is grateful for this level of support.

"Our family appreciates that JRC has extra float teachers, because we know our child is getting a strong education and the teachers can focus on him and his needs. The community resource coordinator also assisted our family with finding some services in the community." The Jones family received referrals for early intervention and disability services thanks to one of JRC's two community resource coordinators.

It's evident that JRC cares about the people it serves and strives to provide the highest quality.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation is proud to support this longstanding organization as it continues to save the day and meet the needs of Canton families and residents. ✨

**The name has been changed to protect the client's privacy.*

“Our family appreciates that JRC has extra float teachers, because we know our child is getting a strong education and the teachers can focus on him and his needs.”

THE JONES* FAMILY



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEROES AT *JRC* ONLINE AT JRCCARES.ORG





Stark Housing Network, Inc.

Heroes supporting the Workforce

The fabric that holds our community together is made up of individuals who choose to do the work that lifts others up while carrying the weight on their shoulders. This sacrifice for others is what makes them our heroes!

This year, Foundation staff saw a need to support a group of these heroes. The team approached Marcie Bragg, executive director of Stark Housing Network, Inc., about the workforce needs in the homeless services sector. There was no denying the need for recruitment, retention, and upskilling efforts for this important group of individuals. These providers work 24/7 coordinating and offering services, shelter, and housing for some of our most vulnerable community members.

Marcie agreed, and after discussing more specifics with Program Officer Shannon McMahon Williams, began developing a proposal to offer these hardworking heroes support. In some

respects, the plan mirrored the workforce initiative the Foundation supports in behavioral health. However, each sector has a unique set of needs, and Marcie took guidance and feedback from the homeless services’ leaders to finalize the approach that was funded by the Foundation. As a pilot, the project is being monitored and fine-tuned as it wraps up its first year.

“Through the Workforce Initiative in Homeless Services Pilot, we have witnessed transformative impacts in our providers here in Stark County. The introduction of pay bonuses, incentives for working weekends and evenings, and access to human resource consulting services are just a few examples of how we have significantly bolstered our operational effectiveness,” said Bragg. “These needed enhancements have not only improved staff morale but also have elevated the quality of care we provide to our community.” ✨



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEROES SUPPORTED BY *Stark Housing Network, Inc.* AT STARKCOUNTYHOMELESS.ORG

STRATEGIC *Collaborations*

The Sisters of Charity Foundation focuses its Strategic Collaboration grantmaking in three key areas: **CAPACITY BUILDING, OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME EDUCATION,** and **AFFORDABLE HOUSING.** We partner with organizations to improve or streamline community services.

The following stories highlight our efforts in 2024 in two of these areas.

Capacity Building

Our capacity-building grants make nonprofit organizations more robust, nimble, and fiscally sound by enhancing their operations and sustainability. These grants lift up our hero organizations and can be transformational. We encourage all grantees to participate in round-table discussions once projects are complete to share lessons learned and best practices with fellow nonprofits. This year, we shine the spotlight on two grantees, AHEAD and Stark Community Support Network.

AHEAD

AHEAD has worked in partnership with Massillon City Schools for 29 years to reduce academic and non-academic barriers to learning. It supports students and family members through after-school programs and family outreach. AHEAD coordinates community resources in collaboration with programs within the school buildings, such as a CARE Team, mental health services, and substance use and violence prevention programming. This hero organization is also a replication partner for the SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) kindergarten readiness program, serving families from Franklin Elementary in Massillon.

On the brink of its 30th year, Foundation funding is helping AHEAD to develop a new website and professional brochures. These marketing and communication tools will ensure that more Massillon families have access to the heroic resources provided by this grassroots organization. MASSILLONAHEAD.COM

Stark Community Support Network

The Stark Community Support Network (SCSN) is a community-based agency dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families in need or in crisis. SCSN provides culturally relevant assistance, programs, and services that empower underserved, low-income, and minority community members to improve the quality of life for them, their families, and the community. This year, the Foundation supported the heroic efforts of SCSN through a capacity-building grant that helped the organization build a fundraising program and improve its communication and outreach methods.

“The capacity-building grant provided by the Sisters of Charity has been transformative for Stark Community Support Network. This significant support has enabled us to partner with a professional fund development specialist, whose expertise is working to greatly enhance our technological capabilities and communication strategies,” said Tiffany Skillern, executive director of SCSN. “As a result, we will be able to showcase our impact more effectively to current and potential funders, demonstrating the tangible results of our services.” STARKSUPPORTNETWORK.COM

Out-of-School-Time Education

The Foundation is dedicated to standing behind the amazing out-of-school-time (OST) providers in our communities. These heroes swoop in to save the day by filling a gap in academics and care. They provide programming before and after school, and often during the summer months, to both support classroom learning and combat what educators refer to as “summer slide” or learning loss that can occur between the end of one school year and the beginning of another. The YMCA of Central Stark County (YMCA) is one of these champions.

YMCA of Central Stark County

This local YMCA affiliate has served the Stark County community since the 1860s in various capacities, focusing on programming that supports healthy living, youth development, and social responsibility. In the OST arena, the YMCA operates seven different summer programs, serving more than 800 children each day – talk about heroic! Through this effort, the YMCA serves all families, including low-income households and provides scholarship opportunities so that no family is turned away due to inability to pay.

Its Canton, Alliance, and Plain Township summer camp sites serve children with the most need, and the Foundation provided funds specific to these sites to support curriculum, supplies, and staffing costs to implement programming for summer 2024. Children in kindergarten through sixth grade participated in hands-on learning activities to strengthen reading and math skills, often mimicking play to keep students engaged.

Each child was able to select several age-appropriate books to keep and a backpack full of school supplies to start off the school year. Armed with these resources, these students must’ve felt like superheroes themselves – ready to conquer the world. YMACASTARK.ORG



Responsive Grantmaking for

Heroic Efforts

While much of the Foundation's grantmaking focuses on our foundation-led initiative and strategic collaboration areas, we recognize there are many other heroes in our community responding to needs as they arise. Sometimes these organizations need a little extra support to best serve the needs of individuals in the community. The Sisters of Charity Foundation offers a responsive grantmaking process to support these heroic efforts.



Beacon Charitable Pharmacy

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy has saved the day for hundreds of residents over its last 20-plus years of existence. The organization provides life-saving prescription medication, health counseling and screenings, vaccines, and referrals to other community resources for those without access to insurance: a literal beacon of hope.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton was there in the beginning, working collaboratively with other local foundations to support the creation of Ohio's second charitable pharmacy. Working with pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, nursing homes, and now individual donations of prescription medications, Beacon is able to serve individuals at or below 250 percent of the poverty level with prescriptions for \$5 or less. Today, the Foundation is proud to continue supporting Beacon in its next chapter, with a new leader, a new facility, and new partnerships to expand services to those in need.

Executive Director Dr. LaTrice Snodgrass is excited for the future and the patients Beacon has yet to meet. "We are here to help people get and stay healthy. Our new location offers better visibility and our new mobile pharmacy unit (a Sprinter van) is helping us bring medications to those who can't come to us," explains Snodgrass. BEACONPHARMACY.ORG

Challenge Ministries

Challenge Ministries (formerly known as Men's Challenge) is a Christ-centered organization, operating a multi-faceted job readiness program that wraps holistic supports and practical knowledge around individuals who are deemed by society as unemployable. These individuals face villains from their past such as addiction and incarceration, but with the help of Challenge Ministries' heroic staff and volunteers, they can increase their confidence and overcome barriers to become gainfully employed.

"Our goal is to meet these individuals where they are and address challenges together," explained Board Chair, Michelle Collins. "By fostering personal growth, goal setting, and building a supportive community, we aim to create a lasting impact on the lives of our participants, enabling them to become providers for their families and positive contributors to their communities."

Once participants complete the four-week job readiness program, they are matched up with a mentor for additional support. The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton is proud to provide operating support to this life-changing organization. MENSCHALLENGE.ORG



Food insecurity is a reality we face here every day, and being able to provide even one solid meal can make a huge difference.”

BETTY SMITH, FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EN-RICH-MENT



EN-RICH-MENT

A spatula, an apron, and a stove may not seem like the normal tools of a hero, but at EN-RICH-MENT, they fit the bill! The local nonprofit, founded in 2012, offers classes in music, art, cooking, dance, gardening, media production, theater performance and production, percussion, and other workshops and training to youth aged five to 18. The cooking program occurs in the newly outfitted kitchen, which was supported, in part, by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton.

“Watching our students learn to cook is a true joy,” said Betty Smith, founder and executive director of EN-RICH-MENT. “These classes show them that they’re capable of creating something nourishing and beautiful—and that’s something that really stays with them.”

In addition to the cooking classes being a favorite for the students that call EN-RICH-MENT home before and after school and in the summer, the kitchen also serves all the meals and snacks for the program.

“Food insecurity is a reality we face here every day, and being able to provide even one solid meal can make a huge difference,” said Smith. “For our kids, it means they can focus on learning and enjoying their day without the distraction of hunger.”

EN-RICH-MENT.ORG

NAMI Stark County

Supporting, encouraging, and standing alongside those who battle mental illness is a very special superpower, one that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has mastered. In Stark County, NAMI plays a crucial role in advocating for the rights of individuals affected by mental illness and providing support, education, and resources for them and their families.

This year, with support from the Foundation, NAMI launched three new programs: FaithNet, Sharing Hope, and Hearts+Minds. Mirroring a national partnership, NAMI Stark County has formed a strategic partnership with community leaders to implement these programs to promote mental health awareness and reduce stigma in the Black and African ancestry communities. FaithNet is designed to harness the power of one’s faith and promote the vital role of spirituality in the recovery journey of many who live with mental health conditions. Sharing Hope is a community program that provides a supportive, healing space for honest conversation around mental wellness and support, reclaiming the narrative within Black communities. And Hearts+Minds is a wellness program designed to educate and empower individuals to manage both their mental and physical health and emphasize the interconnectedness of psychological and physical well-being.

Through these programs and partnership, NAMI is heroically breaking down barriers to care and providing access to resources and support. NAMISTARKCOUNTY.ORG





2024
GRANTS

\$3,519,065

Foundation-Led Initiatives

\$1,220,088

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CommQuest Services | \$48,585

To support gap funding for integrated behavioral health services

Stark County Mental Health and Addiction
Recovery | \$148,000

To support the Continuous Improvement Behavioral Health Project, leadership development, and implementation of the new Stark County Behavioral Health Workforce Optimization Initiative

Program Related Expenses | \$88,786

Total: \$285,371

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Early Childhood Resource Center | \$150,000

To support SPARK operations in Stark County

JRC | \$75,000

To support gap funding for its two learning centers

YMCA of Central Stark County | \$162,500

To support the Gibbs Community YMCA Early Learning Center, over three years

Program Related Expenses | \$108,903

Total: \$496,403

HOMELESSNESS

Alliance for Children and Families | \$50,000

To support an overflow emergency shelter for single women

ICAN Housing | \$5,000

To support emergency homeless outreach supplies

Stark Housing Network | \$175,000

To support the second year of its pilot project to recruit, retain, and upskill the workforce in Stark County's homelessness system

Stark Housing Network | \$111,041

To support operations, over two years

Program Related Expenses | \$97,273

Total: \$438,314

Strategic Collaborations

\$495,851

CAPACITY BUILDING

Access Health Stark County | \$15,000

To support a marketing plan

AHEAD | \$5,905

To support marketing and website upgrades

Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter | \$5,374

To support a fundraising plan and technology upgrades

Domestic Violence Project, Inc. | \$15,000

To support strategic planning to create a family justice center

Early Childhood Resource Center | \$15,000

To support a strategic plan

JRC | \$22,500

To support a website upgrade

Legacy Project of Stark | \$15,000

To support a website upgrade

Lighthouse Ministries of Canton | \$15,000

To support professional development and training

Margaret B. Shipley Child Health Center | \$15,000

To support professional development

OneEighty | \$15,000

To support strategic and succession plans

Pathway Caring for Children | \$10,790

To support report creation and Power BI training

Project REBUILD | \$5,200

To support a website upgrade

Refuge of Hope Ministries | \$13,200

To support professional development training

Stark Community Support Network | \$11,800

To support operational processes, policies, and procedures review; a fund development plan; and marketing materials

Stark County Minority Business Association | \$12,190

To support technology upgrades

The ABCD, Inc. | \$15,000

To support one-time purchase of necessary equipment for its Energy Conservation Weatherization program

TomTod Ideas | \$7,893

To support professional development

Total Living Center | \$15,000

To support strategic planning and a donor and volunteer management system

Tri-County Jobs for Ohio's Graduates | \$14,000

To support a data management system

Young Christian Professionals | \$10,000

To support workshops and coaching for its board and program directors

YWCA Alliance | \$15,000

To support ServTracker software to digitize its Meals on Wheels Plus program operations, over three years

Total: \$268,852



EDUCATION

Tri-County Jobs for Ohio's Graduates | \$27,500

To support a Massillon Middle School summer program

YWCA Alliance | \$20,000

To support its Navigators After School program

YMCA of Central Stark County | \$53,499

To support summer camp programming in Canton City, Alliance City, and Plain Local school districts

Total: \$100,999

INFRASTRUCTURE

YWCA Canton | \$126,000

To support infrastructure needs, over two years

Total: \$126,000

Responsive Efforts

\$1,803,126

A Whole Community | \$15,000

To support supplies and a refrigerator for its community food program, over two years

Access Health Stark County | \$75,000

To support the community health worker project focused on chronic disease

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank | \$18,092

To support equipment and supplies for the Stark County pantry

Alliance Family Health Center | \$46,000

To support expanding behavioral health services

ArtsinStark | \$50,000

To support kitchen equipment for the new EN-RICH-MENT Arts Education Building

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy | \$200,000

To support general operations, over two years

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio | \$15,000

To support community-based mentoring programs

Career Apprenticeship and Mentorship Program (CAMP) | \$10,000

To support its website and marketing video for the collegiate planning services program

Canton For All People | \$100,000

To support capital for the Newton Family Apartments

Canton For All People | \$100,000

To support capital for the Gibbs Avenue Center

Challenge Ministries | \$10,000

To support operations

Coleman Health Services | \$375,000

To support capital for the new Behavioral Health Urgent Care

CommQuest Services | \$150,000

To support capital for renovations and closures of its facilities across Stark County

Family and Community Services | \$50,000

To support capital for the Stark County Honor Home, a transitional housing facility for homeless veterans and their children

Hammer and Nails | \$47,000

To support operations

Health Policy Institute of Ohio | \$150,000

To support operations, over three years

Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank | \$4,684

To support equipment and supplies

ICAN Housing | \$239,000

To support capital for Duncan Square, a permanent supportive housing development

NAMI Stark County | \$7,500

To support programs addressing mental and physical health challenges

Pegasus Farm | \$30,000

To support operations of the Military and First Responders Center

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities | \$12,500

To support a multi-sensory therapy room in a new home for children and youth with complex intellectual disabilities and severe behavioral challenges

Stark County Minority Business Association | \$22,500

To support the Expanding Resources for All program, over two years

Stark Economic Development Board | \$60,500

To support operations, over three years

Total: \$1,787,776

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio | \$5,000

To support the Hope Restored Program's Victory Square Fund, providing vouchers for furnishings needed for residents moving out of Victory Square Apartments in Canton

CommQuest Services | \$3,750

To support a Nonprofit Collaborative Survey conducted by the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research

Total: \$8,750

BOARD HONORARIUMS

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank | \$500

A gift on behalf of retiring director James Leahy

Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter | \$1,000

A holiday gift from the Foundation Board of Directors

CommQuest Services | \$500

A gift on behalf of retiring director Elaine Russell Reolfi

CommQuest Services | \$1,000

To support the Samaritan's Table, a holiday gift from the Foundation Board of Directors

Domestic Violence Project, Inc. | \$1,000

A holiday gift from the Foundation Board of Directors

EN-RICH-MENT | \$100

A gift on behalf of retiring director Janelle Lee

EN-RICH-MENT | \$1,000

A holiday gift from the Foundation Board of Directors

Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio | \$500

A gift on behalf of retiring director Jeffrey Halm

Refuge of Hope Ministries | \$1,000

A holiday gift from the Foundation Board of Directors

Total: \$6,600





Strategic Plan **UPDATE**



In 2024, the Foundation board and staff embarked on a new, three-year strategic plan.

Leaning into our history of inclusivity, a legacy we share with our founders, the *Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine*, one of our focus areas is to enhance the accessibility of our Foundation for the community.

Our history is a source of inspiration for our current work and a guide into the future as we share the following statement that embodies that commitment:

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Statement

Grounded in our mission, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton believes in approaching our work with hospitality, humility, and patience. In our grantmaking and community relationships, we commit to promoting inclusion, dignity, and a sense of belonging for all, especially for those experiencing or addressing poverty. We pledge to view our work through a lens of love, which connects us to our mission and compels us to joyfully accompany our grantees and partners as we, together, cultivate systemic change.



VIEW OUR ENTIRE *Strategic Plan* ONLINE AT SCFCANTON.ORG

Board of Directors 2024



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C. Todd Locke



Joseph R. Luckring



Janice G. Murphy,
RN, BSN, MSN, FACHE
(ex officio, retired
August 2024)



Reverend Benson C.
Okpara



Elaine Russell Reolfi



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Jeffery S. Talbert



About

Staff

Marisa R. Rohn, President

Anne G. Savastano, Grants and Operations Manager

Robyn N. Steinmetz, Program Officer

Shannon McMahon Williams, Program Officer

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.

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.



SISTERS of CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System



SISTERS of CHARITY
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