With more than 55 years of giving experience and deep community knowledge, Stark Community Foundation partners with over 800 individuals, families, businesses and organizations to make charitable giving both easy and meaningful.

The Foundation and our growing family of donors support a wide array of local projects and organizations each year, awarding a record-breaking $13.7 MILLION IN 2019. Since inception in 1963, we have invested more than $185 million in projects and initiatives that move our community forward.

This year’s Community Impact Report provides an overview of the difference we collectively made both locally and nationally last year. Stories on the following pages provide a glimpse into why charitable funds have been created, our donors’ passions and the ENDURING IMPACT grants of all sizes make in the lives of others.
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BREAKDOWN OF 2019 GRANT AWARDS

- Community Charitable Funds $1,174,232
- Designated Funds $3,070,321
- Donor Advised Funds $2,693,249
- Field of Interest Funds $1,112,096
- Organization Endowment Funds $3,485,926
- Scholarship Funds $548,422
- Supporting Foundations $629,252
- Affiliate Organization $1,038,346
- Total Grants $13,751,844

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT | TWENTY-TWENTY
Responding to Community Needs

Community Charitable Funds are created by forward-thinking individuals in order to respond to Stark County’s evolving needs and opportunities. They believe in the research and evaluation processes of Stark Community Foundation’s Grantmaking Team to recommend how their dollars are distributed to area organizations to MAKE THE GREATEST IMPACT. Our staff’s breadth of community knowledge and nonprofit expertise comes from their past nonprofit leadership and from continuously assessing funding proposals submitted by organizations as part of our competitive grantmaking process.

FEATURED FUNDS

PAUL C. AND THELMA M. DALE PHILANTHROPIC FUND
GRANTEE: BEECH CREEK BOTANICAL GARDEN & NATURE PRESERVE
PURPOSE: LINERODE PROPERTY ACQUISITION

At his death in 1980, Paul Dale, a retired metallurgist with Republic Steel, created a trust that would benefit his wife, Thelma, for her lifetime. Having no surviving children, the Dales made a provision that after Thelma’s death, the balance of their estate would be donated to Stark Community Foundation to support emerging needs within the community. Today, their fund supports the Beech Creek Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, a nonprofit in Alliance dedicated to connecting children, families and the community with nature. With funding from the Dales, Beech Creek was able to expand its educational and recreational public garden property by more than six acres. Purchasing additional land and a pond has improved visitor experience with additional parking and walking trails, expanded its educational programming to include a new aquatic life and pond ecology curriculum and increased sustainability for the organization’s administrative operations.

SAMUEL AND DE ETTE DREYER CHARITABLE TRUST FUND
GRANTEE: GREATER EAST CANTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
PURPOSE: RESURFACE FOLTZ COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT

Entrepreneur Sammy Dreyer and his half-brother started the City News Agency in Canton in 1924 and the News Depot in downtown Canton in 1932. After Sammy passed away in 1967, his wife, De Ette, established a charitable fund in their name through Stark Community Foundation to ensure their family’s legacy of supporting Stark County would continue forever. Decades later, their generosity continues through the support of the Foltz Community Center, a space providing youth activities, after-school programs and senior activities. It’s also the home of the East Canton Branch of the Stark Library. A grant from the Dreyer’s fund most recently helped resurface the community center’s parking lot with new blacktop and 127 new freshly-painted parking spaces, making it safer and more convenient for all community members and their vehicles.

$1,174,232 MILLION AWARDED IN GRANTS
FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019 FROM COMMUNITY CHARITABLE FUNDS

72 COMMUNITY CHARITABLE FUNDS
68 GRANTS AWARDED
58 ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED
Creating a Legacy of Support

People often have charities close to their heart, and they show their support by making financial contributions to them each year. Designated Funds allow individuals to ensure that organizations they care about receive their ongoing, reliable support now and after they pass. By earmarking their funds, their favorite organizations receive grants in their name in perpetuity. It’s simple: they choose one or several organizations they want to support, what percentage they want each to receive and then the grants are made quarterly or annually to their favorite charities — WITHOUT ANY EXTRA EFFORT.

FEATURED FUNDS

DOUGLAS L. HOUCK CHARITABLE FUND
GRANTEE: MAGIC HORSE THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER
PURPOSE: GENERAL SUPPORT

Doug Houck is remembered as a Navy veteran, Cuyahoga Falls High School graduate, founder and CEO of DLH Industries, Inc. and avid philanthropist. Although he passed away in 2017, his legacy of helping others continues through the Douglas L. Houck Charitable Fund that provides ongoing support to his favorite causes including the Magic Horse Therapeutic Riding Center. Based in California, the equestrian center provides therapeutic riding and horsemanship lessons for children and adults with disabilities while empowering them with a sense of independence and acceptance through assisted activities. Most recently, the nonprofit was faced with a difficult decision: treat one of its horses, Pearl, for a MRSA infection requiring a special, expensive $20,000 treatment or euthanize Pearl for $275. Thanks to Doug’s generous support, the decision was easy, and Pearl is alive and healthy today helping people of all ages and abilities find hope.

JOSHUA THOMAS WHITE MEMORIAL FUND
GRANTEE: YWCA - CANTON
PURPOSE: BUS FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Joshua Thomas White was actively involved in our community and had a great love for children. In March 1995, he was tragically killed by a train while crossing the tracks in his car, leaving behind his parents, John and Larna, and sister, Rebecca. To perpetuate his memory, his family established a charitable fund dedicated to supporting the YWCA Canton to make Stark County a better community for children and families. In recognition of a major contribution from his fund toward renovation costs for the YWCA’s main building in downtown Canton, an early learning center and 38-unit shelter for homeless women and children, the building was renamed the Joshua White Center for Families. Funding also recently helped purchase a bus for the YWCA’s child care program, the Early Childhood Learning Center.

$3,070,321 MILLION AWARDED IN GRANTS

FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019 FROM DESIGNATED FUNDS
Supporting What Matters Most

Individuals and families from all walks of life SUPPORT THE CAUSES THEY CARE ABOUT through their easy and convenient Donor Advised Funds. Providing the most flexibility, these funds allow donors to give to multiple organizations and programs throughout the year when the time is right for them. They simply let Stark Community Foundation know which organization they want to support, for what purpose and for how much — and we take care of the rest. Our staff handles all of the administrative details, compliance and due diligence to make giving easy.

BROTT FOUNDATION
GRANTEE: LAKE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PURPOSE: PURCHASE OF SOUSAPHONES

Ken and Karen Brott and their twins, Adam and Grace, established a family foundation in 2017. Together, they invest in causes that matter most to their family, including education and music. Most recently, they, along with two other local families, helped purchase new sousaphones for Lake High School. These instruments have a special significance to the Brott family. Both Adam and Grace were honor students and members of the band at Lake High School before starting their next chapter at The Ohio State University. While in Columbus, Adam started as a water boy and alternate, then progressed to become one of the 180 regular members of the Ohio State marching band. In 2019, he had the distinct honor of dotting the “i” with his sousaphone to complete the marching band’s iconic script “Ohio” with his family watching in the stands.

CINDY AND JON ELSASSER ADVISED CHARITABLE FUND
GRANTEE: ZOAR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
PURPOSE: GARDEN HOUSE PROJECT

Cindy and Jon Elsasser have made it their life’s mission to preserve and maintain their hometown of Zoar. Through their charitable fund at Stark Community Foundation, they invest in local programs and projects including Zoar’s Garden House. The house, originally owned by gardener Simon Beuter and his family in the 1800s, has been restored and is surrounded by nearly an acre of garden grounds. Staff and volunteers maintain the house throughout the season and keep the flower and vegetable bed shapes representative to the Zoarites’ original design. It is because of the support of loyal residents like the Elsassers that Historic Zoar Village remains a must-see destination for anyone interested in history, art or architecture.

$2,693,249 MILLION AWARDED IN GRANTS
FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019 FROM DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

211 DONOR ADVISED FUNDS
975 GRANTS AWARDED
542 ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

FEATURED FUNDS

CINDY AND JON ELSASSER ADVISED CHARITABLE FUND
GRANTEE: ZOAR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
PURPOSE: GARDEN HOUSE PROJECT

Cindy and Jon Elsasser have made it their life’s mission to preserve and maintain their hometown of Zoar. Through their charitable fund at Stark Community Foundation, they invest in local programs and projects including Zoar’s Garden House. The house, originally owned by gardener Simon Beuter and his family in the 1800s, has been restored and is surrounded by nearly an acre of garden grounds. Staff and volunteers maintain the house throughout the season and keep the flower and vegetable bed shapes representative to the Zoarites’ original design. It is because of the support of loyal residents like the Elsassers that Historic Zoar Village remains a must-see destination for anyone interested in history, art or architecture.
FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Following a Passion

Field of Interest Funds allow people to make an impact in a targeted area or field of interest they are most passionate about. This type of fund allows them to support the evolving needs of a variety of nonprofits focused on their broad area of interest, such as the arts, education, healthcare or a specific geographic area. Some donors have an advisory committee that decides which projects should be funded within their focus area, whereas others rely on Stark Community Foundation’s Grantmaking Team to determine which organizations and projects best fit the donors’ interests. Either way, donors are making an impact now and forever on a cause they feel deeply about.

BILL AND JANICE CONTI CHARITABLE FUND
GRANTEE: AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
PURPOSE: COMMUNITY CPR TRAINING PROGRAM IN STARK COUNTY

Bill and Janice Conti created a charitable fund in 2014 as a way to do their part in meeting the health care needs of the community. Today, their fund is making it possible for thousands of people in our community to be trained in life-saving CPR. The American Heart Association distributed 450 CPR training kits to local hospitals, rehabilitation centers, sports leagues and community organizations to equip families with loved ones at higher risk of cardiac arrest. Not only has the Conti’s grant made this valuable, life-saving training accessible to Stark County, it has also encouraged others to share in their commitment to health.

THEODORE B. AND RUTH E. HUBBARD CHARITABLE FUND
GRANTEE: STARK COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
PURPOSE: STARK COUNTY FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM - PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

Ruth Hubbard established a fund in her and her late husband’s names in 1998 to benefit organizations dedicated to the educational, health and social needs of children. Although they have both passed, their mission to promote childhood and adolescent wellbeing continues through an initiative of Stark County Educational Service Center to positively influence children’s eating habits through increased access to fresh local foods in school cafeterias. A grant from the Hubbard’s fund supported its Stark County Farm to School Program, a program that uniquely engages students in nutrition education and consumption of locally sourced food. Students in the program participated in taste tests and surveys of Harvest of the Month items, attended field trips to local farms and implemented school gardens.

$1,112,096 MILLION AWARDED IN GRANTS FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019 FROM FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

59 FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS
105 GRANTS AWARDED
85 ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

FEATURED FUNDS

BILL AND JANICE CONTI CHARITABLE FUND
GRANTEE: AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
PURPOSE: COMMUNITY CPR TRAINING PROGRAM IN STARK COUNTY

THEODORE B. AND RUTH E. HUBBARD CHARITABLE FUND
GRANTEE: STARK COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
PURPOSE: STARK COUNTY FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM - PUTTING DOWN ROOTS
Building Security for the Future

Organization Endowment Funds are created by nonprofit organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) status that have the foresight to PROTECT THE LONGEVITY AND LEGACY OF THEIR ORGANIZATION IN PERPETUITY. These funds provide a constant and predictable stream of income to offset operations, fund new programs and services and support other mission-related activities. Not only is it a testament to a nonprofit’s strategic planning and financial stability, but it helps prepare for growth and build an investment strategy. Organizations can request their income periodically or as needed while their endowment fund continues to grow through strategic investing.

STARK COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND
GRANTEE: STARK COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY FOUNDATION
PURPOSE: GENERAL SUPPORT
The Stark County District Library Foundation established an endowment fund to financially support the Stark Library’s mission to spark curiosity and foster knowledge by connecting everyone to resources, services and opportunities. Each year, income from this fund supports library programming and literacy efforts, which includes an annual circulation of over 4 million items and books, 8,000 presented programs, 5 bookmobiles and job and skill development training. Recently, the fund supported the library’s essential 2019 levy campaign, which highlighted how the library system is central to the lives of the individuals, families and communities it serves. The levy passed, allowing the organization to increase services and materials, maintain and modernize its facilities and expand lifelong learning opportunities.

WILDERNESS CENTER, INC. ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND
GRANTEE: THE WILDERNESS CENTER
PURPOSE: GENERAL SUPPORT
Each year, The Wilderness Center’s (TWC) endowment fund provides a steady stream of income to support its mission of connecting our community with nature through education, conservation and environmental stewardship. One project TWC’s endowment fund supported last year was a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop two fields overrun with invasive shrubs into restored grassland habitats for Ohio’s native pollinators. The new habitats, carefully seeded with nectar plants and annual grasses and flowers, now provide a perfect place to watch butterflies, pollinators and songbirds. These habitats provide the food needed to successfully raise the next generation of songbirds while helping small local farms and gardens with free pollination services.
Helping the Next Generation

Stark Community Foundation is one of the area’s major sources of college scholarship support thanks to the generosity of caring individuals, families and businesses that have created Scholarship Funds. Scholarships provide money to offset the cost of college tuition, but more importantly, they HELP LOCAL STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS. For many, scholarships make pursuing an advanced degree a reality. More than 300 committee members from across the county and beyond volunteer their time to review scholarship applications to ensure the most deserving students receive support.

FEATURED FUNDS

STARK COUNTY BLUECOATS ENDOWMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND
GRANTEE: ERICA MATTHEWS, NEOMED
PURPOSE: SCHOLARSHIP

The Stark County Bluecoats established a scholarship fund in 1996 to financially assist dependent children, surviving spouses and members of the safety forces within Stark County. The fund each year generously supports many families in the area including the Matthews. David Matthews was a patrol officer for the Massillon Police Department before retiring early due to a terminal illness. Today, his daughter Erica is carrying on his legacy of serving and protecting others in our community through healthcare. With support from this fund, Erica earned a bachelor’s degree from Kent State University and most recently earned a medical degree from NEOMED. She is now completing her psychiatry residency at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

AARON SEESAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
GRANTEE: JOE KNOPP, WALSH UNIVERSITY
PURPOSE: SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship fund was created in 2005 in honor of First Lieutenant Aaron N. Seesan who lost his life while leading his platoon in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Aaron believed that anyone could achieve his or her highest potential through a lifetime of learning. Today, the scholarship fund in his memory assists graduating high school seniors like Joe Knopp achieve their career goals. Joe is a 2019 graduate of East Canton High School pursuing a degree in finance at Walsh University. He embodies all that Aaron stood for: teamwork, dedication, determination and commitment to education. As a 4.0 GPA-student, Joe is on a mission to change the world for the better with more than 100 hours of volunteer service.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

$548,422 AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019 FROM SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

85 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS
345 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
270 STUDENTS SUPPORTED
Making a Difference

A Supporting Foundation at Stark Community Foundation allows donors to take an active approach to their giving, backed by professional staff who make it easy. It is a separate legal entity that qualifies for the tax advantages of a “public charity” due to its affiliation with Stark Community Foundation. A Supporting Foundation is an alternative to a private foundation for people who want an involved approach to their giving and minimal administrative work, while still enjoying some autonomy.

HEALTH FOUNDATION OF GREATER MASSILLON
GRANTEE: BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF MASSILLON
PURPOSE: TRIPLE PLAY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Guided by a board of local active and retired business professionals, the Health Foundation of Greater Massillon works closely with organizations to strategically address health and wellness issues facing economically disadvantaged residents in Western Stark, Eastern Wayne, and Northern Tuscarawas counties. With the health foundation’s support, the Boys & Girls Club of Massillon was able to hire a full-time program coordinator for its Triple Play program designed to help young people become healthy and active while learning new ways to handle stress and maintain positive relationships. While all youth are welcome to participate, membership in the program primarily includes those with disadvantaged economic, social and family circumstances.

HENRY AND LOUISE TIMKEN FOUNDATION
GRANTEE: JRC ADULT DAY CENTER
PURPOSE: JRC MEYERS LAKE CAMPUS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Henry and Louise Timken Foundation became a supporting foundation in 1980 and has since awarded charitable grants for the benefit of the community and areas of special interest. In fact, the foundation most recently supported JRC’s Adult Day Center. Funding helped renovate, repurpose, and expand the former Meyers Lake Ballroom into a state-of-the-art adult day center where seniors maintain an active lifestyle during the day, giving their caregivers temporary respite. The center currently provides services for more than 60 seniors each day, assisting with their needs through crafts, exercise, quality meals, field trips and socialization.
Investing in Carroll County

Carroll County Foundation — an affiliate organization of Stark Community Foundation — was established in 1994 by local leaders to encourage philanthropy and secure resources to address local needs. The Foundation brings together charitable donors, community leaders and nonprofit organizations to **MAKE POSITIVE IMPACTS THROUGHOUT CARROLL COUNTY.**

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**AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION**

**FEATURED FUNDS**

**CARROLL COMMUNITY FUND**

GRANTEE: **FARMERS AND HUNTERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY**

PURPOSE: **CARROLL COUNTY OHIO FHFH HUNGER RELIEF**

The Carroll Community Fund was created in 1994 by the Carroll County Foundation Board of Directors to provide a flexible and meaningful way for Carroll residents to make a positive and immediate impact in the community. Used exclusively to support local projects and programs, a grant was made during the fund’s 25th anniversary year to help food-insecure families. Through Carroll County’s chapter of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, a grant paid for 11 deer donated by hunters and farmers to be processed, packaged and frozen for local foodbanks, pantries and feeding ministries to distribute to area families in need.

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**ROTARY CLUB OF MALVERN CHARITABLE FUND**

GRANTEE: **ST. GABRIEL CHURCH**

PURPOSE: **GENERAL SUPPORT**

The Rotary Club of Malvern, a group of men and women committed to serving the community, created a charitable fund to support the philanthropic, cultural, educational and scientific activities of the greater Carroll County community. The club invests in a wide array of local projects and programs and most recently supported Good Shepherd Hall, a joint project of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Malvern and St. Gabriel Church in Minerva. The new 8,300-square-foot community center is the only facility in the area that can accommodate up to 300 people for parish gatherings, community activities, business meetings, weddings and other special events. Funding from the club’s fund went toward the construction of a commercial kitchen.

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**$1,038,346 MILLION AWARDED IN GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019 FROM CARROLL COUNTY FOUNDATION FUNDS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARROLL COUNTY FOUNDATION FUNDS</th>
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<td>GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATIONS AND STUDENTS SUPPORTED</td>
<td>57</td>
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</tbody>
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INITIATIVES

In addition to serving our donors’ wishes, we dedicate our work in response to local needs and challenges through carefully designed funds and programs. Through the following initiatives, we strive to STRENGTHEN STARK COUNTY and improve the quality of life for residents of our community. We focus our attention on three essential components for a healthy and vibrant community: economic development, education and strong neighborhoods. While the majority of our proactive grantmaking is in these three areas, we also work collaboratively with community partners to tackle other areas of local concern.

Strengthening Stark

Commissioned and issued by Stark Community Foundation in August 2017 at the request of the Stark Civic Group, Strengthening Stark is a clear-eyed assessment of the current economic and social health of Stark County. The data-driven report examines key community issues and recommends specific actions to help reverse downward trends. The report has since spurred a county-wide community conversation which led Stark Economic Development Board to create and implement the first-ever, countywide economic development plan. The Strengthening Stark Economic Competitiveness Plan is aimed at transforming Stark County from a smaller, older and poorer community into a larger, younger and more prosperous community.

Future of Food Security

Since 2013, Stark Community Foundation has been leading an effort to fight food insecurity in Stark County. After receiving a high volume of grant requests focused on hunger relief, the Foundation commissioned a study to gain a deeper understanding of the hunger issues facing individuals and families in our community. Released publicly in 2015, The Future of Food Security in Stark County: County Assessment and Strategic Framework for Change examines hunger issues as well as identifies resources and opportunities in order to feed those in Stark County. Given the high population of food insecure people in Stark, the Foundation made a commitment to provide planning and implementation grants to organizations finding long-term solutions to hunger. To maximize our impact, we have partnered with The Paul & Carol David Foundation and Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton to invest more than $500,000 to date in this initiative.

Charitable Giving Cards

Stark Community Foundation launched a Charitable Giving Card Program in 2015 as a creative way to encourage philanthropy while supporting organizations that are making a difference in the community. Charitable Giving Cards are tax-deductible and available in denominations of $25, $50 and $100. A perfect gift to celebrate any holiday or special occasion, the cards give community members an opportunity to engage with the Foundation regardless of whether they have a charitable fund. The cards work just like retail gift cards, only instead of redeeming the card at a store, the recipient can give the value of the card as a donation to his or her favorite charity. Charitable Giving Cards never expire and 100% of the gift goes directly to the charity selected.

Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program

Since 1997, Stark Community Foundation has led an initiative to strengthen neighborhoods through our Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program. The goals are threefold: to leverage grassroots volunteer involvement and additional community resources; to provide lasting neighborhood improvements for resident-led neighborhood associations; and to provide an opportunity for neighbors to celebrate and share their neighborhood revitalization successes through Neighborhood Leadership Training, Neighborhood Leadership Council and Neighborhood Partnership Grants. As part of this initiative, we train, convene and support neighborhood residents and the neighborhood associations they form when they participate in our program. Grant awards support beautification projects, neighborhood newsletters, neighborhood meetings, strategic planning and many more activities meant to enhance neighborhoods. Currently, there are nearly 80 neighborhood groups in Alliance, Canton and Massillon. Since the program’s inception, more than $2.8 million in grants has been awarded.

SummerTime Kids

Guided by a volunteer committee and Foundation staff, SummerTime Kids provides grants up to $2,000 to imaginative and unique summer programs for children with an emphasis on character and education. These programs not only enrich the lives of the youth who participate, but also benefit the community as a whole.

The Women’s Fund

In the early 2000s, Stark Community Foundation spearheaded an effort to create a charitable fund for women by women. Soon thereafter, The Women’s Fund was created by 12 local women to help underserved women and children in Stark County. The fund benefits future generations and increases vital funding for programs that advance the economic, educational, physical, emotional, social, artistic and personal growth of women as well as educates and inspires women to become leaders in philanthropy. To date, more than $120,000 in grants has been awarded.
Partners in Giving

Partners in Giving is a program of Stark Community Foundation that strengthens donors’ knowledge and connection with the needs of the community as they navigate their path of personal philanthropy. Through this program, donors receive access to current grant proposals that have undergone rigorous review by the Foundation’s Grantmaking Team along with an opportunity to co-invest with the Foundation to make these projects and initiatives a reality. Since funding is limited and the Foundation receives many proposals, partnering with donors helps support these local organizations while informing them about the pressing needs in our community. Together, the Foundation and its family of donors maximize their philanthropic impact to benefit individuals and families in Stark County.

Stark County Capital Campaigns Committee

For more than four decades, the Stark County Capital Campaigns Committee, made up of volunteer members from across the county, has served in an advisory capacity to six of the largest foundations in Stark County. Committee members share their expertise and community knowledge to assist the foundations in making the best capital investment decisions for Stark County residents. The Committee looks at the strength and breadth of local support of the project that is presented, the sustainability of the organization and the project’s enduring value and ability to address significant community needs. A final recommendation is made from the Committee to six of the largest foundations in Stark County. The foundations strongly consider the recommendations presented by the Stark County Capital Campaigns Committee as part of their final decision-making process.

A capital campaign is an intense effort to raise significant dollars beyond annual operating or program budgets in a specified period of time. It is focused on the purchase of a permanent asset (i.e., land, building, major equipment) or a major renovation project. Total project costs must be in excess of $500,000 in order for the Stark County Capital Campaigns Committee to consider the request.

Based on the recommendations of the Stark County Capital Campaigns Committee, local foundations supported these four capital projects in 2019:

**Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank** to construct and operate a new facility in Stark County to provide greater access to its network of hunger-relief partners and greater capacity needed to close the meal gap in its eight-county service territory.

**Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity** to transform a donated vacant space into a community resource, and construct four homes on parcels received from the land bank where condemned and demolished houses once sat.

**CommQuest Services, Inc.** to renovate Wilson Hall, the Family Living Center, Market Avenue Outpatient Office and Regional Center for Detox & Recovery and upgrade CommQuest’s security features.

**University of Mount Union** to create new lab and office spaces for undergraduate students and faculty to accommodate new majors in electrical, computer and biomedical engineering and insurance and risk management.

Starting a Fund

Whether you want to help the homeless find a safe place to sleep, provide vital support to your favorite charity, support early childhood education or find a cure for a disease, **IT IS POSSIBLE** through a charitable fund at Stark Community Foundation.

Find out how you can create a unique charitable fund that meets your needs and interests by contacting our Advancement Team.
We connect generous people to the charitable causes they care about. **Improving the Quality of Life** for residents in our community and beyond. Ranked in the top 10 percent of community foundations in the United States today, the Foundation is committed to serving donor needs and strategically addressing local issues.

Learn more at [starkcf.org](http://starkcf.org)
COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT • TWENTY-TWENTY

IMPACT 2020