

# Youngstown Foundation Outlines Its Mission

**CORRECTION:** The MidApril edition of The Business Journal contained incorrect information about the composition of The Youngstown Foundation's board of directors and falsely attributed statements to its executive director. The article that appears on this page was submitted by The Youngstown Foundation to correct the inaccuracies. We apologize and sincerely regret our mistakes.

The mission of The Youngstown Foundation, the fourth oldest community foundation in the country, is to provide financial assistance to charitable 501(c)(3) organizations that promote quality of life for the residents of Youngstown and vicinity.

Close to \$4 million in grants are awarded annually to address community needs and issues encompassing health and human services, education, economic and community development, the environment and arts and culture.

• Central to the stewardship of The Youngstown Foundation and its charitable activities is its volunteer advisory board, the Distribution Committee. Comprised of experienced community leaders, the committee oversees the foundation's administration, establishes policy, sets priorities and makes final grant award decisions. The six members reside in the Youngstown area and are extremely knowledgeable and interested in the civic, educational, physical and moral needs of the community.

The foundation's appointment process ensures that the committee represents a diverse range of views and experience. It consists of two members appointed for 3-year terms from the board of directors of the trustee, one member appointed for a three-year term by the presiding judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern



Among the Youngstown Foundation's community initiatives is the YSTAR Program, which provides last-dollar funding to graduates of the Youngstown City Schools who enroll in Youngstown State University or Eastern Gateway Community College. Starting with the class of 2016, students can earn up to \$3,000. In its first year, 310 students from the freshman class earned their first \$1,000 through the initiative. Among them are Ali Mujahed, Elijah Foose, LaRazla Tolbert and Tate Aclerno. Pictured with them, standing, are Douglas Hiscox, assistant supervisor of Youngstown City Schools, and Jan Strasfeld, executive director of The Youngstown Foundation.

District of Ohio, Eastern Division, and one member appointed annually by the mayor of Youngstown. In even-numbered years, one member is appointed for a one-year term from the Regional Chamber and Youngstown State University. In odd-numbered years, one member is appointed for a one-year term from the Youngstown Business and Professional Women's Association and the Youngstown/Mahoning Valley United Way.

• The Youngstown Foundation's grants reflect the desire to be innovative, inclusive and responsive to the

needs of our community. Comprehensive review and research is conducted by staff for each organization and its specific funding request prior to approval.

Furthermore, The Youngstown Foundation embraces its role as a civic leader, providing much more than financial support to area organizations. Staff reaches out to nonprofits, sharing its expertise and resources with issue such as board development, volunteer recruitment, access to services and strategic planning.

• The Youngstown Foundation

administers over 50 charitable funds established by local donors with a highly personal approach that ensures donors can support the causes and organizations that they care most deeply about. PNC Institutional Investments, as trustee to the Foundation, directs the Foundation's highly rated investments and fund management – pooling the assets into a larger portfolio with diversified investments, ensuring the Foundation will be here to serve the community in perpetuity.

SOURCE: the Youngstown Foundation.