

Foundation Matters

Fall 2024

“Like Me”
Program Supports
Teachers of Color

page 6

Creating a Better Community for Generations to Come.

 Greater Toledo
**Community
Foundation**
Strength in Giving. Hope in Action.

OUR MISSION

Greater Toledo Community Foundation — a public, charitable foundation — exists to improve the quality of life in the region by:

- Providing a flexible, informed, effective means for donors to achieve their charitable goals in perpetuity
- Addressing the changing needs of the region through efficient, prudent, high impact grantmaking
- Serving as a source of information about and as a catalyst in shaping the region’s response to those needs, and
- Facilitating the work of other grantmaking organizations to achieve effective and efficient grantmaking practices

AFFILIATED COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Affiliated Community Foundations offer emerging and established community foundations in northwest Ohio the ability to build assets and make grants — in their local communities — while taking advantage of Greater Toledo Community Foundation’s administrative structure and oversight.

- Bowling Green Community Foundation
- Greater Fostoria Community Foundation
- Henry County Community Foundation
- Ottawa County Community Foundation
- Waterville Community Foundation
- Wyandot County Community Foundation

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Friends in Philanthropy Back Cover

▼ Keith Burwell and Kate Sommerfeld at Keith’s retirement party at Inverness Country Club in August.



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Foundation *Quick Takes*

Foundation Welcomes Two New Employees



▲ Renee Daley

Renee Daley is the Foundation's new program officer. Renee comes from the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio (AOoA) where she was the Buckeye MyCare Outcomes Manager, along with many other roles for eight years. Renee will report to Patrick Johnston, vice president of community investment. We are

very excited to welcome Renee to our team. Her years of experience working in the region will be invaluable in helping guide resources to impactful projects throughout northwest Ohio.



▲ Amanda Adair

Amanda Adair has started as the new accounting associate. With over a decade of experience in accounting and billing, Amanda brings a wealth of expertise in accounts payable, customer service and financial record management.

Amanda's previous roles include Accounting

Specialist at Grand Aire, Inc. and Accounting Clerk at Try Hours, Inc. We are thrilled to welcome Amanda, whose dedication and attention to detail will enhance our mission to serve the community.

Create a Plan with Us

Creating a will is an important step in ensuring that your wishes are respected, and your loved ones are taken care of after you're gone.

Begin the process of creating a will as soon as possible, regardless of your age or health.

Here's a starting point: Consult your attorney or The Philanthropic Services Department at GTCF. We can connect you to an advisor to get a will created and discuss how to include community in your planned giving.

Let's help you plan for tomorrow.
Scan the QR code to email Kurstyn Loeffler, VP of Philanthropic Services.



Foundation Quick Takes

Farewell, Chris Dziad!



After 25 years of service, Chris Dziad, program officer, has announced her retirement effective June 30, 2024.

During her tenure, Chris played a vital role in the Foundation's growth and impact. Her commitment and deep understanding of nonprofit work have been instrumental in shaping the Foundation's direction and fostering strong relationships within the Greater Toledo community.

"We are immensely grateful for the 25 years of outstanding service at Greater Toledo Community Foundation. Chris's passion, knowledge and dedication have been foundational to our success and the positive influence we have had in our community", said Keith Burwell, former president of Greater Toledo Community Foundation.

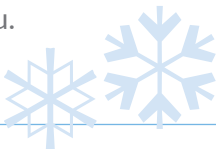
Chris's impact on GTCF and the community at large will be felt for years to come. "I've been privileged to witness many changes in the community and appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the community's growth. My 25 years at Greater Toledo Community Foundation have been truly rewarding", said Chris.

Patrick Johnston reflected on his time working with Chris. "When Chris started at the Foundation we had one competitive grant opportunity. Last year we fielded 36 opportunities with Chris serving as program officer for 18 of them. Prior to her time at GTCF, she was allocations director at United Way and before that worked as a social worker. She has been invaluable to me in my time at the Foundation and I am sure she has meant a lot to everyone in the community."

We're Happy to Help Through the Holidays

We know the holidays bring a rush of year-end giving and donation plans. The Foundation is ready to help you. Our offices are open, and our staff are ready to assist. Please call us at 419.241.5049 and we will be happy to answer your questions or set up a time to meet with you.

Office Closed:



* Thursday, November 28, 2024

* Friday, November 29, 2024

* Tuesday, December 24, 2024

* Wednesday, December 25, 2024

* Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Stay Informed!

Sign up for our future digital correspondence by scanning the QR code here and get a first look at our new website when it's launched!



Over \$1.2 million in Scholarships Awarded to Area Students

Thanks to Greater Toledo Community Foundation's Scholarship program, in 2024, 409 students were approved for a total of \$1.2 million in scholarships. The Foundation has established multiple scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors and current college students in north-west Ohio and southeast Michigan through the generosity of this region's philanthropic community.

Students are encouraged to check the Foundation's list of available scholarships online as they become available now through the end of the year. Visit toledocf.org/scholarships to view our latest scholarship opportunities. If you have questions on scholarship opportunities and applications, contact Cassandra Arnold, Scholarship Officer, Cassandra@toledocf.org



**Greater Toledo
Community Foundation**
looks ahead to its next 50 years
with new leadership.

▲ *Kate Sommerfeld, President & CEO
Greater Toledo Community Foundation*

Dear Friends of the Community Foundation,

It is a great honor and privilege to join the Foundation as its next President and Chief Executive Officer. I am grateful for the leadership of the Board of Trustees, staff, donors and community partners who have contributed to our mission for decades, with a special thanks to Keith Burwell for his 20 years of exceptional leadership.

Many have asked what sparked my commitment to philanthropy. The core values of my upbringing were founded in service and faith. I was fortunate to grow up in a loving family and a strong community, and I feel a deep responsibility to help others who may not have had those same opportunities.

I first arrived in Northwest Ohio to pursue a Master's in Public Administration, focusing on child and family policy, at Bowling Green State University. What was initially a temporary stop quickly became my home. As I settled into the region, I met long-time residents who were deeply proud of their roots here and, at the same time, warmly welcoming of newcomers like myself. I learned about the institutions that had been anchors of the community and about those that remained here and continue to hold up so many. I saw immense opportunity in the creativity and generosity of individuals—from teachers to business leaders and nonprofit partners. When I completed my masters, I joined the United Way of Greater Toledo to lead community impact and health focused initiatives. While there, and throughout my subsequent years leading ProMedica's Social Determinants of Health Institute and community investment work, I dove deep into the fabric of the region and built relationships, partnerships and cross-sector collaborations that catalyzed and enabled new investments and created positive impact for our neighbors. I have enjoyed working with and learning from other communities across the country, and I am so excited to continue that work here with the Greater Toledo Community Foundation.

I am humbled to be part of this amazing community. I look forward to meeting and learning from all of you in the months ahead.

In Partnership,



Kate Sommerfeld
President and CEO
Greater Toledo Community Foundation

“Like Me” Program Opens Doors for Students of Color

Exposure to same-race teachers during elementary school reduces the high school dropout rate for economically disadvantaged Black male students by about 39%.

Dr. Vincent Laverick, Chair of the Education division at Lourdes University, heard similar statistics at a conference six years ago and immediately went to work.

time were people of color in the state of Ohio and because this highly impacts the quality of education students of color receive, the initiative that eventually became the Like Me program felt urgently needed.

Once Dr. Laverick had the support from Lourdes University to create a program that would support people of color to enter the teaching field,

Reading and math scores improve, referrals to gifted and talented programs improve, suspension rates decline, when students of color are taught by teachers of color.

His first job: Dr. Laverick researched the percentage of Lucas County teachers of color and found it was worse than the state average. “We needed to do something because at Lourdes, we’re uniquely set up to meet needs like this. We can move in ways that others might not be able to, and it fits our mission of being a community of learning, reverence and service.”

Dr. Laverick’s vision was to support future teachers of color to encourage them to pursue a career in education. Because only 8% of teachers at the

he reached out to every school district in the area. Eventually the program grew to six partnering school districts: Washington Local, Springfield, Sylvania, Perrysburg, Toledo Public Schools and Fostoria.

Foundation grants provide vital funding to launch program

With two higher education partners in Tiffin University and Owens Community College, the Like Me program will see at least 5 students complete their teaching education program in May of 2025. The Foundation approved grant





Daniela Rodriguez

funding in 2021 through a Community Impact fund that started the beginning of the Like Me program. GTCF recognized the need to have a multi-year impact grant to give the program time to establish itself, so The Community Impact fund approved subsequent grants in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Other support from GTCF outside of Community Impact included funding from a Field of Interest Fund as well as from the Sisters of St. Francis Donor Advised Fund.

And it's made an impact so far. Daniela Rodriguez, a first-generation college student, knew early on that she wanted to be a teacher. "I wanted to teach since I was in elementary school. I had a teacher that was really comforting and open and provided a safe space for her students."

The science backs up Daniela's experience. Reading and math scores improve, referrals to gifted and talented programs improve, suspension rates decline, when students of color are taught by teachers of color.

Supportive program structure bolsters student success

The Like Me program offers students financial support as well as mentorship. That made all the difference when Daniela struggled in her freshman year. "I overcame first year challenges because the director of the program constantly kept in communication with me: texted me, emailed me, met in person. In a meeting with Dr. Laverick, he asked how he could support me and recommended scholarships I had never heard of. They both made sure I was okay and made that first year go so much smoother."

In her junior year at Lourdes University, Daniela's future as a teacher is bright. "I hope to inspire my students to be teachers. If they don't see teachers of color, maybe they'll think this profession is too hard. But if they see me as a teacher, hopefully they'll believe that they can teach, too."

► Brenda Ray, right, shown here with photos of her trail-blazing family members. Below, her great aunt Elena, only one of two graduates of Ohio Northern's law school in 1934, appears with a few of her classmates. On page 9, a young Edward Ray, Brenda's great grandfather, examines documents at his law office desk.



The Ray Family

*A Legacy of Service and Community Building
for 125 Years and Counting*

From a very early age, Brenda Ray dreamed of being an attorney. “I overheard my Great Aunt Elena speaking to her daughter about helping someone solve a problem when I was six. I decided that is what I wanted to do, too.”

Elena was a trailblazer at a time when women were significantly underrepresented in the legal field. As one of two women in her 1934 law class at Ohio Northern University, Elena was part of a small fraction of female lawyers—just 1.3% of attorneys admitted to the Bar were women at the time. Elena became an attorney thereafter and practiced law in Toledo with her father and husband, following in her father’s footsteps. She helped pave the way for future generations of women attorneys, contributing to the remarkable shift that now sees women making up over 50% of the legal profession. Elena retired in 1994, logging a remarkable 60 years of practicing law in the greater Toledo area.

A legal legacy spanning the 20th century

But the legacy of service stretches back 125 years for the Ray family. Edward Ray, Elena’s father, began practicing law in downtown Toledo in 1895. Focusing on business and estate planning, Ray was instrumental in shaping future area businesses, consulting on the creation of Toledo Memorial Park and Highland Meadows Golf Course and serving as a director and board member of the Home Building and Savings Company. An avid outdoors person, Edward’s expertise earned him several mentions in Lou Campbell’s celebrated birding book, “Birds of the Toledo Area.” Born and raised in Berkey, Ohio, Edward settled on Flanders Road in Sylvania, building a family house that still stands.

Following in her great grandfather’s and great-aunt’s footsteps, Brenda Ray has spent the last 25 years practicing law in the Toledo area. After excelling in accounting—culminating in a valedictorian honor from The University of Toledo—Brenda pursued a law degree at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, driven by a long-held aspiration inspired by Elena’s legacy.

Brenda’s choice to practice law in Toledo was deliberate; she values the city’s accessibility and its capacity for impactful community involvement, as evidenced by her involvement with area nonprofits as well as being



a member of the Toledo and Lucas County Bar Associations. She was on the very first Professional Advisory Council for Greater Toledo Community Foundation, and Brenda’s firm, with its 125-year history, is an active member of the University of Toledo Family Business Center.

“Toledo felt right. It suited me,” Brenda reflects. “I am involved in so many nonprofit boards because you can do that in Toledo. It was designed to be an accessible city.”

Supporting a rising generation of legal talent

Brenda’s vision extends beyond her own career. Embracing her family’s tradition of community-building, she is dedicated to fostering a new generation of service-oriented legal professionals, sparking an interest in law for young girls and women like her great aunt did for her. Brenda’s creation of the Ray Family Law Legacy Fund aims to do just that. The scholarship aims to lower barriers for students from Toledo to attend the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their ability to contribute to their community in meaningful ways.

“I want to inspire young students to practice law in a service-led way,” Brenda explains. “It’s about carrying forward a legacy of making a difference.”

In creating a local connection to the Ohio State University scholarship fund with Greater Toledo Community Foundation, Brenda aims to support the fund with local donors, programs, and initiatives to inspire children and students to consider law as a profession.



Foundation Dollars at Work

Andersons Fund Supporting Organization

With \$249,000 in funding from The Andersons Fund Supporting Organization of Greater Toledo Community Foundation, local nonprofits will improve parking lots, enhance video surveillance systems and contribute to renovation projects. Grants were awarded to 15 area nonprofit organizations.

The Andersons Fund Supporting Organization grants support organizations with programs in the areas of education, social services, physical and mental health, neighborhood and urban affairs, natural resources and the arts. Priority consideration is given to requests related to capital projects.

The following grants were awarded:

- **Leading Families Home – \$10,000**
to repair the parking lots of the Ashland Avenue and Erie Street facilities.
- **Bittersweet Farms – \$15,000**
to repave the walking track and construct a new paved parking lot and sidewalk.
- **Catholic Club – \$10,000**
to repair the plumbing, toilets and showers of the locker rooms.
- **Cherry Street Missions Ministry – \$20,000**
to support the installation of a commercial grade laundry facility in the Life Revitalization Center.
- **Children's Resource Center – \$7,500**
to upgrade the video surveillance system.
- **Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity – \$10,000**
to purchase a 26-foot dock-height box truck.
- **Habitat for Humanity – Wood County – \$20,000**
to purchase a forklift.

- **Leadership Toledo – \$6,000**
to purchase an alarm system and other equipment for the new office.
- **Mobile Meals of Toledo, Inc. – \$15,000**
to replace air curtains and garbage disposal.
- **Mom's House of Toledo – \$25,000**
to support the Laurie's Place capital campaign.
- **Perrysburg Heights Community Association – \$10,500**
to upgrade the security system and replace entryway doors.
- **The Ability Center of Greater Toledo – \$10,000**
to replace accessible entryway doors.
- **Toledo Alliance for the Performing Arts – TAPA – \$50,000**
to support renovations to the new TAPA Center for Performing Arts facility.
- **Toledo Muslim Doctors Initiative/Halim Clinic – \$20,000**
to support renovations to the new clinic building.
- **YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo – \$20,000**
to purchase equipment for the Wayman Palmer YMCA food pantry.

Equity & Access Initiative Fund

Seven area nonprofit organizations received a total of \$100,000 in grants from Greater Toledo Community Foundation's Equity & Access Fund.

Equity & Access Initiative Fund grants are made to nonprofit organizations that are working to remove barriers that impact marginalized communities. Grants focus on organizations' nonprofit capacity, economic development, employment or advocacy.

Families for Fitness

Families for Fitness, Inc. recently received a \$20,000 grant from the Equity & Access Initiative Fund to strengthen capacity building and evaluation planning strategies in collaboration with New Leaf Group. Families for Fitness offers health and fitness classes to elementary school students, with a message of replacing bad behaviors with good.

Greater Generations

A \$14,000 grant from the Equity & Access Initiative Fund is helping to support local youth employment and leadership development. Greater Generations support and encourage the development of local minority youth in efforts to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). The organization builds communication, respect and trust within the community to reduce recidivism and increase community revitalization.



Greater Generations began in 2016 and has since collected hundreds of bags of litter, provided work experiences for almost 100 youth and young adults and created countless safe activities and events for families. To date, the organization holds active local contracts and recurring funding from multiple entities.

Other recipients:

- **Ivy Entrepreneur Institute, Inc. - \$14,000**
to support a cohort designed for local women or minority-owned entrepreneurs/businesses.
- **Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County - \$14,000**
to support development of Haitian immigrant resources and cultural orientation resources.
- **Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council - \$10,000**
to increase corporate supplier diversity programs and events in Toledo.

- **Open Arms Transformation Living - \$14,000**
to support capacity building.
- **Justice for Migrant Women - \$14,000**
to support the training of two local rural migrant women in collective action to increase active mobilization through advocacy.

Call Before Submitting a Proposal

If you have questions about the grant application process, feel free to call Greater Toledo Community Foundation at 419.241.5049 before submitting an application. You can find more information about open funding opportunities and links to apply at: toledocf.org/grants-2.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Community Builder and Impact Grants	January 15, 2025
Bill Rowles Youth Foundation Fund	January 31, 2025
Katherine R. Smith Funds for Youth	January 31, 2025
Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Club's Helping Hens Fund	January 31, 2025
Toledo Rotary Club Foundation	January 31, 2025
First Solar Community Giving Fund	February 1, 2025
Fund for Islamic Understanding	February 15, 2025
Strategic Alliance Partnership	February 15, 2025
Ottawa County Community Foundation	March 1, 2025
Toledo Mud Hens Transportation Fund	March 15, 2025

For more information about GTCF funding opportunities, please go to toledocf.org/grants-2.



Milva Valenzuela
Wagner, Director

The Center *for nonprofit resources*

The Center for Nonprofit Resources is a capacity building resource for local nonprofit organizations. If you are involved with a local nonprofit organization, be sure to familiarize yourself with the resources provided at c4npr.org, including the grant resource center, workshops and professional development opportunities, and other resources and tools to help your organization grow in its mission. If you have any questions about the services provided by The Center, contact Milva Valenzuela Wagner, director, at 419.241.9513 or email Milva.Wagner@c4npr.org.



Photo (left to right); Fionne Wright, Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center; G. Byron Wynn, Volunteer Coordinator, Catholic Charities; Ebony Robinson, Executive Director, GreaterGenerations. Not pictured: Sana Ali, Executive Director, Monroe St. Neighborhood Center.

Certificate Programs

On August 22, 2024, The Center for Nonprofit Resources held the Closing Summit for the first of two cohorts of the 2024 Advanced Minority Executive Leadership (MEL) Certificate program. After completing their MEL in November of 2023, these graduates continued work to attain their Certificate in Nonprofit Management. Congratulations to Advanced MEL graduates!

Two additional cohorts, consisting of 16 candidates, are expected to graduate in December with a Certificate in Nonprofit Management.

The Andersons® The MEL program is sponsored in part by The Andersons.

Upcoming Workshop

Understanding Financial Statements and Budgets: Their Role in Assessing Organization Strength and Potential

November 12, 2024
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Presenter: Traci Jaksetic

Overview of financial statements, budgeting, requirements for nonprofits and their role in assessing an organization.

Please visit c4npr.org for more information and to register for the above workshop.



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Follow GTCF

Follow Greater Toledo Community Foundation on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. You can check out the latest news at the Foundation and learn about current grant opportunities.

Also, visit us at toledocf.org.



Friends in Philanthropy



We invite all our friends to support the “Friends in Philanthropy” campaign. Friends in Philanthropy donors help cover administrative expenses, allowing us to keep fees low and maximize the impact of our community investments.

To be considered as a 2024 gift, donations to the Friends in Philanthropy campaign, as well as all other donations, must be received in our office by 5 p.m. on December 31st or mailed and postmarked through USPS no later than December 31st. As always, thank you for your commitment to the Foundation and for your generous contributions.