



SISTERS of CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

focused

intentional

giving

June 2015

Canton Calvary Mission: Serving the Gibbs Neighborhood for Nearly Fifteen Years

The Gibbs neighborhood is a challenging place to grow up. Poverty is pervasive, and many children live in single-parent homes. Gang violence is common, and a lack of structure and supervision make the after-school hours a very dangerous time.



Fortunately, Canton Calvary Mission's after-school program is a safe haven for the neighborhood's school-age children, providing academic assistance, exercise, and creative activities. The program serves about 60 children each school day. Activities offered range from board games to hairstyling, music recording, and dance lessons. Older students also research colleges and application processes. In addition to afternoon snacks, the children receive food to bring home for the weekend.

After-school program staff members work with school staff members to help individual students improve academic outcomes and behavioral issues. With the state's new Third Grade Guarantee requirements, the academic assistance is especially important for children preparing to take the state-mandated reading assessment. Last year, the after-school program reported that all of its third graders passed and were promoted to fourth grade.

Canton Calvary Mission has served this neighborhood since 2001. In addition to the after-school program, the Mission provides a food pantry, family fun nights, free haircuts, a clothing donation and distribution program, and raised-bed gardens with flowers and vegetables as well as their summer program CLAY (Calvary Learning and Arts for Youth.) The CLAY program is offered Monday to Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The children receive breakfast and lunch. The days are filled with group activities that build social skills, bible lessons, games, and weekly field trips. The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton provided a three-year grant to support the after-school program.

Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton Awards More Than \$450,000 in Funding

For the first and second quarters of 2015, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton has awarded **\$456,944** in grants to meet the diverse needs of the poor and underserved in our community. According to Foundation President Joni Close, "The Foundation continues to collaborate with many community partners to leverage funding and resources, so that we can support those who are most in need. Together with our partners, we are able to address a wide range of issues involving education, homelessness, mental health, and social services. Every day, we see the difference we can make when we come together to address our community's needs."

Grantees include the following:

- Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio, to support the health and wellness of individuals with physical disabilities.
- Alliance Area Domestic Violence Project, Community Services of Stark County, the Domestic Violence Project, Refuge of Hope, and the YWCA of Canton, to support one-time expenses that will enable clients to exit homeless shelters.
- Stark Social Workers Network, to help pay for building repairs.
- Ohio Guidestone, to support the Children of Divorce program.

A full list of grants awarded is available [here](#).

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton offers four grant cycles each year. More information on the grant application process is available at www.scfcanton.org

Literacy on the Lawn: Preventing Summer Learning Loss

When the school year ends, the learning loss clock begins to tick. Children who don't read over the summer will lose up to three months of reading achievement. This year, the Canton City School District is working with a slew of community partners to try and combat the "summer slide."

A great way to keep children learning through the summer is to regularly engage whole families in fun learning activities. The *Literacy on the Lawn* program aims to do exactly that. *Literacy on the Lawn* was originally designed by McGregor Elementary School staff. The program was so popular and successful that it's now been taken district-wide as part of the district's *Just Read* extended learning initiative.



At weekly *Literacy on the Lawn* events, families will gather to eat, engage in guided literacy activities, and receive books to read together at home.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton has partnered with the district to help engage families, by supporting costs for program expansion and family engagement activities.

Literacy on the Lawn open to all K-2 families

Location: McKinley Museum Park, rain location is Stadium Park pavilion
Dates: June 1, June 8, June 15, and June 22
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Book Mobile arrives at 11:15 a.m.

Location: Allen Elementary
Dates: June 3 - August 12, Wednesdays ONLY
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Grant Application Process Workshop

Participants will learn about our grantmaking strategies, proposal guidelines, and application process. Foundation staff members will be on hand to answer questions.

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9:00-10:30 a.m.
First Floor Conference Room
400 Market Avenue North, Canton, Ohio 44702

To register, please contact Trudy Brown at 330-454-5800 or tbrown@scfcanton.org



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A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System