

Foundation Matters

Summer 2021

**GTCF Initiative Benefits Early
Childhood Education** *page 6*

Creating a Better Community for Generations to Come.


Greater Toledo
**Community
Foundation**
Strength in Giving. Hope in Action.

OUR MISSION

Greater Toledo Community Foundation — a public, charitable foundation — exists to improve the quality of life in the region by:

- Providing a flexible, informed, effective means for donors to achieve their charitable goals in perpetuity
- Addressing the changing needs of the region through efficient, prudent, high impact grantmaking
- Serving as a source of information about and as a catalyst in shaping the region's response to those needs, and
- Facilitating the work of other grantmaking organizations to achieve effective and efficient grantmaking practices

AFFILIATED COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Affiliated Community Foundations offer emerging and established community foundations in northwest Ohio the ability to build assets and make grants — in their local communities — while taking advantage of Greater Toledo Community Foundation's administrative structure and oversight.

- Bowling Green Community Foundation
- Greater Fostoria Community Foundation
- Henry County Community Foundation
- Ottawa County Community Foundation
- Waterville Community Foundation
- Wyandot County Community Foundation

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Innovation & Excellence Awards Back Cover

Below and on the cover: A Community Funds Initiative grant from Greater Toledo Community Foundation is supporting more efficient business operations for a coalition of small-scale, area child care centers like Toledo Day Nursery, photos from which are featured in this issue.



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Message from the President

K E I T H B U R W E L L

Dear Friends,

Moving forward. No matter what the challenge—an economic downturn, a natural disaster, or a global pandemic—nonprofit organizations have no option but to forge ahead. The hungry need to be fed, the homeless need shelter, the abused need counseling, those struggling with mental illness or physical disabilities need support. During the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, day after day, we saw nonprofits put one foot in front of the other and continue to step forward. Even when retail businesses had to shut their doors, area nonprofits found ways around the challenges.

The ability of the multitude of these organizations in our community to sustain and even grow during the past year is a testament to all of you. Our donors. Whether it's a family foundation, a college scholarship fund or a community-wide initiative involving our area's top leaders and thinkers, you make it possible through your generosity, leadership and tenacious spirit.

We are a community driven by initiative, fortitude and out-of-the-box thinkers. In the Foundation's Annual Report, which you recently received, the stories of area nonprofits—and people—have different names, locations and missions. The connecting thread is you. Thank you for stepping up and stepping forward during one of the most challenging years we all have faced.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Keith Burwell in blue ink, featuring a large 'K' and 'B'.

Keith Burwell
President
Greater Toledo Community Foundation



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Foundation Quick Takes

Foundation Elects 2021 Officers, Welcomes New Trustees

The Greater Toledo Community Foundation Board of Trustees recently elected officers and welcomed three new members.

The elected officers for 2021 are Hussien Shousher, Chair (Retired President, GEM, Inc.); Michael Gibbons, Vice Chair (Mainstreet Ventures, Inc.); Pariss M. Coleman, II, Secretary (The Andersons, Inc.); and Jay Morgan, Treasurer (ReNew).



The following individuals were elected to serve four-year trustee terms beginning in 2021:

▲ **Bina Joe, Ph.D., FAHA, FAPS, ISHF**, Distinguished University Professor



and Chair, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Frederick-Hiss Endowed Professor, The University of Toledo

▲ **Spencer Stone**, Senior Vice President-Wealth



Management, Branch Manager, UBS Financial Services, Inc.

▲ **Brian Valentine**, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, The Andersons, Inc.

BCSN Honors Area Students

► **Hanan Sjah**, a 2021 graduate of Perrysburg High School, was named the Buckeye CableSystem Scholar of the Year. The Buckeye Scholar of the Year program is administered by Greater Toledo Community Foundation and recognizes select college bound seniors who will be attending an accredited school of higher education in the United States in the fall of 2021. The Scholar of the Year recipient receives a \$10,000 scholarship over four years.

The following area students were also named Buckeye Scholars throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, and each received a one-time \$1,000 scholarship:

Tyler Campbell • Toledo Christian Schools

Coinne Gao • Penta Career Center / Maumee

Ethan Gartee • Bedford High School

George Hajjar • Sylvania Northview High School



Amaia Ham • Toledo Early College

Sarah Higginbotham • Sylvania Southview High School

Joey Hoppenjans • St. John's Jesuit High School

Foundation Welcomes New Employees

Greater Toledo Community Foundation recently welcomed the following new employees:



◀ **Mike Greer,**
Vice President,
Philanthropic Services
& Advancement

Mike was most recently the Senior Director of Annual and Major Giving at Notre Dame University of Maryland, a Sisters of Notre Dame sponsored university in Baltimore. He

also served as Director of Development for the Clarion University Foundation and Director of Development for the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences at Campbell University. Mike has over 17 years of experience in development and nonprofit advancement, with an emphasis in fundraising.

“We are fortunate to have someone with Mike’s fundraising background and experience to lead the Philanthropic Services team for our organization,” stated Ken Elkins, chief operations officer and VP, Special Projects. “Mike brings with him a commitment to the community and causes we serve. I have no doubt that under Mike’s leadership, GTCF will continue to grow.”



◀ **Cassandra Arnold,**
Scholarship Officer

Cassandra was most recently Recruitment Manager and a Lead Teacher at Educate Academy Child Development Center. She received a Bachelor of Arts in History from The University of Toledo.

“The Foundation is very excited to welcome Cassandra to the Program Department team,” said Patrick Johnston, vice president, Community Investments. “Her background and experience promise to greatly benefit our work, as well as the entire community.”



The Foundation also welcomes

◀ **Madeline Sterling,**
Program Associate.

Madeline joined Greater Toledo Community Foundation in April and is assisting the Program Department with grant monitoring and impact analysis.

Two interns also joined the GTCF staff this summer: **Matthew Felch** is working in the Finance Department to help transition historical records to electronic documents, and **Brianna (Bri) Ortiz**, Marketing Intern, is managing social media efforts and website maintenance of both GTCF and The Center for Nonprofit Resources.

Connect with Us on Social Media

For the latest news about our northwest Ohio community and current grant opportunities through social media, be sure to “follow” and “like” Greater Toledo Community Foundation on Facebook and join us on LinkedIn. As always, we welcome your comments and questions.

Also visit us on the web at toledocf.org. You’ll find important information about upcoming grants, creating a fund, making an online donation and more.



Foundation *Quick Takes*

Wyandot County Community Foundation Celebrates 20th Anniversary

While its population may be small (22,000 people), Wyandot County has proven itself to be a giant in community support. As the Wyandot County Community Foundation (WCCF) celebrates its 20-year anniversary, the all-volunteer organization has much to be proud of.

Since its inception in January 2001 as an affiliated community foundation of Greater Toledo Community Foundation (GTCF), WCCF has

distributed over \$2.5 million and grown to 22 funds, including Donor Designated Funds, Scholarships, Endowment Funds and its Community Fund, according to Jean Gottfried, current Board President.

With a mission to enrich the quality of life for individuals and families of Wyandot County, Ohio, their ability to build assets and make grants in their local community is supported by GTCF's administrative structure and oversight. In 2020 alone,

WCCF awarded a grant to Health Services of Wyandot County to purchase bereavement support materials for their Hospice Grief Recovery Programs, a technology grant to the Dorcus Carey Public Library and a COVID Response grant was awarded to Steps Christian Preschool, among others.

Please join us in wishing the Wyandot County Community Foundation many more decades of great service!

Online Portal Facilitates Donor Giving

The online donor portal for Greater Toledo Community Foundation fundholders has been operational since the beginning of 2020. Since the enhanced system was installed, more than 275 fundholders have used the donor portal and the feedback we've received has all been

positive. We continue to provide enhanced functionality to the donor portal, and recently announced that fund statements are now accessible online through the donor portal.

If you have not yet created a portal account, please contact Jesse Stock or Laura Sams to set up your account.

Email Jesse@toledocf.org or Laura@toledocf.org. They can also assist with issues logging in to an existing account.

Did You Receive the Foundation's Annual Report?

"A Time to Give," Greater Toledo Community Foundation's Annual Report, was mailed in early July. If you did not receive a copy or would like an additional copy, please contact Laura Sams, administrative assistant, at 419.241.5049 or Laura@toledocf.org.



A Fond Farewell

- Bridget Brell Holt, whose career at Greater Toledo Community Foundation spanned 27 years, recently retired as the Foundation's Philanthropic Services Officer. Bridget played an important and significant role in the growth and

success of the Foundation. We will miss Bridget and her enthusiasm and commitment to donors and the community. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.



Dear Friends,

Nearly 27 years ago I started as a part-time Program Officer at the Foundation. My son was nine - now my oldest grandchild is nine! When I began my career, I had a general idea of what the Foundation did as Pam Howell-Beach, the then Foundation President, had served on an advisory board for a local women's organization during the time I was President of the organization. As the years went by and the Foundation grew and became better known, I realized all that the Foundation did, does and can do for the community and I was even more impressed. I still learn new things about the Foundation's capabilities every day!

I have been lucky enough to spend an entire "generation" working in various capacities for one of the premier organizations in the community. Through the many job titles and responsibilities over the years, I have absolutely loved my career at the Foundation. It has been interesting, rewarding, fulfilling and always very busy! I have been so very privileged to become acquainted with so many smart, generous, caring, dedicated and awesome people — donors, fundholders and their families, including those of our six affiliated community foundations; fellow Foundation colleagues; Foundation Board members; professional advisors and local nonprofit staff. I hope I have helped bring some comfort to individuals and family members who were grieving when they established a fund in the name of a deceased loved one and joy to those who created a fund to allow their favorite charitable organization to start a new program, build a new building, hire new staff or just allow the organization to continue its special and important purpose in the community. It has been a rewarding career!

My sincere appreciation to those of you who have called or emailed me or sent a note regarding my retirement – your kind words mean so much to me!

Fondly,

Bridget

Shared Services Alliance Poised to Yield Long-Term Benefits to Early Childhood Education

The Community Funds Initiative grant, which supports programs in education, health, access and nonprofit capacity building, was awarded to HOPE Toledo Services. HOPE Toledo will serve as the host for the Shared Services Alliance, leading and organizing it, and the Toledo Early Learning Coalition (TELC) and YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral will act as hubs to provide services to alliance members. The alliance is designed to help early childhood education centers function more efficiently by



A new “Shared Services” initiative, supported by a three-year \$600,000 grant from Greater Toledo Community Foundation’s Community Funds Initiative Grants Program, will help early childhood education centers provide high quality, sustainable programs for area children.

decentralizing business operations that often impede them from their primary purpose—providing the best early childhood education programs possible. Through a membership model, the Shared Services Alliance will provide resources such as book-keeping, fiscal oversight, enrollment management and human resources support to member centers.

“Community-wide Pre-K and shared services models serve as strong capacity building tools for nonprofits,” said Patrick Johnston, Greater Toledo Community Foundation’s vice president of Community Investments.

“A shared services model will allow us to pour dollars back into early childcare centers and their programs through the increased efficiencies the model provides,” said Rev. John Jones, HOPE Toledo’s President. “We want to provide Toledo youth with an inclusive cradle-to-career education initiative. That begins with a strong start in education that provides them with a path to successful post-secondary education. In the long run, that will mean generational economic change through a stronger workforce.”

Both Shared Services Alliance hubs, the TELC and YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral, already provide back office and administrative support to early learning centers, allowing them to increase their administrative capacity.

“All of the agencies in our network are considered small community-based centers that are either highly rated or are on a course to obtain a 4 or 5-star Step Up To Quality rating,” said Marcus Goodwin, TELC Founder and Executive Director. “This initiative is a way to ensure that community organizations are aligned and working in a strategic way, ensuring that we are not duplicating services but working in a collaborative manner which is the best way to ensure that community resources are leveraged for the greatest impact.”

“The YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral enables early childhood education (ECE) providers to establish systems which confirm fiscal and administrative tasks are performed effectively and efficiently,” adds Suzanne Gall, Director of the Y’s Child Care Resource and Referral. “In our shared services structure, multiple ECE sites form a network that pools resources including an automated tuition billing system, child development screening and assessments automation, and shared staffing through a substitute pool/



“We want to provide Toledo youth with an inclusive cradle-to-career education initiative.”

—Rev. John Jones, HOPE Toledo President

workforce development pipeline. All these services reduce the workload of the Program Administrators, so that they can focus on leading and coaching high quality best practices in the classrooms. This all adds up to improved outcomes for our children, particularly those for whom quality preschool can narrow the achievement gap.”

The Shared Services Alliance will use several technology platforms to enhance efficiencies, including ProCare, which follows a child and family from pre-enrollment through enrollment and attendance in one electronic system. Other platforms include QuickBooks, Ages and Stages and Child Care Staffing Solutions.

John said program evaluation will be ongoing, with an emphasis on reviewing the effectiveness of

financial strategies such as the “Iron Triangle” approach to early childhood financial management.

“Our mindset should always be to look outside the box, analyze the trends, and drive our community toward an early education model that yields untold benefits for years to come,” said John.

The new Shared Services Alliance is part of a community-wide initiative to create publicly funded Pre-K for Lucas County. HOPE Toledo was created in 2020 to lead the region’s Pre-K activities. Currently, HOPE Toledo is implementing a Pre-K demonstration concept that includes 250 four-year old children enrolled in classrooms at high-quality Toledo centers.

Field of Interest and Unrestricted Funds Increase the Power of Giving

The financial support of area nonprofits that assist with foster care, adoption, aging out of the foster care system, and housing for emancipated youth in northwest Ohio is a great example of the power of unrestricted and field of interest funds.

The Adopt America Network, which locates permanent housing for children in foster care, is one of several area nonprofits that have benefited from these types of funds through the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. In 2018, Adopt America finalized 46 placements, completed nearly 2,000 referrals, identified 32 new prospect families and registered 193 new children.

Wendy Spoerl, executive director of Adopt America Network said “The \$70,100 grant we received from the Foundation’s Community Funds is being put to great use for our Ongoing Adoption and Kinship Support program (OAKS).”

“The OAKS program provides ongoing family preservation services for families who have adopted a child,” she says. “It’s so important to help these families build resilience. We want the children to heal and the families to thrive.”

The Foundation’s financial support of the OAKS program helps Adopt America provide support groups, including child and family mentors, home-based education and coaching, resource and referral services and home-based therapy.

“Many children who are adopted have suffered trauma which affects their ability to attach and interact,” said Wendy. “Giving families support systems and guidance in how to navigate this process is essential. Adopt America strives for permanency in our placements. The OAKS program is so beneficial for families united through adoption, kinship, custodial arrangements and guardianship.”

Adopt America also received funding from two field of interest funds: the Bill Rowles Youth Foundation Fund and the Katherine R. Smith Funds for Youth of the Waterville Community Foundation for its Love and Luggage program. The Rowles Fund supports programs that enhance the lives of young people under the age of 21, particularly youth with behavioral issues, who have had contact with the juvenile justice system or have been expelled or suspended from school. The Katherine R. Smith Fund supports programs that enhance the lives of young people under the age of 18, particularly children with developmental disabilities or abused children.

The Love and Luggage program provides youth who age out of the foster system with items they need for independent living. The program is offered in conjunction with Lucas County Children Services and provides youth who have lived most of their



Love and Luggage Program of Adopt America

lives in foster care and have little to no belongings with a duffel bag with hygiene items and gift cards for home furnishings.

“Youth who emancipate from the foster system may be entering college, working or starting an apprenticeship,” said Wendy. “There are often children who emancipate without a high school education which makes starting an adult life very challenging.”

The Love and Luggage program not only provides these youth with a duffel bag and gift cards, it also launches a supportive relationship with mentors who continue to meet with the youth and provide additional guidance and support. The program is the brainchild of Sarah Otis, whose family adopted

a daughter through Lucas County Children Services. Sarah learned that many children from foster care carry their belongings from place to place in a garbage bag.

Lucas Housing Services Corporation (LHSC) also received funding related to foster care and emancipated youth that addresses a gap in services for young adults at risk of being homeless through the Stranahan Supporting Organization of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. LHSC was awarded a \$31,000 grant for the Bridge to Independence and Success Housing Program, a short-term housing and wrap-around services program for emancipated youth who have had contact with the Lucas County Juvenile Justice Center.

The program is a collaboration between LHSC, Lucas County Juvenile Court and the Ohio Teaching Families Association. The Bridge to Independence program provides six months of housing and supportive services to three individuals at a time. The goal is to prepare young adults who are exiting the juvenile justice or foster care systems to obtain permanent housing and live independently.

Many children from foster care carry their belongings from place to place in a garbage bag.

Youth who age out of the foster care system and want to attend college get a helping hand through the Sluhan Family Scholarship Fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. As well, the James Halapleus Fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation, a field of interest fund established in 1981, was created to benefit orphan children in Lucas and Wood Counties.

These are just a few examples of the impact of field of interest and unrestricted funds. Many of our donors share similar interests and choose to support a particular community need. If you would like more information on establishing such a fund, please contact Mike Greer, vice president, Philanthropic Services & Advancement, at 419.241.5049 or Mike.Greer@toledocf.org.



Why give?

Explore with us the many benefits of managing your charitable giving with a Greater Toledo Community Foundation fund.

Choosing to Make a Difference

Lanny Milligan and his late partner, Gary Pfothner, were not known for an opulent lifestyle or million-dollar careers. They were known, however, and continue to be known by many through their legacy funds for their heartfelt giving. Lanny, who has dealt with cerebral palsy throughout his childhood and adult life, and Gary, who was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) later in life, never let challenges restrict their pure enjoyment of life.

Through careful saving and investments, Lanny, with Gary's blessing before he passed, has created five legacy funds through the Greater

designated fund. The other four legacy funds are post-secondary scholarship funds for graduating seniors from four northwest Ohio high schools. The scholarship funds focus on agriculture (a nod to Lanny's upbringing on the family's 80-acre farm in Rising Sun), vocational careers and sports.

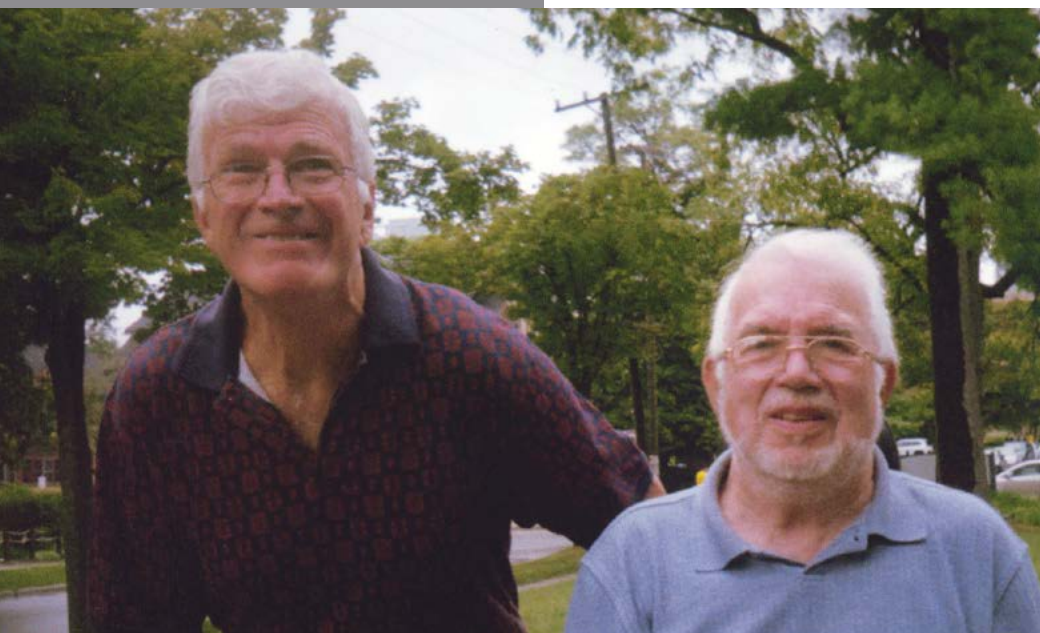
"Children are the future of our country," said Lanny. "Gary and I couldn't think of a better way to support the future than by creating funds for education. Although we didn't have children, we wanted to help to fund the education of area students."

"Each person has to decide what they will do with their finances, and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation has been wonderful to work with," said Lanny. Bridget Brell Holt, who recently retired as Philanthropic Services Officer from the Foundation, was Lanny's primary resource at the Foundation for establishing and advising on the funds he created.

"The Foundation does exactly what their name says—they work for the betterment of the community," said Lanny.

"Gary and I never dreamed that we would be able to create these funds," said Lanny, who retired 17 years ago after a 37-year career at Brush Wellman Co. (now called Materion). "We went to work each day, continued to put a little aside, and as the years went by, we were amazed at what we were able to save."

"We made sure we enjoyed life and did everything that we wanted to



▲ Lanny Milligan (left) and Gary Pfothner

Toledo Community Foundation. One of the funds is a designated fund, which will support 11 northwest Ohio nonprofits in perpetuity, allowing them to receive an annual stream of income to be used for general support or for the specific purpose Lanny identified through the agreement that created the

do,” said Lanny, who, along with Gary, loved polka festivals and polka dancing, going to casinos and enjoying a good meal. “We didn’t deny ourselves things, but by saving throughout our lives, we found we could give back to the community.”

Lanny and Gary, who had a lengthy career as a registered nurse at Flower Hospital, discussed at length the kinds of funds they wanted to establish before Gary’s passing in 2020.

At Gary’s passing, Lanny created a current designated fund at GTCF called the Gary Pfothenauer Memorial Fund for Lourdes University for nursing students. Lourdes University receives an annual distribution from the fund in perpetuity and determines the number and amount of individual nursing scholarships awarded each academic year.

“Many people think they can’t be philanthropists,” said Mary Sabin, vice president of Institutional Advancement, Lourdes University. “Fortunately, the Greater Toledo Community Foundation and individuals like Lanny do a wonderful job of educating people on how philanthropy is possible.

“The nursing scholarship Lanny created to honor Gary is a great example of how philanthropy can keep the memories of a person we’ve loved alive,” said Mary. GTCF and Lourdes are humbled to work with Lanny on this fund. The Foundation and Lourdes have made a wonderful friend and are happy to help him fulfill his philanthropic goals.

The Many Benefits of Designated and Field of Interest Funds

Designated Funds and Field of Interest Funds may not be top of mind when you are developing your charitable giving and philanthropic goals, but they are extremely valuable tools in certain circumstances and it’s important to be aware of what the terms mean.

A fundholder at GTCF would establish a Field of Interest Fund to meet a personal charitable goal. A Field of Interest Fund allows you to direct funding to specific causes (the environment, arts, youth programs) that you feel strongly about, yet it does not restrict grants to any one particular organization. As the original donor, you select the name of your fund, whether you wish to use your own name (e.g., Samuels Family Fund or Samuels Family Fund for the Arts), maintain anonymity (e.g., Toledo Fund for the Arts), or something else altogether (e.g., Bettering Our World Fund).

A Designated Fund at GTCF is a good choice for the person who knows they want to support a particular charity or charities for multiple years. This is useful so that the distributions can be spread out over time to help with the charity or charities’ cash flow planning, enable the original donor to benefit from a larger charitable tax deduction in the current year when their tax rates are high rather than spreading it out over future years when tax rate projections are lower, or both. The original donor can choose a name for the fund and specify the charities to receive distributions.

Perhaps one of the most compelling reasons to consider establishing a Field of Interest Fund or a Designated Fund is to take advantage of the Qualified Charitable Distribution planning tool. If you own an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you know you are required to take “Required Minimum Distributions” each year beginning at age 72, whether you need or want the income. These distributions often cause an increase in your income taxes.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) permits you to transfer up to \$100,000 from an IRA to a qualified charity instead of taking a Required Minimum Distribution, thereby avoiding the income tax hit. Although the IRS does not permit Qualified Charitable Distributions to Donor Advised Funds, charities eligible to receive Qualified Charitable Distributions do include Designated Funds and Field of Interest Funds at GTCF.

GTCF is unique in that it offers donors the option of creating donor directed pooled funds (DDPFs), which also can accept a QCD. While the Treasury Department no longer allows the creation of DDPFs, those like GTCF who offered them were allowed to keep them.

To learn more about establishing a fund and having greater impact with your philanthropy, please contact Mike Greer, vice president, Philanthropic Services & Advancement, at 419.241.5049 or Mike.Greer@toledocf.org.

Foundation Dollars at Work

Community Funds Grants

Greater Toledo Community Foundation awarded \$1,045,730 from its Community Funds grant programs which include the Initiative, Builder and Impact funds.

Community Funds Initiative Grants Program

A \$600,000 grant (over three years) will allow **HOPE Toledo Services** to partner with Toledo Early Learning Coalition and YWCA of Northwest Ohio to establish a shared services system that will provide resources like bookkeeping, fiscal oversight, enrollment management and human resources support to child care service providers in northwest Ohio through a membership model. HOPE Toledo Services received the grant through the Community Funds Initiative Grants Program, which supports projects in the areas of education, health, access and nonprofit capacity building.

Community Funds Impact Grants Program

Gracehaven was one of six nonprofits who recently received grants totaling \$420,730 from Greater Toledo Community Foundation's Community Funds Impact Grants Program. The program provides seed money for new, innovative programming that addresses unmet community needs. Gracehaven was awarded \$125,000 to support case management services for teen victims of sex trafficking. Gracehaven was founded to care for the growing number of victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. More than 1,000 minors are sexually trafficked in Ohio annually.

Community Funds Impact Grants were also awarded to:

- **Center of Hope Family Services, Inc. – \$55,730**
To expand the ELEVATE program to Sylvania.

- **JumpStart, Inc. – \$50,000**

To support business technical assistance services and network-building for fledgling entrepreneurs and small business owners.

- **Lourdes University – \$65,000**

To support the Fueling a Teacher of Color Pipeline project that will increase the diversity of students enrolled in the University's education program and transition those students into positions with local schools.

- **Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board – \$60,000**

To support the Housing Problem-Solving Project.

- **YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo – \$65,000**

To expand the Safe Routes to School program to Washington Local Schools.

Community Funds Builder Grants Program

The Fair Housing Center was awarded a \$25,000 grant to support the landlord tenant mediation program from the Community Funds Builder Grants Program. The program provides seed money for new, innovative programming that addresses unmet community needs or to support capacity building efforts of existing nonprofit organizations.

Equity & Access Initiative Fund

Two grants were awarded from the Equity & Access Initiative Fund to proactively address concerns raised by communities that are disproportionately impacted by inequity and lack of access in the Greater Toledo area.

Grants were awarded to these nonprofit organizations:

- **Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, Inc. – \$47,850**
To support a pilot leadership track and professional development program in collaboration with Issue



Box Theatre, Toledo Opera and The University of Toledo School of Social Justice.

- **JumpStart, Inc. - \$50,000**

To increase access to capital for minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in collaboration with Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc.

Oswald Supporting Organization

Western Avenue Ministries dba Mosaic Ministries of South Toledo was one of eight nonprofits who were recently awarded grants totaling \$144,058 from the Oswald Supporting Organization of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. Western Avenue Ministries received a \$35,000 grant to support its Summer Reading Skills development program.

The Oswald Supporting Organization was created by the late Joan and Chuck Oswald in 2000 to support projects in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan that enable families to develop skills to nurture each other and to promote the advancement, self-sufficiency and intellectual, social, emotional and cultural growth of woman and children.

Other awardees included:

- **Center of Hope Family Services - \$19,958**

To support the Summer ELEVATE camp tutoring and enrichment program.

- **Girls on the Run of Northwest Ohio - \$9,900**

To support programming at six Toledo Public Schools.

- **Sam Beauford Woodshop - \$5,000**

To support the Summertime Skills program that teaches young people about woodworking and creates pathways to careers in the building trades.

- **Sofia Quintero Art & Cultural Center - \$25,000**

To support the Broadway Urban Garden & Greenspace for Youth (BUGGY) summer employment program.

- **The Ridge Project - \$9,000**

To support the Film Camp project.

- **Toledo Alliance for the Performing Arts - \$15,000**

To support the Community Music Lessons program.

- **TutorSmart - \$25,200**

To support academic tutoring services.

The David C. and Lura M. Lovell Foundation Designated Fund

The stigma associated with mental health disorders continues to create barriers to individuals who want to seek help for mental illness. Thanks to a \$44,076 grant from the David C. and Lura M. Lovell Foundation Designated Fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation, the **Thomas Wernert Center** can take proactive steps to reducing that stigma. The Center will use the grant to hire a communication specialist to implement social media campaigns designed to reduce

stigma towards mental illness and coordinate virtual recovery and support services.

The Thomas Wernert Center was one of five nonprofits who received grants totaling \$145,664 from the Lovell Fund. Grants from the Lovell Fund are made to nonprofit organizations whose programming seeks to reduce the stigma around living with and seeking services for a mental health issue.

Grants were also awarded to:

- **Imagination Station - \$10,088**

To support a STEM-based learning experience for youth receiving services from the Zepf Center designed to develop confidence, resiliency and team building skills.

- **NAMI of Greater Toledo - \$31,000**

To support educational programming and support for families coping with the mental health diagnosis of a family member.

- **NAMI of Greater Toledo - \$10,500**

To support the Kidshop/Teenshop program that helps children and youth with a mental health diagnosis or young people who have a family member with a mental health diagnosis to build self-esteem, develop coping skills, form positive relationships and minimize isolation.

- **Unison Behavioral Health Group - \$50,000**

To support the Housing First program that provides homeless individuals and families with the wrap around supportive services necessary to help them maintain and remain permanently housed.

Katherine R. Smith Funds

A \$7,000 grant from the Katherine R. Smith Funds for Youth will help **Bittersweet Farms** support social programs for teen participants with autism spectrum disorder. Bittersweet Farms was the first farm model for adults with autism in the United States. Bittersweet's setting offers rich, varied and abundant opportunities for self-paced, distraction-free activities that are perceived as immediately meaningful by its participants with autism. Not only are they able to see



the process of their work, they also enjoy the product of their labor which is a positive affirmation of their dignity and worth.

The award was one of seven grants totaling \$41,460 from the Katherine R. Smith Funds for Youth to support programs in northwest Ohio that enhance the lives of young people under the age of 18 with an emphasis on serving children with developmental disabilities or those who have been abused.

Grants were also awarded to:

- **Adopt America Network - \$7,000**

To support the distribution of resources to youth aging out of foster care to ease the transition to independent living.

- **After-School All-Stars Ohio - \$2,500**

To support summer camp experiences at Toledo Metroparks sites.

- **Awake Community Coalition - \$8,000**

To expand a food distribution program to low-income families.

- **Courageous Community Services - \$7,000**

To support camp experiences for youth with developmental disabilities.



- **Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center – \$6,960**
To support the Children’s Advocacy Center.
- **The Ridge Project, Inc. – \$3,000**
To support a youth exercise program at Anthony Wayne YMCA.

Bill Rowles Youth Foundation Fund

A \$2,158 grant to **Serenity Farm Equestrian Center** from the Bill Rowles Youth Foundation Fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation will help support the organization’s equestrian youth riding program.

Serenity Farms provides equine assisted opportunities for healing, growth and learning. The grant was one of seven grants totaling \$19,999.25 from the Bill Rowles Youth Foundation Fund which supports programs in northwest Ohio that enhance the lives of young people under the age of 21.

Grants were also awarded to:

- **Adopt America Network – \$3,000**
To provide hygiene kits for youth emancipated from Lucas County Children Services.
- **After-School All-Stars Ohio – \$3,000**
To cover transportation and supplies for the summer day camp program.
- **Believe Center – \$3,000**
To defray the cost of the summer league registration fees and equipment.
- **Bittersweet Farms – \$3,000**
To support community engagement and social activities for youth with autism spectrum disorder.
- **Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center – \$2,992**
To support the “Stewards of Children” training program to 11 Wood County youth-serving organizations.
- **Mountain Mentors – \$2,849.25**
To support a mentoring program for at-risk teens.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Equity & Access Initiative Fund, Letter of Inquiry	August 21, 2021
Strategic Alliance Partnership	September 15, 2021
Toledo Walleye Hockey Club’s Wishing Well Fund	September 15, 2021
Sisters of St. Francis Foundation Donor Advised Fund	October 15, 2021
First Solar Community Giving Fund – Civic Engagement and Environmental Impact Grants	November 1, 2021
Fund for Islamic Understanding, Education and Dialogue	Ongoing

Watch the grants page for open funding opportunities at toledocf.org/grants-2/.

Foundation Initiatives

*How Greater Toledo
Community Foundation
is shaping philanthropy
and strengthening our
communities*

V Project Helps Educate, Motivate and Vaccinate

As scientists worked around the clock to develop COVID-19 vaccines, Sean Savage, Principal, Savage & Associates, had an idea that he hoped would save lives and help the northwest Ohio community achieve herd immunity. The concept was straightforward: Educate. Motivate. Vaccinate. The V Project quickly became a grassroots community initiative with support from industry, government, healthcare, education, nonprofits and religious communities.

“Greater Toledo Community Foundation has been an outstanding asset in this effort,” said Sean. “We would not have been able to achieve the results we’ve seen without their assistance.” The Foundation has assisted in convening local leaders in the county-wide initiative and holds donations made to the project for disbursement.

Knowing that individuals respond differently to messages about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine, the V Project has used several methods to spread the word about the vaccine, particularly to marginalized communities.

Efforts have included V Days, week-long efforts to take vaccines to the people. The V Project has also hosted walk-in neighborhood clinics, provided free transportation to clinics, and used phone banking and neighborhood canvassing to make residents aware of COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Billboards, radio and TV spots have also helped educate the public about the vaccine.

“We’ve also worked hard to make sure the community is hearing directly from physicians and health care experts about the vaccine,” said Sean. “There is a high level of trust among physicians and patients so it’s important that the vaccine is readily available in places such as physicians’ offices.”

To help reach large groups of people, the V project is helping make the vaccine available at outdoor events such as the Northwest Ohio Rib-Off and the ProMedica Concert series. The Toledo Mud Hen’s mascot, Muddy, is even rolling up his sleeve to get the vaccine at a Mud Hens game.

Sean said the V project will continue until 70% of the community has been vaccinated, which is considered herd immunity.

To learn more about the V Project, visit vproject.org.



The Center *for nonprofit resources*

Training and resources to improve the impact of area nonprofits

Center for Nonprofit Resources Moves to Enhanced Business Model

► The 2021 Minority Executive Leadership Certificate program kicked off in mid-July. High-quality professional development courses and mentorships will provide training and ongoing support systems to this cohort for personal and professional success.

The Center for Nonprofit Resources is a capacity building resource for local nonprofit organizations. If you are involved with a local nonprofit organization, be sure to familiarize yourself with the resources provided at c4npr.org, including the grant resource center, workshops and professional development opportunities, and other resources and tools to help your organization grow in its mission.



Area nonprofit organizations will benefit from an enhanced business model for providing services and training from The Center for Nonprofit Resources. The Center, created in 2002, was initiated by Greater Toledo Community Foundation to support capacity building work among area nonprofits and provide them with information and resources required to operate in an efficient and effective manner.

Since its launch, The Center has provided nonprofits with a myriad of services, including professional development, technical assistance, on-demand resources and community engagement opportunities.

Among the changes resulting from the pivot to a new business model that The Center recently implemented is a hybrid delivery model to accommodate changes in the way individuals wish to receive training and development. “We will continue to identify opportunities to gather nonprofit professionals in a

workshop setting,” said former Director Heather Bradley, “however, that isn’t always a practical or cost-effective delivery method. Listening to our clients, we discovered they want more flexible learning options. During the shutdown due to the pandemic, many clients realized how online or virtual learning created more accessibility to learning opportunities for them.”

In the spring of 2021, an online learning platform was launched to support the technical components of the two Center certificate programs: Minority Executive Leadership and Nonprofit Management. In addition, individuals can select an online course for focused learning from a catalogue of low-cost, high impact training courses developed specifically for nonprofit professionals.

For more information about The Center for Nonprofit Resources and its latest offerings, go to c4npr.org.

Honoring Innovation and Excellence

Plan to join us at the 11th annual Northwest Ohio Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence Awards ceremony and breakfast:

Tuesday, October 28, 2021

The Premier Banquet Hall

4480 Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo, OH

Awards are given to three nonprofit organizations, one in each of the following categories:

- **Nonprofit Innovation Award**
- **Nonprofit Excellence Award – Small Organization** (*Budget under \$500,000*)
- **Nonprofit Excellence Award – Large Organization** (*Budget over \$500,000*)

R.S.V.P. at www.toledocf.org.

The Northwest Ohio Nonprofit Innovation & Excellence Awards are presented by Greater Toledo Community Foundation and The Blade, in partnership with The Center for Nonprofit Resources and The Andersons.

