2022 was a record-setting year of community impact for Stark Community Foundation.

Thanks to the community’s generosity, an all-time high of $22.5 million was awarded in grants and a record-breaking 46 new charitable funds were established in 2022. Approximately $30 million was also raised last year in outright and planned gifts, making it the second-largest fundraising year in Foundation history.

“2022 was a year of records and firsts and a year of continuing to move our community forward through the power of philanthropy,” said Mark J. Samolczyk, president and CEO of Stark Community Foundation.

In 2022, the Foundation and its family of donors granted more than ever before to nonprofits in Stark County and beyond. An all-time high of $22.5 million benefited over 750 organizations in support of economic development, education, the arts, mental health, affordable housing and other meaningful causes.

This most recent milestone brings Stark Community Foundation to more than $230 million in grants awarded since 1963.

Of the $30 million raised in 2022 by individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits, $21 million was in outright gifts and $9 million was in planned gifts. These gifts established a record 46 new charitable funds, bringing the total number of funds managed by the Foundation to 900.

“We are grateful for the generations of Stark Community Foundation donors who trust the Foundation to carry out the good they want to see in their community and honor their personal legacies,” said Bridgette L. Neisel, vice president of advancement.

By year’s end, Stark Community Foundation’s assets for the betterment of our community totaled more than $335 million. With this asset size, the Foundation remains in the top 10 percent of community foundations in the United States today.
At Stark Community Foundation, it was a rewarding experience to reflect on 2022. What a remarkable year for the Foundation, the growing family of donors we serve and the communities and causes we support!

In one year, we collectively awarded $22.5 million in grants—that’s the largest amount of grants we’ve ever awarded in our history. That same year, we raised $30 million in outright and planned gifts, making it our second-highest fundraising year. We also helped individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits establish a record-breaking 46 new charitable funds, all with a unique purpose. I encourage you to look at page 3 to dive a little deeper into the highlights of our impactful year and learn about some of these new funds on page 6.

While those figures are impressive, what’s more meaningful are the stories behind these numbers—the passionate fundholders with a deep commitment to charitable giving who are purposeful in how they give back to our community.

We are fortunate to serve thousands of caring people like you on your philanthropy journey and help your dollars make a difference.

I hope you’ll take a few minutes to explore these stories of impact on pages 4 and 5 to see the faces, names and stories behind a handful of grants awarded in 2022.

In 2023, Stark Community Foundation is celebrating 60 years of helping kind people give to the nonprofits they care about. We recognize that everything we have accomplished over the past 60 years would not be possible without your generous support.

We’re honoring our milestone year by saying thank you to our community all year long through partnerships, programs and events. Stay tuned for how you can get involved and help us celebrate our community’s giving spirit this year.

Thank you for being an integral part of our past and an important part of our future.

With gratitude,

Mark J. Samolczyk
President and CEO

60 YEARS OF SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

In 2023, we’re celebrating 60 years of helping generous people give to the nonprofits they care about.

To commemorate this milestone, we are partnering with various local organizations and businesses to give back and celebrate with our community, like sponsoring a day of coffee at the Human Bean.

WWW.STARKCF.ORG/60

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

GIVING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

When a new year begins, it’s natural to pause, reflect on the previous year and dream of what the new year holds.

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.

OUR STAFF

Mark J. Samolczyk
President and CEO
Carrie L. Bast
Vice President and CFO
Amy B. Krebs
Vice President of Grants and Community Initiatives
Bridgette L. Neisel
Vice President of Advancement
Stephanie L. Boka
Staff Accountant
Christine M. Cunningham
Finance and Systems Officer
Melissa J. Esfelder
Donor Relations Associate
Dana S. Johnson
Grants Administrator
Callie A. Livengood
Director of Marketing and Communications
Natalie A. Mashchak
Marketing Specialist
Mary Helen Petrus
Senior Program Officer
Casey T. Schandel
Director of Donor Relations
Nicole L. Stelzer
Controller
Susan B. Warne
Corporate Secretary and Administrative Assistant

OUR BOARD

Nancy A. Varian, Chair
William R. Cook, Vice Chair
Brian S. Belden
Nancy S. Gessner
Gregory W. Luntz
Tonja J. Marshall
Karen Soehnlen McQueen
Andrea M. Perry
Todd E. Pugh
Gary D. Sirak
Jeffrey W. Zellers

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IN 2022...

46 NEW FUNDS WERE ESTABLISHED
by individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits.

$30M was raised in OUTRIGHT & PLANNED GIFTS,
making this the second-highest fundraising year in Foundation history.

$335M+ assets under management totaled

$30M NEW RECORD!

$22.5M was awarded to nonprofits improving economic development, education, the arts, mental health and other meaningful causes.

$226,998 was awarded through the PROTECTING STARK’S FUTURE initiative to assist organizations combating child poverty.

94% of grants stayed in Ohio and were reinvested back into our communities.

2,822 GRANTS were awarded to 750+ ORGANIZATIONS in 37 STATES.

$1.6M was awarded through our COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE GRANTMAKING PROGRAM, our largest competitive grantmaking program designed to meet the evolving needs of area nonprofits.

$1.6M NEW RECORD!

A STARK COUNTY NONPROFIT SERVICE PROVIDER ASSESSMENT was conducted to better understand the current and projected state of the nonprofit sector in Stark County.

289 STUDENTS RECEIVED MORE THAN $600,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT.

We convened the STARK COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COLLECTIVE to identify ways to improve local behavioral health outcomes.

We unveiled 1 BRAND-NEW WEBSITE.

We launched this new SEASONAL PUBLICATION, THE DIFFERENCE.

*2022 figures are preliminary and unaudited. Our 990 and audited financial statements are available online at www.starkcf.org/financials
The generosity of our family of donors made a difference in our community in 2022.

**DONOR STORIES**

**IMPACT STORIES**

**GRANTS AWARDED IN 2022:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Charitable Funds</td>
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<td>Designated Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiatives</td>
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</table>

**BONNIE VAZQUEZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**GRANTEE:** In Jerry’s Footsteps  
**PURPOSE:** Employee healthcare scholarships for Altercare of Country Lawn

Bonnie Vazquez was a passionate and caring nurse who spent her career caring for others in the operating room and later in her husband’s medical office. During the last stages of her life, she received exceptional care and compassion from the nurses and staff of Altercare of Country Lawn in Navarre, Ohio.

Impressed with their family’s experience at Altercare, Bonnie’s children established a memorial fund at Stark Community Foundation to show their appreciation for Altercare and honor their mother’s nursing legacy. Scholarships in Bonnie’s memory are awarded annually from this fund to help Altercare of Country Lawn employees further their education in healthcare. Most recently, two employees received assistance to help them continue their education and obtain nursing degrees.

**PETER AND PATRICIA ASHTON CHARITABLE FUND**

**GRANTEE:** Community Legal Aid Services  
**PURPOSE:** Legal services for victims of domestic violence & stalking

In the late 1990s, retired Timken Company executive Peter Ashton and his wife, Patricia, created a charitable fund through Stark Community Foundation to support their favorite causes during their lifetime. While Peter and Patricia were living, they made a provision that after their passing, Stark Community Foundation’s grantmaking team would oversee their fund and determine which emerging needs to support in the community.

Because of the Ashtons’ generosity, Community Legal Aid was able to provide an array of legal services for 253 low-income and underserved victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking from Stark County in 2022. By working in partnership with Domestic Violence Project, Inc., the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter, Alliance Rape Crisis and COMPASS Rape Crisis, they were able to educate victims of their legal rights and provide empowering legal assistance to help break the cycle of violence and achieve stability for the victims and their families.

**ROY H. POWELL AND NINA B. POWELL FAMILY CHARITABLE FUND**

**GRANTEE:** Stark County Hunger Task Force  
**PURPOSE:** General Support

As part of her estate plans, Nina Powell established a charitable fund through Stark Community Foundation to honor her and her husband Roy’s commitment to the community. Throughout the years, the Powell family has supported a variety of civic, educational and human service needs in the northern Stark County and southern Portage County areas as a way to keep Roy and Nina’s memory and legacy alive in the community.

Today, Roy and Nina’s granddaughter, Linda (Weil) McClain, is advising the fund and often supports causes that matter most to her family— including hunger relief efforts. Her grandfather, Roy, was one of the early farmers in the Hartville muck lands in 1917 and later owned a farm in New Baltimore. In 2022, the Powell family supported various causes, including Stark County Hunger Task Force to help fight hunger in our community. With their donation, the Powell family provided 350,000 pounds of nourishing food to families in need.
At the age of 24, Army-veteran and newly-hired Canton police officer Brian C. Roshong was killed in the line of duty during Hall of Fame weekend in 1996. His family, friends and co-workers felt moved to turn the pain of their loss into something that honors and remembers his legacy. In lieu of flowers and gifts, the community expressed their sympathy with generous donations to help create a fund to keep Brian’s memory alive.

Brian’s parents, David and Theresa Roshong, worked with Stark Community Foundation to establish the Brian C. Roshong Memorial Fund. Each year, the fund helps purchase uniforms and protective equipment for newly-hired officers of the Canton Police Department. Since its inception, Brian’s fund has benefited nearly 150 young police officers serving our community, including nine new officers in 2022.

Melvin Tolson was a Carroll County businessman and an avid pilot. His wife, Frances, was a longtime art teacher in the Carrollton School District. In recognition of Melvin’s work and dedication in establishing the airport in Carrollton in the early 1970s, the airport was officially named Tolson Field.

Aviation and the arts were always the Tolsons’ passions, and although they both have since passed, their legacy continues through a scholarship fund they established through Carroll County Foundation, an affiliate organization of Stark Community Foundation. Each year, scholarships are awarded to students pursuing careers in aviation, art education or the fine and performing arts. One Carrollton student who benefited from the Tolsons’ generosity is now training to be a pilot for Skywest Airlines, and a recent scholarship recipient is in the Arts Scholars Program at The Ohio State University.

The Stark County Dental Society Charitable Foundation established an endowment fund to provide long-term sustainability and ongoing support for the Stark County Dental Society, a growing membership of more than 250 area dentists, and its philanthropic efforts. Each year, income from this fund provides charitable resources to organizations and initiatives that meet the dental and oral health needs of the area, enhance the quality of life for residents and promote the dental profession.

Last year, the foundation provided scholarship support for students pursuing degrees in dental hygiene at Stark State College, served local veterans in need of urgent oral health care, contributed to Case Western Reserve University’s School of Dental Medicine and supported student dental clinics at The Ohio State University’s College of Dentistry. In recognition of the foundation’s generosity, a student clinic operating room on Ohio State’s campus was named in its honor.

The Henry and Louise Timken Foundation became a supporting foundation of Stark Community Foundation in 1980 and has awarded grants to nonprofits strengthening Stark County for more than 40 years. Most recently, the foundation helped Canton Country Day School (CCDS) renovate its 40-acre outdoor learning campus. As a certified wilderness and wildlife school, CCDS’ outdoor learning campus features outdoor classrooms, wetlands, nature trails, a pond and two playground areas.

Thanks to the foundation’s support, CCDS was able to replace its two, 20-plus-years-old outdoor playgrounds with new, state-of-the-art playground equipment. The inclusive space is designed to support cognitive, physical, social and emotional development of the preschool through eighth grade students it serves, summer camp attendees and other local children who visit the campus with their families.
24 charitable funds were established through Stark Community Foundation from October 1 through December 31, 2022.

**Anonymous Fund**

Subfunds (3)

**Bellissimo Family Charitable Fund**

Kim and Jonathan Bellissimo created a charitable fund to facilitate their family’s philanthropy. Their fund will eventually be passed down to their daughters to continue supporting causes that are important to their family.

**John Bogniard Memorial Scholarship Fund**

The Ohio Automobile Club (OAC) established this scholarship fund to pay tribute to John Bogniard’s nearly 30 years of service to OAC and to memorialize his legacy of helping others. John, a law partner with Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty, served on OAC’s Board of Directors for 27 years, serving as chairman from 2000-2002 and again from 2012-2014. This scholarship, which is awarded annually, helps finance a college education for students who embody John’s memorable attributes. These students consistently put forth their best effort in academics and community and display a kind and positive influence by being service minded and considerate of the welfare of others. Special consideration will be given to those employed by AAA in the state of Ohio and to their children and grandchildren.

**Nancy and Todd Bundy Charitable Fund**

Nancy, a community trustee, and Todd, a local attorney, created a charitable fund to provide support for organizations that are meaningful to them. Their fund will eventually be passed down to their children, Suzanne and Rachel, to continue their family’s passion for giving back to the community.

**Agnes Elizabeth Dougherty Memorial Fund**

Named in memory of his mother, Ron Dougherty established a charitable fund to continue Agnes’ legacy and honor her appreciation for Christ Presbyterian Church and Camp Wakonda. Each year, this fund supports Camp Wakonda, a nondenominational summer camp for children of all ages and retreat center located 30 miles southeast of Canton, Ohio.

**Tom and Rhonda Drakulich Family Fund**

Tom and Rhonda Drakulich, founders of Apex Control Systems, established a charitable fund to support causes that are meaningful to their family. Their fund will eventually be passed down to their children – Emily, Joseph and Adam – to continue their commitment to helping others.

**Fuller Family Foundation**

Richard, an ophthalmologist, and Patricia, an educator, established a family foundation to facilitate their charitable giving in the Stark County community and beyond. Their foundation will eventually be passed down to their children, Scott and Susan, to continue their family’s legacy of helping others.

**Robert and Nancy Gessner Charitable Fund**

Community stewards Robert “Bob” and Nancy Gessner established a charitable fund to help nonprofits advance their missions and create a lasting impact. The Gessners are strong supporters of Massillon, a community in which they spent their professional careers leading Bob’s family-owned telecommunications company MCTV and raising a family. Their fund will eventually be passed down to their children, Katherine and Suzanne, to continue their family’s tradition of giving back to others.

**Henry and Lea Charitable Fund**

**Annette and Michael McCann Charitable Fund**

Annette and Michael McCann, founders of McCann Plastics, created a charitable fund to support causes in the community. Their fund will eventually be passed down to their children – Michelle, Michael and Maria – to continue their family’s legacy of making a difference.

**J.B. McClain Family Foundation**

Healthcare professionals Jennifer and Brian McClain established a family foundation to regularly support organizations they care about in Stark County and beyond. Their foundation will eventually be passed down to their children to continue their family’s caring spirit.

**Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum Endowment Fund**

This endowment fund was established to provide a consistent stream of income to meet the ongoing and future needs of Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum. The fund also ensures FFA Camp Muskingum’s educational experiences in conservation, personal development, leadership training and recreational opportunities for agriculture students and others continue in perpetuity.

**Iris R. Rybolt Charitable Fund**

Robert M. Rybolt Charitable Fund

Robert M. Rybolt created a charitable fund to support causes in Stark County and beyond. Their foundation will eventually be passed down to their children – Michelle, Michael and Maria – to continue supporting causes that are important to their family.

**William R. Schellhase and Mary Jane Schellhase Philanthropic Fund**

**James C. Sorenson Charitable Fund**

Stark County native and private investor, Jim Sorenson, established an advised fund to promote local and non-local charities, including educational institutions, service organizations, the arts and his church. The fund will eventually become part of Stark Community Foundation’s Community Charitable Fund and support the community’s emerging needs.

**Stark Carroll District Nurses Association Scholarship Fund**

Originally established in 1919, the Stark Carroll District Nurses Association was the first nursing organization in the state to recognize and advocate for professional nurses and nursing in Ohio. Due to changes in the current healthcare environment, the Stark Carroll District Nurses Association dissolved in 2022 and established a charitable fund to continue its legacy of advancing the nursing profession and impacting local healthcare. Each year, the fund provides scholarship support to outstanding seniors pursuing degrees in nursing at Kent State University at Stark, Malone University, University of Mount Union and Walsh University.

**Stark County Minority Business Association Endowment Fund**

This endowment fund was created to ensure a steady source of annual income would always be available to the Stark County Minority Business Association to help minority business owners in Stark County grow and thrive.

**Dr. Dean and Ruth Varian Charitable Fund**

Local retired emergency physician Dr. Dean Varian and his wife, Ruth, created a charitable fund to support their heart for Christian missions and land conservation. Their fund will eventually provide permanent support to organizations important to their family: Agape Flights, The Salvation Army of Canton and The Wilderness Center.

**William and Joyce Family Philanthropic Fund**

William and Joyce Robertson created a charitable fund to support causes in Carroll County and beyond. They will eventually pass down their fund to their children – Paul, Ian and Mark – to carry on their family’s passion for improving the community.
The North Canton-based nonprofit provides a safe, supportive working environment in a café setting for persons with developmental disabilities (referred to as trainees) to learn workforce readiness and social skills through on-the-job training.

When asked what her goal is for trainees in the program, founder and executive director of Whole Latte Love Café Beth Humbert shared: “We want to build them up and watch them fly.”

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM**

At the beginning of the vocational training program, trainees identify their career goals and interests. Some would like to work in customer service and interact with people daily, whereas others would like to be behind the scenes. From there, a job coach helps determine which position at the café would set them up for success while teaching them transferable skills.

Under the direct supervision of a job coach, Stark County trainees work in four key positions: cashier, barista, food prep and dishwasher. Trainees are empowered to create monthly drink specials, allowing them to use their creativity to handcraft a coffee and give it a special name. Barista-in-training Arianna recently created a customer favorite Witches Brew, which combines Nutella, coffee and milk.

Through person-centered training, trainees develop work readiness skills like responsibility and problem-solving, increase their social interaction, explore their interests and build confidence and independence. The program is a way to help those with disabilities who cannot successfully gain or retain employment on their own to enter the labor force with dignity and inclusion with others in society.

The café intentionally does not have a drive-thru because part of the experience is customers seeing the smiling faces of the trainees making their drinks.

"Our mission is to change the way people view, include, respect, value and accept other people," said Beth.

The unique program is a time-limited opportunity, meaning trainees are expected to work two to five years at the café before transitioning to competitive employment in the community.

**INSPIRED BY FAMILY**

Beth was inspired by her youngest daughter, Caroline, to create Whole Latte Love Café. Caroline, who has autism, graduated from Hoover High School in 2018 and now works at the café.

“Caroline simply taught our family to look at life through another lens,” said Beth.

Beth became acutely aware of the need for paid, supportive employment services after spending over 20 years in the field of vocational rehabilitation assisting, advocating and creating jobs for job seekers with disabilities and her own family’s journey.

Students like Caroline, who depended on an individualized education program (IEP) during high school for extra attention and help, have little to no guidance and support after they graduate. Many have difficulty transitioning to adulthood and navigating the sense of independence that comes with it. Some find it challenging to complete a job application or cannot get to work because they don’t drive.

The supported employment program offered through Whole Latte Love Café addresses the needs of adults with an intellectual or developmental disability who are transitioning to life after high school. Beth and her team aim to remove old stigmas and barriers, empower Caroline and her peers to pursue a path toward greater independence and bring more awareness to the community through specialized job training and community support.

**GETTING STARTED**

Beth started researching a supported employment model in 2017 and worked closely with SCORE Canton to fine-tune her business plan, legally establish a nonprofit and form a board. She later signed a lease in November 2019 at the café’s current location on South Main Street in North Canton, and then the pandemic hit in March 2020.

“Although it was a challenging time, it turned out to be a blessing,” added Beth. “It gave us more time to raise money.”

Within two years, the café raised enough money to renovate the facility, hire and train employees and further develop the specialized job training program. The café officially opened its doors in January 2022 with no debt and ended the year in the black.

Today, the paid vocational training program employs 22 people in Stark County, and future plans for the nonprofit café are brewing.

**FUTURE PLANS**

Plans are underway to lease the space directly to the north of the café to expand its services. The new expansion project will feature a training room to address individual employment goals, a public rentable conference room, future space for high school programming, as well as office and storage space. More details about the project will be shared at its upcoming fundraiser on March 31.

Beth shared, “we are the friendliest, most warm-hearted café, and we want you to leave 100% lifted.”

Learn more about the café at [www.wholelattelovecafe.org](http://www.wholelattelovecafe.org)
Stark Community Foundation offers more than 100 diverse scholarships, made possible by generous individuals, families, and businesses. Stark Community Foundation is one of the area’s major sources of college scholarship support.

Students can apply at www.starkcf.org/scholarships

Thanks to generous donors, Stark Community Foundation offers many scholarship opportunities to help students from Stark and Carroll counties.

Students can apply for eligibility at www.starkcf.org/scholarships

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University of Mount Union senior Anthony Young is a civil engineering major pursuing double minors in mathematics and Africana studies, while also a member of the university’s football team. In 2022, Anthony received scholarship support from the Ken Finney Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Partners In Education Scholarship Fund and the Chester A. and Ethel J. Seran Scholarship Fund.

“I am forever grateful to Stark Community Foundation for its support and assistance in my mom and I financing my education these past 5 years,” said Anthony.

“This being his fifth year, we receive very little aid. Stark Community Foundation played a major role in my son being able to finish college,” said Anthony’s mother, Renee. “I just want you to know how much we appreciate the support.”

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