November 22, 2015

Securely invests **$225 million** in assets

Partnering with **625 fundholders** to help them achieve their charitable goals

Ranked in the **top 10%** of all community foundations in the United States



Connecting people to the charitable causes they care most about since **1963.**

Invested **$130 million** in our community since inception

stark community foundation

Stark Community Foundation has been partnering with individuals, families, businesses and communities for more than 50 years to impact the lives of others through the most effective philanthropy possible.

**This word cloud depicts the responses of community members when asked, "At this point in time, what one word best describes Stark Community Foundation?"*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Focused on collaborative change

At Stark Community Foundation, we connect people with the charitable causes that are important to them and inspire them the most. We take pride in assisting donors by managing their charitable gifts and increasing their impact through strong financial investment and local nonprofit expertise. Our success speaks to the giving spirit and commitment of the residents in our community, and we're grateful to have the privilege to tell their inspirational stories and reasons for giving.

Just as we've been telling our donors' philanthropic stories for 52 years, The Repository has been telling the story of Stark County for 200 years. As the narrator of the Stark County story, we thank The Repository for its commitment to this community. The paper's promise to be the voice of its citizens has certainly been upheld, and its excitement about the future direction of our community is evident.

I believe there is no better moment than now to be living and working in



SAMOLCZYK

Stark County. The amount of innovation and change that's happening is exciting and inspiring. Examples such as the Hall of Fame Village project, the creation of a strategic plan for the City of Canton, and business investment in Massillon and Alliance point toward a positive momentum in our community.

We should all be proud of where the county is headed. Organizations are collaborating to fight food security in the region, universities are adding in-demand majors, and passionate people are joining together to provide more needed services through nonprofits. Together, we're working to strengthen and improve our community.

As leaders in our community, we feel strongly that all of you are helping to strengthen our community in your own way.

Therefore, as part of this special Stark Community Foundation section, we believe it is an opportune time to show the pride and spirit of Stark County by highlighting some of our community leaders by asking them the following question: At this point in time, what one word best describes Stark County? You'll find their one-word responses below.

We encourage you to do the same

As leaders in our community, we feel strongly that all of you are helping to strengthen our community in your own way.

and think about how you would describe Stark County today. We challenge you to also think about where you'd like to see the community in the future and what you can do to help Stark County get there. If we want Stark County to continue to thrive and succeed, we must all get involved and work together toward collaborative change. We must be more strategic in addressing our community's most pressing needs, while taking full advantage of the promising opportunities in our own backyard.

I invite you to get involved in your community. Whether it's giving of your time, talents or treasures, the collective impact we can have together will be powerful and everlasting. I look forward to finding ways to work together now and in the future.

Mark J. Samolczyk
President, Stark Community Foundation

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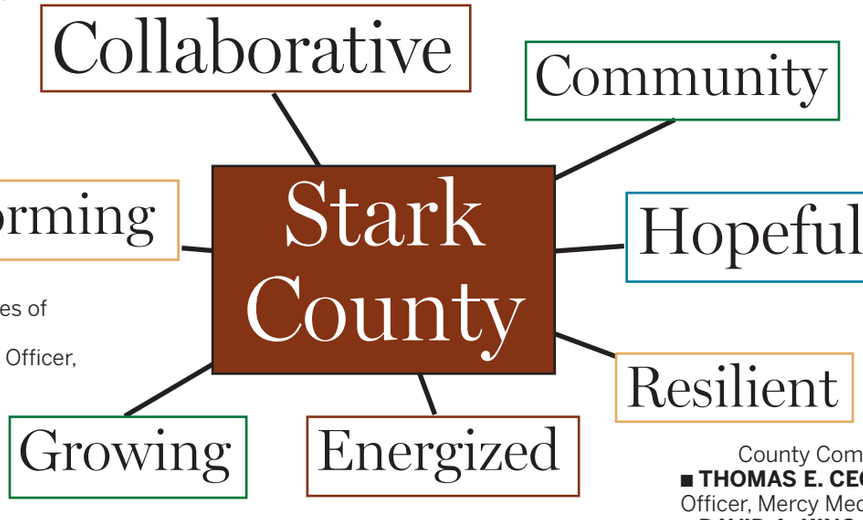
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Jami L. Swain
Donor Services and Human Resources Officer

Sue B. Warne
Corporate Secretary and Administrative Assistant

What one word best describes Stark County?



■ **JOHN ALLER** Executive Director, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County **COLLABORATIVE**
■ **JONI CLOSE** President, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton **COLLABORATIVE**
■ **ALEXANDRA NICHOLIS COON** Executive Director, Massillon Museum **COLLABORATIVE**
■ **JOE FRENCH** Chief Executive Officer, Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health **COLLABORATIVE**
■ **DAN FULINE** Retired CEO, Community Services of Stark County **COLLABORATIVE**
■ **MARIA HEEGE** President and Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Greater Stark County **COLLECTIVE**
■ **ED ROTH** President and CEO, Aultman Health Foundation **COMMUNITY**
■ **DENNIS NASH** Chief Executive Officer, Kenan Advantage Group **ENERGIZED**
■ **RICHARD REGULA** Stark County Commissioner **GROWING**

■ **DAVID BAKER** President, Pro Football Hall of Fame **HOPE**
■ **JOSEPH R. HALTER JR.** President, Solmet Technologies **HOPEFUL**
■ **GEOFF KARCHER** President, The Karcher Group **HOPEFUL**
■ **DENNY SAUNIER** President and CEO, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce **OPPORTUNITY**
■ **DICK MAGGIORE** President and CEO, Innis Maggiore **POSITIONED**
■ **BEN BIERY** CEO, Biery Cheese Company **RESILIENCE**
■ **TED SWALDO** Owner, Gervasi Vineyard **RESILIENT**
■ **JANET WEIR CREIGHTON** Stark County Commissioner **SOLID**
■ **THOMAS E. CECCONI** President and Chief Executive Officer, Mercy Medical Center **TRANSFORMATIONAL**
■ **DAVID A. KING** President, Malone University **TRANSFORMING**

Hillibish fund honors love of history

Kathleen Fernandez Hillibish knew from the time she was in second grade that she wanted to work in history. Shortly after taking an education course at Otterbein University in the fall of 1967, she decided that becoming a history teacher wasn't the right career path for her.



FERNANDEZ HILLIBISH

"Now that I think about it, I've been teaching history all my life ... just in another way," she said.

Early on in her career, Kathleen took a job at Zoar Village and Fort Laurens State Memorials in Tuscarawas County where she was first interviewed by Jim Hillibish of The Canton Repository about her new role. A few months later, he asked her on a date, and the rest is history.

More than 40 years passed; years that were nothing short of enjoyable and priceless moments spent in a community they loved. During his long tenure at The Repository, Jim covered nearly every beat at the paper.

Just as Jim dedicated his life to journalism, Kathleen dedicated hers to history. Throughout their life together, they attended art shows, movies, concerts and museum exhibits in the community. They also enjoyed cooking, gardening and spending time with their dog Lily.

Then, 2014 happened.

It's a year that will go down in the history books of Kathleen's life.

In April, her mother Burma died, and five months later, Jim passed away from a long, hard-fought battle with kidney cancer. After two of the closest people in her life passed away, she was left with two estates and a broken heart. Kathleen turned to Stark Community Foundation for a way to honor them.

Kathleen thought about establishing a private foundation, but quickly realized it was a better fit to establish a fund at the Foundation that honors all of their loves of history. Income from the Fernandez Hillibish History Fund will be used to support museums and historical societies in Stark or Tuscarawas County.

"Jim would have wanted this," Kathleen said. "My mom would have approved of me doing this as well. They both loved history and always supported me and my work."

Kathleen plans to make grant recommendations out of her fund while she's living, and will work collaboratively with the Foundation to identify worthy organizations to support.

"I want to do my part to make a difference in this field," she added.

In addition to creating a fund at the Foundation, Kathleen established a charitable gift annuity, giving her a steady, predictable stream of income for life.

"It's a win-win situation for me," she explained. "I knew all along I was going to give my estate to Stark Community Foundation, so it only makes sense that I give the Foundation the money now. This will allow the money to accrue interest, inevitably making a larger impact."



■ Kathleen and Jim Hillibish on their wedding day.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Kathleen also took out a life insurance policy and named the Foundation as the beneficiary. She uses the annual income from the gift annuity to make the payment on the life insurance policy.

"I'm not giving back to the community for the fame or recognition. I'm simply giving back to a community and field that I love," Kathleen said. "It's my hope that my story can be inspiration to at least one person to give back."

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*As chair, Mr. D'Atri serves as exnofficio on all committees.

STARK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Stark Community Foundation is to connect people and the charitable causes which are important to them. As a community foundation, our vision is to honor the wishes of our donors by managing their charitable gifts and helping them meet their individual goals for giving. We dedicate our work in response to local needs and challenges through carefully designed funds and programs. As we achieve our mission and vision, we continue to strengthen Stark County, providing an improved quality of life for the residents of our community.

Create a fund to support the community

The opportunity for someone to create a fund that will not only make a difference now, but also continue to make an impact in the future is what we believe makes Stark Community Foundation unique. Whether it was created to help find a cure for a deadly disease, support students in college or honor a loved one, the reason behind the creation of each fund is personal. More than 600 funds comprise Stark Community Foundation, all with their own individual story to tell.



NEISEL

Through Stark Community Foundation, you too can create a unique charitable fund or foundation that meets your needs and interests. If you are interested in learning more about Stark Community Foundation or how partnering with us may be of interest to you, your family or business, please don't hesitate to contact me at 330-454-7992 or bneisel@starkcf.org.

Bridgette L. Neisel
Vice President of Advancement

Family of Funds

The Foundation offers a variety of funds designed to make your giving easy and fulfilling. These fund types include:

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

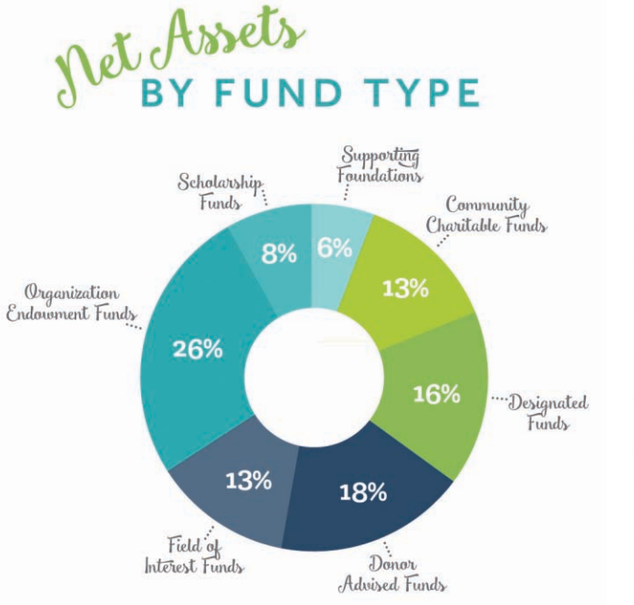
Donor Advised Funds are ideal for those wanting to give to multiple organizations and programs throughout the year. Consider a Donor Advised Fund if you ...

- Want to manage all of your giving from one account
- Wish to give to multiple organizations and programs each year
- Want the flexibility to support local nonprofit organizations
- Value the freedom to support the causes you care about
- Want to involve family in philanthropy
- Are a business entity that wants to streamline your giving
- Have a minimum of $10,000 to donate.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Designated Funds allow donors to continuously make grants to their favorite charities without any extra effort by donors, and creates a legacy of support for their favorite causes. Consider a Designated Fund if you ...

- Seek to create a legacy of support for your favorite causes
- Want to avoid administrative hassles of charitable giving — from keeping receipts for tax records to simply sending a check regularly
- Want to support specific organizations regularly and in perpetuity
- Have a minimum of $10,000 to donate.



FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Field of Interest Funds offer donors the opportunity to support evolving needs and a variety of nonprofits focused on their broad area of interest, such as the arts, education, healthcare or a specific geographic area. Consider a Field of Interest Fund if you ...

- Have a specific area of interest you would like to support
- Want to learn more about other nonprofit organizations in our community offering programs and initiatives in your chosen field of interest
- Believe in the research and community evaluation processes of Stark Community Foundation to determine needs and effectiveness of nonprofit programs
- Have a minimum of $10,000 to donate.

ORGANIZATION ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Organization Endowment Funds are the ideal choice for nonprofit organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) status that want to protect the longevity and legacy of their organization. Consider an Organization Endowment Fund if you ...

- Are a nonprofit organization with an IRS 501(c)(3) status
- Want to support the growth and stability of your organization
- Seek to demonstrate security and vision to leverage current funding opportunities for your nonprofit organization
- Are eager to increase investment efficiencies. Funds at Stark Community Foundation are pooled to receive maximum return and lower fees
- Seek a relatively constant source of annual income
- Want to provide an organized and accessible opportunity for donors to contribute to your organization
- Have a minimum of $10,000 to donate.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Scholarship Funds allow donors the opportunity to help students pursue their educational dreams in a variety of ways. Consider a Scholarship Fund if you ...

- Want to support educational opportunities, an educational institution or course of study
- Want help with establishing the scholarship process
- Want to honor or memorialize a loved one;
- Want to invest in the future leadership of our community
- Have a minimum of $25,000 to donate.

COMMUNITY CHARITABLE FUNDS

Community Charitable Funds allow Stark Community Foundation to have the greatest impact on the changing needs in our community. Consider the Community Charitable Fund if you ...

- Seek to support the changing needs in the community
- Believe in the research and community evaluation processes of Stark Community Foundation to determine needs and effectiveness of nonprofit programs
- Want to foster the mission and vision of local nonprofits.

FUTURE FUNDS

Future Funds offer donors who would like to have a fund at the Foundation the option to establish an account that will grow to a permanent fund. Consider a Future Fund if you ...

- Are committed to creating a fund at Stark Community Foundation
- Want the flexibility to make donations over a period of time
- For tax purposes, prefer to stagger your donations.

SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

Supporting Foundations offer a flexible philanthropic option for individuals, families and businesses who want to invest significant resources in the community. Consider a Supporting Foundation if you ...

- Want to create a unique foundation to fulfill your charitable goals
- Want to involve multiple generations in giving
- Desire greater autonomy and identity than a component fund of Stark Community Foundation
- Would like support in the day-to-day management of your philanthropy
- Demand simplicity, ease, and attention to detail
- Have a minimum of $500,000 to donate.

How to get started

Establishing a fund is easy. Just follow these three simple steps.

1. Choose the type of fund that meets your charitable goals.
2. Make an irrevocable gift of assets worth $10,000 ($25,000 for scholarships, $500,000 for supporting foundations) or more to Stark Community Foundation
3. Name or personalize your fund with a fund agreement

Stark Community Foundation is here to help you help others through the most effective philanthropy possible. Like you, we are committed to the future of our community. Together we are building not just a strong community, but also the next generation of philanthropists.

We're here to help. Contact our advancement office at 330-454-7992 or bneisel@starkcf.org.

Nicely Fund is searching for a cure

When Dick Nicely noticed a trembling in his left thumb at age 53, he wasn't thinking Parkinson's disease. The diagnosis of the incurable disease surprised the local business owner, but he didn't try to hide his condition and he wasn't immobilized by fear. He became one of the area's most passionate advocates for Parkinson's research.

For the past 15 years, Dick has been active in several national organizations, including the Parkinson's Action Network in Washington, D.C., the Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center near San Jose, California, and the Michael J. Fox Foundation in New York.

As he became more and more enthusiastic about Parkinson's research, Dick wanted to lend his support locally. In 2013, with the help of Stark Community Foundation, he established the Nicely Charitable Fund to encourage and enhance research and study for the eradication of Parkinson's disease.

A friend connected Dick to two researchers in the College of Pharmacy at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED). Because of an initial gift of $50,000 from Stark Community Foundation in 2009, they conduct research to identify and develop medicines that will stop or slow down the brain cell death and progression of Parkinson's disease, thereby prolonging and preserving the quality of life for patients.



■ Dick Nicely with Michael J. Fox.

The researchers needed only one additional piece of research to apply for a grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation — but they lacked the funding to take the next step.

Intrigued by the NEOMED team's enthusiasm and creative ideas, Dick spoke persuasively to Stark Community Foundation about the importance of advancing research for Parkinson's disease and promised to match any funding the Foundation would provide.

His words worked. The Foundation board approved a $50,000 grant from the Irene H. Smith Memorial Fund at Stark Community Foundation for ongoing funding, and Dick matched it with a personal check.



■ Dick Nicely with Dr. Jay Gershen, Jim Merklin and Mark Samolczyk.

In May 2013, The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research Target Validation Program provided a $122,435 grant to the NEOMED research team. With the Fox grant, NEOMED has surpassed the $1 million mark in fundraising for Parkinson's disease research.

Through the collective fundraising efforts between The Fox Foundation, Stark Community Foundation, other foundations and organizations throughout Northeast Ohio, and individuals like Dick, there is hope for the one million Americans suffering from Parkinson's disease — possibly resulting from research at NEOMED.

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Charitable Giving Cards inspire others to give back

Inspire others to give back to our community with Stark Community Foundation's Charitable Giving Card. It's a unique and meaningful way to encourage philanthropy while supporting organizations that are making a difference in the community. Charitable Giving Cards are the perfect gift to celebrate any special occasion — holiday, birthday, congratulations, thank you.

Charitable Giving 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. Denominations of $25, $50 and $100 are available and are tax deductible.

TO PURCHASE

Charitable Giving Cards are tax deductible, and will be mailed within 2-3 business days from your order.

There are a number of ways you can purchase Charitable Giving Cards:

1. Purchase a card online at www.starkcf.org/givingcard.

2. Stop by the Foundation Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to purchase a card.

3. Purchase a card through your Donor Advised Fund following the same steps you would take to make a grant recommendation (email, DonorCentral, mail or fax).

TO REDEEM

Simply give your Charitable Giving Card directly to the organization you wish to support, or contact Stark Community Foundation at 330-454-3426 or info@starkcf.org. No goods, services or any financial benefit can be incurred by redeeming this card. Organizations that receive a Charitable Giving Card should contact the Foundation directly to redeem.

CUSTOMIZED GIVING CARDS

Charitable Giving Cards might also be the ideal choice for businesses wanting to promote philanthropy within their workplace. Contact the Foundation if you're interested in purchasing customized cards for your business or organization.

QUESTIONS

For more information about Stark Community Foundation's Charitable Giving Card Program, contact the Foundation at 330-454-3426 or info@starkcf.org.



SCF's grant strategy focused on three areas

An important way Stark Community Foundation enhances the community is by strengthening its local nonprofit organizations through its competitive discretionary grants program. Grants are awarded twice a year from the Foundation's Community Charitable Fund to address community needs and invest in solutions that strengthen and improve our community.

While the Foundation supports a number of causes and programs, our discretionary grants program focuses primarily on these three areas: economic development, education and strong neighborhoods. We believe these three essential ingredients are key to building and maintaining a healthy and vibrant community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development serves as the catalyst for addressing the root cause of social problems within communities. Successful economic development programs and policies will create an infrastructure of facilities, a trained workforce, and collaboration between the private sector (business), the public sector (government) and the civic sector (foundations, nonprofits).

When these elements come together, jobs are created, the family unit is strengthened and neighborhoods are revitalized. It is a virtuous circle that improves the quality of life for all our residents.

EDUCATION

Education is the backbone of economic development. Education creates the skills necessary to prepare individuals for employment opportunities and the ability to sustain themselves and their families.

As individuals, we remain competitive and vibrant as we learn new skills and gather new knowledge. Education must begin at an early age and continue throughout a lifetime of learning.

STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS

At the heart of the community is the neighborhood. Vibrant neighborhoods are central to creating and maintaining homes and relationships that are sources of pride around a common purpose. Community pride and a sense of accomplishment create a shared experience that moves a community forward to achieve greater accomplishments.

Our intent is to provide the foundation of skills and programs needed to transform our neighborhoods into better places to live, learn, work, play and raise families.

Stark Community Foundation is committed to our three focus areas, however, there are other areas we support that we believe are equally important. Collectively, these funding priorities strengthen our community.

Most recently, we've taken a proactive approach to food security in Stark County. By conducting an analysis of current food security efforts, we gained a better understanding of the role food has in developing a secure, healthy and economically vital community. This comprehensive research study created a framework for addressing food security that mixes food access, community education, economic development and emergency services.

In January, we announced our findings and made a commitment to provide grants to organizations that are finding long-term solutions to hunger.

By partnering with local foundations to achieve the greatest impact, we awarded nearly $250,000 in planning and implementation grants to local organizations.

STARK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: BY THE NUMBERS

1963
Year SCF was founded.

$225 million
in assets.

625
charitable funds.

$130 million
in grants awarded to the community since inception.

$7.8 million
awarded in 2014 through charitable grants.

Top 10%
Ranking among all community foundations in U.S.

6.1%
10-year investment return.

Memorial Fund honors Marine killed in service



PHOTO PROVIDED

■ Sgt. Daniel J. Patron, who was killed in action in 2011 in Afghanistan, is pictured with fellow Marines.

Family of soldier looks to help Perry students achieve their dreams

An explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) specialist, Sgt. Daniel J. Patron proudly wore the uniform of the United States Marines. He was killed on Aug. 6, 2011, while serving his third tour of duty, trying to defuse a roadside bomb in Sangin, Afghanistan. He was 26 years old.

Those he left behind — his wife, family and countless friends — have dedicated themselves to telling Dan's story, celebrating his life and preserving his memory.

In 2013, Frank and Kathy Patron established the Sgt. Daniel J. Patron Memorial Fund to honor the memory of their son, who died while bravely defending his country in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The fund will support scholarships for Perry High School students.

Dan's dream of being a U.S. Marine began at Perry High School so Frank and Kathy wanted to honor their son's memory by helping other Perry Local Schools students achieve their goals. The Patrons turned to Stark Community Foundation to help them keep Dan's legacy alive and give back to the community he loved.

A member of the Class of 2003, Dan was the star of his high school musical and excelled as a drummer in the Panthers' marching band. Dan composed a number of cadences for the Perry High School drum line, some of which are still used today.

He returned to Perry High School in 2006 to dedicate the Perry Veteran's Memorial, helping unveil the bronze statue and performing with his alma mater's marching band.

Dan's name was etched on the wall of fallen EOD Marines at Eglin Air Force Base. A portion of Route 172 between Perry Drive and Jackson Avenue was named for him. His brother, Matt, produced a film titled, "Collecting Sgt. Dan," to chronicle his life and share memories.

Last year, family members of a Marine who served with Dan honored his memory and raised money for the Sgt. Daniel J. Patron Memorial Fund by running a Tough Mudder race as a team called "Lost But Not Forgotten."

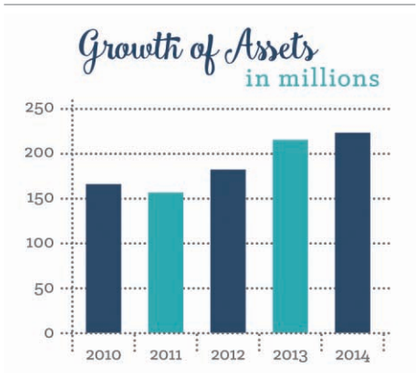
Sgt. Dan Patron lived by the U.S. Marine's motto, "Semper Fidelis."

By partnering with Stark Community Foundation, the Patron family knows that young people at his alma mater will be provided with funds to pursue their dreams, and members of the community will always be faithful to the memory of Sgt. Dan.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

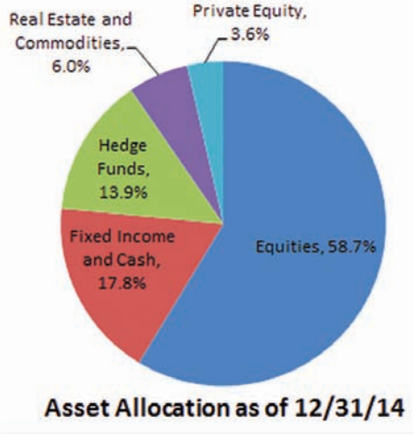
As part of Stark Community Foundation's $225 million diversified portfolio, your funds are securely invested to provide for long-term growth. The strength of a large pooled portfolio gives you more purchasing power, allowing you to reap the benefits of a maximum return with minimal risk.





TARGET ASSET ALLOCATION

This chart reflects the target asset allocation of Stark Community Foundation's investment pool. Asset allocations are recommended by the Foundation's Investment Review Committee, with guidance provided by the investment consulting firm, Colonial Consulting, and approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors.



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from Stark Community Foundation



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only instead of redeeming the card at a store, the recipient can give the value of the card as a donation to a favorite charity.

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Denominations of $25, $50 and $100 are available and are tax deductible.

Purchase online today at **www.starkcf.org/givingcard**
or **call 330-454-3426.**