Fall 2023 Issue

THE DIFFERENCE



scf stark community foundation

DONOR FEATURE

QUIETLY RESHAPING STARK COUNTY

Helping others is something William "Bill" Lemmon's parents instilled in him from an early age.

Bill Lemmon's parents owned a grocery store, Lemmon's Market, on 12th Street in Canton and often knew every shopper who walked through the door.

"My dad was always helping people," recalled Lemmon. "He was quiet. He never wanted to be in the spotlight, never wanted any publicity. He much preferred to be in the background."

Lemmon worked at his family's grocery store from the time he was in elementary school until the time he graduated from Canton Lehman High School in 1955 and left for college. Growing up, Lemmon remembers learning a lot about running a business and the importance of caring for others and giving back to the community—characteristics he witnessed his parents embody every single day.

Lemmon attended college in Columbus, where he earned a bachelor's degree in real estate and finance and a master's degree in business from The Ohio State University. While in business school, Lemmon learned not to put the pursuit of profit on a pedestal but to prioritize respect and compassion for the people you serve.

Shortly after college, he started working as a real estate appraiser in Columbus. Lemmon quickly went from appraiser to property manager to land developer. And although he found fulfillment in his work, his love for his family and close ties to his hometown called him back to Canton to continue his real estate career.

When he returned to Canton, Lemmon started working with the DeHoff family, a well-known name in the real estate business. Shortly after, he branched out and started his own real estate development company, Lemmon Development, which partners with DeHoff on many developments.

[continued on page 3]

4

SIX FOR 60 WINNERS

Six local nonprofits won $10,000 in seed money to establish an endowment fund as part of our Six for 60: Endowment Fund Challenge.

5

NEW FUNDS

12 new charitable funds were recently established through Stark Community Foundation.

6

SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS

Katie's Kids provides grants averaging $150 to lift children's self-esteem.

8

LOCAL FALL ACTIVITIES

Check out these family-friendly activities to experience this fall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS



To put it simply, we have been inspired by all the love, support and community pride we have witnessed this year.

When we started discussing how best to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Stark Community Foundation, our goal was to create a celebration that embraced our family of donors and the community that so many of us proudly call home.

In the spirit of honoring our community's generosity and pride, we sponsored a series of heartfelt activities this year: cups of kindness at local coffee shops, sensory-friendly movie screenings at the Canton Palace Theatre, family memories at the Akron Zoo, a donor appreciation event, adoption fees at the Stark County Humane Society and a unique community challenge.

The community's tremendous response to our Six for 60: Endowment Fund Challenge surpassed our expectations. We didn't expect that 101 deserving organizations would participate in the challenge, nor did we anticipate that residents would be inspired to cast more than 80,000 votes.

Thank you to those who participated, shared posts on social media, sent texts, wrote emails and made calls to friends. Your dedication to the betterment of our community shined through as you consistently voted and championed the causes you care about. You can learn more about the six organizations our community chose to receive $10,000 in seed money to establish an Organization Endowment Fund starting on page 4.

As we continue our year-long celebration, we're excited to introduce a partnership with ArtsinStark and a local artist that will allow members of our community to help paint a vibrant and engaging mural right here in downtown Canton. Stay tuned for more details about how you can get involved in the coming weeks.

We hope you enjoy the stories in this fall issue of people making a difference in your community— a visionary leader transforming the housing market, a nonprofit upholding a young woman's legacy of empowerment and generous donors who are giving back.

As always, thank you for being the heart and soul of our community foundation. You have played a pivotal role in growing a culture of local philanthropy that supports meaningful causes within Stark County and beyond. You are what makes our community foundation and community special.

With gratitude,

Mark J. Samolczyk
President and CEO

NEW NONPROFIT DIRECTORY

We are launching an online, searchable nonprofit directory in October designed to showcase local nonprofits' missions, programs and geographic footprint.

If your organization serves residents of Stark and the surrounding counties, we invite you to create a profile for our directory at **starkcf.org/np-profile**. By joining this directory, you can raise awareness about your organization and connect with a community of donors, potential supporters, partners and volunteers who share your passion for your cause.

STARKCF.ORG/NP-PROFILE

FALL
2023 ISSUE

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OUR MISSION

We partner with individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits to help them achieve their charitable goals.

OUR VISION

We seek a thriving, engaged and inclusive community.

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Canton for All People revitalized home

Fast forward to today, and Lemmon has developed countless subdivisions in Northeast Ohio and Central Ohio. He has also built various commercial buildings in the Canton, Akron and Columbus markets, including senior living communities, apartment complexes, shopping centers, office buildings, college residence halls, group homes, a church and a golf course. Some of these local developments include Washington Square, North Ridge Apartments and Danbury Senior Living.

The ripple effect of Lemmon's economic development endeavors spread far and wide, touching the lives of thousands of individuals in our region and even more in our community through his support of meaningful nonprofits and their clients.

"I firmly believe in giving back to the community," he said. "I find it very rewarding helping others."

Through the William J. Lemmon Charitable Fund, a Donor Advised Fund at Stark Community Foundation that he established in 2001, he regularly supports organizations moving Stark County forward and improving the quality of life for our community's residents.

Similar to his father's demeanor, Lemmon is known for his generosity and quiet acts of kindness.

A few years ago, he recognized that Hope Outreach Ministry, a faith-based organization in Canton that provides food, clothing and fellowship for those in need, had outgrown its existing facility and needed more space to serve local residents. Lemmon renovated, and later donated, the building the nonprofit now calls home.

"He didn't renovate and donate a building and walk away," said Pastor Marilyn Roman, founder of Hope Outreach Ministry. "He's continuing to be a big part of helping our ministry. He donates clothes, delivers food and makes sure the children we serve have presents at Christmas. He's been amazing."

He continues to show his commitment to nurturing our youth by making thoughtful investments in education. His support extends to local nonprofits such as Walsh University, United Way of Greater Stark County, Hoover High School, First Tee of Canton and ArtsinStark.

Lemmon's caring upbringing and passion for others have served him and his community well. Most recently, Lemmon established the Lemmon Foundation, a Supporting Foundation at Stark Community Foundation, to ensure his community commitment and passion for economic development continues in perpetuity.

"I don't need the money, but our community does," shared Lemmon.

Through his foundation and its board of directors, grants are awarded annually to Stark County nonprofits with a strategic focus on community improvement, economic development and housing projects and initiatives. Inaugural grants from the foundation provided support in 2023 to six organizations, including Beacon Charitable Pharmacy to help renovate a building into a new, expanded pharmacy, Louisville Public Library to construct a new facility at Metzger Park and CommQuest Services to optimize the size of its footprint.



Another nonprofit receiving an inaugural grant from the Lemmon Foundation is Canton for All People, an organization near and dear to Lemmon's heart doing important work in his childhood neighborhood.

"I watched my childhood neighborhood deteriorate," explained Lemmon. "It went from one of the best growing up to one of the worst in the area. I knew we had to do something about it."

Lemmon worked closely with the DeHoff family and Crossroads United Methodist Church to form Canton for All People, a community development corporation with an ambitious mission to improve the quality of life for the residents of downtown Canton by bringing affordable housing and opportunities to the area.

"Bill is an active philanthropist," shared Don Ackerman, executive director of Canton for All People. "He is not satisfied with writing checks but is someone whose feet and hands follow his giving. Seeing someone in his position pack and distribute meals to kids in the Gibbs neighborhood, showing up to eat ice cream with kids in the Shorb area or helping to inspect vacant houses is unique and needed in a culture where people are divided along socio-economic lines."

Unsafe, unaffordable housing conditions in downtown Canton were leading to higher crime and unemployment rates and keeping families in a cycle of poverty that is difficult to overcome. Canton for All People aims to address this housing need to ensure the city's neglected neighborhoods can access resources to help residents live healthier lives.

"It's important to get people into housing at a price they can afford – whether that's renting or owning," explained Lemmon.

Canton for All People is building new homes and apartments and restoring existing homes in the greater Shorb area.

Lemmon shared, "We will put a dent in the housing need. It will take money, but we have the people and passion to do it. If we can build or remodel 50 homes a year, that has the power to change a neighborhood and ultimately Stark County."

While Lemmon's journey as a real estate developer continues to unfold, one thing is certain: his expertise in housing development, philanthropic spirit and passion for neighborhood revitalization have already reshaped Stark County for the better.

SIX FOR 60 ENDOWMENT WINNERS

Six local nonprofits won $10,000 in seed money to establish an Organization Endowment Fund at Stark Community Foundation.

In celebration of Stark Community Foundation's 60th anniversary, we held the Six for 60: Endowment Fund Challenge—a unique challenge where community members voted to select six nonprofits to receive $10,000 in seed money to establish an Organization Endowment Fund at Stark Community Foundation. 101 nonprofits from all corners of Stark County participated, and more than 80,000 votes were cast to decide the winning organization in each category. Meet the six winners:



ARTS & CULTURE CATEGORY

UMBRELLA ALLEY
LOUISVILLE

Located in Bauman Alley, Umbrella Alley is a unique art attraction in downtown Louisville designed to revitalize and rejuvenate the old downtown.

"This endowment offers opportunities we never dreamed of. The endowment creates the unique opportunity to guarantee donations can grow over time. We are thankful for this opportunity and will do everything to maximize its potential." — Rick Guiley, Umbrella Alley Committee Chair



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY

PROJECT REBUILD
CANTON

Project REBUILD re-engages young adults to create pathways to academic, professional and leadership opportunities while providing them with the skills and support to set them up for lifelong success.

"Everyone at Project REBUILD is thrilled to receive generous assistance from Stark Community Foundation for establishing an endowment fund. This fund will be essential in our financial sustainability plans and in attracting new donors. The true legacy of all the support we receive in our community is the future success of our young people." — Patrick King, Project REBUILD Board Chair



EDUCATION CATEGORY

LOUISVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOUISVILLE

The Louisville Public Library serves the community by providing resources and programming to stay connected and inspired. As a gathering place for the community, the library brings residents together by offering educational materials, technology and social programming.

"The library will be able to continue to grow the fund to be used for future projects and funding. Winning a competition like this shows the community's support for their library and helps ensure long-term stable funding for library services." — Brock Hutchison, Louisville Public Library Director



ENVIRONMENT & ANIMAL WELFARE CATEGORY

BEECH CREEK BOTANICAL GARDEN & NATURE PRESERVE
ALLIANCE

Residing on 181 acres, Beech Creek Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve educates, inspires and connects people with nature, which ultimately improves one's physical and mental health and overall quality of life.

"This endowment is the seed for our goal of growing a 10-million-dollar endowment, which will ensure the preservation of our education programs, exhibits and land for future generations! We believe that this endowment fund will provide the Stark County community with awareness of how our organization is making an important positive impact." — Melinda Carmichael, Beech Creek Executive Director



RHODA WISE SHRINE

CANTON

Rhoda Wise Shrine promotes and preserves the legacy of Rhoda Wise, known for her spiritual experiences and connection, and operates Rhoda's home that attracts thousands of visitors annually.

"This endowment from Stark Community Foundation will significantly help us preserve Servant of God Rhoda Wise's home and legacy. It will allow us to better meet the growing needs of our operation as we welcome thousands of visitors to the Shrine each year and work toward the day when we may officially call Rhoda Wise a saint! We want to thank everyone who voted for us. This is an incredible gift and blessing." — Karen Sigler, Rhoda Wise Shrine President



HARTVILLE MIGRANT MINISTRY

HARTVILLE

Hartville Migrant Ministry provides an environment in which migrant farmworkers have access to services that increase their quality of life.

"We're so grateful for this incredible opportunity. Migrant farmworkers are one of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations in the U.S., and this endowment will ensure our organization's ability to support this community for many years to come. Hartville Migrant Ministry is focused on building lasting community and creating sustainable change." — Stephen Dages, Hartville Migrant Ministry Director

Stark Community Foundation is grateful for the community's support of our Six for 60: Endowment Fund Challenge. Thank you to everyone who participated and voted!

NEW FUNDS

OUR FAMILY TREE

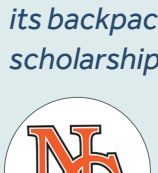
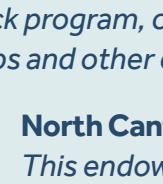
12 new charitable funds were established through Stark Community Foundation from April 1 through June 30, 2023.

Subfunds (4)



Jack and Annie Graber Fund

Mechanicstown residents Jack and Annie Graber made provisions in their estate plans to establish a charitable fund that continues their legacy of helping young people and the less fortunate. Their fund primarily benefits local children in need as well as supports senior citizens and other worthy causes in Carroll County.

Max Hartong JHS Memorial Award Fund

Max Hartong, a 2014 graduate of Jackson High School, tragically passed away in December 2022 from medical complications while competing in the Miami Ironman Triathlon. Max was a dreamer, doer, lover of life and lover of people. He had a deep sense of purpose, a contagious drive for success and was always striving to better himself and help others. Whether captaining his Division I lacrosse team, climbing mountains, attending law school or marrying his high school sweetheart, Max lived life to the fullest. Family and friends created this memorial fund to honor Max's legacy of unwavering passion and a determined spirit by providing yearly scholarships to graduating seniors on the Jackson High School men's lacrosse team. It serves as a beacon of hope that inspires future generations to pursue their dreams both on and off the field.

Kim A. Jandecka Memorial Fund

As part of her estate plans, Marian Jandecka, a nurse dedicated to working with and advocating for children, created a memorial fund in memory of her son, Kim. Kim's legacy continues in the community by helping meet the ever-evolving needs of Stark County nonprofits.

Minerva Mission Endowment Fund

Minerva Mission created this endowment fund to ensure resources would always be available to help the nonprofit meet the needs of Minerva children and their families. More specifically, this permanent funding source provides annual support for its backpack program, care closets, youth mentoring initiatives, service scholarships and other community-focused efforts.

North Canton City Schools Foundation Endowment Fund

This endowment fund was created to provide a long-term source of income for the North Canton City Schools Foundation to support the school district's educational programs, extracurricular activities and student scholarships.



Michael J. and Margaret M. Savage Family Fund

Lake Cable residents Mike and Peg Savage established a charitable fund to support community outreach programs that foster the educational, physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of children and their families residing within Stark County. Their fund will eventually be passed down to their children - Megan, Kristen, Colleen and Matthew - to continue their family's legacy of serving others.

Margaret B. Shipley Child Health Clinic Endowment Fund

This endowment fund was created to ensure all children, regardless of their family's ability to pay, have access to healthcare. The Shipley Clinic has been serving Stark and surrounding counties for over 50 years.

David Tomey Charitable Fund

As part of his estate plans, David Tomey created a charitable fund to provide ongoing support to causes he cared about, such as improving healthcare, alleviating poverty, assisting the disabled and elderly and providing scholarship support.

Thank you to the following advisors for referring their clients to achieve their charitable goals with a fund at Stark Community Foundation this quarter: ***Susan Clark Chaddock*** *and* ***John Clark****.*



Lori, Kortney, Kristina and Jim Eckelberry

NONPROFIT FEATURE

SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS

Karate lessons, violin rentals, prom tickets, art supplies and softball cleats— these are all items local families couldn't afford for their children.

Thankfully, with support from the nonprofit Katie's Kids, those families were able to purchase the items, lift their children's spirits and feel the kindness of Kaitlyn Eckelberry's legacy.

Throughout the year, Katie's Kids provides grants averaging $150 to Stark County children in grades K-12 who are identified by a network of community liaisons— teachers, counselors, religious leaders and social workers. The grant, in the form of a check or gift card, is given to the liaison to give to the child's caregiver so they can purchase the item with their child to ensure the dignity of the caregiver.

WHO IS KATIE?

Kaitlyn "Katie" Eckelberry's life was just starting. After the Hoover High School alumna earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Gannon University and passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, she signed a contract for her dream job as a physician assistant in orthopedics. She was coaching softball at Chatham University, had just signed a lease on a new apartment and was building a life with her boyfriend, Kane Elliot.



In February 2020, Katie's life changed forever. Two weeks before starting her job at Penn Highland Hospital, she was driving home from softball practice near Pittsburgh when a drunk driver crossed the center line and hit her vehicle head-on. Katie passed away from the accident at the age of 23.

Katie is remembered for her vivacious personality, big heart and passion for helping those less fortunate feel loved.

"She was an includer," recalled Katie's mother, Lori Eckelberry. "She could always tell who was hurting and did her best to make them feel better. She had a good heart."

WHY KATIE'S KIDS?

Following Katie's passing, her parents, Jim and Lori, along with sisters Kristina and Kortney, were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from their family, friends and the community.

"It was our faith, family and friends that carried us through," said Jim. "So many people checked in and asked us how they could help us through this difficult time."

While grappling with their grief, the Eckelberrys were sure about one thing: they wanted to continue Katie's legacy.

It was through a colleague of Jim's that they learned about Alice's Kids, an organization based out of Virginia that provides financial assistance to children facing immediate needs. Jim and Lori talked to Alice's Kids about replicating the program in Stark County, and the organization graciously agreed.

Drawing on Lori's background in education and Katie's passion for helping others, Katie's Kids was established. The nonprofit was born out of their deep desire to continue Katie's legacy, embracing her caring spirit and dedication to boosting others' self-esteem.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

Katie's Kids does not accept applications from the general public. Instead, the nonprofit has developed a network of community liaisons— teachers, counselors, religious leaders, social workers and others— who complete a simple application upon identifying a child with a specific need.

The immediate need for a child can vary from summer camp fees, shoes and sporting equipment to AP exam fees, senior pictures and instrument rentals. Providing direct assistance for items families can't afford allows the child to feel more "normal" amongst their more fortunate peers.

If the application is approved, a check is written to the appropriate entity, such as a dance studio or music company, or a gift card is sent electronically to the liaison in less than 48 hours for the family to use. It's important to Katie's Kids that they provide the gift card to the caregiver, allowing the caregiver to purchase the item with their child and be the hero in the story.



"It's a win-win," shared Jim. "For a child who needs basketball shoes— the parent feels good about providing for their child, and the child is excited to have new sneakers. That's a slam dunk in my book."

To ensure that the support is being used to enhance the self-esteem of children, the average grant is $150 per child and cannot be used for food, housing, transportation, medical care or legal fees.

HOW'S IT GOING?

Since Katie's Kids started, direct financial assistance has supported more than 800 school-aged children in 60 schools throughout Stark County, all in Katie's honor.

"Every single family tells me the relief and peace it brings to them when one small or large financial burden is off their plate," said Kristin Dunnivan, a community liaison for Avondale Elementary. "Most of them feel terrible admitting that their child's activities are a burden to them, but when the financial side of it is relieved, their whole perspective changes!"

Each year, the nonprofit raises money through generous donations from various programs like its annual Fore Eck Forever Golf Outing, 5K run and 14 Club— a heartfelt initiative that allows participants to make a monthly contribution of $14 in memory of Katie, who wore the number 14 throughout her athletic career.

"We started Katie's Kids for a selfish reason— to keep Katie's legacy alive," shared Lori. "The unselfish reasons are the 815 kids and counting we are helping. Every time we help a child, it helps heal our hearts some."

WHAT'S NEXT?

The board of directors and its all-volunteer staff are considering expanding Katie's Kids into Summit and other counties. They also hope to continue to build a base of support, get the word out about the program and lift as many spirits as possible because they know it's what Katie would have wanted.

To learn more, visit **katieskids14.org**

COMMUNITY PHOTOS

Check out these snapshots from recent events in our community!


1


2


3



4


5


6



7

***1.** The Bluecoats held their spring training at the University of Mount Union and performed for the community. **2.** Organizations and members of the Massillon community enjoyed the annual Downtown Massillon Fun Fest (photo by Marlene Kanipe). **3.** Habitat for Humanity volunteers and community members gathered for the dedication celebration of the new Southeast Canton Playground. **4.** Stark County families enjoyed free admission to the Akron Zoo from Stark Community Foundation in celebration of our 60th anniversary. **5.** Stark Community Foundation's family of donors celebrated 60 years of philanthropy at this year's Spring Donor Gathering. **6.** Community members gathered to officially break ground during the dedication ceremony for the Echoing Hills Village Northeast Community Integration Project in Canal Fulton. **7.** Stark Community Foundation sponsored 60% of adoption fees at the Stark County Humane Society for a weekend to celebrate our 60th anniversary.*

INVESTMENT Q&A

At Stark Community Foundation, we partner with Marquette Associates, an independent investment consulting firm specializing in advising nonprofits.

Together, we thoughtfully guide the Foundation's investments, implement our investment strategy and determine the right diversification of our more than $350 million portfolio of assets. We recently asked Chris Caparelli, managing partner of Marquette Associates, a few common questions about today's market. He and his colleagues will dive deeper into these market conditions during our investment webinar on **October 24**.

- **How do you think the stock market is doing right now?**
- **What advice are you giving your clients based on current market conditions?**
- **Now that things have calmed down with bonds since last year, what are your views on the bond market?**
- **With the big shift in current interest rates, how are you suggesting clients respond?**

Read Chris' insightful responses to these questions at
starkcf.org/investment-q&a

Join our 2023 Investment Webinar on October 24 at 9 a.m. Learn more and register at
starkcf.org/invest23



Chris Caparelli, managing partner of Marquette Associates, Stark Community Foundation's investment consulting firm

LOCAL FALL ACTIVITIES

Here are some family-friendly experiences to enjoy this fall around Stark County!



SHOP AT A LOCAL FARMERS' MARKET

This fall, shop for local fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, baked goods, plants and more at the many farmers' markets held around Stark County, including:

- **Canton Farmers' Market**— Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on 4th Street NW near Centennial Plaza
- **North Canton Farmers' Market**— Wednesdays from 3 - 6 p.m. at the North Canton Civic Center
- **Alliance Farmers' Market**— Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the northeast lot at State Street and Union Avenue

ENJOY STARK PARKS

Visit one of the many **Stark Parks** locations and walking trails to enjoy the scenic views of our community in the fall, like Sippo Lake Park in Perry Township. With more than 15 parks, four lakes and 120 miles of biking, hiking and equestrian trails, there are many year-round activities Stark Parks offers for individuals and families of all ages.



VISIT A PUMPKIN PATCH

Pick your own pumpkins from a pumpkin patch this fall. **Kingsway Farm in Hartville** is one family-friendly location where families can pick their own pumpkins from the patch, enjoy a wagon ride, visit the petting farm to feed the animals and experience a challenging eight-acre corn maze.



GRAB A SEASONAL TREAT

Our community is full of local cafes and coffee shops that offer seasonal flavors of your favorite fall drinks and treats. One local stop to keep in mind is **Whole Latte Love Cafe**, a nonprofit coffee shop in North Canton.

PICK APPLES AT AN ORCHARD

There are many places to find fresh apples in the fall months in and around Stark County. One local orchard that offers a variety of apples to pick, along with other seasonal activities, is **Arrowhead Orchard** in Paris Township.