

# *Listening*

## **Annual Report 2022**



**BARBERTON**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION





***We welcomed 2022 with excitement.***

*COVID-19 seemed to be on the decline, and we were able to hold meetings and gatherings in person. Our long-term commitment to the high school's building debt was completed and we had a sound plan for increasing our grant and scholarship dollars, as well as a robust economic development strategy. And we added a new staff member, Tiffany Peters, our director of finance.*

# Welcome

## A Year of Growth and New Programs

While the stock market didn't cooperate and share our excitement for our work, what we accomplished pointed our mission-directed trajectory toward growth and bigger partnerships. As you'll read, we completed a city-wide needs assessment with three partners: the City of Barberton, Barberton Public Schools and Summa Hospital-Barberton Campus.

We extended our economic development reach and began work on a new initiative, Main Street Barberton, which is focused on revitalizing downtown. We also purchased land that will enable the economic engine to attract businesses to build, grow and thrive in town. Working with BCDC, we developed an economic development incentive program that offers assistance to local businesses.

Our grant budget grew and allowed us to impact more nonprofits, who in turn were able to serve more Barberton residents with their services. Scholarship dollars increased, making more funds available to students seeking degrees, whether they want to pursue college or post-secondary or vocational/technical degrees.

We capped the year off with a very successful Annual Dinner, honoring our Game Changers and the good work they do for Barberton. We also had a record year in terms of fundraising and adding to our family of funds.

We continue to be grateful to our generous donors and to our community for the on-going support of our work and our community at large.

Thank you, Barberton!



*Suzanne J. Allen*  
**Suzanne Allen, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director

*Jason Slater*  
**Jason Slater**  
Board Chair

*In 2022, our focus was listening and we needed to hear what our community felt was important.*

# Listening to the Community

At the conclusion of 2021, Barberton Community Foundation completed our final payment on the construction of Barberton High School. For the past 25 years, the majority of our granting capacity has been tied to the high school's debt payment. Now, we can turn our attention to other needs in the community. But to do that, first we needed to *listen*.

We began the year by collaborating with the City of Barberton, Barberton City School District and Summa Health – Barberton Campus to commission a community needs assessment. Together, we posed three key questions for the needs assessment to examine. What strengths and challenges exist in Barberton? How do different elements of the community influence each other and contribute to the broader story of need? Where are the City of Barberton and the Foundation best positioned to make a real impact on quality of life in Barberton?

We worked with Measurement Resources Company (MRC), a research organization from Dublin, Ohio and, on our behalf, they conducted a city-wide survey, engaged focus groups and delivered data-driven results to our questions designed to identify needs, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities within the city. And we *listened*.

We found that community members value Barberton as a small-town and a family-oriented community with history and opportunity. However, adults and youth reported challenges with the social climate in Barberton, some difficulty in finding adequate opportunities for employment and voiced concerns over the condition of roads and sidewalks. Despite these concerns, there is a strong desire to see and assist with growth and improvements in Barberton.

As we develop our long-term strategies, we are still *listening*, and we understand how important it is to recognize the top needs at the community and individual levels. The Foundation, with the help of our partners, our board, our stakeholders, and research such as the needs assessment, can craft our strategic priorities for the next several years. We *listened* to our community and are making informed decisions about what makes Barberton a great place to raise a family, build a career, and explore the Magic City.

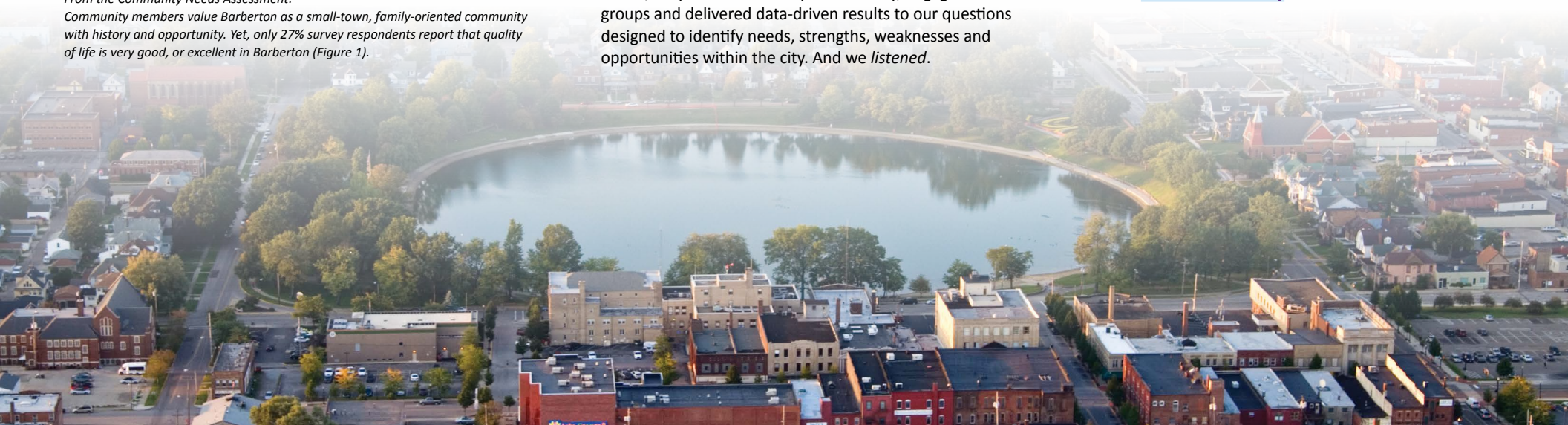
Read the [executive summary](#) of our needs assessment.

Figure 1. Quality of Life in Barberton



From the Community Needs Assessment:

Community members value Barberton as a small-town, family-oriented community with history and opportunity. Yet, only 27% survey respondents report that quality of life is very good, or excellent in Barberton (Figure 1).



# 2022 By the Numbers

## The Big Picture

Barberton Community Foundation completed the last payment on the Barberton High School debt in November 2021. Total savings for Barberton residents is \$59 million.

Since our beginning in 1996, the Foundation has awarded:

- Over \$106,145,000 in grants to nonprofits to benefit the residents of Barberton.
- Over \$4,959,000 in scholarships.
- Over \$500,000 committed in new economic development initiatives.
- More than \$19,000,000 in Program Related Investment disbursements.

The Foundation's greatest impact on Barberton can be seen through the lifetime of the organization. With our focus on perpetuity, this impact will only continue to grow.

## Questions? Contact us!

- **Call:** 330-745-5995
- **Email:** Tiffany Peters  
[tpeters@barbertoncf.org](mailto:tpeters@barbertoncf.org)
- **Visit:** 460 W. Paige Ave.  
Barberton, OH 44203

**\$80**  
MILLION  
NET ASSETS

The Foundation aims to be a trusted steward of long-term philanthropic assets for our community.

**\$943,800**  
2022 GIFTS  
made by  
GENEROUS  
DONORS

**\$269,591**  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
Payments on behalf of 115 students (new and continuing)

**81** NEW  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED  
to 58 students

**\$444,382**  
IN GRANTS

Includes Foundation grants and donor grants awarded

**80**  
GRANTS  
AWARDED

Includes Economic Development Awards

**\$1.23**  
MILLION  
COMMITTED

Includes grants awarded, economic development awards and total scholarship commitments

**100**  
FUNDS

These funds support a variety of causes and scholarships. Together these funds invested **\$149,891** back into the community including \$83,524 in scholarships.

**5** NEW  
FUNDS

1. **Magics Ready to Learn Fund**
2. **Ben Curtis Family Foundation Fund**
3. **Walt Ritzman Scholarship Fund**
4. **Magic City Kiwanis/ Esther Ryan Shoe Endowment Fund**
5. **Myers Family Scholarship Fund**

## New Economic Development Initiatives (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BCDC)

- **Downtown Building Rehab Program** awarded **\$146,609** to seven business owners.
- **Economic Development Assistance Program** awarded **\$99,714** to eight businesses.
- **Generated \$1.1 million** in new payroll.



*In the world of finance, listening to the market in 2022 was nothing if not challenging, but there were also some deeply gratifying wins.*

# Finance **Review**

In the way of challenges, we listened to numerous investment updates, inflation reports and U.S. Treasury actions that did not produce much good news. In this vein, we do continue to rely on the age-old investment truth that prudent long-term investing is rich in patience. Among the more enjoyable tasks of 2022, however, was listening to our community and our stakeholders in a couple of very important ways.

We first listened to the community by increasing our grants budget after the final high school payment. We also listened to our stakeholders express a desire to grow the Foundation's investments and continue impacting the lives of Barberton's residents well into the future. After all, that is the purpose of an endowment: to provide income in the long-term, or in our case, forever.

Our leaders have acknowledged over the years the difficult reality of an endowment that does not grow, producing stationary income that does not keep up with rising costs. Our Board of Directors, committed to Barberton's future, took steps this past year to ensure that the Foundation's funds are spent and allocated in a way that allows for future income growth. Though our board, friends and committee members may change, a constant goal has persisted: pass on a legacy of continuing impact.



**By Tiffany Peters**  
*Director of Finance*



*Supporting our businesses of the future is a central component of our overall economic development strategy.*

# Economic Development

## **A Year of New Programs and Partners**

After years of planning, our economic development program kicked off this year and resulted in several successful programs and opportunities that will shape the economic landscape of Barberton for years to come.

In partnership with BCDC, the Economic Development Assistance Program seeks to promote economic development, business expansion, and job creation by providing funding for eligible projects in Barberton. The Foundation made a grant of \$99,714 to BCDC, who then granted those funds to eight businesses for projects including building improvements, machinery and equipment acquisition, and site development. These funds assisted in the creation of 33 new FTE jobs, over \$1.1 million in new payroll, and approximately \$25,000 in new City tax collection.

This year we also focused our efforts downtown. With the assistance of [Heritage Ohio](#), Main Street Barberton, Inc. was created to increase the economic viability of the downtown business district. In 2023, Main Street will hire a full time executive director, establish an office, and begin implementing committee work plans for organization and promotion, design, and economic vitality. Similar to the Economic Development Assistance Program, the Downtown Rehabilitation Program seeks to encourage investment in privately-owned commercial buildings in order to improve their marketability and stimulate economic activity in the downtown historic district. The Foundation made a grant of \$146,900 to BCDC, who then granted funds to seven property owners for projects including new roofs, electrical improvements, window replacement, machinery and equipment, and HVAC upgrades.



At the end of November, the Foundation purchased the 36-acre industrial property located at 401 Newell St. Acquired through our Program Related Investment (PRI) account, this significant investment makes land available for manufacturers to expand their operations locally or relocate from outside Barberton, both of which increase job opportunities within the city.

Impactful accomplishments like these could not happen without the City of Barberton and BCDC – our economic development partners. We thank them for their cooperation and assistance and look forward to more economic development advancements next year!



A Scissor Lift at Big Mike's Automotive & Collision (L-R) Michael and Felicia Cowans, with their daughters Lydia and Alexis, and VP John Prouty.

### **Big Mike's Automotive was the recipient of an Economic Development Assistance Program grant through BCDC.**

- Read the [full story](#).
- Read more about our economic development [programs](#).

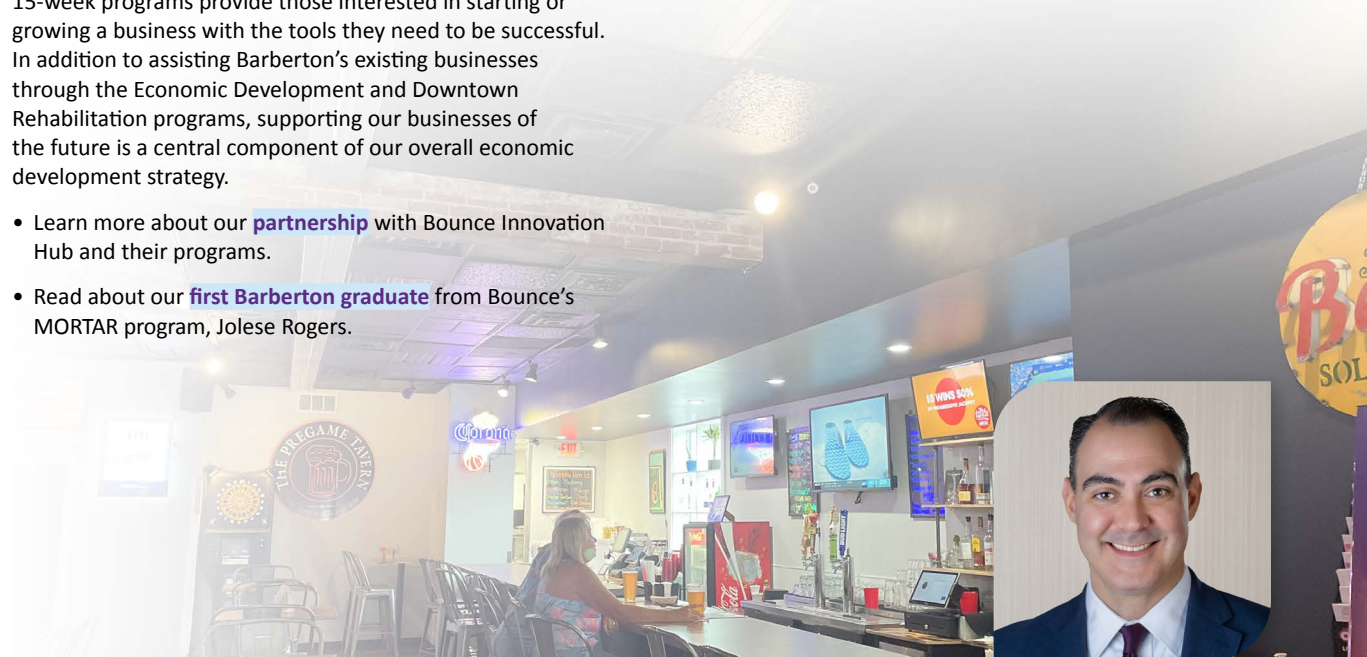
### **A new partnership with Bounce Innovation Hub**

As identified in our 2019 Economic Impact report by the Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC), a well-rounded economic development platform must include some type of entrepreneurial support. We are fortunate to have Bounce Innovation Hub just a short drive from Barberton, so we partnered with them to provide scholarships for Barberton residents and business owners for two programs: Aspiring Entrepreneur and MORTAR at Bounce. These 10- and 15-week programs provide those interested in starting or growing a business with the tools they need to be successful. In addition to assisting Barberton's existing businesses through the Economic Development and Downtown Rehabilitation programs, supporting our businesses of the future is a central component of our overall economic development strategy.

- Learn more about our [partnership](#) with Bounce Innovation Hub and their programs.
- Read about our [first Barberton graduate](#) from Bounce's MORTAR program, Jolese Rogers.



Members of the Foundation's economic development committee visited Bounce Innovation Hub in March, 2022 to tour the facility and learn more about their programs.



**By Ted Hercane**  
Director of Economic Development



*This was a big  
year for grants and  
scholarships.*



Kylie Tennant, Carrie Herman and Suzanne Allen.



2022 grant partner, Magical Theatre Company.

# Community Impact

With the completion of the final payment on Barberton High School in 2021, our greatest opportunity for listening came through an increase to our grants budget by \$100,000. I am happy to share that we used every penny of our expanded budget. As a result, we were able to fully fund more projects for our grant partners who serve Barberton residents, totaling 32 grants to 26 grant partners. Read about all of our [2022 grants](#).

I want to thank our grants committee members for their hard work this year. Committee members review grants, participate in phone and virtual grant interviews and give of their time to make the most informed decisions possible.

We adopted trust-based philanthropy as a core value of the Foundation. Listening, one of many tenants of trust-based philanthropy, is the first step toward a mutually respectful partnership. In my work, I always strive to listen to our grant partners and, by including trust-based philanthropy as a value, I know that listening will continue to be an essential piece of how we work with our grant partners.

We were all happy to celebrate our [Scholarship Awards Ceremony](#) on April 20, 2022, in person at the Barberton High School theatre. The students truly deserve

commendation for their hard work and perseverance through COVID-19. The ceremony is a signature event to highlight the partnership between the Foundation and Barberton City Schools.

In 2022, the Board increased the total value of several scholarships, including the cum laude scholarships and first-generation scholarships. The cum laude value over four years increased from \$5,500 to \$9,000. The first-generation scholarship changed from a one-year, \$1,000 scholarship to a four-year scholarship valued at \$9,000. Both scholarship amounts increase annually to encourage and reward persistence in college.

Including fund scholarships, 79 scholarships totaling \$127,800 for the 2022/2023 academic year were awarded to 57 students. The total value of the multi-year awards is \$290,000. Additionally, 78 students with multi-year scholarships utilized \$121,050 for the 2022/2023 academic year. Read more about our [scholarship process](#).

I look forward to continued grant partnerships, listening and responding to the needs of the Barberton community and providing another year of scholarships to Barberton's most deserving young people.

Scholarship

presented by  
Janette Wesolowski



**By Carrie Herman**  
Director of Community Impact





# New Funds **in 2022**

## **Magics Ready to Learn Fund**

In the summer of 2022, their campaign “We are All Magics” successfully raised \$30,000 to supply 1,500 students in K-5th grades with their complete back to school supply list. [Read more.](#)

## **Ben Curtis Family Foundation**

For the past five years, the Ben Curtis Family Foundation has been working closely with the Barberton City School District to make sure any child who needs a meal over a long weekend receives one. [Read more.](#)

## **Walt Ritzman Scholarship**

Donna Keim and her son, Mike Keim, established the Walt Ritzman Scholarship Fund on November 9, 2022. Donna and Walt ran the Barberton Health Clinic together for more than 20 years. [Read more.](#)

## **Magic City Kiwanis/Esther Ryan Shoe Endowment Fund**

Magic City Kiwanis decided to combine their fund with the Foundation’s fund to ensure the Esther Ryan Shoe Fund continues. “That’s really what the Foundation is made for,” said Mike Dalessandro. “We are thinking about the long-term. We want this fund to continue to build and to make sure kids always have shoes.” [Read more.](#)

## **Myers Family Scholarship Fund**

Speaking on behalf of her family, Kelly said, “We often can’t ‘pay back’ our parents or our teachers for all that they have done for us, but we can ‘pay it forward’ to the next generation – to our families, our schools, and our communities. So, we decided to offer a scholarship to help a Barberton High School student attending The Ohio State University.” [Read more.](#)



*Paula Kallio handing out supplies on behalf of the Magics Ready to Learn Fund.*



*Michael Myers, Melanie Williams, Becky Fields, Peg Myers, Kelly Winer, Stacy Morisoli, and Tracy Nahas.*



*Barberton Community Foundation held our 2022 Annual Dinner on Thursday, November 10, at the Galaxy Restaurant. Each year we celebrate our Game Changers, an individual and an organization who deserve recognition for the good work they have done in the community.*



*Mike Moore accepts Game Changer award.*

# Game Changers

## Congratulations to our 2022 Game Changer Award Recipients

### Mike Moore

Mike Moore was recognized because of his years of commitment to the community through the Coalition of Concerned Christians and the Kiwanis Club of Barberton. The Coalition organizes a weekly soup kitchen at First Presbyterian Church, provides food and clothing to Common Threads Closet, and provides free laundry services once a month.

### Barberton Firefighters Association Local 329

The Barberton Firefighters Association Local 329 was recognized because of their integral role in the success of the Esther Ryan Shoe Fund Spaghetti Dinner, which is organized by the Magic City Kiwanis each year. During his acceptance speech, Lt. Mike Beckman said that he was accepting the award on behalf of the entire fire department and included those who came before.

[Read more](#)



*Barberton Firefighters Association Local 329 accepts Game Changer award.*

Watch our Game Changer Highlight [Videos](#).

View all our [photos](#) from the Annual Dinner.



# Thank You to Our Donors

At the Annual Dinner, supporters raised more than \$5,000 to celebrate our Game Changers' selected funds; the [Coalition of Concerned Christians](#), which supports the weekly soup kitchen at First Presbyterian Church, and the [Magic City Kiwanis/Esther Ryan Shoe Endowment Fund](#), which continues the legacy of Esther Ryan by purchasing new shoes for Barberton students.



*John Rehman, Carrie Herman, Janet Rehman.*

In July, we held our second Donor Luncheon, where we recognized and thanked many of our donors for their support. Thank you all for joining us for this luncheon. Our donors often share how giving to help others, whether it's a scholarship or a donation to a local nonprofit, makes them happy and makes them feel more connected to our community.

One donor said, "No gift is too small to make a difference, and no volunteer time is ever wasted. Although I can make larger donations at this point in my life and volunteer more, I'm proud of the many ways my family and I have been able to help."

Bruce May, a local attorney and our luncheon speaker, asked, "What do you want your legacy to be?" Planned giving is a wonderful way to continue a donor's generosity and involve future generations in philanthropy.

We encourage you to consider becoming a donor. Visit our website, scroll through our many accomplishments and celebrations this year and consider making a gift to one of [the 100 funds](#) that support this community.



*Marco Burnette, Sally Read and Roger Read.*



*Bruce and Linda May sit with Dr. Doug and Jane Gormley.*



*All of the good work we do at Barberton Community Foundation is possible because of our generous donors.*

*Please give us a call at 330.745.5995 to discuss how your giving can make a difference in Barberton.*



*The mission of Barberton Community Foundation is to strengthen the Barberton community for current and future generations by providing leadership, fostering collaboration, and creating a legacy of giving to do good.*

# About Us **Board, Friends & Staff**



*The Barberton Community Foundation staff.*

- Meet the Foundation **staff**.
- Meet the **Board of Directors**.
- Meet the **Friends of the Foundation**.





**BARBERTON**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



CONNECT WITH US 

[barbertoncf.org](https://barbertoncf.org)

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