

Greater
ALLIANCE
 FOUNDATION
 FOR GOOD, FOR ALLIANCE, FOREVER

20th
 Anniversary

Together

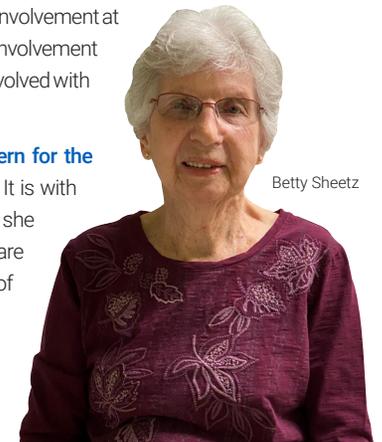
Quarterly

Betty Sheetz's Commitment and Trust in GAF

Betty Sheetz recently made a large charitable gift to us and asked the Trustees to use her gift at their discretion to meet the needs of the community. Betty was the wife of the late Ernie Sheetz who was the foundation's first executive director. Her gift to the community through the Greater Alliance Foundation was something she knew would benefit many families. In conversations with her son, Brian, about how best to give back, the foundation was selected as it impacts the entire community. In fact, Ernie was instrumental in shepherding the foundation's early childhood initiative which resulted in the formation of the Early Childhood Education Alliance, Inc., a collaboration between the University of Mount Union, Alliance City Schools, and the city of Alliance.

Originally from Massillon, Ohio, Betty went on a blind date in 1955 with a Mt. Union College graduate who was returning to Alliance to work at his alma mater after a few years of serving his country and working in California. The date went well and one year later on November 24, 1956, Betty married Ernie Sheetz. Together they planted roots in Alliance rearing three sons: Craig, Ken, and Brian. Between Ernie's work at the college, their involvement at Christ United Methodist Church, and Betty's community involvement with their three sons, the Sheetz family was active and involved with Alliance life.

Today, Betty still stays active and engaged. Her concern for the welfare of the community is evident through her gift. It is with great gratitude that we thank Betty for the opportunity she has provided to help strengthen families in Alliance. We are grateful to Betty and Ernie Sheetz for the family legacy of helping others through this gift to us.



Betty Sheetz

Thank you, Betty!

Community Update – Your Dollars at Work



Reading

Summer Explorers

Due to Covid-19 and Governor DeWine’s restrictions, Summer Explorers had to be modified to meet safety concerns. To facilitate summer engagement without access to school buildings, the Summer Explorers leaders brought activities to the children. An internet-based summer reading program through the library was initiated and all participants received Summer Explorer “On Your Own Bags” filled with activities and supplies for STEM learning activities. A virtual COSI science event was planned, and each child received a voucher to purchase back-to-school supplies since the health pandemic has financially hurt many families. **We look forward to bringing the full eight-week program back in 2021 as we find ways to engage students during the summer months.**



Alliance YMCA

The James and Margaret Williams Alliance Family YMCA Fund and The William D. and Mary Lou Baker Swimming Safety Fund recently provided the YMCA approximately \$4,000 to provide youth programming at the Y.

Health



New Wooden Puzzles for Stuckey Interfaith

A gift established by the Hunter siblings to honor their parents annually provides learning materials for the Stuckey Family Interfaith CDC children. **This year, 108 new wooden puzzles were purchased to help educate the children from the Eileen K. and Robert R. Hunter, Sr. Charitable Fund.**

NEW Puzzles



FREE Books

Over 500 Children to Receive FREE Books

Over 500 children are building their own home libraries thanks to donations to our foundation to support Rodman’s Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program. Any child from birth to age 5 is eligible to receive age appropriate books each month mailed directly to their home. **The program is completely free to families and to register or learn more please visit www.rodmanlibrary.com.**



200th Veteran Banner

Later this summer, the Honoring Alliance Veterans Fund will place its 200th banner to honor and memorialize our community’s heroes that have served our nation.

Honor

The Community Response Fund

Fast Support for Area Nonprofits to Help People Affected by the COVID-19 Outbreak

One thing is certain about the people in our community – **They care. Time and time again, they demonstrate the heart and determination to help individuals going through tough times.**

The abrupt changes resulting from the pandemic have created new challenges for our community. While there was an immediate shortage of resources, there was no shortage of caring people and organizations who were ready to help those in need.

To provide immediate relief to area residents impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, the Greater Alliance Foundation created the Community Response Fund.

The Fund awards grants to area 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and are designated to be used by these organizations **to support our most vulnerable population and those who serve as essential workers.**

- **Help for homebound senior citizens**
- **Childcare for frontline medical and other essential workers**
- **Mental health services to address the stresses of confinement and isolation**
- **Sheltering the homeless**
- **Food sourcing for those who need it**
- **Medical care and medical testing**

GAF Seeds the Fund – A Generous Community Responds

The Greater Alliance Foundation Trustees seeded the Community Response Fund with \$20,000. This inspired the generosity and support from approximately 100 donors to add \$58,000 to the fund.

"We are not surprised that the community responded so positively to the Community Respond Fund," says Douglas Schwarz, Executive Director of the Greater Alliance Foundation. "The people of greater Alliance have a long history of helping each other in times of need."

To maximize the impact of your donations, GAF has waived the 1% administrative fee and the 3% credit card processing fee for online donations. **100% of your donation will go toward meeting the needs of our community during this health crisis.**

"We are not surprised that the community responded so positively to the Community Respond Fund."



Gloria Whiteley-Mcgrath delivering Meals on Wheels to seniors and disabled residents at the Alliance Tower Apartments during COVID.

You can donate, apply for a grant and learn more about the Community Response Fund at GreaterAllianceFoundation.org/community-response-fund-apply.

You can also write a check payable to the Greater Alliance Foundation and mark the check memo "Community Response Fund." Please mail your donation to 960 West State Street, Suite 130, Alliance, Ohio 44601.

Thank You For Your Support, Alliance!

Covid Response (as of July 1, 2020)



■ **Alliance Pregnancy Center – (\$1,500)** to help disadvantaged single mothers of infants and toddlers (many now unemployed) through curbside service of newborn through size 6 diapers, baby food and formula.

Alliance Family Health Center – (\$5,000) to help Alliance residents by providing COVID-19 testing supplies and patient care.

■ **The Vine United Methodist Church – (\$1,000)** to help the residents in Alliance and surrounding townships to source food to those in need in conjunction with the Akron-Canton Food Bank.

Alliance YWCA – (\$1,500) to help senior citizens and disabled individuals living in the Alliance Towers by sustaining door-to-door meal delivery and purchasing food carts, plastic grocery bags, meal carriers, heat and cool units, PPE and cleaning supplies.

Alliance Salvation Army – (\$4,500) to help Alliance residents who are encountering job loss or reduced hours and at-risk youth. Funding is earmarked toward keeping basic utilities on, provisions of food and personal care products, and at-risk connection bags.

■ **Alliance Community Pantry – (\$3,000)** to make repairs to their truck and equipment necessary to continue to meet the increasing need of food in the community.

■ **Stuckey Family Interfaith CDC – (\$3,000)** to provide toddlers and preschoolers with cot blankets and plastic bins with lids to reduce cross-contamination from home to school along with cleaning and laundry supplies to meet the heightened safety standards during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alliance YMCA – (\$3,000) to provide a van that can bring the YMCA to children. “Y on the Fly” provides outdoor physical activities for children when they visit the free food distribution sites during the months of July and August.

Alliance YWCA – (\$1,500) to create a Payment Relief Program for seniors who receive Meals on Wheels in the Alliance area along with a bag of shelf-stable food items and PPE products for volunteers delivering meals.



Did you know? \$31,000 came from Donor Advised Funds to place generous gifts into the Community Response Fund!



Preserving Alliance Memories – The Perones

When the Perones found themselves nearing retirement they considered their passions and life work and decided what was important to them. Jim is now a Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of Mount Union and Karen is a constant community advocate and spearheaded many IT advancements at the Rodman Public Library. Although the Perones are involved with many things, the preservation of Alliance's history was at the top of their list.

Jim and Karen Perone recently set up a charitable gift annuity with the foundation that provides a steady income stream to them during their lifetime along with a large charitable deduction this year with the IRS. Thereafter, the remainder of the annuity after their passing will flow into the Alliance Historical Society Endowment Fund held at the foundation. Preserving the history of the Carnation City for future generations was something very important to them and through the establishment of the charitable gift annuity, they can accomplish their goal!

We are very grateful to Jim and Karen for their decision to place resources with the Greater Alliance Foundation and support the Alliance Historical Society into the future.

Thank you, Jim and Karen!

Planned Giving

CARES Act

1. Now taxpayers can have an **"above the line" charitable deduction of \$300** for single taxpayers and \$600 for married filing joint taxpayers (can take this with standard deduction).
 - a. Deduction is NOT available for a gift to a donor advised fund or supporting organization
2. The income limit for **cash contributions to a charity rises to 100% of income** (up from 60%).
 - a. Any cash gift in excess can be carried forward
 - b. Only cash gifts to public charities qualify
 - c. Gifts to donor advised funds and supporting organizations do not apply
3. **Repealed required minimum distributions for 2020.**
 - a. No one has to withdraw from their IRA this year
 - b. This may affect Qualified Charitable Deductions (QCD) from IRAs

Strategies for Giving

- Donors should **CONSIDER BUNCHING CONTRIBUTIONS** (giving more in one year to itemize and then less in another year to take advantage of the standard deduction).
- Donors who have contributions limited due to income limits should make large gifts in 2020 to **take advantage of 100% income limits.** DAF contributors do not qualify.
- Donors who take standard deduction should **contribute at least \$600 if married** in 2020 to take advantage of the "above line deduction."
- Donors who cannot take advantage of itemized deductions should **consider gifting securities to avoid capital gain taxes.**
- Donors should **consider making QCDs when they are required to take RMD from IRAs** as this reduces taxes. The taxpayer can take advantage of the contribution even if they take the standard deduction.



Recent Grants

\$6,500

Grant to **Rodman Public Library** for the **Fogle Author Series**.

\$73,000

Grant for a 2-year agreement for resiliency coaching services to families of **Stuckey Interfaith, First Baptist Nursery School and Child Care Center and Union Avenue Preschool** in partnership with the **Alliance Community Health Foundation**.

\$2,000

Grant for the **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 157** to help erect a Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at Memorial Park.

\$5,000

Additional funding toward roof replacement for **Habitat for Humanity**.

\$25,000

For financial assistance to individuals enrolled in adult education at the **Alliance Career Center**.

\$2,500

Grant to the **Canton Symphony Orchestra** to provide SymphonyLand to Stuckey Family Interfaith CDC.

\$11,000

Support to the **Alliance YWCA** to provide a modified experience for Summer Explorers due to COVID-19.

\$40,000

Support to the **Early Childhood Education Alliance (ECEA)** for operational dollars toward the continuation of GAF's investment in providing quality early education for Alliance and Sebring.



Marybeth Flinger, a traveling preschool resiliency coach, provides counseling services at Interfaith.

\$6,000

Annual support to the **University of Mount Union** that provided copies of "The Orphan Train" to area high school students participating in **One Book One Community**.

\$5,000

Grant to the **Stark State College Foundation** for the Alliance Works Scholarship.

\$20,000

Seed money to the **Community Response Fund** toward COVID-19 emergency grants to provide dollars to local nonprofits to meet basic human needs.

\$4,500

Support to **Alliance Shade Tree** toward the beautification of Alliance.

\$8,500

City of Alliance to provide strength training equipment for the Alliance Police Department.