

June 2023

Celebrating and Stepping Up!

Joe French continues to leave a lasting legacy for the youth of Alliance

A dedicated community servant for decades, Joe French has a mission to make a difference. If his lengthy résumé in education and mental health was not enough evidence of that, his new charitable fund through GAF would absolutely take the cake.

Joe's impact on Alliance has been visible for nearly two decades through his time as the former executive director of the Early Childhood Education Alliance and the current chief executive officer of Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health. His important work has helped a wide array of families in the community, but he wanted

to extend that dedication in a philanthropic way.

"I knew I wanted to give back and leave a legacy for future generations," he said. "Starting the charitable fund with the Greater Alliance Foundation is one small way to give back today and make a difference tomorrow."

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Joe French,
CEO of Child
and Adolescent
Behavioral
Health



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Being a leader in the community is something Joe believes is “an honor and a privilege.” While the organizations he has led have received more than \$8 million in grants during his career, Joe himself is not eating caviar for breakfast. Nonetheless, he still wanted to give back.

That is why Joe chose to create a step-up fund through GAF. Step-up funds begin with a modest amount and grow larger over time as additional contributions are added. These funds are the perfect way for individuals of any age, status, or background to begin a legacy of contributing to causes that align with their passions.

Plus, in lieu of gifts each year for his birthday, Joe requests that anyone who wishes to get him a gift can simply donate to his charitable fund, making an easy way to involve his friends and family while seeing the fund prosper.

“This is about giving back to a community that has supported me; a community that recognizes the importance of early childhood education and care, and the importance of caring about our youngest citizens,” Joe said. “It’s an honor to have a fund at the Greater Alliance Foundation that can have an impact on our future.”



Child & Adolescent
Behavioral Health

Pictured with Joe are Lucy, Jonah and Lydia Peters in the newly remodeled children's area at the Rodman Public Library.



Foundations & Nonprofits Teaming Up To Make a Difference

Dear Friends,

In looking back on the past few months since our Annual Report, we have been busy. Much of our activity has been focused around The Commons which has been exciting. I am sure you will agree as you read the accompanying article that The Commons will have a tremendous positive impact on our residents living near downtown. But before you read more details about The Commons and other great stories inside this edition, I would like to throw out some bouquets to the people that have made The Commons a reality.

First, a big thank you to the Stark Community Foundation for initiating a planning grant of \$14,000 focused on assessing the needs in Alliance related to alleviating childhood poverty.

Second, thank you to Mount Union's Abby Schroeder and Dr. Kristine Still for developing a plan through the University's Ralph and Mary Regula Center for Public Service to utilize the former Neighborhood Center to bring nonprofit services and opportunities to our Alliance residents.

Thank you to the Alliance Community Health Foundation, the Stark Community Foundation, and our Greater Alli-

ance Foundation trustees for providing grants to implement programs that will help strengthen families physically, emotionally, and financially. The grants made by these organizations total more than \$500,000 and have made The Commons a reality.

Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped to prepare the building. I

am especially grateful for the tremendous support of Mount Union students and to one student in particular, Leah Kadlecsek, our very own Mount Union intern whose work ethic and personality are infectious.

Finally, a big thank you to Joe French for joining the foundation's Family of Funds. Joe is one of my favorite people; he was hired as the first director of the Early Childhood

Education Alliance and remains committed to our community.

Yes, in Alliance we have a great deal for which to be thankful as we continue to work together in building a better community.

For Good, For Alliance, Forever!



*Douglas R. Schwarz,
Executive Director*

GAF Helping Area Nonprofits

From understanding poverty to securing funding

From March-May, GAF and the University of Mount Union's Regula Center for Public Service partnered on a series of nonprofit workshops to benefit leaders and volunteers with area nonprofit organizations and small businesses in the community. Programming for the series covered an array of topics and was held at various locations across Alliance.

"Making the Most of Your Team" kicked off the series at Robertson Heating Supply. Guest facilitator Joel Kessel discussed ways in which organizational leaders could maximize their boards and team members.

A poverty simulation held on Mount Union's campus was the second event in the series, hosted by the University's School of Education. The event gave individuals the chance to better understand what those living in poverty experience.

"Volunteer Engagement, Marketing, and Event Planning" was also held at Alliance Country Club and featured a hands-on session on ways to promote an organization to gain volunteers and plan successful events.

The series concluded in May with "Understanding Financials, Finding Funding and Securing Grants" led by GAF's Marcie Curry at the Alliance Country



Maureen Ater, VP of Marketing and Development at Good Will Industries.



Students from Mount Union participated in a poverty simulation, learning about ways to offer aid to those who need it.

Club. This was an in-depth look at ways to review financial statements, build a donor pool, and secure grant funding for an organization.

This successful series will continue in the future supporting the personnel of our nonprofit community.

Working Toward A “Commons” Good

Nonprofits team up and bring new purpose to a community landmark

So much about what makes Alliance a great place to live and work comes from the collaboration among our friends and neighbors. One of the best recent examples of this ideal in action is the opening of The Alliance Commons, located in the former Neighborhood Center, resulting from a partnership between the University of Mount Union, GAF, and several other agencies.

To address pressing needs within the community, the goal of The Commons is to offer an array of services and programming for those seeking support. With transportation often an issue for some, the opportunity to provide these amenities to community members all under one roof cannot be understated. “Under One Roof” was the impetus for the original Neighborhood Center 25 years ago, and the Commons will provide critical services at this facility as envisioned by earlier community leaders.

Once GAF secured a 99-year lease on the former Neighborhood Center, it was made possible for five local agencies to begin utilizing space of their own within the building. Those agencies include Mount Union, Men’s Challenge, Stark Fresh, the YWCA Career and Fashion Boutique. Sports Outreach has yet to begin work in the space but hopes to offer physical activities and classes for youth and adults soon.

“Having financial and in-kind support from across Stark County and beyond as well as building a network of more than 40 local agencies has allowed us to get this far and we will grow from here,” said Abby Schroeder, director of Mount Union’s Regula Center. “This project has been a true collaboration and I am eager to see what the future holds.”

Alongside the efforts of these local nonprofits, GAF also remains diligent to secure more funding for the facility with utilities, maintenance, and future partnerships in mind. Learn more about the organizations working toward a thriving Alliance Commons in the pages that follow.

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*Abby Schroeder,
director of Mount
Union's Regula
Center*



*Leah Kadlecsek, GAF
intern, has been active in
coordinating volunteers,
collecting donations,
and offering tours at the
Commons.*

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From securing a job to putting food on the table, these local agencies have already begun a foundation of success as The Commons hits the ground running.

YWCA Closet

**eliminating racism
empowering women**
ywca

Affordable clothing may not be granted a passing thought to some, yet it can be an issue for many in the community. Even if individuals have access to day-to-day clothing, some might not have the professional clothing needed to find success in a job interview setting. The Alliance YWCA Career and Fashion Boutique hopes

to alleviate those worries for anyone in the community.

Already up and running in The Commons, the Boutique features clothing for men and women of all ages and sizes. Offering items from casual to professional, nothing in the Boutique is more than \$2, providing accessible clothing to all.

Mount Union



The University of Mount Union has been a valued partner in the inception of the revamped Commons. Along with student volunteers from its Regula Center for Public Service and Civic Engagement helping make the space ready for functional use, the University has been integral in working with GAF to secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding to kickstart The Commons.

Mount Union will also begin offering community-based health programs, adult training, literacy outreach, and youth enrichment programming facilitated by its expert faculty and staff. Students from the University will also lead some community programming, providing an opportunity for many to both share their knowledge and gain hands-on experience in leading these efforts.



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Men's Challenge



Beginning in 2012, Men's Challenge is a faith-based organization that helps men and women rebuild their lives. As some of those individuals face the perception of being unemployable, the organization provides mentor-

ing, coaching, and skill training to help overcome barriers to securing a career.

Utilizing a spot in The Commons, Men's Challenge offers its programming in an accessible space, while also having case managers available to assist clients, helping them break through in the competitive job market.

Stark Fresh



Affordable, nutrient-rich food options can be hard to come by at a time when cheap, convenient fast-food options are most accessible to the schedules and budgets of many. Stark Fresh is bringing a full-service grocery store into The Commons by this fall to serve residents in the area.

The area surrounding Alliance is considered a "food desert," which means that 100 or more households are a half-mile or more from a supermarket with limited available transportation options. Continuing the idea of The Commons being a "one-stop shop" for many, Stark Fresh will provide healthy grocery options at an affordable price, including a 50% discount on fresh produce for SNAP or EBT consumers.



The 2023 Scholarship Recipients

Making a difference for Alliance area students

Carlile Scholarships

For nearly two decades, thanks to the generosity of its namesakes, The Lloyd and June Carlile Scholarship has awarded more than \$280,000 to 52 high school graduates to promote the importance of a college education. The Carlile Scholarship is a renewable award with a total value of \$4,000 to this year's recipients.

The 2023 recipients are Tyler Kunz and Ava Collins. Kunz will be attending Waynesburg University and Collins plans to attend Cleveland State University.

Hometown Heroes Scholarship

This scholarship was established for seniors of a veteran or active-duty parent or guardian residing in and graduating from Alliance, Marlington, Sebring, or West Branch, or St. Thomas Aquinas School Districts. The scholarship is valued at \$1,000.

The 2023 scholarship recipient is Valerie Stroup, who will be attending Mount Union.

Athena Scholarship

The Athena Scholarship Award is given annually to a female high school senior from the greater Alliance area who demonstrates leadership and academic achievement and participates in community service. Each scholarship is valued at \$1,000.

The 2023 award has two recipients: Rylee Horning and Allyson Hartzell. Horning is currently deciding between Cedarville University and the University of Mount Union, while Hartzell will be attending Hiram College.

Carnation City Players Scholarships

The Carnation City Players Scholarship is for high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education who will study theater arts and/or plan future involvement with community theater.

Receiving the CCP Scholarships for 2023 are Zachary Kinser and Rylee Horning. Kinser plans to attend Walsh University. Each scholarship is valued at \$600.

Pictured here are scholarship recipients Valerie Stroup, Tyler Kunz & Ava Collins.



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Support What Matters to You!

GAF can help you reach your philanthropic goals while reducing your taxable income

Giving to a charitable cause is always a wonderful expression of a person's empathy for others. Being able to do this while saving tax dollars, makes this even more attractive. Marcie Curry, Chief Financial Officer with the GAF, offers a few ways you can give charitable dollars and realize these tax savings.



Marcie Curry, CPA

Avoiding capital gains tax – By donating long-term appreciated securities directly to a charity, you receive a charitable deduction of the FMV of the asset and avoid capital gain tax.

Bunching – Group your donations for multiple years into a single year. This way you can itemize your tax deduction in the year of bunching and take the standard deduction in other years. By donating to a donor-advised fund, gifts can still be made each year to charities you recommend.

QCD from your IRA – Gift your IRA required minimum distribution directly to a charity. The amount of distribu-

tion gifted is not included in taxable income and produces more tax savings than taking the money from the IRA and making a charitable contribution.

These are only a few of the ways in which giving to an important cause can benefit you while lifting our community. If you would like to learn more, reach out to us to develop the strategies which will work best for you and your family.

Get in touch, stay in touch!

To speak in-person call: **330-823-8560**

You can drop us an email: info@greateralliancefoundation.org

For more information visit: GreaterAllianceFoundation.org.



We're Now On Facebook! Like Us! Follow Us! Share Us!

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We welcome visits by appointment at:

Key Bank Building Suite 220

960 West State St., Alliance, Ohio 44601



Board Designated Grants

From October 1, 2023 through April 20, 2023

Alliance Family Health Center	66,000
Alliance Family YMCA	4,000
Alliance Friends of the Parks	42,310
Alliance Police K-9	480
Beech Creek Gardens	30,500
Early Childhood Education Alliance	50,291
One Book One Community	5,318
Rodman Public Library	2,418
Stuckey Family Interfaith CDC	27,129
University of Mount Union through Alliance Community Health Center FBO The Commons	310,000

	\$538,446



Fund Donors

Through April of 2023

Alliance Historical Society Together Fund (\$8,133)

Elvin Barnett
Thomas and Vanessa Botzman
Bruce and Linda Fergason
William Markley and Susan Reany
John Gross
Andy and Susan Grove
Phillip Mastroianni
Charles and Martha McClaugherty
Chad and Heidi McClung
Chuck Onaitis
Ronald Ross
Stephen and Patricia Stone
Edward Williams

Alliance YWCA Together Fund (\$5,415)

Alan and Sharon Andreani
Rick and Chrissy Baxter
Rick and Carol Bourne
Susan Bowman
Cassaday Turkle Christian Funeral Home
Dorothy Davis
Susan Denning
Tony and Sherrie diDonato
Terry and Melissa Gardner
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John Gross
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Jim and Karen Perone
Larry and Connie Pyers
Abby Honaker Schroeder

Herb Spear and Leigh Mainwaring
Kathy Stroia
Edwin and Gretchen Wearstler
David and Ruth Williams
Cindy Winner

Beech Creek Botanical Gardens Together Fund (\$4,150)

Anonymous
James and Martha Brundeleit
Melinda Carmichael
Roger and Rose Converse
John and Carmen Dempsey
William and Penelope Downs
Mark and Kim Eells
Daniel and Barb Ellington
Will and Ramona Evans
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John and Sandy McLachlan
Jim and Bertha Nero
Tim and Cheryl O'Connor
Cheryl Paine
Lance Reed
Charles and Virginia West

We express our sincere thanks to those who have demonstrated their generosity by giving to the Together Funds. Because of YOU, GAF continues to make a difference throughout the Alliance area.

Pumping Up the Community!

GAF helps bring Stark County's first BMX bike pump track to the Alliance Skate Park

Alliance is about to get a little more extreme – in a good way. The first pump track for BMX bike riders and roller skaters in Stark County is nearing completion, bringing a new location for exciting recreational activities to the city.

The park is located next to the Sean Scott Memorial Rotary Skate Park and will feature a system of rollers and banks for enthusiasts to utilize. There will be two tracks to service novice and advanced riders, getting anyone in the community interested in the sport in-

involved. Contractor PumpTrax USA has already designed and built a similar venue in Sandusky that saw instant success.

Kim Cox, director of the Alliance Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, stated that this notable project is scheduled to be open in June alongside a grand-opening BMX Jam with details to come. So, whether on a bike or just spectating, get ready for some extreme fun this summer in the Carnation city.

"I'm so appreciative and thankful for all the support on this collaborative project," Cox said. "This is an incredibly exciting development for the community, setting us apart from so many others in the area. This provides a great outlet and destination for all ages to enjoy the sport and the great outdoors."

Kim Cox



Area youth of all ages use the skate park and are "pumped" for the addition of the pump park!

