

SISTERS of CHARITY FOUNDATION of canton

Building Community THROUGH MISSION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



A Letter From Our Leadership

Dear Friends.

When the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine were called to service in the 1800s, they traveled from France to northeast Ohio and immediately began building community.

They understood that a community is not just a place; it is also the people and resources in that place. They spread compassion and care, taking action to meet the needs in the most vulnerable and underserved neighborhoods. The Sisters methodically developed relationships, built hospitals, and established ministries. They built community-and their legacy-over the course of an astonishing 172 years.

In establishing this Foundation, the Sisters set out to address the unmet needs of those who are vulnerable and underserved in Stark County and beyond. They were innovative in directing us to focus on systemic change in order to make a meaningful, lasting difference.

Today, our Foundation Board and staff strive to be equally innovative in our approaches for building community. We are ready to tackle the work ahead. We have refined our strategic direction. Instead of reinventing the wheel, we are enhancing what works and innovating to address emerging needs. This enables us to help build a community that's strong and thriving. We are excited to include a preview of our new strategic three-year plan in this report.

What is unique about our work is that we build community by supporting and enhancing the efforts of those who directly serve others.

- When we support a program that houses the homeless, we build a more compassionate community.
- When we strengthen a program that protects victims of domestic violence, we build a safer community.
- When we help a nonprofit organization increase its capacity to serve, we build a more capable community.
- When we invest in high-quality early childhood initiatives, we build our future community.

We, along with our partners, have spent this year building community. In doing so, we honor the Sisters' mission and enhance their legacy. We are very proud of what we have accomplished. In the pages that follow, we present some highlights and, as our neighbor, we invite you to read on.

In Community,









Marisa R. Rohn



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Each year, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton receives dozens of requests. While each has merit, our Foundation is strategic in its giving, directing funds to three categories of need. This report provides examples of the programs we fund.

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The Goal: To develop and hone programs focused on systemic change in the areas of early childhood, homelessness, and behavioral health.

- Early Childhood SPARK
- Homelessness Domestic Violence Project, Inc.

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The Goal: To work alongside others to launch programs that build capacity and increase effectiveness in community services.

- Hartville Migrant Ministry
- She Elevates
- St. John's Villa

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The Goal: To respond to specific or short-term community needs.

- Access Health Stark County
- Aultman Health Foundation
- Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital

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A comprehensive list of programs we supported in 2023.

- Foundation-led Initiatives
- Strategic Collaborations
- Responsive Efforts



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- Greater Stark County Urban League

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Building Synergy Through 01 **Foundation-Led Initiatives**

With our Foundation-led initiatives, we focus on systemic change in order to make a lasting difference within complex community concerns: early childhood education, homelessness, and behavioral health. Using multifaceted strategies helps us to build community over the long term.

What if Domestic Violence **Project, Inc. didn't exist?**

Jane* is 34 years old. She has a college degree and a full-time job in accounting. She and her husband have three children under the age of five. She grew up in Arizona and has no family here. Jane's been repeatedly late for work. Her coworkers notice bruises and ask guestions; she makes excuse after excuse. The child care center has noticed too. Children's Services is now involved.

Jane's walking on eggshells to keep the peace at home. She's experiencing trauma and depression, with no idea of what to do. Without Domestic Violence Project, Inc., there's a very good chance she could end up losing her job, her children, and her home. Thank goodness Domestic Violence Project, Inc. is here for vulnerable neighbors like Jane. Domestic Violence Project, Inc. can shelter her and her children, provide peer support so she understands she's not alone, and stay right by her side through the legal process so she and her children can begin to heal and thrive.

*Jane is not a real person. She's a composite persona based on facts from real-life cases.

Domestic Violence Project, Inc.

Domestic Violence Project, Inc. (DVPI) helps victims of domestic violence become survivors of domestic violence. The emergency and supportive services DVPI provides are essential. They help our neighbors meet the most basic need there is: the need for safety and security.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation has been a longtime supporter. Sustaining DVPI's work speaks to the heart of our mission.

Alarmingly, federal funding for victim services has been decreasing. DVPI continues to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, legal advocacy services, and outreach services amid dwindling funding levels and a perpetually uncertain fiscal future.

A community without resources for victims of domestic violence is unimaginable. As federal funding has waned, we've stepped in to help strengthen infrastructure. In 2023, we partnered with DVPI to support shelter operations, ensuring services could continue to be provided throughout Stark County. We also committed to partnering with DVPI leadership to help them innovate to secure additional funding or develop new resources, because DVPI is a fundamental element of the safe community our neighbors need.

"Synergy is what happens when one plus one equals ten or a hundred or even a thousand! It's the profound result when two or more respectful human beings determine to go beyond their preconceived ideas to meet a great challenge."

- STEPHEN COVEY

Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK)

Our focus on early childhood has been a cornerstone of our work since our inception. The Sisters of Charity Foundation created the Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) program, a program that provides a kindergarten readiness advantage for families with preschool-age children, nurturing it as it grew from an idea to a plan to a sheer force for school readiness success. We cheered as the program went on to reach thousands of families throughout Ohio.

SPARK has transformed in surprising ways, achieving beyond anything we had envisioned. The program has flourished in the capable hands of the Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC). The ECRC also emerged from a Foundation initiative; as with SPARK, it has achieved well beyond what was imagined.

SPARK operations are the responsibility of the ECRC, and SPARK replication sites are operated by organizations throughout the state. In 2023, the Sisters of Charity Foundation supported the expansion of programming for two replicating organizations here in Stark County: the Early Childhood Education Alliance serves Alliance SPARK families and AHEAD. Inc. serves Massillon SPARK families.

Program sustainability and expansion at these SPARK sites will give even more children a better start. SPARK participants significantly outscore non-participating peers on Ohio's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, indicating that they enter kindergarten more ready to succeed. The scores are also a strong predictor of school success. In 2022, nearly half of Stark County SPARK kids scored high enough to predict that they will read on grade level in third grade, compared to 30 percent of their non-SPARK peers.





Alainna: Making Great Progress

Sisters of Charity Foundation funding ensures that even more children in Alliance will benefit from the Early Childhood Education Alliance's SPARK program. The program serves children like Alainna, who might not have had such a strong start without the support of her SPARK parent partner, Kim.

Alainna is such a high-energy girl that her mom, Ashley, was initially reluctant to enroll in SPARK; she wasn't sure Alainna would be able to benefit. It was extremely hard for Alainna to focus and frustrating for her to transition to new tasks. Kim suspected vision issues; her suspicion turned out to be correct.

With proper vision correction, Alainna became a completely different child. She eagerly engaged in lessons. Because she still had lots of energy, Kim shortened activity times, added music and movement to harness wiggles into learning, and integrated challenging tasks that intrinsically motivated her, like finding a story with pictures of a little girl who looked just like Alainna. She began to recognize sight words and blend sounds and started asking how to spell words.

Ashley has been impressed with Kim, who "helped me as a parent understand that I am my daughter's first teacher and gave me tips to help boost my confidence when it comes to teaching Alainna." Ashley also raves about the astonishing difference in her daughter, saying, "It was shortly after she got glasses that she started reading to us. Now, Alainna is an excellent reader, and it all began with SPARK. I cannot say enough good things about the program, and I am so thankful that Alainna was able to be a part of it!"



SPARK

02 Building Capacity Through Strategic Collaborations

"A VISION WITHOUT A STRATEGY REMAINS AN ILLUSION."



Our capacity building grants make nonprofit organizations more robust, nimble, and fiscally sound by enhancing their operations and sustainability. For a larger, established organization, funding for an operational need that's not covered in the budget can make a huge impact. For smaller and newer organizations, modest capacity building support can be transformational for effectiveness and longevity.

This year, in addition to our capacity building grants, we offered workshops to help local organizations learn to pursue Sisters of Charity Foundation funding and plan for a sustainable future after federal pandemic recovery funds end. We also partnered with United Way and StarkMHAR to offer grantseeking and grantwriting workshops. Going forward, we will make the process of pursuing capacity building grants as accessible and inclusive as possible for a diverse range of organizations.

While capacity building work can take any number of forms, it clearly aligns with our mission of building a robust safety net for our neighbors in need.

Hartville Migrant Ministry

The migrants working and living at local farms are our neighbors too. For more than 60 years, Hartville Migrant Ministry has met the needs of this often-underserved group, building a stronger community for them now and into the future. Every year, the Ministry's free medical clinic, children's programs, wellness programming, and community room serve around 300 workers and their family members.

As our local migrant population is poised to grow, Foundation funding is helping the Ministry develop a new website, accept online donations, and create a sustainability plan. It's also funding Spanish lessons so the new director of services can strengthen community relationships, gain trust, and really connect with our migrant neighbors.

She Elevates

She Elevates is a Black-led, mostly volunteer-run organization that cultivates confidence, selfesteem, and leadership skills among girls ages eight to 14. Its innovative programming fosters empowerment and positive self-esteem that can be instrumental in influencing an adolescent girl's life path.

The girls learn about marketing, business plan creation, and public speaking. Some girls develop businesses; others learn how to promote a book they've written or planned. They shadow local female business owners and executives, attend an annual Confidence Conference, and attend monthly Confidence Club gatherings for peer support and brainstorming. She Elevates is primarily supported by individual donors. Sisters of Charity Foundation funding supported the creation of a fundraising plan and training to guide the organization's board as they work toward sustainability.

- LEE BOLMAN

Whenever we promote innovative strategies for systemic change, we are realizing the Sisters' vision of impacting root cause of poverty.

St. John's Villa

St. John's Villa provides housing, supportive services, and vocational opportunities. Its seven residential homes located in Carroll County have the capacity to serve 55 adults with developmental disabilities. Its restaurant, wood shop, gift shop, and arts and crafts room employ residents and community members with disabilities. And its Growing Tree Learning Center cares for and educates both typically developing infants and children and those with special needs.

Sisters of Charity Foundation support is helping St. John's Villa pursue accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for its adult day and vocational services programs. For prospective clients, accreditation indicates operational efficiency, financial strength, and high-quality service delivery. Using a rigorous process, CARF surveyors determine whether the provider conforms to internationally recognized standards, commits to quality improvement, focuses on the unique needs of each client, and monitors outcomes. Accreditation will increase sustainability, enhancing community perception and improving operations to ensure a stronger future for St. John's Villa and its clients.

Building Care Through Responsive Grantmaking

"I THINK THE BEST OF US COMES WHEN WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER COLLECTIVELY." - MARTIN LUTHER KING III

03

Our community is fortunate to have so many strong, established nonprofit organizations. Our responsive grants support immediate needs so that these organizations are better able to heal, feed, quide, serve, and give hope-all essential for building community.



Greater Stark County Urban League

been a bedrock organization serving this community for more than a century. As a pillar of support providing culturally relevant resources for workforce development, education, health, housing, and social justice, the Urban League helps African Americans and others who are underserved to realize their life goals.

The Urban League has faced significant challenges over the years. Since 2019, the hard to implement high-quality programming and stabilize finances. In late 2023, she retired and turned the reins over to a new leader, Thomas West. As West and the board work to further strengthen the operations of this essential organization, Foundation support will help during the transition and will ultimately assist in building a stronger future for the Urban League, underserved populations, and our entire community.



Community Health Workers Partner with Canton City Schools

When a significant number of children have not received necessary immunizations, the result can be predictable—and tragic. That's why, in late 2022, the Foundation convened representatives from the Canton City School District (CCSD), the North Canton Medical Foundation, and Access Health Stark County to discuss ways to increase immunization rates among the 12 percent of CCSD students who were unvaccinated. While CCSD had planned on-site clinics, family engagement remained a barrier.

The North Canton Medical Foundation supported the creation of a plan to use community health workers (CHWs) to build relationships with families. Because the CHWs are from the same neighborhoods as the families and have similar lived experiences, a sense of community, trust, and understanding can enable meaningful collaboration. The Sisters of Charity Foundation is supporting implementation of that plan. CHWs employed by Access Health are reaching out to educate families about immunization, related health concerns, and social determinants of health. They also are inviting families to on-site immunization clinics hosted by CCSD. While the immediate goal is to halve the number of unimmunized students, the longer-term goal is to share outcome information with other school districts and eventually seek state support. This effort to build healthier futures for CCSD students was made possible by building strong partnerships and relationships with other funders and partners.

Supporting Victims of Violence

There may be no more vulnerable neighbors than those who have been victims of assault. The forensic nursing programs at Cleveland Clinic Mercy and Aultman hospitals provide specialized services in moments of acute need.

The hope instilled by a skilled forensic nurse can mean a brand-new start for a victim of violence who's feeling alone, uncertain, and terrified. Forensic nurses are specially trained to provide immediate medical care and collect evidence while creating a compassionate, confidential, and safe environment. They're gentle and discreet, especially when a patient is accompanied by a family member, partner, or friend. They're also instrumental in legal proceedings, providing testimony that enables prosecution of perpetrators. They collaborate with law enforcement and community organizations, and they reassure patients that these organizations are trustworthy to encourage follow-through in seeking needed assistance.

Tragically, because federal funding for crime victims has dwindled in recent years, the primary source of funding for these indispensable programs has significantly decreased. Foundation funding will help the programs weather the storm as the hospitals work to secure additional sources of support.



2023 Grant Recipients

TOTAL GRANTS



Foundation-Led Initiatives: \$1,753,518

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery | \$5,000

To support regional and countywide social return on investment analysis for a proposed social information exchange network infrastructure for behavioral health services

Other | \$111,004 Behavioral Health program-related expenses

TOTAL: \$116,004

EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

AHEAD, Inc. | \$16,100 To support SPARK Massillon

Early Childhood Education Alliance | \$141,970 To support SPARK Alliance and staff professional

development, over three years

Early Childhood Resource Center | \$250,000

To support the SPARK program in Canton and Minerva

Early Childhood Resource Center | \$5,000

For sponsorship of the *Great Start for Great Futures* Early Childhood Symposium Community Leadership Breakfast

Groundwork Ohio | \$50,000

To support early childhood data analysis and the creation of a dashboard tool

JRC | \$35,005

To support digital curriculum upgrade for its learning centers, over three years

Other | \$105,491 Early childhood program-related expenses

TOTAL: \$603,566

HOMELESSNESS

Alliance for Children and Families | \$84,000 To support overflow shelter

Domestic Violence Project, Inc. | **\$329,000** To support Canton shelter stabilization, over three years

Domestic Violence Project, Inc. | \$3,000

To support two staff members' attendance at the National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Washington, D.C.

ICAN Housing | \$167,645

To support one-time gap funding for its permanent supportive housing projects

ICAN Housing | \$5,000

To support attendance at the Corporation for Supportive Housing Summit in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

ICAN Housing | \$1,500

To support a staff member's attendance at the National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Washington, D.C.

Refuge of Hope Ministries | \$150,000

To support a rapid re-housing program

Refuge of Hope Ministries | \$8,000

To support the cost of out-of-town bus tickets for people experiencing homelessness in Stark County who wish to relocate to another area, over two years

Refuge of Hope Ministries | \$5,000

To support a women's overflow shelter

Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery | \$1,500

To support a staff member's attendance at the National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Washington, D.C.

Stark Housing Network | \$200,000

To support the creation of a workforce pilot program for system providers

YWCA Canton | \$1,500

To support a staff member's attendance at the National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Washington, D.C.

Other | \$77,803 Homelessness program-related expenses

TOTAL: \$1,033,948

Strategic Collaborations: \$440,228

CAPACITY BUILDING

Access Health Stark County | \$14,750

To support a four-part data process improvement plan

Aunt Susie's Cancer Wellness Center | \$10,000

To support strategic planning and board development activities

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio | \$5,200

To support strategic planning and leadership development activities

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Summit, Medina, and Stark Counties | \$6,466

To support consulting services to increase organizational efficiency and effectiveness, and leadership coaching

Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health | \$11,000

To support leadership development services

EN-RICH-MENT | \$13,134

To support the development and implementation of a volunteer management system

Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio | \$10,000

To support three staff members' attendance to the Goodwill Industries International Senior Leadership program

Hartville Migrant Ministry | \$9,684

To support a new website, the development of an integrated fundraising plan, and Spanish classes for the new director of services

JRC | \$6,400

To support Conscious Discipline training for all frontline employees; diversity, equity, and inclusion training for all employees; and advanced grant writing training for the Chief Development Officer

Our Lady of Peace Elementary School | \$12,000

To support attendance at the Conscious Discipline Advanced Institute; a three-day, off-site staff retreat for 30 staff members, and the principal's virtual attendance at the National Catholic Education Association Conference



Pathway Caring for Children | \$13,200

To support training registration software enhancements and website upgrades

Pegasus Farm | \$6,000

To support leadership development, succession planning, and board development activities

Refuge of Hope Ministries | \$7,500

To support strategic planning

She Elevates | \$15,000

To support fund development training and assistance

St. John's Villa | \$15,000

To support facility accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

We Are Troubled On Every Side | \$2,500

To support one-time technology needs

YMCA of Central Stark County | **\$8,750** To support leadership development

TOTAL: \$166,584

EDUCATION

Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health | \$148,613

To support preventive behavioral health services on site to children enrolled in 10 out-of-school-time programs offered by the YMCA of Central Stark County and the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon, over 21 months

Stark Library | \$15,000

To support free books for young children enrolled in the *Dolly Parton and Ohio Governor's Imagination Library* program, over two years

Stark Library | \$51,520

To support the neighborhood component of its Summer Fun School program, over two years

YMCA of Central Stark County | \$58,511

To support a learning component in its summer camps in the Canton City, Alliance City, and Plain Local school districts

TOTAL: \$273,644

Responsive Efforts: \$1,694,032

Access Health Stark County | \$40,471

To support the services of an on-site community health worker and related outreach activities in Canton City schools

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank | \$40,000

To support food for the Stark County Keith D. Monda Food Pantry and Stark County Home Delivery Program

ArtsinStark | \$150,000

To provide capital support for EN-RICH-MENT's new education center

Aultman Health Foundation | \$25,000

To support the Serenity Forensic Nursing Program

Aunt Susie's Cancer Wellness Center | \$12,000

To support cleaning services for individuals with mobility issues and who are undergoing cancer treatment, over two years

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy | \$100,000

To provide capital support for a new building

Boys & Girls Club of Massillon | \$100,000

To provide capital support for a new building

Canton for All People | \$150,000

To support the build-out of the Southeast Community Wellness Center

Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital | \$149,760

To support the *Healing After Violent Encounters Network (HAVEN)* Forensic Nursing Program

CommQuest Services | \$375,000

To provide capital support for renovations and realigned facilities footprint

CommQuest Services | \$180,835

To support parking lot and door lock repairs at the Fuline Center

Compassion Delivered | \$24,056

To support refrigeration equipment to expand its program

Ekaza-Bridging The Gap | \$5,000

To support the *Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Medicine (STEMM)* program

Greater Stark County Urban League | \$100,000 To support operations

Our Lady of Peace Elementary School | \$44,110

To support a summer program for students in kindergarten through fifth grade

St. Anthony/All Saints Parish | \$36,000

To support the *Building Bridges* Hispanic ministry, over three years

Stark County Hunger Task Force | \$34,550

To support a new food pantry freezer, shopping carts for pantry clients, and a part-time driver/ warehouse manager position, over 16 months

Stark County Minority Business Association | \$9,000

To provide support for the *Expanding Resources for All* training program for minority-owned businesses in Stark County

Stark Education Partnership | \$108,750

To provide support for operations, over three years

TOTAL: \$1,684,532

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Regina Health Center | \$2,000

For sponsorship to honor Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA at its 30th anniversary

Early Childhood Resource Center | \$1,000

In honor and recognition of Scott Hasselman's 13 years of leadership as the Executive Director of the Early Childhood Resource Center

Early Childhood Resource Center | \$1,000

In honor of Angela Moses's new leadership role as the new Executive Director of the Early Childhood Resource Center

TOTAL: \$4,000

BOARD HONORARIUMS

Central Catholic High School | \$1,000

For operating support in memory of Father Robert Kaylor, a holiday gift from the Foundation Board of Directors

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

For operating support, a holiday gift from the Foundation Board of Directors

Grow Into Greatness | \$1,000

For operating support, a holiday gift from the Foundation Board of Directors

Light After Loss | \$1,000

For operating support, a holiday gift from the Foundation Board of Directors

Pegasus Farm | \$1,000

For operating support, a holiday gift from the Foundation Board of Directors

Howard University Medical Alumni Association | \$500

A gift on behalf of retiring director Albert T. Domingo, MS, MD

TOTAL: \$5,500



Board of Directors 2023

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- 2.) Joseph D. Schauer, Vice Chair
- 3.) Judge Rosemarie Hall, Treasurer
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- 18.) Jeffery S. Talbert





























Marisa R. Rohn, President Jennifer Haude, Communications Specialist Anne G. Savastano, Grants and Operations Manager Richelle M. Wardell, Program Officer Shannon McMahon Williams, Program Officer

Mission

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton supports and furthers the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. The principal components of their ministry are health, education, and social services. The Foundation's focus is on issues of social justice relating to the poor and underserved in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Vision

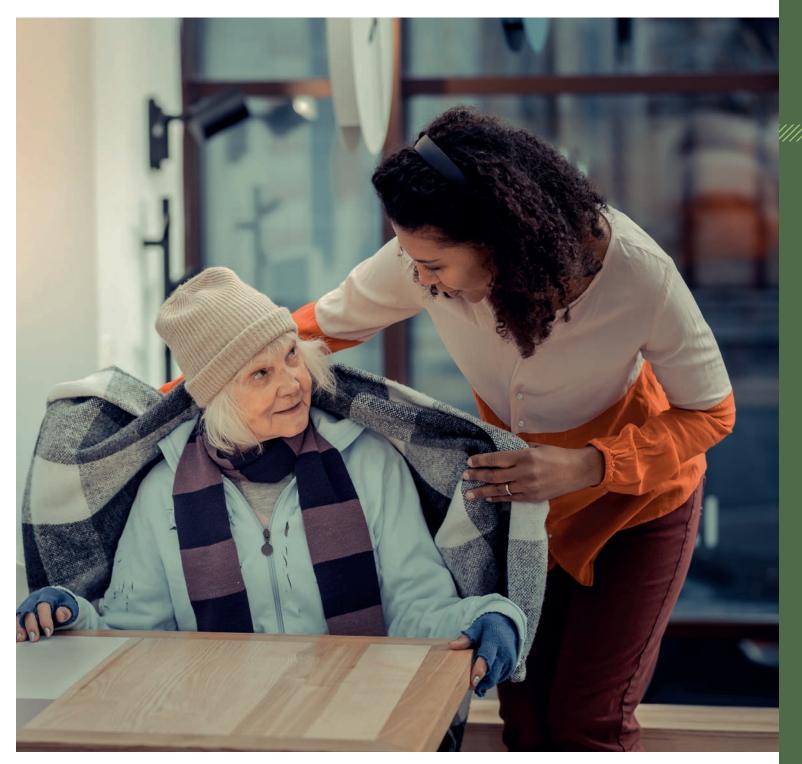
To improve the quality of life of the poor and underserved so they can live to their fullest potential, by initiating systemic change, enhancing community connections, serving as a community change agent to advocate for the poor, and promoting innovative strategies to impact the root causes of poverty.



SISTERS of CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CANTON

Advancing the Mission to Support Community:

INTRODUCING OUR 2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN



"Four steps to achievement: Plan purposely. Prepare prayerfully. Proceed positively. Pursue persistently."

- WILLIAM A. WARD

Having reflected on an impactful 2023, we now look toward the future. We present our plan for building community over the next three years—strategically, collaboratively, and by always staying true to our mission.

To craft this plan, we consulted community members; representatives of organizations that sought Foundation funding; representatives of organizations that received Foundation funding; Foundation Board and staff members; leaders of local organizations that primarily serve people of color; leaders representing local early childhood, homelessness, and behavioral health organizations; school administrators; and leaders serving at the state and local levels. Nearly 160 individuals shared their perspectives on the greatest needs emerging in our community and the role they believe our Foundation plays (or should play) in addressing them. We thank each of you who took the time to provide feedback.

The common themes that emerged from their responses ultimately informed these priorities and goals. We are excited for these to guide our work through 2026.

Strategic Priorities

O1 Continue our Foundation-led initiatives: early childhood, homelessness, and behavioral health.

- Facilitate workforce recruitment, retention, and upskilling.
- Advance equitable access to high-quality early childhood experiences.
- Continue supporting homelessness prevention and diversion.
- Collaborate on a county-wide data sharing system for behavioral health.

O2 Improve our strategic collaborations: capacity building and education.

- Broaden access to capacity building and technical assistance grants.
- Deepen capacity building support for grantees.
- Increase local nonprofit capacity.
- Increase access to high-quality out-of-schooltime programming.

03 Increase access to affordable housing.

- Collaborate to address affordable housing needs.
- Monitor public funding to leverage local dollars.
- Measure progress.

igl(4 Expand access to Foundation funding.

- Ensure our actions are inclusive.
- Further our diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) ideology.
- Deepen community relationships.

$\mathbf{05}$ Enhance communications.

- Increase transparency in communications.
- Share grantees' work and stories.
- Prompt partners to seek Foundation funding.



SISTERS of CHARITY FOUNDATION of canton

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A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System