Spring 2025 Issue

THE DIFFERENCE



scf stark community foundation

FOUNDATION NEWS

CELEBRATING GROWTH

2024 was another remarkable year for Stark Community Foundation, defined by incredible generosity. In 2024 alone, the Foundation granted $20.1 million to meaningful causes, raised $21.6 million in outright and planned gifts and established 38 new charitable funds.

Since its founding in 1963, Stark Community Foundation has experienced extraordinary growth, particularly since 2014.

"We were established as a community foundation with an initial endowment of $4.6 million," said Mark J. Samolczyk, president and CEO of Stark Community Foundation. "Now, 62 years later, we are approaching a milestone of half a billion dollars in assets. This incredible progress is possible only because of the unwavering support of our community. As a community foundation, our strength is a direct reflection of the donors who believe in our mission and vision."

Highlights since 2014 include:

- **Raising an extraordinary $259 million in outright and planned gifts**, helping to build a brighter future for Stark County and beyond.
- **Granting $161 million to nonprofit organizations**, contributing to a total of nearly $275 million awarded in grants since the Foundation's inception.
- **Partnering with caring individuals, businesses, nonprofits and professional advisors to establish 435 new funds**, bringing the total number of charitable funds managed by the Foundation to nearly 1,000.

At the end of 2024, Stark Community Foundation's assets for the betterment of the community totaled nearly $450 million. This places the Foundation among the top 10 percent of community foundations in the United States, a testament to the dedication and generosity of its donors and partners.

The Foundation celebrates not just a positive 2024 but the community's continued generosity and partnership that have empowered Stark Community Foundation to grow and serve Stark and surrounding communities. The Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthen Stark County and beyond for generations to come.

[Read more about 2024's impact on page 2]

2

IMPACT STORIES

In 2024, Stark Community Foundation and its growing family of donors granted more than $20 million in support of meaningful causes.

6

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

As Stark County grapples wth rising homelessness, the solution lies in creating comprehensive, lasting strategies.

7

NEW FUNDS

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

8

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation's General Scholarship Application for college scholarship support during the 2025-2026 academic year is due April 1, 2025.

2024 IMPACT STORIES

In 2024, Stark Community Foundation and its growing family of donors had a profound impact both locally in our community and beyond, granting more than $20 million in support of over 1,000 nonprofit organizations and meaningful causes.



COMMUNITY CHARITABLE FUNDS

Responding to Stark County's evolving needs and opportunities.

$2,425,901
AWARDED IN GRANTS IN 2024 FROM COMMUNITY CHARITABLE FUNDS



DESIGNATED FUNDS

Establishing a legacy of support, today and in the future.

$3,587,751
AWARDED IN GRANTS IN 2024 FROM DESIGNATED FUNDS



FEATURED FUND

EDWARD A. LANGENBACH TRUST FUND

GRANTEE: LOUISVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
PURPOSE: LOUISVILLE LIBRARY AT METZGER PARK

Edward A. Langenbach was a man of remarkable vision, whose entrepreneurial success was matched by his deep commitment to philanthropy. Beginning his career in banking in the 1880s with a modest salary of $50 a year, he later rose to lead major industrial companies, including The Berger Manufacturing Company and Central Alloy Steel Co. Despite his business achievements, Edward never lost sight of the importance of giving back. In 1932, just two years before his passing, he established a charitable trust to serve the community through a wide range of initiatives. His legacy continued in 1963 when his more than $2 million trust was transferred to help form Stark Community Foundation, which has since upheld his vision of strengthening the community.

One recent project supported by Edward's fund is the construction of Louisville Public Library's new facility. Due to substantial growth in usage, the library relocated to a two-story facility at Metzger Park, an 88-acre hub of community development. The library's new facility is located in close proximity to local schools and the YMCA, and features modern amenities, including a drive-up window, makerspace, sensory room and more. This new facility, which opened in March 2025, serves as a vital resource for individuals and families, reflecting Edward's enduring commitment to meaningful community projects.



FEATURED FUND

DORIS McCLOUD READING FUND FOR LITTLE TIGERS

GRANTEE: MASSILLON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PURPOSE: PURCHASE OF BOOKS FOR MASSILLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Born on a family dairy farm west of Marshallville, Ohio, Doris McCloud graduated from Orrville High School in 1934 before earning a teaching certificate from Kent State University and later a bachelor's degree from Malone University. Doris dedicated her life to teaching, beginning her career in a two-room schoolhouse in North Lawrence before working in Marshallville. For 26 years, she shaped young minds as a first-grade teacher at L.E. York Elementary School in Massillon, leaving a lasting impact on generations of students.

Doris had a unique gift for making learning come alive, especially when it came to reading and writing. She often took her students to the football stadium, where they ran the length of the field before returning to the classroom to turn their excitement into stories. After her passing, Doris' family established a charitable fund to honor her legacy and passion for literacy. Each year, the fund provides support to the Massillon City School District, ensuring elementary-aged children have access to books. Most recently, librarians from Franklin, Gorrell and Whittier elementary schools purchased books from the Scholastic Book Fair for their school's library, continuing Doris' lifelong mission of fostering a love of reading in young learners.

Throughout 2024, a total of 3,239 grants were awarded to support a variety of causes within the community— ranging from elementary reading programming and college scholarships to a therapy dog for a local police department and local art exhibitions.

Explore the stories behind eight of those impactful grants, uncovering the motivations and passions of the compassionate individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits that have established charitable funds through Stark Community Foundation. These fundholders award grants of all sizes throughout the year, demonstrating their care and commitment to making a difference in our community.

We hope by reading these special stories you remember fondly why you created a charitable legacy, are inspired to start your own, are moved to support an existing fund or learn more about the meaningful work happening in our community.

3,239 GRANTS AWARDED

FROM STARK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND OUR FAMILY OF DONORS IN 2024



DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Supporting the causes that matter most, whenever the time is right.

$6,943,873

AWARDED IN GRANTS IN 2024 FROM DONOR ADVISED FUNDS



FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Investing in the evolving needs of organizations in a targeted interest area.

$892,962

AWARDED IN GRANTS IN 2024 FROM FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS



FEATURED FUND

BAGNOLI FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

GRANTEE: NEOMED FOUNDATION
PURPOSE: MLHSS SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Dominic Bagnoli and Dr. Vivian von Gruenigen have dedicated their lives to healthcare, not only as accomplished physicians but also as leaders shaping the future of medicine. To ensure their passion for improving patient care extends for generations, they established a Donor Advised Fund in 2013 to support community initiatives and aspiring medical professionals. Dominic, who founded Emergency Medicine Physicians, built one of the largest physician-owned emergency medicine organizations in the country. His vision led to the creation of US Acute Care Solutions, where he now serves as executive chairman. Meanwhile, Vivian has made a profound impact as a physician leader, serving as a division chief, chair and chief medical officer for leading health systems in the area. As a professor at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), she continues to shape the next generation of healthcare providers, directing the university's Master of Leadership in Health Systems Science program.

Committed to giving back, the Bagnolis actively support healthcare-focused initiatives that strengthen communities. Most recently, they endowed a scholarship at NEOMED to help students afford medical education. By investing in future physicians and health leaders, they are ensuring that their legacy of compassionate, high-quality care continues.



FEATURED FUND

W. RODERIC COVEY TREE FUND

GRANTEE: ICAN HOUSING
PURPOSE: URBAN ACCENTS

Named in memory of tree advocate W. Roderic Covey, the W. Roderic Covey Tree Fund supports organizations in Stark County and beyond in their efforts to conserve trees through planting, care and education. In the early 2000s, Rod led a determined fight to save a more than 400-year-old cucumber magnolia tree in his Auburn Knolls neighborhood in North Canton. His passion, persistence and advocacy preserved what is believed to be the world's oldest and largest tree of its kind. After Rod's passing in 2021, his daughter, Lisa Covey, established a charitable fund to honor his legacy and ensure his commitment to nature would live on for generations.

Today, that legacy continues through the fund's support of projects like ICAN Housing's urban accents initiative. In 2024, ICAN began the first phase of the project by planting three mature maple trees at a pocket park located at the intersection of 6th Street NE and Walnut Avenue NE in downtown Canton. The park, featuring a mural, garden, green space and seating, previously sat in full sun, making it less inviting for visitors. Now, with the addition of much-needed shade provided by three new trees, the space has become a more welcoming retreat for the community—just the kind of lasting impact Rod would have cherished.



ORGANIZATION ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Protecting the longevity of an organization in perpetuity.

$3,744,748

AWARDED IN GRANTS IN 2024 FROM ORGANIZATION ENDOWMENT FUNDS

FEATURED FUND

CANTON MUSEUM OF ART ENDOWMENT FUND

GRANTEE: CANTON MUSEUM OF ART
PURPOSE: GENERAL SUPPORT

As the Canton Museum of Art (CMA) prepares to celebrate its 90th anniversary in 2025, it continues to offer inspiring opportunities for everyone to discover, learn and connect through American art. Known for its original exhibitions—spanning impressionism, realism, pop and beyond—CMA curates powerful experiences with pieces from its own collection, major museum partnerships, private collections from around the country and regional and national artists.

To sustain this creative excellence, CMA established an exhibition endowment fund in 2016 to ensure the museum can bring the stories of American art to life year after year as well as develop engaging education and outreach programs. In 2024 alone, this endowment fund provided support for exhibitions that drew more than 51,000 visitors from 43 states and 11 countries, with 54% coming from outside Stark County. The endowment fund also fueled educational programs, providing 5,700 direct art-learning experiences to students in Stark County classrooms, engaging nearly 10,000 participants through community outreach events and enhancing the well-being of more than 1,000 adults through its unique art and health program. Beyond the gallery walls, CMA contributed over $2 million in cultural tourism spending for Stark County in 2024—a testament to its role as a vibrant community asset.



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Helping local students achieve their academic dreams.

$786,904

AWARDED IN GRANTS IN 2024 FROM SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS



FEATURED FUND

JOHN BOGNIARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

GRANTEE: ADDIE HARPER
PURPOSE: SCHOLARSHIP

The Ohio Automobile Club (OAC) established the John Bogniard Memorial Scholarship in 2022 to honor his nearly 30 years of dedicated service and his lasting legacy of helping others. As a respected attorney for Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty and longtime OAC board member, John was known for his kindness, commitment to service and dedication to the well-being of others. This annual scholarship supports students who embody those same values—those who strive for academic excellence, contribute to their communities and positively influence the lives of those around them. Special consideration is given to students whose parents or grandparents are employed by the American Automobile Association (AAA) in Ohio, ensuring John's spirit of service continues to inspire future generations.

Addie Harper, a student at the University of Mount Union whose grandmother works for AAA in Massillon, received John's scholarship in 2024. Inspired by her mother's career as a nurse, Addie is pursuing a degree in nursing, hoping to make the same kind of difference in people's lives. Witnessing her mother's compassion and skill instilled in Addie a deep desire to follow in her footsteps. Receiving this scholarship has helped ease the financial burden of college, allowing Addie to focus on her education and her dream of becoming a nurse who serves others—just as John dedicated his life to doing.

Stark Community Foundation offers a variety of fund types to meet your unique charitable goals, personal passions and tax planning needs. Learn more about which fund type could be right for you at **starkcf.org/fund-types**

If you have questions or are ready to establish your charitable fund, contact Bridgette L. Neisel, vice president of advancement, at bneisel@starkcf.org or 330-454-7992.



SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

Providing the benefits of a private foundation without the administrative burden.

$1,526,995

AWARDED IN GRANTS IN 2024 FROM SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS



FEATURED FUND

LEMMON FOUNDATION

GRANTEE: CITY OF NORTH CANTON
PURPOSE: ONE YEAR OF CARE FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT'S THERAPY DOG, KONA

Prominent developer and philanthropist William "Bill" Lemmon builds more than just subdivisions and commercial properties across Northeast and Central Ohio—he builds communities. To ensure his legacy of economic growth and civic commitment continues, he established the Lemmon Foundation in 2021, which supports Stark County nonprofits with a strategic focus on community improvement, economic development and housing initiatives. Recently, the foundation funded projects for organizations like Canton For All People, Coleman Health Services, CommQuest Services and ICAN Housing, reinforcing its dedication to strengthening the region.

One particularly meaningful grant was awarded to the North Canton Police Department to fund a full year of care for Kona, an Aussiedoodle who serves as the department's therapy dog. Kona plays a vital role in the department's Community Canine Program—comforting anxious children at police scenes, engaging youth in drug education efforts, boosting morale among officers and representing the department at outreach events. Therapy dogs like Kona provide comfort not just in times of crisis, but in everyday life—helping create a stronger, more connected community, just as Bill Lemmon has always envisioned.



FOUNDATION INITIATIVES

Addressing local needs through carefully designed funds and programs.

$228,312

AWARDED IN GRANTS IN 2024 FROM INITIATIVES FUNDS

FEATURED FUND

SUMMERTIME KIDS FUND

GRANTEE: AUTISM SOCIETY OF GREATER AKRON
PURPOSE: ICAN BIKE CAMP STARK COUNTY

For more than 30 years, Stark Community Foundation has been enriching the lives of local youth through its SummerTime Kids initiative. This program provides grants of up to $2,000 to fund creative and engaging summer experiences for children across Stark County, including museum visits, day camps, summer reading programs and backpack giveaways. Since its inception in 1992, more than $1.5 million has been invested to ensure children have access to meaningful and memorable summertime opportunities.

One of these grants in 2024 helped more than 30 children with disabilities experience the joy of learning to ride a bike—an unforgettable childhood milestone. Through the Autism Society of Greater Akron's iCan Bike Camp, children ages eight and older gained confidence and independence as they transitioned from adaptive bikes to riding on two wheels. Hosted at Jackson High School, the five-day camp used specialized equipment and individualized instruction to teach balance, steering and pedaling. By the end of the week, many participants rode independently for the first time, opening up new possibilities for family bike rides and adventures with friends. Thanks to the SummerTime Kids initiative, these children not only learned a valuable skill but also experienced the freedom and joy that come with riding a bike.



START YOUR FUND TODAY AND BEGIN YOUR CHARITABLE LEGACY.

NONPROFIT FEATURE

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN STARK COUNTY

Many believe that simply building more shelters will solve Stark County's homelessness crisis. After all, more beds mean fewer people on the streets—right?

But according to Marcie Bragg, executive director of the Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHNI), that assumption overlooks the bigger picture.

"If we don't have exit strategies for individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, building another shelter won't fix the issue," she explains. "There's not a quick, easy fix. Homelessness is different—it's systemic."

At its core, homelessness isn't just about lacking a roof over one's head. It's tied to deeper issues—affordable housing shortages, mental health struggles, job instability and cycles of poverty that make it difficult for people to regain their footing. Without long-term solutions, shelters risk becoming revolving doors rather than stepping stones to stability.

THE ROLE OF THE STARK HOUSING NETWORK

Founded in 2017, SHNI plays a vital role in combating homelessness by managing a comprehensive and efficient system of care. It supports homeless assistance providers such as Alliance for Children and Families, Domestic Violence Project, Inc., ICAN Housing, Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, YWCA Canton and many others serving Stark County's individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their housing. The network fosters continuous improvement through strategic partnerships and resource development.

SHNI also serves as the backbone for the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC)—a coalition of individuals and organizations working together to address homelessness through coordinated policies and strategies. HCCSC coordinates efforts for emergency shelters, permanent housing programs and essential services like mental health care, substance use disorder treatment and job training.

Critically, SHNI secures and manages approximately $5 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funding is distributed by HUD to organizations across Stark County, ensuring resources are available for those working on the frontlines of the homelessness crisis.

THE RISE IN HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is rising in Stark County, reflecting the growing national crisis. Local shelters are at capacity, leaving many without a safe place to stay.

In 2024, a single-night count recorded 330 people experiencing homelessness across Canton, Massillon and Alliance. This point-in-time count—conducted every January and required by HUD—provides a snapshot of both sheltered individuals (those in shelters and transitional housing) and those living unsheltered on the streets. The numbers have steadily climbed from the 234 individuals recorded in 2021 and 247 in 2022.

"It's vital to remember that behind every statistic representing homelessness, there are real individuals with unique stories and struggles," Marcie emphasizes. "When someone experiences homelessness, multiple systems and supports have broken down."

Recently, city officials and service providers compassionately dismantled an encampment in southwest Canton, connecting its 24 residents—some between jobs, a woman eight months pregnant and another fleeing domestic violence—with resources and support for more permanent housing solutions. The situation highlighted the need to balance public health and safety with the dignity and well-being of those affected.

UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES

While mental health conditions often come to mind when discussing homelessness, Marcie stresses that the issue is far more complex.

"It's not always significant mental health challenges, like some believe," she says.

Several factors push people into unstable living situations, including:

- **Affordable housing shortages:** Stark County, like many communities, lacks affordable housing. Rising rents and stagnant wages make securing stable housing increasingly difficult. For reference, affordable housing means spending no more than 30% of your income on rent or mortgage.
- **Economic inequality:** Financial strain—worsened by inflation and the pandemic—leaves low-income families vulnerable to homelessness after job losses or unexpected emergencies.
- **Shelter capacity:** Overcrowded shelters often deter individuals who may choose to remain unsheltered rather than face the conditions or rules at shelters that don't meet their needs.
- **Mental health and substance use:** While not universal, mental health conditions and substance use disorders can make it harder for individuals to maintain housing without proper support.

A PATH FORWARD

SHNI and HCCSC are committed to long-term solutions. Their model prioritizes securing stable housing before addressing other challenges, such as employment, mental health care or substance use treatment.

"Without stable, safe housing, it's nearly impossible to improve mental and physical health, secure employment or build a better future," shared Marcie.

In addition to housing solutions, HCCSC is investing in workforce initiatives. Recognizing that high turnover and burnout among homeless service providers can weaken support systems, SHNI is using grant funding to enhance workforce development. This project aims to educate, upskill and retain staff through strategic training, conferences, webinars and more so they can better serve those in need.

"Those serving people experiencing homelessness not only witness but absorb the deep trauma of those they help," added Marcie. "It is crucial to support this workforce, as they stand on the front lines, carrying the weight of Stark County's most vulnerable residents and working to restore hope where it's needed most."

Another project the coalition is focused on is improving the coordinated entry process. Currently, those seeking shelter must call a homeless hotline, sometimes waiting up to 30 minutes or more for assistance. With a consultant's help, SHNI is exploring ways to streamline this system using technology, ensuring faster, more efficient support for vulnerable individuals.

As Stark County grapples with rising homelessness, the solution lies not in simply building more shelters but in creating comprehensive, lasting strategies. With SHNI and HCCSC working hand in hand—securing funding, supporting providers and pushing for systemic change—there's hope for a future where fewer people face life without a safe, consistent place to call home.

Learn more at starkcountyhomeless.org

NEW FUNDS

OUR FAMILY TREE

Eight charitable funds were established through Stark Community Foundation from October 1 through December 31, 2024.

Subfunds (1)



JRC Ann McCabe Scholarship Endowment Fund
ORGANIZATION ENDOWMENT FUND
Ann McCabe, who passed away in 2023, had a heart for giving back to the community and dedicated herself to countless organizations in Stark County, including JRC. This endowment fund honors her legacy by providing scholarships to support children attending the JRC learning centers that she cared so much about.

Alan and Michelle Michel Family Foundation
DONOR ADVISED FUND
Alan and Michelle Michel created a charitable foundation to champion causes close to their hearts. Alan, who has a background in the utility sector, and Michelle, a nurse practitioner with expertise in cardiovascular medicine, share a deep commitment to giving back to their communities. In years to come, the foundation will be entrusted to future generations to ensure the Michels' legacy of giving.

Marino and Roselie Ong Charitable Fund
DONOR ADVISED FUND



Dr. Elizabeth Russ Charitable Fund
DONOR ADVISED FUND
Dr. Elizabeth Russ, a board-certified radiologist and Stark County native, created a charitable fund to support the issues and organizations she cares about. This fund will eventually provide permanent support to three meaningful causes: the breast cancer program at Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital, scholarships for Perry High School female students pursuing careers in STEM and the care of animals at the Stark County Humane Society.



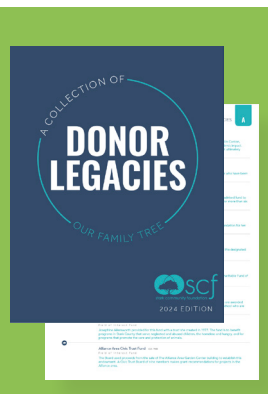
Dick and Betty Rutledge Memorial Scholarship Fund
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Established by Tom Rutledge, this scholarship fund honors the memory of his parents, Dick and Betty. Both graduates of Carrollton High School, Dick and Betty operated a fourth-generation dairy farm in Union Township, served as dedicated 4-H advisors for many years and raised four children, all of whom graduated from universities in Ohio. Their fund provides financial assistance to Carrollton High School graduates pursuing a degree in an agricultural-related field who demonstrate a strong history of stewardship, altruism and community service. This scholarship is a lasting tribute to Dick and Betty's enduring legacy of support for agriculture, education and their community.



John and Pamela Selinsky Family Charitable Fund
DONOR ADVISED FUND
John and Pamela Selinsky, previous co-owners of their family's business, Henry A. Selinsky Inc., created a charitable fund to ensure their shared values of generosity and community support would endure for generations. Eventually, their fund will be passed down to their children—John, Christopher and Katharine—so they can continue the family's legacy of making a difference in Stark County and beyond.

Dr. M. Terrance and Sharon Simon Family Foundation
DONOR ADVISED FUND

Thank you to the following advisors— Rich Craig from 415 Group, Emily Klink from PNC Bank, Brian Layman from Layman Law Group and Eileen Sindelar-Ivan from UBS —for referring their clients to achieve their charitable goals with a fund at Stark Community Foundation this quarter.



Explore our family of donors' stories and their philanthropic passions. Each charitable fund is unique and begins with a passionate donor with a personal story.

Read more at starkcf.org/oft24

SPRING
2025 ISSUE

OUR STAFF

Mark J. Samolczyk
President and CEO

Carrie L. Bast
Vice President and CFO

Amy B. Krebs
Vice President of Grants and Community Initiatives

Bridgette L. Neisel
Vice President of Advancement

Ana M. Bendetta
Manager of Office Administration

Stephanie L. Boka
Staff Accountant

Christine M. Cunningham
Finance and Systems Officer

Melissa J. Elsfelder
Donor Relations Associate

Robyn E. Guedel
Grants Administrator

Lori L. Howerton
Senior Program Officer

Dana S. Johnson
Grants Manager and Program Officer

Callie A. Livengood
Director of Marketing and Communications

Natalie A. Mashchak
Marketing Specialist

Casey T. Schandel
Director of Donor Relations

Nicole L. Stelzer
Controller

OUR BOARD

Jeffrey W. Zellers, Chair
Brian S. Belden, Vice Chair
Nancy S. Gessner
Gregory W. Luntz
Tonja J. Marshall
Karen Soehnlen McQueen
Andrea M. Perry
Todd E. Pugh
Gary D. Sirak

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.

Stark Community Foundation
400 Market Avenue North, Suite 200
Canton, Ohio 44702
330-454-3426
info@starkcf.org
www.starkcf.org

Engage with us on social media

© 2025 Stark Community Foundation.
All rights reserved.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Thanks to generous individuals, families and businesses, Stark Community Foundation is one of the area's major sources of college scholarship support.



Students from Stark and Carroll counties can apply for support for the 2025-2026 academic year by completing Stark Community Foundation's General Scholarship Application through our Online Scholarship Portal. This one application will automatically match students to the majority of our scholarship opportunities for which they qualify and suggest others that require additional information.

As part of the application, students will need to provide:

- An electronic **FAFSA Student Aid Report**
- A **school transcript**
- Names and email addresses of **two references** willing to submit a short questionnaire on the student's behalf

The deadline to apply for most of our scholarships is **April 1, 2025**, but some opportunities may differ.

Learn more and apply today at starkcf.org/scholarships

5 TIPS FOR COMPLETING OUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:

1. Don't wait until the last minute

Start working on your essays early and give yourself plenty of time to gather the required information needed for your application.

2. Ask for feedback

Your answers give reviewers a sense of who you are and what you envision for your future – don't let grammar and spelling mistakes distract from your message.

3. Be honest and detailed

Our scholarship application gives you many opportunities to explain your background, your goals and why you need financial assistance. Be sure to expand on your accomplishments, but don't exaggerate them.

4. Follow up with your references

Our Online Scholarship Portal requires that reference questionnaires be submitted by the application deadline in order for your application to be complete. Encourage your references to submit their questionnaires as early as possible.

5. Double-check your answers

Confirm that you answered each question correctly, because depending on your answers, our Online Scholarship Portal will automatically match you with scholarships for which you qualify. Once you submit a scholarship application, you can't make changes.