

# GAF Today

Greater  
ALLIANCE  
FOUNDATION



For Good, For Alliance, Forever

August 2022

## Celebrating A Year Of Change

Dear Friends,

I hope the latest edition of our newsletter finds you well. A great deal has been happening since our Annual Report.

As you can see, we have revised our newsletter format in a fresh and exciting way. This gives us the ability to share more stories about our donors, partner charities, and efforts. This helps fulfill our goal of being a community foundation that is a conduit for every person, family, and business – maximizing your charitable intent in providing our residents a better quality of life. In addition to the updated newsletter, you can now find us on Facebook and stay up-to-the minute on the great work that is happening and learn how you can join other caring people in providing opportunity and hope to those less fortunate.

While we are still located at 960 West State Street in the Key Bank Building, we have moved to a larger and more efficient space in Suite 220. This space has already paid dividends in having several additional offices for our staff



*Heidi McClung, Douglas Schwarz,  
Linda Ferguson & Marcie Curry*

to meet with donors and partner community organizations.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. said, "Where we love is home – home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts." This is true of Alliance thanks to the generosity of the many individuals who no longer reside in the area but support their hometown through the Foundation. On behalf of the Foundation trustees and staff, thank you for your confidence in us to work together for the love of our community.

*~ Douglas R. Schwarz, Director*

# Remembering Maxine Middleton

*A legacy of inspiration and selflessness*

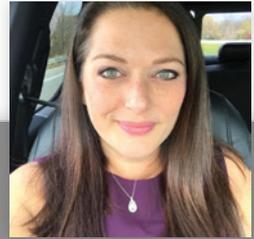
On paper, Maxine “Max” Middleton was an educator. Though if you talk to her husband, Scott, that was simply the best way for her to earn a living doing what she loved most: connecting with people on an individual level.

To those that knew her – which would inevitably be anyone with whom she came in contact – she was an engaged listener, an impassioned guide, and a caring friend.

When Max passed away in November of 2021 after a 14-year battle with breast cancer, there was a void left in every person with whom the late Alliance City Schools teacher interacted.

Her selflessness permeated every aspect of her life. From rescuing dogs and training them as service animals, to meeting and becoming a resource to families in the cancer ward while fighting her own battle with the horrible disease, Max was a beacon who nearly always had a smile on her face.

“She was the first call for so many people including those in the cancer community,” Scott said. “She was involved for years both publicly and privately, and was truly friends with patients, nurses, doctors, and staff.”



*“Today is not the day”*



*“I have this disease but today is not the end. I have today and I’m going to make the most of it, and you should too.”*

To properly recognize the imprint Max left on the world, she and Scott worked on establishing the Maxine Middleton Charitable Fund prior to her passing. The fund does not have one specific cause in recognizing that different people have different paths, needs, and challenges. "Max and I agreed to work toward and continue her legacy of helping others (although admittedly she was hesitant about it being in her name, because it was never about her personally)," Scott shared. "Our goal is to find a way to help those who just need a lift at the right time, be it a scholarship, assistance to a trade program, or whatever is needed at local cancer centers and charities."

Currently, the fund is working with three organizations that were near to Max's heart. Camp Wise, an overnight camp for children and teens of Jewish faith in Chardon, Alliance City Schools in technology, where Max was a teacher, and the Josette Beddell Memorial Foundation of Canton, which assists local families affected by breast cancer. These are a few avenues the fund aims to support that are reflective of the altruistic life Max led.



"You were the most important person in the world when you were with her," Scott said. "She was such an easy person to get to know. She could cut through the formalities and get to the meaningful parts of a conversation with a smile."

More than 100 donors have already given gifts to the Maxine Middleton Charitable Fund. Please contact us to help expand their vision.



*"That beautiful smile is a reminder she chose to be happy and thankful, regardless of the circumstances. She knew she had purpose in connecting and helping others, and I was lucky to have a front row seat." ~ Scott*

## Off To A Successful Start

*It's not too late to get involved...  
it only takes is \$1 a day*

It has been almost a full 365 days since the launch of GIVE Alliance 365 and the Foundation is preparing to distribute with the help of donors the first year of grant awards in September.

However, it is not too late to be part of GIVE Alliance 365 in 2022, as there is still time to give your gift of \$1 per day to make a difference in the community. With donors to the fund voting how the gifts are dispersed, there are few better ways to make a direct impact on the causes that matter most to every person in Alliance.

This impactful program is welcoming to donors of all levels to be involved



and make a difference. Learn how the fund supports area organizations and make your gift today by visiting [greateralliancefoundation.org/alliance-365](http://greateralliancefoundation.org/alliance-365).

**adollaraday**  
*is all it takes to make a difference*



# Honoring Our Vietnam Veterans

*GAF supports local efforts and a new monument in Memorial Park*

As the valiant men and women who served in the Vietnam War enter the latter stages of their incredible lives of service, the Thomas A. Mangino Chapter Vietnam Veterans of America Fund is ensuring those individuals are supported.



Thomas Mangino

Bob Akins, a member of the chapter who served 22 months in Vietnam, is grateful for the support of both the Alliance community and GAF in their endeavors.

"The comfort is knowing that the fund is there for veterans in the community, and we are very pleased to be working with the Foundation," Akins said. "Even when our organization eventually dissipates, this ensures that money earned by veterans will be able to support other generations of veterans in the community."

GAF also assisted in securing grant funding to help construct the monument and bench in Memorial Park to recognize Mangino, who is still listed as missing in action, and Ralph E. Hunt, Jr., who died in Vietnam.

"These markers mean a lot to me as a veteran because there was nothing in Alliance to honor the veterans of this war," Akins said. "The community response has been overwhelming, and I appreciate those who have offered their support."



GAF Trustee Randy Hunt speaks of his brother who lost his life in Vietnam.

# Help With Your Charitable Goals

*A quick discussion can help you achieve them*

The Greater Alliance Foundation welcomes a conversation with you to help find the best way to create a new charitable fund. Your tax attorney, CPA, or other family members can also be a part of the process.

Individuals, nonprofits, and businesses can start a new fund with GAF with an initial gift of \$10,000 to begin giving back to the community in meaningful ways.



Linda Ferguson, *Donor Relations*

## *Giving options for consideration include:*

- Outright Gift of Cash
- Remainder Trusts and Gift Annuities
- Real Estate
- Memorial Gifts
- Stock, Securities, Bonds, Mutual Funds
- Life Insurance
- Bequest by Will or Living Trust
- Qualified Charitable Distributions from your Retirement

Contact us to find out more about how to address your charitable goals and find your personal path to charitable giving!

## Get in touch, stay in touch.



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



You can drop us an email: [info@greateralliancefoundation.org](mailto:info@greateralliancefoundation.org)



For more information visit: [GreaterAllianceFoundation.org](http://GreaterAllianceFoundation.org).



**We're Now  
On Facebook!**

@greateralliancefoundation

**Like Us! Follow Us! And Comment!**



We welcome visits by appointment at:  
Key Bank Building Suite 220  
960 West State St., Alliance, Ohio 44601

# Helping Alliance Become More Accessible

*The 53 Accessible Alliance Fund to open new doors*

A diagnosis of ALS might stop many people in their tracks, but with the help of the GAF, Chad McClung and his family are focusing their energy on making Alliance more accessible to others.

“We hope to help people get out into nature easier and develop more accessible trails for the elderly with gait/balance issues, or mothers with strollers and wagons,” Chad said. “I enjoy the outdoors and find it challenging to be in the woods in Alliance.”

Last summer, when he still had finite motor skills, Chad built more than 50 bird houses to donate, but wanted to place them where he can go and see the life that eventually will inhabit them.

Two years after Chad’s Lou Gehrig’s Disease diagnosis, the McClungs established the new 53 Accessible Alliance Fund through GAF. The purpose of the fund is to create accessible trails in the local park system and at Beech Creek Botanical Gardens. The family’s ultimate hope is to, “make a difference in the lives of those that come after Chad with this community improve-



*Elizabeth, Chad and Heidi McClung*

ment project and to place awareness on this issue.”

The number 53 is significant because Chad turned 53 years-old this year and his birthday served as the kickoff for the fund’s grassroots fundraising campaign. In a mere 18 days since the announcement of the fund, more than \$53,000 was raised for this incredible initiative for Alliance.

Proceeds from a t-shirt campaign and gifts from community organizations have added more and with the rising cost of materials and labor, the family has decided to continue to grow this fund to do more in Alliance for their neighbors.

If you would like to contribute, please visit GAF’s website.

# Friends of the Library Provides Essential Community Support

*Working together through GAF's Together Fund*



*People of all ages find treasures amongst the 1,000s of books.*

Local libraries are a fantastic resource for communities. As such, the purpose of the Friends of the Rodman Public Library is to maintain interest of individuals in libraries, publicize and stimulate use of the resources offered, and satisfy the needs of the library through fundraising of volunteer efforts. This impactful organization has partnered with the Foundation to help establish and grow the Friends of the Rodman Public Library Fund and raise awareness about its efforts.

"Friends of the Rodman Library appreciates how GAF works with nonprofits, and we want to have GAF help us grow our investments," said Barb Burley, president of Friends of the Rodman Library. "We learned about how other nonprofits have used the GAF Together Fund and how it helps them, and we wanted to become a part of it."

The most visible initiative of the Friends of the Rodman Library is its Annual Book Sale during the Carnation Festival. The sale, which has raised more than \$10,000 in years past, has been used to sponsor child, teen, and adult summer reading programs; library travel and book reviews; and the purchase of media equipment such as computers and projectors, among other endeavors.

"GAF has allowed Friends of the Rodman Library to use the Alliance Neighborhood Center for the Annual Book Sale," Burley said. "As a result, we had more space, sold more books, and attracted more participants – that was a real blessing. We hope to add to our fund at GAF after each book sale."

**Together  
+ Fund**

# It's Fun Coupled With Learning!

*Students extend their education throughout the summer*

Summer is a time of fun in the sun for kids of all ages, but it can also be a time where they lose some of the knowledge from the previous academic year. That's where the Summer Explorers program comes in to help bridge that gap for Alliance youth.

Just finishing its eighth fantastic year, the program serves approximately 100 children annually through a partnership between GAF, Synergy Alliance, and Alliance City Schools. This collaboration has proven to mold summer fun into some exceptional experiences with an educational twist. Some of the campers from this year's program shared their perspectives:

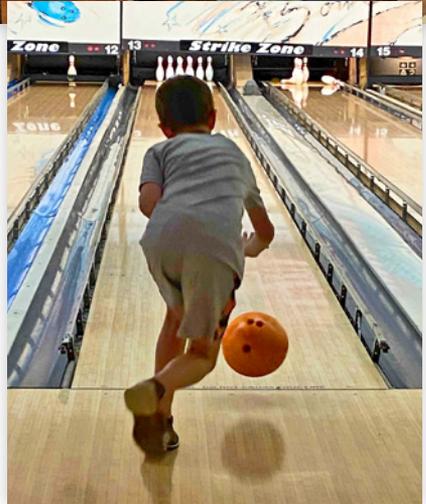


"It feels like school 30% of the time, but 70% of the time we are having fun, like a real blast." – Kaiden



"I sit down and I am shown a project and I think it is hard. I don't want to do it. Then my teacher goes through all the steps, and I do it one

by one, and it turns out really good. I like to go home and at dinner time I show my parents and tell them about it." – Natalia



*The Summer Explorers enjoy a fun day of bowling and togetherness.*

# The 2022 Scholarship Recipients

*Making a difference for Alliance area students*

## Carlile Scholarships

Since its inception 17 years ago, thanks to the generosity of its namesakes, The Lloyd and June Carlile Scholarship has awarded more than \$278,000 to 50 high school graduates to promote the importance of a college education. The Carlile Scholarship is a renewable award with a total value of \$8,000 to this year's recipients.

The 2022 recipients were Walter Bungard, Taryn Hosick, Alison Landon, and Olivia Knipp. Bungard and Hosick plan to attend The University of Akron, Landon will be attending Waynesburg University, and Knipp will be a student at The Ohio State University.

## Above Average Scholarship

Created to motivate and inspire females to overcome obstacles in their lives, pursue their educational goals and reach their full potential. First year awarded was 2022.

Recipient - Bri'Onna Hill, who will be studying social work at the University of Akron.



Bri'Onna Hill

## 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.

Recipient - Cecelia Zucchero

## 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.

Recipients - Jane Miller and Katherine Huntley.



Jane Miller



Katherine Huntley

## A Fitting Fund For Downtown

*The Anthony Lalli Fund created to keep downtown thriving*

A friend and advocate of the Alliance community for more than nine decades until his passing in March of 2020, Anthony “Tony” Lalli, Jr. was a beacon for small business owners in the community. He began his career working at Persky’s Grocery Store as a teen with the late Joe Mastroianni, another community leader in-waiting. After migrating to the dry-cleaning industry, he worked his way to his eventual status in owning and operating Ideal Cleaners and Laundry at 544 E. Main St. downtown for more than 30 years.

Due to Tony’s long association with downtown Alliance, the Foundation trustees decided to create a fund in his memory to benefit the downtown area through a portion of the residu-

um from the charitable gift annuity trusts he established in 2005 and 2013.

The Anthony Lalli Downtown Fund will serve as a fitting tribute to honor Tony’s memory and continue his legacy, helping ensure downtown Alliance can be a thriving area for commerce and culture for generations to come.



*Anthony Lalli, Jr.*



*Downtown Alliance in 1961. Photo courtesy of Roger Hagan*

## Alliance Woman's Club Keeps Legacy Alive

Although the organization has effectively dissolved, members of the Alliance Woman's Club (AWC) have partnered with GAF to ensure the legacy of the group lives on through a Donor Advised Fund. After no longer having formal meetings, the members of the group decided to sell its building to create a nest egg for the new fund.

"The Alliance Woman's Club was a part of the Alliance community for over 90 years and its large white house on Union Avenue was the site of many women's social events," said Dottie Callender. "Its members, who numbered over 300 at one time, supported many programs and projects that promoted women's activities and interests. It is hoped that by being a part of the Greater Alliance Foundation, annual grants from



*Dottie Callender*

the AWC will help organizations and groups who also support and promote women's activities and interests."

The Alliance Woman's Club Charitable Fund will benefit women in the community, carrying on the generational tradition of philanthropists who were part of the AWC.

## A Passion To Give Back To The Community

A man known in the Alliance community far beyond the dentist chair, Dr. Barry Penturf sadly passed away on December 29, 2021. While his daughters, Ann and Stephanie, carry on the legacy of his practice, Penturf Dentistry, the memory of his dedication of service to the community lives on through the Dr. Barry Penturf Charitable Fund.

As stated on the practice's social media channels following his passing, "Dr. Penturf was always one to give back to the community, and we would like to continue along the path as he would."



*Dr. Barry Penturf*

## YWCA & GAF Working Together

*The YWCA Together Fund gets matching support*

“Everyone who supports the YWCA is supporting their community,” is a belief stressed by Stacie Weimer, executive director of the Alliance YWCA, when discussing the YWCA Together Fund. The purpose of the Together Fund is that the Foundation will add five percent to a gift of \$100 or more that is paid directly to the Foundation for the benefit of the YWCA. In partnering with GAF and its five percent match, gifts to the fund can go toward general operating expenses for the agency, or to designated areas such as Meals on Wheels, Navigators, or scholarships.

“Those who support the Together Fund are allowing us to stretch our dollars even further for more impact,” Weimer said. “This assistance means, for example, that we can provide school supplies for an extra child for an entire school year.”



*Stacie Weimer, YWCA Executive CEO*

## Fund Helps Establish New Lodge At Silver Park

*The Alliance parks improve with the Robertson family commitment*

The Robertson family was recently honored at the ribbon cutting for the new Robertson Family Lodge at Silver Park, funded in part through the Robertson Family Charitable Fund.

In addition to a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Robertson’s gift helped renovate the former park maintenance building, transforming the facility into an indoor meeting space that can hold up to 100 people.



*Scott Robertson, Sue Neil, Linda Wonner and Lori Keller with grandchildren Kinsley and Wyatt.*

Scott Robertson, president of Robertson Heating Supply Co. said helping create the lodge – and the parks in particular – is consistent with his family’s commitment to the community beginning with his grandfather, John.

## Current Grants At Work

*From October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022*

Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter .....	\$50,000
Alliance Area Preservation Society.....	\$16,500
Alliance Community Pantry .....	\$7,500
Alliance Family YMCA .....	\$4,000
Alliance Historical Society .....	\$15,000
Beech Creek Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve .....	\$6,000
Canton Symphony Orchestra Association ...	\$2,850
City of Alliance - Shade Tree Commission ...	\$4,550
Early Childhood Education Alliance.....	\$68,631
Family Empowerment Ministries Inc. ....	\$200
Pegasus Farms .....	\$12,000
Rodman Library Dolly Parton Fund .....	\$10,327
Rodman Public Library .....	\$5,749
Stuckey Family Interfaith Child Development Center .....	\$1,602
Summer Explorers .....	\$10,000
United Way of Greater Stark County.....	\$10,000
Vietnam Veterans Thomas Mangino #157 Agency Fund .....	\$10,600
YWCA of Alliance .....	\$46,562
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	\$276,322

# Thirteen New Funds Strengthen GAF's Community Impact

*Established between October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022*

- ~ Alliance Woman's Club Charitable Fund
- ~ Anthony Lalli Downtown Fund
- ~ Brad and Sue Goris Donor Advised Fund
- ~ Dr. Barry Penturf Memorial Charitable Fund
- ~ Friends of the Rodman Public Library Agency Fund
- ~ Friends of the Rodman Public Library Together Fund
- ~ 53 Accessible Alliance Fund
- ~ Give Alliance 365 Holding Fund
- ~ John F. Peters Memorial Fund
- ~ Maxine "Max" Middleton Charitable Fund
- ~ Stuckey Family Interfaith Agency Fund
- ~ YWCA of Alliance Together Fund
- ~ Vietnam Veterans Thomas A. Mangino Chapter #157 Agency Fund



*We express our sincere thanks to those who have demonstrated their generosity by establishing new funds and giving grants. Because of YOU, GAF continues to make a difference throughout the Alliance area.*

# GAF Founders Recognized

*The Alliance Shade Tree Commission Celebrates Arbor Day*

The Greater Alliance Foundation would not be what it is today without the foresight and leadership of its co-founders, the late Jack Peters and the late Charlie Grove. On Arbor Day, the Alliance Shade Tree Commission planted two trees dedicated in honor of the late humanitarians. The trees were planted on Alliance City School property at Glamorgan Castle, with both men being alumni of Alliance High School and recipients of its Distinguished Alumni Award – Jack in 1996 and Charlie in 2004.

The two men began GAF in March of 1999 with an initial \$44,000 deposit. Today, more than 23 years since that original meeting, the Foundation manages more than \$28 million in assets to support the community.

"Recently, the Foundation trustees and staff held a half-day retreat," said



*Pictured at the dedication are Madge Peters, Mayor Alan Andreani and Carol Grove.*

Doug Schwarz, executive director of the Foundation. "Of course, Jack and Charlie were at the forefront of the discussion as we re-examined our purpose and ways we need to serve the people of our community. We are grateful for their seed planting as we strive to fulfill their vision."



*Charlie and Carol Grove*



*Jack and Madge Peters*