

## **YOUNGSTOWN FOUNDATION 2012 GROWTH REPORT**

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Philanthropy is essential for the well being of any community, and for over ninety years, The Youngstown Foundation has maintained its focus on strengthening the nonprofit sector to ensure the quality of life for our residents. As the Valley continued to face an unsettled economy, The Youngstown Foundation escalated its role through grants and leadership to ensure that our citizens' basic needs were met and to encourage innovative new projects to move our community forward. The generosity and compassion of local donors was again validated in 2011 with over \$3.5 million in donations and new donor funds in support of the Foundation and its mission.

The Youngstown Foundation awarded over \$4.1 million in local grants in 2011, an increase of \$100,000 from 2010. 247 grants were awarded, an increase of 13% from the previous year. The largest grants were \$268,000 to Easter Seals/Youngstown Hearing & Speech Center, \$241,850 for Operation Search and Help, \$100,000 to United Way of Youngstown & Mahoning Valley and \$100,000 to the Wick Park Revitalization Project. The average grant was \$25,000. Smaller grants to such initiatives as swimming lessons for disadvantaged children, urban gardens, neighborhood revitalization and our own local opera company, illustrated how even a little support can make a significant impact. The Crisis Assistance Program continued to award up to \$5,000 in emergency grants to agencies during crisis situations. As a result of the challenging economy, over \$150,000 was awarded to mergers of non-profit organizations such as Easter Seals with Youngstown Hearing & Speech Center, and Burdman Group with Family Service Agency as well as to several established local agencies as they assumed services for agencies forced to close their doors. This trend is expected to continue in 2012, but with more collaborations, the outlook for growth and long term sustainability is promising.

In 2011, The Youngstown Foundation expanded its community leadership role addressing such issues as education, financial independence, domestic violence, universal design, respite care, workforce development and sustainability of non-profit organizations. In the coming year, our advocacy role will intensify as we get behind the issues that we support financially and use our leverage to help find long term solutions.

2012 has already seen the launch of The Youngstown Foundation's newly designed website at [www.youngstownfoundation.org](http://www.youngstownfoundation.org). The site provides detailed information and tools for grant seekers, donors and professional advisors. Unique to the site is the opportunity to donate online to the Foundation as well as to over eighty local charities through the Foundation's Support Fund. Donors are saved the time of responding to the volumes of charitable solicitations that they receive and are assured that The Foundation has researched and approved these agencies for benevolent giving. Agencies benefit from the Support Fund as the Foundation can provide a 5% add-on to donations made through

this Fund. The Foundation reports a 15% increase in Support Fund donations in 2011 and projects significant growth in 2012 as a result of the new online giving.

After 20 years at our current location, we will be moving our offices. The Foundation will remain in downtown Youngstown with free parking, total accessibility and larger space for meetings and events.

The Foundation's volunteer leadership team, the 2012 Distribution Committee, includes George Berlin, Chair; Jude Nohra, Vice Chair; Dr. Cynthia Anderson, Eugenia Atkinson, John MacIntosh, Jr. and Jeff Simon.

The Youngstown Foundation is the largest community foundation in the region with assets of over \$85 million. It is the fourth oldest in the nation and ranks among the top eight in Ohio. Since it was established in 1918, more than \$90 million has been given back to the community.

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