

# THE DIFFERENCE



NONPROFIT FEATURE

## CHANGING BABIES CHANGES LIVES

**Stark County Diaper Bank strives to ensure every baby has enough diapers to remain clean, dry and healthy.**

For families living in poverty, diaper need has a negative ripple effect.

Without an adequate supply of diapers, babies can't participate in childcare. If parents don't have consistent childcare, they cannot work. Without a job, they can't afford to pay rent and provide for their family.

The unfortunate, costly diaper dilemma across the United States has parents turning to less-than-ideal approaches to stretching their diaper supply, like keeping their babies in diapers longer than they should. In some low-income households, a child may be in the same diaper all day or longer, which can cause reoccurring rashes, urinary tract infections and other illnesses.

Babies need an average of 8 to 10 diapers a day, costing families \$85 or more per month. And, if you're living paycheck to paycheck, it becomes more challenging to afford.

No state or federal safety-net program allocates dollars specifically for diapers, meaning diapers can't be purchased using WIC or Food Stamps. Often, families have to decide between purchasing diapers and buying food or paying rent.

Here in Stark County, these harsh realities of what local families face fuel the all-volunteer nonprofit Stark County Diaper Bank. The Diaper Bank collects, stores, repackages and distributes free diapers to families in times of need through a network of community partners, including food pantries, family service agencies and faith-based organizations.

### HOW IT STARTED

What later became known as the Stark County Diaper Bank all started with one question in March 2018.

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# SPREADING JOY THIS SEASON



WINTER  
2022 ISSUE

**As the color of the leaves change and the snow starts to fall, people start thinking about giving back to their community and helping their neighbors in need.**

I know I do. We hear this a lot at Stark Community Foundation, and people often ask us for suggestions on which organizations to support during the holiday season.

With this in mind, our team curated a list of nonprofits, some of which you may not be as familiar with, and their year-end needs. From purchasing holiday meals for families and winter coats for kids to providing prescription medication assistance for the underserved, our Nonprofit Holiday Giving Guide features a variety of opportunities to make someone's holiday a little bit brighter this year. If you're looking for ways to make a difference, be sure to check out page 5 to see how you can support these causes.

The holiday season is also a time for social gatherings, traditions and celebrations. At Stark Community Foundation, one of my favorite traditions takes place each December when our team adopts a local family who has fallen on tough times and purchases Christmas gifts for them. Each year, we gather together and wrap the clothing, toys and household items for the family. It's one way our Foundation family brings holiday cheer into the lives of another in our community.

I've always enjoyed hearing from our family of donors and community members about how they celebrate holidays and the unique traditions they carry on year after year.

We asked a few to share their traditions with us, which you'll find on page 8. Whether it's hosting friends, gathering with family, attending school holiday celebrations or cooking with traditional recipes that have been passed down for generations, you might find some of these stories similar to your own holiday festivities. I encourage you to read about these meaningful traditions, reflect on your own and maybe even be inspired to start a new tradition this year.

As we prepare for a season full of giving, Stark Community Foundation is ready to assist you. Please reach out to our team if we can help you in any way with your charitable giving.

From all of us at Stark Community Foundation, we wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season.

With gratitude,

**Mark J. Samolczyk**  
President and CEO

## OUR STAFF

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## OUR MISSION

**We partner with individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits to help them achieve their charitable goals.**

## OUR VISION

**We seek a thriving, engaged and inclusive community.**

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Engage with us on social media



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# GIVE THE GIFT OF GIVING.

This holiday season, gift charitable giving cards from Stark Community Foundation to your family members, friends and colleagues.

- » instead of redeeming at stores, the recipient can donate the value of the card to their favorite charity
- » 100% goes directly to selected charity
- » tax deductible & never expires



[STARKCF.ORG/GIVINGCARD](https://starkcf.org/givingcard)



[Continued from cover]

Barb Weaver Schweier, owner of Once Upon A Child Canton, asked her community-minded friend Shannon Hexamer if there was a local diaper bank because she wanted to get her store involved. Hexamer wasn't aware of one but was determined to find out. She learned that while some local organizations distributed diapers to their clients, Stark County didn't have a dedicated diaper bank.

"Her one question was all I needed to spark a passion inside of me," said Hexamer, who founded the Stark County Diaper Bank and owns a full-service marketing company.

Hexamer gathered a group who shared her vision, met with area nonprofits to learn more about diaper need, networked with diaper banks across the United States and had countless conversations with community leaders about how to help families in our community.

With the assistance of Stark County THRIVE, a feasibility study was conducted. The survey revealed families need help with diapers, but no agency in Stark County was providing diaper assistance as an ongoing initiative.

By early 2019, a seven-member board and advisory committee had been established and the nonprofit was officially providing access to diapers through a network of local partnering organizations. The first diaper drive was in partnership with Faith Family Church and brought in more than 6,000 diapers. When 25,000 diapers were collected, they were then distributed through five community partners.

"We form partnerships with community organizations to eliminate unnecessary duplication of services, reduce expenses and help solve a basic human need at the community level for infants and young children," said Hexamer. "If a family needs diapers, they often have other needs as well. Local social service agencies that deal with a full continuum of care are best qualified to meet this need."

## HOW IT'S GOING

For a year and a half, the Diaper Bank was run out of Hexamer's home. Diapers continued

to be stocked high in every bedroom until there were too many diapers and not enough space.

The demand for diapers forced the Diaper Bank to find a permanent home that would accommodate the nonprofit's continued growth. In September 2020, during the height of the pandemic, the Diaper Bank moved into Faith Family Church's undeveloped warehouse on Freedom Avenue NW in North Canton.

Currently, more than 30,000 diapers are distributed each month to community partners. Depending on the size needed, a child can receive 30-50 diapers per month, providing families in our community with emergency diaper support throughout the month.

Brandy, a mom short on diapers, expressed her gratitude by saying,

**"It has helped my family so much, and been a blessing for my three boys. Thank you so much."**

Another parent shared, "You don't understand how much this helps me."

In a few short years, the organization has grown from five community partners to 21 and has expanded its geographic footprint from Stark County to five additional counties: Carroll, Harrison, Medina, Tuscarawas and Wayne. To date, 629,000 diapers have been distributed.

"The Diaper Bank has been a great help for Tuscarawas County residents because there is no other program that assists with diapers on an ongoing basis," said Shelly Gomez, a caseworker for the Salvation Army of Dover-New Philadelphia. "This is something that parents can rely on. It will always be there if or when they need it."

The Diaper Bank is able to continue providing free diapers, pull-ups, wipes and adult diapers thanks to the generous support from community members, businesses, foundations and an ever-growing group of volunteers. Diapers are collected by diaper

drives, donated at diaper dropbox locations or purchased in bulk through local stores or the National Diaper Bank Network.

"Our greatest need right now is sizes 5 and 6 and pull-ups because children stay in them longer," said Hexamer. "Financial donations allow us to maximize our impact because we can buy in bulk at competitive prices and make sure we have diapers in our most needed sizes."

Every Tuesday, you'll find volunteers sorting, packing and wrapping diapers at the Diaper Bank to distribute to community partners. Most recently, students from Central Catholic High School spent the day wrapping diapers as part of the school's community outreach day, and a group of associates from Sam's Club in Canton spent their evening volunteering as part of the company's service day.

"We have one goal: to fill the shelves with diapers ready to distribute," said Nancy George, a dedicated Diaper Bank volunteer. "It brings us joy to see empty shelves when we arrive because it means that there are many more dry bottoms and happy parents!"

## WHAT'S NEXT

The Diaper Bank plans to distribute period supplies starting in 2023 because just like diapers, menstrual hygiene products can't be purchased with WIC or Food Stamps. Hexamer shared there is a growing need by individuals served by the Diaper Bank's community distribution partners.

The Diaper Bank recently purchased a 2015 Workhouse P42 truck that will be used at events to distribute more diapers to families with emergency diaper need. The nonprofit also plans to launch a new website and continue to strengthen and grow its relationships with community partners.

While Hexamer finds great joy leading the Diaper Bank, she says her ultimate hope is that the organization won't exist one day. "Because that would mean there would be no more diaper need. That every baby has enough diapers to remain clean, dry and healthy."

If you're looking to help, you can donate diapers, donate money, volunteer or host a diaper drive. Learn more at [www.starkcountydiaperbank.org](http://www.starkcountydiaperbank.org)



# A CARING AND FAITHFUL LEGACY



**From an early age, Robert James "BJ" Murphy was a community champion.**

The Stark County native graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1997 and earned a bachelor's degree from Kenyon College and a Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University. During a time when he could have pursued his legal career anywhere, he chose to return to Stark County.

"Stark County is the kind of place that really opens the doors to young people in this community and provides an opportunity for young professionals to get actively engaged," Murphy previously told *The Canton Repository*.

While serving as an attorney for Black, McCuskey, Souers, and Arbaugh, Murphy spent most of his free time giving back to the community he loved. He was a founding member of ystark!, an initiative of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce to engage young professionals, and the first chair of ystark!'s Twenty Under 40, an annual awards program recognizing young Stark County leaders who have demonstrated dynamic leadership and social responsibility.

Murphy also served as president of the Central Catholic Alumni Association, chair of the Pike Township Zoning Commission, parishioner of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church and board member of the Stark County and Ohio Bar Associations, among other community involvements. He was a graduate of Leadership Stark County's 21st Class and named to ystark!'s Twenty Under 40 in 2010.

He was also known for throwing an annual pig roast and bringing people from all backgrounds together to celebrate life and love.

"I have fond memories of attending his annual pig roast and of seeing the fun buzz around it every year," said friend Aimee Belden. "He somehow blended family, old friends, new friends and growing children into a raucous good time!"

The unwavering strength, character and faith that many admired about Murphy is also how he faced his courageous battle with cancer.

"Shortly after his diagnosis, I met BJ for lunch at Bender's," recalled friend Maureen Ater. "We shared our typical family updates and

chatted about community stuff. It all seemed so normal until I asked him about the cancer. I started to sob in the middle of the busy restaurant, but he was so calm and reassuring that this was God's plan. His faith was so strong."

After Murphy passed away in 2019 at the age 40, his friends were inspired to continue his legacy in Stark County.

"When someone dies so young, I think that friends and family are often left with a sense that things are not done or complete. It all seemed so unfair that such a kind and generous individual would leave us so soon," said Ater. "Several of us who had volunteered alongside BJ felt compelled to do something after his passing that would help close that circle and bring some resolution to what felt like such a heartbreaking situation."

Belden and Ater brought people together to discuss how to ensure BJ's compassionate heart and care for his community lived on. Within a few weeks, they secured support and established the Robert James (B.J.) Murphy Scholarship Fund at Stark Community Foundation. To pay tribute to his love of learning and support of catholic education, the fund provides scholarship support for students who demonstrate financial need at St. Michael's Elementary School.

"This fund is a small way that we can keep his name and memory alive in the broader regional community as well as in the faith-based community, both of which were so important to him," said Belden.

Ater shared "BJ's legacy is living on every day through his wife Rachel and their four beautiful boys. For those friends and colleagues who helped to develop this fund, it's a way to heal and it's a way to keep BJ's memory alive for generations to come. It seems like such a small effort to make in honor of someone who left such a big impression on all our lives."



## NEW FUNDS

# OUR FAMILY TREE

**Five charitable funds were established through Stark Community Foundation from July 1 through September 30, 2022.**

### Subfunds (1)

#### AJK Family Foundation

As part of her estate plans, local nonprofit leader Amy Weisbrod created a charitable foundation for her children Kate and Jack to continue her philanthropic legacy of helping others.

#### Chuck Ostrout Challenger Baseball Legacy Fund

Established by Canton Challenger Baseball, this endowment fund provides a steady stream of income to ensure an adaptive baseball program for individuals with physical and intellectual challenges in the Canton area continues in perpetuity. A generous estate gift from Chuck Ostrout, founder and longtime supporter of Canton Challenger Baseball, provided the initial seed money to establish this endowment fund.

#### Conotton Valley Alumni Association Foundation



This foundation was established by the Conotton Valley Alumni Association to provide ongoing support for Conotton Valley Union Local Schools through annual scholarships to deserving and motivated students and grants to teachers to enhance their classroom learning.

#### Clark H. and Louise A. Criss Charitable Fund

Minerva resident Louise Criss established a scholarship fund as a way to honor her husband's memory and their passion for supporting youth in our community. Scholarships are awarded annually from this fund to help financially needy Stark County students achieve their educational dreams.

# NONPROFIT HOLIDAY GIVING GUIDE

If you would like to support your community this holiday season but aren't sure how, Stark Community Foundation can help. Our Nonprofit Holiday Giving Guide is a curated list of year-end needs of 10 local nonprofits serving our community.

To learn more and support these initiatives, visit [www.starkcf.org/holiday-giving](http://www.starkcf.org/holiday-giving)

## GIFT HYGIENE BASKETS TO THOSE IN NEED

This year, Access Health Stark County set a minimum goal to provide 300 laundry soap or hygiene baskets to participants in need during the holidays. A donation of \$100 will provide four hygiene baskets put together and distributed by Access Health staff.



Access Health Stark County provides access to a coordinated health care system and community resources for the underserved.

## PROVIDE ESSENTIALS FOR MASSILLON FAMILIES

A donation of \$200 will provide gifts for an entire Massillon City Schools family, \$100 will provide a family with a holiday meal and \$75 will purchase a student's coat.



AHEAD Inc. supports the needs of students and parents of Massillon City Schools through programs, education enhancement and social service coordination.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH

A donation of \$250 will purchase a continuous glucose monitor, \$100 will purchase and administer four flu vaccines and \$100 will purchase five rescue inhalers.



Beacon Charitable Pharmacy is one of only three charitable pharmacies providing prescription medication assistance in Ohio and provides access and education for Stark and Carroll counties.

## PURCHASE MEALS AND GAS TO HELP SICK FAMILIES

A donation of \$100 will provide two weeks of meals and purchase a gas card for a family with a life-threatening illness traveling from our local area to the Cleveland Clinic or University Hospital for treatment.



Compassion Delivered provides nutritional meals to people coping with life-threatening illnesses and diseases and keeps them from choosing between paying for medical care or suffering from hunger.

## SUPPORT FINE ARTS EDUCATION

A donation of \$150 will send one EN-RICH-MENT theater student on an overnight trip to the Asante Children's Theater at the Asante Art Institute of Indianapolis. Exposure to this larger venue gives students a broader perspective of the theater world and an opportunity to interact with Asante's participants.

EN-RICH-MENT addresses a lack of fine arts programs available to underserved urban youth in Stark County through instruments and classes in music, voice, art, dance, cooking and gardening.



## PRIME A HOUSE FOR A HOMEOWNER IN NEED

A donation of \$250 will purchase enough primer for an entire house in Stark County, which protects and enhances the value of a home and its neighborhood. A typical paint job requires seven gallons of primer when using high-quality Glidden paint.

Hammer & Nails serves disadvantaged homeowners who are elderly, single parents, mentally or physically challenged or financially burdened with home repair assistance and maintenance services.



## FUND LOCAL YOUTH MENTORING

A donation of \$100 will cover the cost for a student to participate in a school-based imPACT group, which includes 35 weeks of mentoring curriculum focused on social and emotional well-being and all activity supplies.

The Legacy Project of Stark County provides in-school mentoring programs that teach life skills, discuss core values and offer small group interactions for elementary and middle school students in and around Stark County.



## PROVIDE HOLIDAY TURKEYS

A donation of \$100 will provide holiday turkeys for six local families who are struggling with food insecurity. With food at the center of many holiday gatherings, donated turkeys will help local families make memories and keep their traditions alive this holiday season.

The Stark County Hunger Task Force provides financial, logistical, strategic and food assistance through a network of food pantries throughout Stark County.



## CREATE MEMORIES FOR UNDERSERVED FAMILIES

A donation of \$250 provides an underserved family with one Tiquah Holiday Giving Spectacular, which includes a holiday meal, hygiene and household supplies, a gas card, board and card games, a gift card and a local family entertainment experience.

Tiquah Hands of Hope offers a safe physical and emotional space for students to grow through character development curriculum, a clothing boutique for students and their families and enrichment classes.



## PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN NATURE

A donation of \$250 will preserve one acre of forest, \$175 will provide 25 students with an engaging day in nature filled with fun and educational programming and \$100 will keep 10 miles of The Wilderness Center's trails maintained.

The Wilderness Center connects our community with nature, educates all ages, conserves natural resources and practices environmental stewardship.



# PROTECTING STARK'S FUTURE UPDATE

Valuable lessons have been learned in the infancy of Protecting Stark's Future, a Stark Community Foundation-led initiative to support collaborative, community-based solutions to reduce child poverty at the neighborhood level.

The Protecting Stark's Future initiative grew from data-driven community research and the release of *Protecting Stark's Future: A Call to Coordinate Child Poverty Strategies*, an eye-opening 2020 study of the child poverty challenges facing Stark County that showed every issue of concern was related to poverty.

To spur community-based solutions and fuel lasting change, the Foundation provided nearly \$430,000 in inaugural Protecting Stark's Future grants to 12 organizations in 2021 to address child poverty in Stark County.

While working alongside these community partners, the Foundation has learned several valuable lessons that will guide our future funding. These lessons have brought awareness to:

- Literacy Challenges
- Worsening Rates of Chronic Absenteeism
- The Need for Centralized Resources
- The Power of Homeownership
- The Importance of CARE Teams
- Emerging Neighborhood Partnerships
- The Need for Projects with Broader Impact



Recently, a second round of funding was awarded to local organizations combating child poverty. Learn about these organizations and read more about the lessons learned at [www.starkcf.org/child-poverty-update](http://www.starkcf.org/child-poverty-update) ↗

## TIPS AND UPCOMING DEADLINES

# YEAR-END GIVING

With the end of 2022 fast approaching, here are 5 ways to make a meaningful impact with your year-end giving.



### 1. DONATE STOCK

Donating stock instead of cash to Stark Community Foundation can be a tax-smart move. When you donate stock or other appreciated securities you have owned for longer than a year, you are exempt from paying capital gains tax. Plus, you may be able to receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the donation up to the amount allowed by the IRS.



### 2. GIVE NOW, DECIDE LATER

Open a Donor Advised Fund at Stark Community Foundation and receive an immediate tax deduction and have the flexibility to give back to nonprofits when the time is right for you. Your fund also will grow tax-free through wise investing, allowing you to give more as your fund grows. Donor Advised Funds are easy to create, tax-deductible and have no start-up costs.



### 3. DONATE FROM YOUR IRA

Make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA directly to Stark Community Foundation tax-free. While RMDs can't support Donor Advised Funds or Supporting Foundations, this may be an opportune time to support your favorite charities or areas of interest with a rollover to one of the Foundation's five other types of funds.



### 4. BUNCH YOUR DONATIONS

A popular giving strategy national and local experts recommend is charitable bunching, which is essentially bunching multiple years' worth of donations into one calendar year to receive maximum tax benefits.



### 5. HONOR A LOVED ONE

A meaningful way to show you care is to honor a family member or close friend by supporting a cause they hold close to their heart, such as education, the arts, mental health or the environment.

## Important Dates and Deadlines

**Grant Recommendations:** If you already have a charitable fund with Stark Community Foundation and want to guarantee your favorite organizations receive your generous support in 2022, be sure to submit your grant recommendations by **December 26** through the Donor Portal at [www.starkcf.org/donor-portal](http://www.starkcf.org/donor-portal) or email [give@starkcf.org](mailto:give@starkcf.org).

**Stock:** Gifts of appreciated securities must be received into Stark Community Foundation's account before the close of business on **December 30**. Notify Bridgette Neisel at [bneisel@starkcf.org](mailto:bneisel@starkcf.org) or 330-454-7992 to ensure a smooth transfer of these gifts.

**Check:** Checks sent through the U.S. Postal Service must be postmarked on or before **December 31**. Checks sent by FedEx or UPS must be physically received at our office on or before **December 30**.

**Credit / Debit Card:** Make a gift online at [www.starkcf.org/donate](http://www.starkcf.org/donate) with your credit or debit card to an existing fund or new fund. Online gifts must be received by **December 31** at 11:59 p.m. to receive a tax benefit.

# GOOD COMMUNITY NEWS

Stay up to date with our community's latest news.

## CANTON MUSEUM OF ART SELECTED FOR NATIONAL GRANT

The Canton Museum of Art was recently awarded a new Inspire! grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to support its Museum To Go program. This program provides free, virtual exhibit tours and hands-on artmaking lessons to fourth- through sixth-grade students in public school classrooms throughout Stark County. The dynamic program utilizes museum exhibitions to fuel student creativity, innovation, critical thinking and problem-solving. Read more at [www.starkcf.org/cma](http://www.starkcf.org/cma) ➔

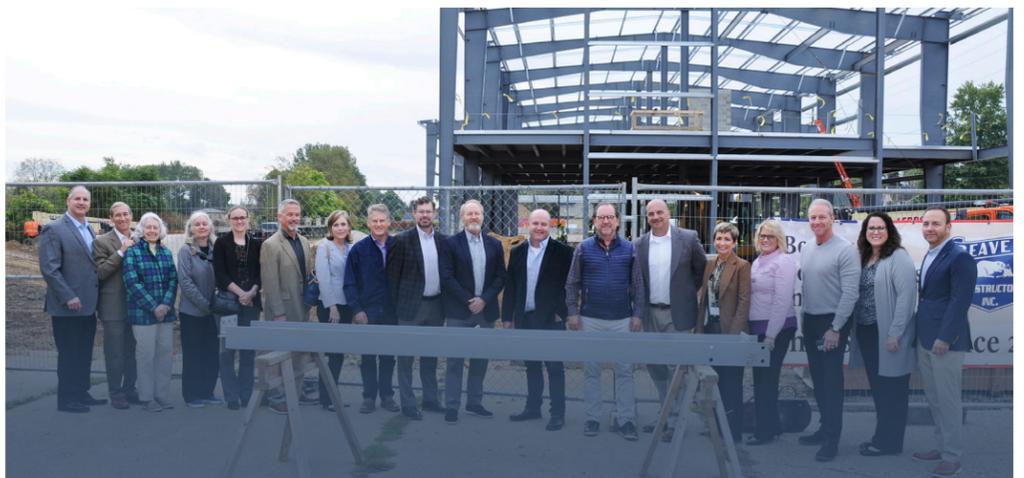


## NEIGHBORWORKS TRAINING PROVIDED FOR LEADERS

The Stark County Neighborhood Partnership Program hosted its first NeighborWorks training to equip local neighborhood leaders with tools for collaboration. Twenty-five leaders attended the training from Canton-area neighborhood associations in all four of the city's quadrants. This training comes as a result of the partnership formed in 2021 between Stark Community Foundation and Community Building Partnership of Stark County Inc. to improve and expand neighborhood revitalization efforts in Stark County. Read more at [www.starkcf.org/neighborworks](http://www.starkcf.org/neighborworks) ➔

## LOCAL FUNDS SUPPORT THANKSGIVING MEAL BASKETS

Like many in our community expressing generosity this time of year, the St. Michael the Archangel Legacy Fund - Archangel Charity Subfund at Stark Community Foundation recently supported Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown to provide holiday meals for those in need. For more than 30 years, Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown has united faith communities and civic organizations in Canton in an all-volunteer effort to provide families with food at Thanksgiving. Each holiday season, 1,200 families are served.



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BEGINS EXPANSION

The Boys and Girls Club of Massillon recently began construction on its \$9.4 million, state-of-the-art youth development facility that will primarily serve disadvantaged children of Massillon and Western Stark County. To signify the launch of this expansion project, community members were invited to participate in a beam-signing event. The project includes a 30,000 square-foot facility with centers for technology, arts and music, classrooms, a kitchen, cafeteria, gymnasium and outdoor education spaces.

## Watch the 2022 Investment Webinar replay at [www.starkcf.org/invest22](http://www.starkcf.org/invest22) ➔

In October, Stark Community Foundation's investment consulting firm Marquette Associates shared current market conditions and insights for the year ahead along with the Foundation's long-term investment strategy and performance.



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Winter 2022 Issue 

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COMMUNITY STORIES

## LOCAL HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Learn about meaningful traditions enjoyed by local families and organizations this time of year.



### THE CAMP FAMILY

For more than 50 years, Jim and Cincy Camp and their family have used the same recipe for Thanksgiving cranberry orange relish. When the children and grandchildren are old enough, they are allowed to use the family's four-generations-old hand grinder to grind a bag of cranberries and oranges. Guests or new family members take part in the tradition by ceremoniously having the first taste before the sugar is added, and the unexpected tartness often provides a good laugh. The Camps also participate in holiday ministries through Christ Presbyterian Church, including ringing The Salvation Army donation bell.

### THE GOLDEN KEY CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

For many years, The Golden Key has hosted a Polar Express-themed holiday sing performance where students in each grade sing holiday songs in front of an audience of family and friends. Students and staff wear pajamas for the day and enjoy movies, hot chocolate and holiday surprises. When guests were limited for in-person activities due to the pandemic, The Golden Key continued the special tradition of Polar Express day by recording each class performance and sharing it with the grade's virtual classroom. Students were able to safely experience the performance side of the tradition, and they enjoyed the day celebrating with their classmates.



### JOSETTE BEDDELL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



One of the ways Josette Beddell's family celebrates the holidays is with an annual baking contest. As a family, they describe themselves as naturally competitive—especially in the kitchen. Each year, a different category of baked goods is chosen, recent years being pies and loaves of bread. Both the adults and children bake a contest entry, and everyone votes for their favorite. The winner receives a prize, but no reward matches the pride that comes along with winning!

### THE VARIAN FAMILY

The Varian family's holiday traditions center around family, friends and the three generations living on their East Canton farm, Varian Orchards. Outside activities enjoyed on the farm include sled riding, building snowmen and cutting down their own Christmas trees. Indoors, the Varians enjoy activities like playing games, building projects and baking cookies together. The Varians also enjoy participating in their churches' holiday music programs and are hosts to many friends who join in on their holiday festivities.

