



Your Generosity, *In Motion.*

2025 Impact Report

Beyond the Grant

How the Portage Foundation Builds Community Capacity

When people think of the Portage Foundation, they picture grants and scholarships, and rightly so. **Grants and scholarships remain our primary way of investing in Portage County**, and in 2025 that generosity reached deep into our community, from Human Services (\$69,493.64) and Animal Welfare (\$46,306) to Children's Services and Education. More than \$60,000 in scholarships also helped area students continue their education or pursue opportunities in the trades, and in total, more than \$300,000 in grants and scholarships reached over 80 organizations across Portage County, supporting the students, nonprofits, and neighbors who rely on this work every day.

2025 was our best year yet, not just in funding distributed, but in the number of donors who joined us and the assets we now manage on behalf of our community. But our impact doesn't stop where the check is written. The Foundation is also a resource for area nonprofits building capacity, and a source of financial education for residents planning their legacies.

Helping Families Talk About Money

Estate planning conversations are often avoided, and that silence can cost families more than money. Through our **Community Speaker Series**, we bring in estate planning and financial experts to help residents create lasting impact while minimizing tax burdens.

Our February 2025 event, "Heir Conditioning," featured financial expert Jack Alpern. Following the event, Executive Director Janice Simmons-Mortimer shared a story about a family whose unclear estate plans left

survivors questioning whether unequal inheritances reflected favoritism or need. Alpern's message was clear: sharing your intentions now helps ensure an inheritance is a blessing, not a burden. It's a conversation we're glad to continue through our Donor Advised Fund program.

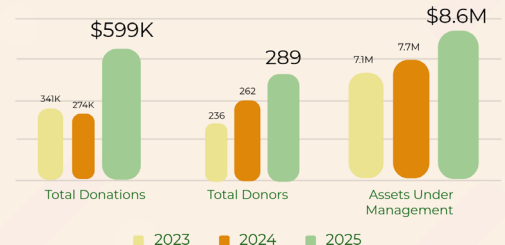
Strengthening the Nonprofits Who Serve Our Community

Grants are only as effective as the organizations that carry them out. That's why the Foundation has made nonprofit education and capacity-building a core priority. Our **CORE Conferences**, full-day events since 2022, now a series of half-day workshops in 2026, bring in experts on communication, development, leadership, and finance to help local nonprofits sharpen their administration.

By investing in the people doing the work, the Portage Foundation multiplies its impact far beyond any single grant, and helps keep Portage County a wonderful place to live, learn, and work.

Our Mission in Action: To Inspire, Impact & Engage

2025 Impact Report Portage Foundation: Building Momentum for Broader Impact



2025 Scholarship Impact

\$60k+
across 46 awards



Your Gifts in Action Every Day

These organizations received fund distributions and/or community grants in 2025

Arts & Culture

Standing Rock Cultural Arts

Animal Welfare

A Tale of Two Kitties Rescue
Happy Trails Animal Farm Sanctuary
People Care Pet Pantry
Portage County Animal Protective League
Portage County Dog Warden
Rose's Rescue
Tree City Cats LLC

Children's Services

A Kid Again, Inc.
Autism Society of Greater Akron
Believe in Dreams
Ben Curtis Family Foundation
By The Dawn's Early Light
Children's Advocacy Center
Friends of the Garrettsville Library
Girls on the Run NEO
Great Trail Council, Scouting America
The Friends of CASA of Portage County
Waterloo Community Helping Hands

Economic Development

Historic South End of Kent
Portage County Historical Society
Portage Development Board

Education

Effective Leadership Academy
Evans Scholarship Foundation
Four Community Hillel House at KSU
Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio
KSS Robotics
KSU Foundation
League of Women Voters of Northern Portage County
Maxwell School
Municipal Clerks Education Foundation
National Catholic Reporter End Fund
Ravenna School District

Environment

Davey Resource Group
Friends of Hiram Parks, Public Gardens & Trails

Health

Brimfield Community Cupboard
Catholic Charities (Portage)
Catholic Medical Mission Board
Crestwood 4C's
Doctors Without Borders USA, Inc
First UMC Church of Ravenna
Flanzer Philanthropic Trust
Haymakers Farmers' Market
Kent Social Services
Kent State University Flashes Fighting Hunger
Portage Medical Center Foundation
RSA Food Shelf
St Jukes Children's Research Hospital
The Center of Hope
UH Portage Foundation
Yost Community Center

Human Services

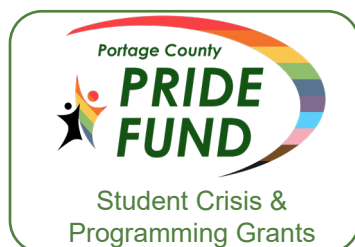
ACLU
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
Amnesty International Of The Usa Inc
Axxess Family Services, Inc.
Catholic Charities of Southern CO
Coleman Professional Services
Crestwood Community Center
Cross Catholic Outreach
Cups Cafe
Family & Community Services
Habitat for Humanity
Hartville Migrant Ministries
Haven of Rest
Hiram Farm Living and Learning Center
Kent American Legion #496
Metropolitan Ministries
M.O.R.E. Cafe

Network Advocate
Open Arms Adoption
Posada of Pueblo
Retired Friars Foundation
Saint Martin De Porres Ministry
Salvation Army
St. Ambrose Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church
The Salvation Army
University Parish Newman Center

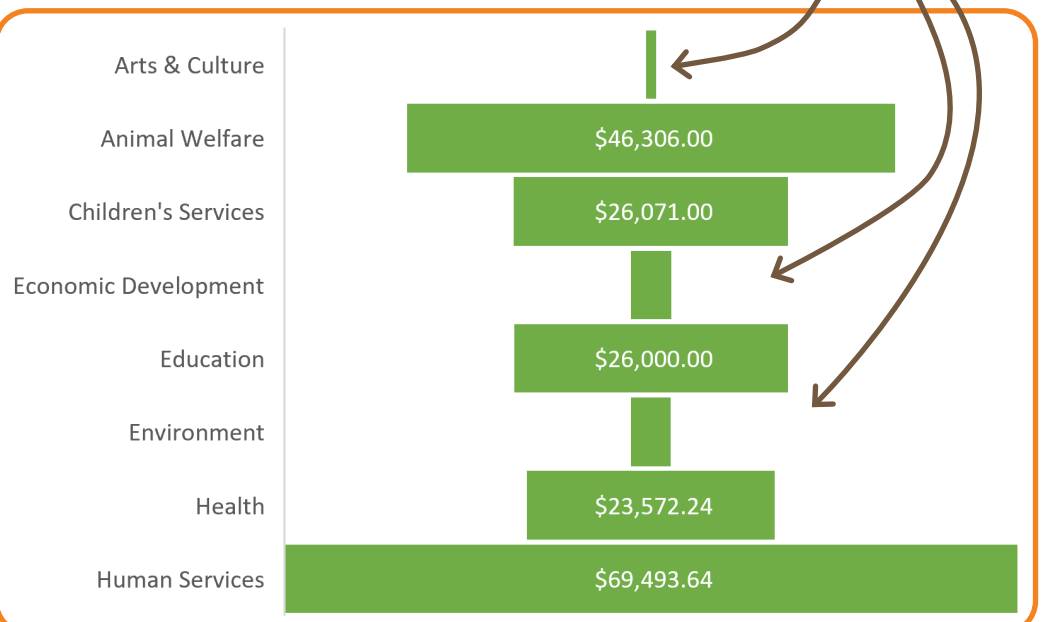


These areas need momentum, too. Your gift can help close the gap.

**Ready When Crisis Hit
Because of You**



PF Rapid Response Fund: provided over 5 truckloads of food to area pantries, serving thousands of Portage County residents & families



Thank You to Our 2025 Top Supporters:

\$500-\$999:

Barbara Boltz
Roxia & J Stanley Boykin
Robert Brown
Patrick Covey
Eric* & Erika Decker
Downtown Kent Hotel LLC
Kamelia Fisher*
*Dan & Pamela Frank***
Robert & Elizabeth Goldthwaite
Guido's Pizza & Catering, Inc.
Darrin Hartman
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Anne Jorgensen*
*David & Sherry Joy***
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Sarchione Chevrolet, Inc.
SmileDoctors LLC
Jonathan Smuck
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Jack Veney

\$1,000-\$2,499:

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Elizabeth Barry*
Community Action Council of Portage County,
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Deerfield Ag Service, Inc.
*David & Janet Dix***
Janice & Robert Egdell
J9 Gifts
Curtis & **Janice Simmons Mortimer**
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Katie Pahls
Denise Patterson
PCR Business Systems
Sarchione Chevrolet Randolph
The Portager
Wild Goats
*William Wallbrown***

\$2,500-\$4,999:

Jack Alpern
*Stephanie Langguth***
McMaster-Carr Supply Company
Ian Paterson
PNC
Jim Stopper
Michael & Amy Veney

\$5,000-\$9,999:

Brimfield Insurance Group
Main Street Kent
Portage Community Bank

\$10,000-\$99,000:

Anonymous
Ralph & Judy Kletzien
Elizabeth* & William Padisak**
*John & Mary Varalli Perry***
*Dr. Connie Stopper***
Linda* & Richard Zucca

\$100,000+:

*Craig Moore Estate***
*James Tinnin***

** Fund Holder
* Board Member



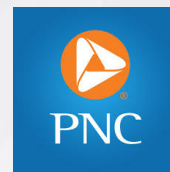
*We appreciate your partnership in serving
the Portage County Community.*

Thank You to Our 2025 Corporate Partners

Legacy Partner



Community Builders



Community Supporters

The Portager



Community Advocates



2025 Board of Trustees

Kamelia Fisher, President
Elizabeth Padisak, Vice-President
Linda Zucca, Treasurer
Victor Baerman
Elizabeth Barry

Steve Fisher
Anne Jorgensen
Joe Robinson
In Memorium: Eric Decker,
Vice-President

Portage Foundation Staff

Janice Simmons-Mortimer, Executive Director
Heidi Johnson, Community Engagement Manager
Mary Anne Zeman, Operations Manager

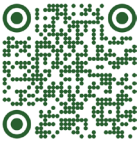
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OH 44101

In 2025, you showed
us what is possible
when our community
comes together.
Help us do even more
in 2026. Give today!



Your Generosity,
In Motion.
See the impact your support made in 2025 —
and everthing it's building in Portage County.



\$8.5M+
Under
Endowment
80 +
Organizations
Impacted

