Toledo’s history centers around Jeep and glass. The Foundation is excited to offer you an incredible opportunity to double your donation to support Toledo’s Overland Solar Initiative – a project using glass solar panels to help revitalize the area around the former Jeep Plant. For more than six decades, the Plant hummed with activity. Surrounding neighborhoods thrived as home to its workforce and their families. But residents who remained in the neighborhood after the plant closed in 2006 faced limited employment opportunities, increasing crime and foreclosures. As a result, today 32% of residents in the surrounding neighborhoods live below the poverty level.

The Overland Solar Initiative represents hope and rebirth for this critical region of the city. Over $2 million in cash and equipment (including glass panels) have been donated to construct a three megawatt solar array to compliment newly opened, light manufacturing plants (including a Dana plant) at the former Jeep site. The solar array will be owned by the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. Dana has agreed to purchase the electricity produced by the solar array to run its Driveline plant, and this revenue will be invested in the area for workforce development, educational programs and blight reduction.

Here are the simple facts:

- The solar array is estimated to generate more than $320,000 in year one. Since the solar panels have been donated, and with an average lifespan of 25 years, this means a potential $8,000,000 infusion for the surrounding neighborhoods; and
- An incredibly philanthropic local couple, Mark and Rose Makulinski, are graciously offering a Challenge Match of up to $500,000 for the Overland Solar Initiative, instantly doubling any contributions to the project.

Toledo needs your support for this project. To make a distribution from your fund to this effort, contact a member of our Philanthropic Services team at 419.241.5049.