

Youngstown Foundation 2018 Growth Report

If the past is a prologue for the future, then the Youngstown Foundation is poised to make an even greater impact in 2018 and beyond as the organization gifted a total of more than \$7.7M to the community in 2017. This brings donations throughout its history to over \$100 million in 100 years.

And as the Foundation prepares to mark its 100th year in 2018, the organization is continuing its commitment to support the people, projects and nonprofits that are making this Valley an even better place to call home.

The largest grants in 2017 included a \$3 million gift to the City of Youngstown toward the construction of the Amphitheater project, which will be named The Youngstown Foundation Amphitheater. The gift is not only the largest gift, but also the first gift to the project, giving the Foundation naming rights to the outdoor venue for 20 years and recognition as a founding sponsor in perpetuity.

“We’re always looking to support those who are making a difference in our community. And the Amphitheater project is a key initiative that is going to have a tremendous impact on the quality of life for residents of Youngstown and its surrounding communities for years to come. We’re honored that this new project will bear our Foundation’s name,” Jan Strasfeld, Executive Director of the Youngstown Foundation, said.

This multi-million dollar gift to the City capped off a year of significant grant awards. Among the largest were \$500,000 to Potential Development, \$175,000 to the Operation Search & Help Program, \$85,000 to The YMCA of Youngstown and \$60,000.00 to Compass Community Services. These gifts represent just a few of the over 400 grants awarded in 2017 from the various Youngstown Foundation funds including the unrestricted, donor advised, restricted, Hine Memorial and special interest funds. The Foundation currently administers more than 60 local funds that make distributions to area organizations and agencies encompassing the arts, education, social services, economic development, healthcare and the environment.

Founded in 1918 by a group of prominent industrial leaders with just an initial gift of \$33,000, the Youngstown Foundation has grown into the largest community foundation in the region and is recognized by Cranes as being among the top 10 grant makers in NE Ohio.

2017 saw growth in contributions made through the Support Fund which assists donors to maximize their charitable giving to their favorite not for profits. The Support Fund is a unique program that provides “approved local charities” the opportunity to receive an additional 5% grant for qualified contributions for their organization. In 2017, donations made to the Support Fund resulted in the distribution of more than \$1.3M to 77 agencies throughout the Valley.

“The Support Fund plays a vital role in helping area agencies increase their funding with the 5% add on. It also helps individual donors make an even greater impact on the organizations they choose to support. It’s all part of how everyone can truly be a philanthropist,” Strasfeld said.

The Youngstown Foundation plans to mark the anniversary year with a series of announcements which showcase the impact philanthropy has in our community. What began with the \$3 million Amphitheater gift will continue throughout 2018.

“We’re honored the community has continued its support of the Youngstown Foundation for the last 100 years and we want 2018 to be a year where we can truly show our appreciation,” Strasfeld added.

To learn more about the Youngstown Foundation, online donations or information about new funds, visit youngstownfoundation.org.