

PATHWAYS²⁴

Barberton Community Foundation Annual Report



BARBERTON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



We envision an improved quality of life for Barberton residents, now and forever.

A Year of Progress.

Leadership is about more than following well-worn paths – it’s about creating new ones. In 2024, Barberton Community Foundation embraced change, pursued bold ideas, and laid new trails for future growth.

Our work this year was about opening doors, not just for today, but for generations to come. Whether through career pathways for students, new investments in downtown revitalization, or innovative ways for the Foundation to build our resources (donations + our first grant award from JobsOhio), we spent the year forging a stronger future for Barberton.

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Key Milestones in 2024

- **Pathways to Economic Growth** – We welcomed Gil Gonzales as Director of Special Projects, securing the Foundation’s first-ever grant and focusing our resources on strategic community investments.
- **Pathways to Education & Opportunity** – With \$290,000 in new scholarships, we strengthened our investment in students. Bringing scholarship payment in-house allows us to build deeper relationships with our scholars, ensuring they know all of Barberton is rooting for them.
- **Pathways to a Stronger Future** – The introduction of a new partnership with Barberton Schools in the Polymer Pathway, the first K-12 curriculum aligned with a Federal Tech Hub. The purpose is to create exposure to, and interest in, our region’s high-wage, high-demand polymer industry.
- **Pathways for Donors & Community Impact** – Our new on line fund portal empowers donors with real-time access to their fund balances, grant-making capacity, and donation history, making it easier than ever to give and grow their impact over time.
- **Pathways to a Thriving Downtown** – We invested heavily in downtown revitalization with nearly \$350,000 in grants across four grant-supported programs for our downtown and community’s businesses, ensuring Barberton continues to become a vibrant place to live, work, and connect.

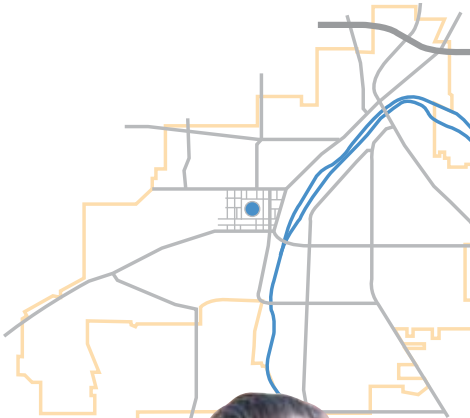
Each of these pathways reflects a larger question we continue to ask:

What must Barberton become so our children and grandchildren can stay and grow in our community?

We remain committed to building toward a transformational future—where opportunities are abundant, where students grow to find their first homes and careers in Barberton, and where our city continues to thrive.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Your support, generosity, and shared vision continue to shape the future of the Magic City.

In Community, Lynne Holcomb and Josh Gordon



Josh Gordon
Executive Director



Lynne Holcomb
Chair, Board of Directors

Welcome

MISSION

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.

VISION

We envision an improved quality of life for Barberton residents, now and forever.

Welcome to Our 2024 Annual Report

A note on the theme of Pathways

Pathways shape our journey. They guide us forward, help us navigate challenges, and open doors to new opportunities.

In many ways, 2024 was the year of finding our path.

With new faces on our team and fresh leadership, we embraced a growth mindset, navigating change with grace and grit.

This was Josh Gordon’s first year as Executive Director, and with a strong team and engaged board, the Foundation moved through 2024 as a “learning year” and into a year of action. We are taking steps to strengthen Barberton’s economic future, invest in our students, and make giving more accessible for our donors.

A Special Thank You to Jason Slater and Jim Bauschlinger

In 2024, Jason Slater and Jim Bauschlinger completed their final terms on the Foundation’s Board of Directors, leaving a lasting impact on our organization.

As Board Chair from 2022 to 2023, Slater’s steady leadership was instrumental in guiding the Foundation through the search for a new Executive Director. His commitment to long-term sustainability is best captured in his favorite word—“perpetuity”—a principle that continues to shape our discussions and decisions today.

Jim Bauschlinger knows everything about this community and its unique building stock downtown. Bauschlinger served as chair of our Economic Development committee for several years, and his knowledge of every building – including the nooks and crannies – made for fun anecdotes and wiser decisions. We hope he continues to enjoy extra time with his grandsons.



Jason Slater with
Lynne Holcomb, Board Chair



Jim Bauschlinger and
his Grandsons.



BARBERTON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Establishing the First Tech Hub Career Pathway Pre K-12 Program

The Foundation's largest grant in 2024 was to ConxusNEO, investing a \$125,000 matching grant to create a transformational career pathway—the Polymer Pathway—designed to prepare Barberton students for high-paying, high-demand careers in Northeast Ohio's growing polymer industry.

Dubbed the Polymer Pathway for its Pre K-12 career pathway design, Barberton represents the only Tech Hub (federal government) and Innovation Hub (state government) aligned public school district curriculum program among the 31 federal government recognized Tech Hubs and 3 Innovation Hubs in Ohio.

This first-of-its-kind program, developed in partnership with the City of Barberton, Barberton City Schools, the Greater Akron Chamber, and ConxusNEO, represents more than just a curriculum—it's a pathway to success for students and a critical pipeline for our local workforce.

Why Does This Matter for Barberton?

In 2024, the Greater Akron region was designated as the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub, one of only 31 federally recognized Tech Hubs in the country. This designation brings over \$100 million in federal, state, and private investment to accelerate innovation and job creation in the polymer sector.

What does this mean for Barberton?

- Thousands of high-paying jobs in our region over the next decade
- A direct pathway from Barberton schools to the high-tech materials industry
- Economic growth and investment in local businesses
- Opportunities for students—whether they enter the workforce, pursue technical training, or go to college

Investing in the Future

Barberton Community Foundation's \$125,000 matching grant, combined with funding from the Greater Akron Chamber, brought the total investment in this program to \$250,000.

This funding supports:

- Hands-on STEM education for students in grades K-12
- The purchase of injection molding manufacturing equipment and the materials to maintain it
- Partnerships with industry leaders, including Akron Rubber Development Lab and The University of Akron's School of Polymer Science
- Career training in advanced manufacturing, chemistry, and engineering
- Design of additional curriculum to strengthen the Polymer Career Pathway
- Early exposure to high-wage jobs, where salaries start at \$45,000+ per year
- A direct connection to the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub, creating a pipeline for future employment without taking on college debt.

Pathways from Classroom to Career

How does a pathway build knowledge and interest in a career?

Early Engagement: Second and third graders learn about polymers through a locally-written children's book, What is a Polymer?

Middle School Exploration: Students learn vocabulary: polymers vs. monomers, and study chemical reactions. Hands-on experiments, such as creating bouncy balls and slime, spark curiosity.

High School Readiness: Students earn industry-recognized skills and real-world experience so they are poised to be successful in an entry level position out of high school.

Celebrating Community Impact

Already, the Polymer Pathway is making a difference. Over the past year:

- Students in Barberton City Schools gained exposure to polymer-related careers.
- 85+ families participated in STEM learning events, such as the Polymer Scavenger Hunt at Mum Fest.
- Dozens of students in Barberton High School's advanced manufacturing program trained in polymer science alongside industry leaders.
- Hundreds of jobs in the region's 1,400 polymer companies are opening to Barberton students as they graduate.

“This is an exciting opportunity for Barberton students, the City of Barberton, and local employers,” said Steve Millard, President and CEO of the Greater Akron Chamber. “As a community, Barberton has been very focused on how to create the best possible opportunities for the students they are preparing for life and careers.”



Steve Millard
President and CEO
of the Greater Akron
Chamber.

The Polymer Pathway

10.18.24 STEM Day at BMS with ARDL

(Akron Rubber Development Lab)

As part of the pathway grant, experts from ARDL and other outreach programs are able to provide students with hands on opportunities to explore what polymers are, how they are made, and what jobs they might consider in this growing industry.

It's really cool that there's a company here in Barberton working on this stuff.”—Diana



“I learned so much! Rubber comes from a tree!”—Justice



TOP: Paul Merda, Education Coordinator for ARDL, teaches Barberton Middle School students about polymers

MIDDLE: Barberton Middle School Students Justice and Diana hold different samples of rubber products from ARDL. Justice, Left, holds two toy dog bone models. One was considered a failed test experiment because too much water boiled from inside the rubber. Diana (Right) holds a sample piece of tire tread.

BOTTOM: Tim Stults, James McComas, and Paul Merda

Paul, education coordinator, said, “Something neat about Barberton's curriculum is that they really work to expose kids to a variety of pathways and job opportunities besides college.”

10.22.24 BHS Chemistry Class with Great Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America

Explorer Program

Background: The chemistry lesson is making balloons with glue and starch solution. The students measure and test different amounts of glue or starch. If there's too much starch, the bubble will pop (like Carmen's), if there's too much glue, the bubble won't hold shape (like Mason's).

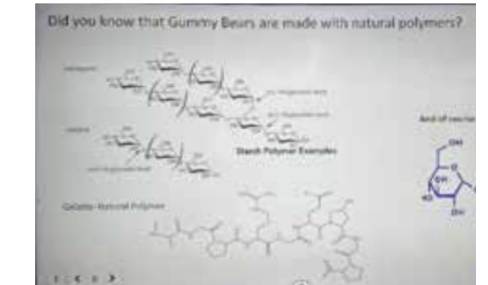


LEFT: Mason blows a bubble

MIDDLE: Carmen blows a bubble

BOTTOM LEFT: Barberton High School Chemistry Class with teacher Mrs. Wendi Damm – students Tony, Mason, Joe, and Tabitha work at their table to make slime bubbles!

BOTTOM RIGHT: Some chemistry the students learned about: Gummy bears are natural polymers!



“Here at the Great Trail Council, we know that polymers are growing locally, so it's important to get exposure for high school students. It's very rewarding to see these kids get excited about polymers. Their enthusiasm was neat to see!” She added, “We have several different career based programs. The polymer program is a newer one, and with the new tech hub designation. It really is perfect timing.”

—Marnie Mellinger, Explorer Club Coordinator Great Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America



“In this experiment, when you heat milk and add something with a low pH like vinegar or lemon juice, you get a reaction. Adding heat separates the proteins, allowing them to float to the top leaving a thick goop. The vinegar and lemon juice act as a reactor. Then we take out the goop, dry it out with paper towels and put it into a mold. After sitting overnight, it hardens. Historically, this method was used to manufacture buttons!”

—Katie Kelley, Marketing at ARDL





Since our beginning in 1996, Barberton Community Foundation has awarded:

Over
\$110,670,000
In Grants

2024

\$425,590 Cycle Grants

+82,409 Donor Funds

\$507,999 Community Granting

Over
\$5,227,000
In Scholarships

2024

\$318,024 Annual Payment

AND

\$481,970 Total Commitment

Over
\$1,430,715
In Economic And Community Development Initiatives Since 2022

2024

\$495,715

Community Development Programs: Downtown Rehabilitation Program, Main St. Barberton, and Polymer Pathway

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: Josh Gordon, Executive Director at jgordon@barbertoncf.org

Visit: 460 W. Paige Ave. Barberton, OH 44203

\$220,000
Awarded to support 16 Barberton businesses through Economic Programs

84
NEW scholarships awarded to 51 students

\$125,000
in matching funds for the Polymer Pathway

80
GRANTS AWARDED

\$507,999
In grants = \$408,590 through grant cycles for education, health, and art + \$17,000 small grants + \$82,409 fund disbursements

1.302 Million DOLLARS
Committed -includes grants awarded, community development, and scholarships

\$318,024⁸³
Scholarship dollars given through 119 awards on behalf of Barberton students (new and continuing)

117 Funds + 1 Endowment
These funds support a variety of causes and scholarships. Together these funds invested \$180,395 back into the community, including \$95,985 in scholarships.

5 New Funds

\$95,985
Scholarship dollars given through 29 donor designated fund partner scholarships.

\$724,267 In 2024 gifts made by generous donors

\$96 Million
IN NET ASSETS

2024

Community Development and Economic Impact Accomplishments

In 2024, the Foundation awarded a total of \$495,715 in funding under our community development priorities, including the Downtown Rehabilitation Program (DRP), the Economic Development Assistance Program (EDAP), the Polymer Pathway, the Sign Program, the City of Barberton, and Main Street Barberton.

In May 2024, the Foundation welcomed Gil Gonzales as Director of Special Projects. Gonzales has played a pivotal role in refining our community development strategy and guiding investment in economic initiatives.

Developing a robust scoring and underwriting process for the EDAP & DRP programs, ensuring that Barberton's downtown development strategy effectively leverages available funds.

Strengthening partnerships with Main Street Barberton to develop new programming for 2025, including a **\$300,000 investment** into Barberton's historic core. This funding will be allocated through Downtown Building Rehabilitation grants, offering up to **\$100,000 each to two applicants**, and the new **Restaurant and Retail Challenge Grant**, which will award up to **\$20,000 in matching funds to five businesses**.

Securing the Foundation's first-ever grant from JobsOhio, a \$20,000 match that will fund a comprehensive **redevelopment real estate study**. This study will include site due diligence, preliminary design, project feasibility, and proforma analysis for a **state-of-the-art workforce training center**. The initiative aligns with Barberton's strategic location and workforce needs, supporting key industries such as defense manufacturing and polymer science.

Expanding engagement in the polymer sector by bringing in new partnerships and opportunities with top economic development, community development, and strategic community-building firms and consultants.

Soliciting proposals for an economic development strategy and real estate redevelopment plan, laying the groundwork for future investment and growth.



Gil Gonzales
Director of
Special
Projects

“Focus in our downtown has uncovered a lot of opportunity.” — Gil Gonzales

As he puts it:

“It has been such a pleasure for me to join this team and dive right into community initiatives in Barberton. It's important, now more than ever, to be intentional with our dollars. The focus on downtown development is a strategic one, where there is a trifecta of focus from the City, Main Street Barberton, and BCF, to improve downtown building stock, small business support, promote events, and generally remind folks that there is a lot of growth opportunity here in Barberton!”



COMMUNITY

Looking Ahead: The Road to Community Development

Utilizing strategic funding and partnerships, Barberton Community Foundation found its path forward with a clear focus on community development initiatives.

In 2024, the Foundation awarded \$495,715 in funding to support businesses and downtown initiatives that contribute to the city's growth.

These investments were made through key programs such as the Downtown Rehabilitation Program (DRP), the Economic Development Assistance Program (EDAP), the Polymer Pathway,

A heartfelt thank you to BCDC for their partnership in administering the grant programs we fund to support our downtown business and growth-positioned businesses in Barberton.

“This grant allows Olsen Sheet Metal to expand our manufacturing facility here on 5th St. by bringing a custom grinding company from Florida to Barberton. This will create more jobs and expand the services we offer in Northeast Ohio.”

— Michael Bailey, Olsen Sheet Metal

Grant Allocation and Capital Investment Overview

In 2024, the Foundation awarded \$495,715 in funding to support businesses and downtown initiatives that contribute to the city's growth.

Through our EDAP and DRP programs, Barberton Community Foundation awarded a total of \$195,715 in grant funding to support eleven businesses in their capital investment projects.

In 2024 the Foundation developed a robust scoring and underwriting process for the EDAP & DRP programs, ensuring that Barberton's downtown development

strategy effectively leverages available funds.

The businesses supported through this initiative represent a diverse cross-section of Barberton's entrepreneurial landscape. Each one has played a role in shaping the community's economic foundation while contributing to a stronger, more resilient local economy.

These businesses committed to a total capital investment of \$194,000—representing a return on investment (ROI) of 94%. This means that for every \$1 granted, approximately \$1.94 was invested in the local economy.

“I don't know what we would have done without this grant from the Barberton Community Foundation. Since I opened my business in 1998, Barberton has felt like home. These much-needed repairs are going to be a game changer, and I'm so excited to start renovations.”

— Joy Wagner, Joy S. Wagner & Associates

Breakdown of Business Investments

Pre Game Tavern
\$15,000 grant \$35,000 capital investment
Erin's Studio
\$15,000 grant \$25,000 capital investment
Joy Wagner & Associates
\$17,500 grant \$35,000 capital investment
Kave Coffee Bar
\$2,500 grant \$2,500 capital investment
Magic City PC
\$15,000 grant \$45,000 capital investment
Skoops
\$25,000 grant \$38,500 capital investment
Pedal Stomper Productions
\$10,000 grant \$13,000 capital investment

“I've been committed to cultivating my woman-owned business in Barberton for over 30 years, with 18 years at our W. Tuscarawas location. I see so much charm in our historic downtown, and this grant from the Foundation is helping me bring new life to these spaces. I'm incredibly grateful for their support.”

— Erin Flesher, Erin's Studio of Hair and Nail Design

Additional Grants: Improving Downtown Business Signage

In partnership with Main Street Barberton, the Foundation also launched a new pilot project to enhance the visual appeal and compliance of downtown businesses through updated signage. A total of \$25,000 was awarded to five downtown businesses whose signs were not in compliance with the City of Barberton's Design Review Board. By improving business signage, we are not only enhancing the business environment but also creating a more welcoming pathway for visitors, customers, and future entrepreneurs looking to invest in Barberton.



Main Street Barberton: A Key Partner in Downtown Revitalization

Main Street Barberton was established by a board of community volunteers at the end of 2022 to increase the economic viability of downtown. Funding was provided through a joint agreement between the Foundation and the City of Barberton, securing seed funding for Main Street Barberton for three years.

Since taking the helm in June 2023, Executive Director Melanie Black Amato has made remarkable progress, establishing an office on 4th Street and spearheading participation in key community events such as Second Saturdays, the Labor Day BBQ Festival, Tuscany on Tusc, and Mum Fest. One of her top priorities has been to utilize the Foundation's grant programs to entice new business. As a result, five new businesses have chosen to make downtown Barberton their home, and Main Street helped facilitate five key property sales, with more to come in 2025.

Our partnership with Main Street Barberton has been pivotal in revitalizing downtown and strengthening people's connections to the heart of our community. These are not just small aesthetic improvements, they are intentional investments in a process that leads to a dynamic, welcoming downtown.

MAIN STREET
BARBERTON



2024 5 New Funds

at Barberton Community Foundation

Gavin Westover Memorial Scholarship



L-R: 2024 Scholarship Recipients Xavier Russell, and Kaitlyn Robinson (photo substitute is her mother) with Assistant Superintendent, Mike Andric.

The Gavin Westover Memorial Scholarship was created to benefit a BHS senior who is enrolled in a Four Cities Compact career technical program, ranks in the top half of their graduating class, and demonstrates service to school and community. Gavin was in a fatal automobile accident in December 2009 at the age of 16. At just 15, Gavin made the decision to become an organ donor—a selfless choice that ultimately saved or improved the lives of 17 people. His story is a powerful reminder that even the decisions we make when we're young can have a lasting and far-reaching impact. Acts of generosity, no matter our age, can ripple outward in ways we may never fully see, touching lives and inspiring others long after we're gone.

Website: barbertoncf.org/project/gavin-westover-memorial-scholarship



Donation Link:
<https://tinyurl.com/54pe6euu>
Or Scan Code

Justin Winebrenner Memorial Scholarship



In 2024, Robert (Bob) Winebrenner re-established the Winebrenner Fund, turning it into a scholarship to honor the life of his son, Justin R. Winebrenner. Justin graduated from Barberton High School, Class of 2001, where he played soccer and basketball. He followed his father's footsteps in pursuing a career in law enforcement, studying at The University of Akron,

then working at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center where he enjoyed working with youth in crisis.

Officer Winebrenner served proudly for seven years with the Akron Police Department.

This scholarship is for a BHS senior or resident of Barberton, who is pursuing a career in law enforcement, criminology, criminal justice, or criminal intelligence analysis.

Website link: barbertoncf.org/project/justin-winebrenner-fund



Donation Link:
<https://tinyurl.com/54pe6euu>
Or Scan Code

Main Street Barberton Endowment Fund



Main Street Barberton is the organization at the heart of the city's historic and economic revitalization efforts, working to blend small-town charm with a dynamic mix of local businesses, cultural attractions, and community events.

Established in 2023, the vision of Main Street Barberton empowers residents and visitors to explore unique shops, enjoy local dining, and take part

in seasonal festivals like the Mum Festival and Barberton's Labor Day celebration. With a strong focus on supporting entrepreneurs and preserving Barberton's rich heritage, Main Street Barberton continues to grow as a vibrant hub for commerce, creativity, and community engagement.

In 2024 the primary work of Main Street Barberton executive director, Melanie Black Amato, included building consistent schedule of Second Saturday outings, and working closely with building owners to prepare vacant properties for new businesses.

Website: mainstreetbarberton.com

Donation link:
<https://tinyurl.com/yc8ez752>
Or Scan Code



Eugene W. Snyder Leadership Endowment Scholarship Fund



Eugene W. Snyder was a dedicated educator, mentor, and community leader whose 42-year career in education spanned roles as a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent in Barberton, Coventry, and beyond. Known for his integrity, leadership, and ability to inspire others, Gene believed that true leadership was about character, perseverance,

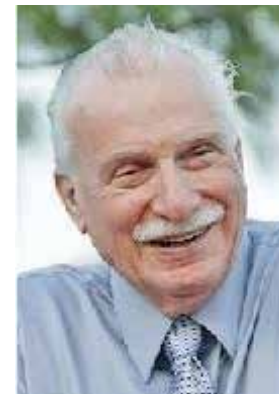
and investing in people. In honor of his lifelong commitment to education, the Eugene W. Snyder Leadership Endowment Scholarship Fund was established through Barberton Community Foundation. This scholarship supports students who exemplify leadership, passion, and a commitment to making a difference, ensuring that Gene's legacy of mentorship and service continues to impact future generations.

Website: barbertoncf.org/project/5267/

Donation Link:
<https://tinyurl.com/4vswyvbn>
Or Scan Code



David R. Brumagin Endowment Scholarship



David Brumagin was a beloved teacher, community leader, and storyteller who left a lasting impact on Barberton. Born on June 23, 1933, he attended Boston Nazarene College and initially pursued preaching, following in the footsteps of his mother, Reverend Dorothy Brumagin. However, he found his true calling in education, becoming an English teacher in 1963 at Highland before moving to Barberton High School, where he taught for decades. He was known for his infectious laughter, passion for storytelling, and encouragement of creativity—particularly in his Media Now class, where he gave students the freedom to explore film making.

Beyond teaching, David was deeply involved in the community. He served as both a 5th Ward Councilman and a Councilman-at-Large, always wearing his signature color—red. His love for Barberton was evident, from painting his house in school colors to inscribing “Go Magics” on the sidewalk for the classes of '75 and '76. He was a man of many talents—a photographer, a wedding videographer, and even a Santa Claus for generations of children. His warmth and generosity were legendary, as was his sharp sense of humor and unique

fashion sense, often wearing eye-catching plaid suits despite being color-blind.

To honor David's legacy, the David Brumagin Memorial Scholarship Fund was established, which reflects his lifelong commitment to education, creativity, and giving back. This scholarship supports students pursuing vocational trades, media, arts, music, writing, and content creation—fields that embody David's passions. Whether through storytelling, hands-on skills, or artistic expression, the scholarship ensures that David's spirit of encouragement and exploration continues to inspire future generations. His impact on Barberton lives on through the students he inspired, the stories he shared, and the joy he brought to those around him.

Website: barbertoncf.org/project/david-r-brumagin-endowment-scholarship-fund



Donation Link:
<https://tinyurl.com/bdeyhdpk>
Or Scan Code

Reimagining Impact:

A New Approach to Grant Funding

At the end of 2024, the Foundation found itself with a rare opportunity: unspent funds in our operating budget. Thanks to careful planning — and a staff position that remained open until May — we had some year-end flexibility. Instead of letting those dollars sit, we asked:

What more can we do for the community?

We looked to our approved grants and saw the answer clearly. Several strong proposals had received only partial funding due to limited resources earlier in the year. With the Board's support, we revisited those awards and provided additional funding to help fill the gaps.

"We're always looking for ways to stretch our dollars further," said Executive Director Josh Gordon. "This was a chance to invest more deeply in partners we believe in — and I'm proud of our Board for saying yes."

In total, an additional \$48,590.01 was distributed to previously approved but not fully funded grant applications:

Grant partners who received additional support include:

Akron Symphony Orchestra - \$5,700

ArtsNow - \$1,000

Barberton Diamond Sports - \$10,100

Barberton Intermediate School - \$3,084.33

Barberton Parks and Recreation - \$6,874.68
City of Barberton - \$2,000

Common Threads Closet - \$2,000

Greenleaf Family Center - \$2,000

Habitat for Humanity - \$3,000

Humane Society of Summit County - \$1,780

Kave Coffee Bar - \$7,628

White Rabbit Galleries - \$3,450



Cycle 1:

Education, Workforce & Economic Development

In the Education and Workforce Cycle, the Foundation awarded 13 grants totaling \$138,847.68

\$24,000 to Barberton Preschool's Summer Learning Program

\$9,846.68 to support services provided to families in AMHA housing from Barberton City School District

\$9,000 for Improving Attendance at Barberton Primary and Intermediate Schools

\$4,000 to Barberton Middle School for STEM supplies

Limitless Ambition received **\$20,000** for their program Purposely Chosen Teen Programming in Barberton City Schools

National Inventors Hall of Fame, Inc. received **\$15,000** for 2024 Camp Invention in Barberton

Child Guidance & Family Services received **\$10,000** for their program Toddlers & Preschoolers Succeeding (TAPS) in Barberton

Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio received **\$10,000** to support its Troops in Low-Income Communities program

Great Trail Council of Boy Scouts of America was awarded **\$10,000** to support The Exploring Program for middle and high school students

United Way of Summit & Medina received **\$10,000** for support of their Financial Empowerment Center

Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio received **\$7,000** for its program called Inspiring Barberton Students through JA Programming

Service Corps of Retired Executives – SCORE Akron received **\$5,000** for community and workforce development programs

Project Learn of Summit County was awarded **\$5,000** for providing GED classes at the Barberton Public Library



National Inventors Hall of Fame, Inc. received **\$15,000** for 2024 Camp Invention in Barberton

Limitless Ambition received **\$20,000** for their program Purposely Chosen Teen Programming in Barberton City Schools



\$24,000 to Barberton Preschool's Summer Learning Program

Cycle 2:

Health and Wellness

In the Health and Wellness Cycle, the Foundation awarded 13 grants totaling \$140,000

Victim Assistance Program received **\$25,000** for their Barberton Advocacy Program

Summa Health Barberton Campus received **\$22,500** to support the purchase of 20 Holter cardiac monitors

Child Guidance & Family Solutions (CGFS) received **\$15,000** to support three professional development training modules and the purchase of therapeutic sensory toys and games for children

Vantage Aging received **\$13,000** to expand their Meals on Wheels Northeast Ohio

Embracing Futures received **\$12,000** for their Orthodontic Care Program

CareStar Community Services received **\$10,000** to provide Community Based Wraparound Services

Humane Society of Summit County received **\$10,000** to support Barberton visits by MABEL Mobile Veterinary Clinic

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank received **\$7,500** to support 2025 Barberton District Distribution Program

Ben Curtis Family Foundation received **\$6,500** to support the Birdie Bag Program within Barberton City School District

Axesspointe Community Health Centers received **\$5,000** to support their Mobile Meals program, to serve 55 low-income, elderly, and disabled Barberton residents

Greenleaf Family Center received **\$5,000** to support Suicide Prevention Programming for Barberton's middle and high school students

Stewarts Caring Place received **\$5,000** to assist their Cancer Wellness and Support Services

United Way of Summit and Medina counties received **\$3,500** for 2-1-1 Information and Referral Services



Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank received **\$7,500** to support 2025 Barberton District Distribution Program



Humane Society of Summit County received **\$10,000** to support Barberton visits by MABEL Mobile Veterinary Clinic



Summa Health Barberton Campus received **\$22,500** to support the purchase of 20 Holter cardiac monitors

Reimagining Impact:

A New Approach to Grant Funding

Continued

Cycle 3: Arts and Community

In the Arts and Community Cycle, the Foundation awarded **10 grants totaling \$81,152.32**

Habitat for Humanity of Summit County, Inc. received **\$12,000** for their 2025 Barberton New Home Build project

Akron Symphony Orchestra was awarded **\$300** to provide concerts for kids that are crafted and intended to appeal to children ages 6 months to 6 years old

Barberton Intermediate School received **\$300** for their community history mural project

Magical Theatre Company was awarded **\$25,000** for its PACT (Performing Arts Can Teach) program

Kave Coffee Bar received **\$7,460** toward a Barber mansion mural project

Barberton Diamond Sports received **\$7,400** toward new field resurfacing, dugouts, and fencing

White Rabbit Galleries was awarded **\$300** toward strategic planning for board development

ArtsNow received **\$9,000** toward their ArtsForward 2025 program.

Barberton High School was awarded **\$11,240** toward refining and advancing musical skills for students

Barberton Parks and Recreation received **\$8,152.32** toward College Park renovation and improvements



Akron Symphony Orchestra was awarded **\$300** to provide concerts for kids that are crafted and intended to appeal to children ages 6 months to 6 years old



Barberton Intermediate School received **\$300** for their community history mural project

Small Grants

Small but Mighty: Micro-Grants That Make a Big Difference

Not every project requires a large grant to make a meaningful impact. That's why Barberton Community Foundation awards small grants — **awards of \$2,000 or less** — throughout the year to nonprofits and schools addressing timely needs in our community.

These grants may be small in size, but their reach is mighty. In 2024, the Foundation **awarded \$13,000 across six grants** directly from our endowed grant making funds. Thanks to the generosity of some of our funds, an additional \$2,057 was contributed — bringing the **total awarded through small grants to \$15,057**.

These dollars helped provide Thanksgiving meals, kindergarten t-shirts, therapy horse riding lessons for children, harm reduction supplies, and even a new refrigerator for the Salvation Army.



Barberton Preschool – Family Literacy Nights Awarded: **\$2,000**

2024 Small Grant Highlights:

Rape Crisis Center – Harm Reduction Bags for the Barberton Community
Awarded: **\$1,500**

Barberton City Schools – Learning Under the Lights
Awarded: **\$2,000**

Barberton City Schools – DECA Trip Support
Awarded: **\$457** from the Harnden Family Fund for Academic Excellence

Victory Gallop – Rider Scholarships
Awarded: **\$1,000** from the Foundation + **\$1,000** from the Marilyn & John May Fund for Developmentally Disabled Youth

Salvation Army – Refrigerator Replacement
Awarded: **\$2,000** from the Foundation + **\$600** from the Merrilee and Jimmy Anthe Fund

Barberton Primary School – Kindergarten T-Shirts
Awarded: **\$1,500**

Barberton Preschool – Family Literacy Nights
Awarded: **\$2,000**

BHS Band – Indoor Guard
Awarded: **\$2,000**

Coalition of Concerned Christians – Thanksgiving Meals for Local Families
Awarded: **\$1,000**

We are incredibly grateful to the donors and fund representatives who make this work possible. Your generosity helps us respond to needs in real time and create opportunities where they're needed most.



Ann Hutchison
Executive Director
Barberton Public Library



Community Foundation to thrive. We are thankful for your continued support.

**Thanks,
Josh Gordon**



PATHWAYS **24**

‘24 Game Changer Dinner

A Night of Celebration

Thank You for Joining Us

A note from Josh Gordon, Executive Director

On behalf of the entire team, we wanted to say a big THANK YOU for joining us at our Annual Dinner on Thursday, November 7. We hope you left feeling energized about our sense of community and enjoyed celebrating what makes Barberton so magical! For me, it was particularly great to see so many friends, connections, fund representatives, grant partners, business partners, donors, board members, and community advocates together in a single room!

2024 Game Changer Award Recipient.

I'm hopeful that new connections were sparked, and acquaintances renewed. Thank you for making the night special. Please accept our appreciation for taking the time to spend the evening with us – and for any donations you made – that helped us celebrate our 2024 Game Changers, Phil Hodanbosi and Barberton Public Library. It's supporters like you who make our community great, inspire pride in the work for our team, and allow Barberton Community Foundation to thrive. We are thankful for your continued support.



Phil Hodanbosi
Barberton Public Library

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

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Learn more about our board and the great work they do in the community!
barbertoncf.org/about-us/board-of-directors/

PATHWAYS²⁴

Barberton Community Foundation Annual Report

Photo credit:
Robert R. Greer Sr.,
SEEN: Advancing Equity in
Summit County

SEEN is a project of ArtsNow,
and funded in part with a 2023 grant
from Barberton Community Foundation.
The goal of SEEN is to showcase
the depth and breadth of arts and
culture offerings in the region and
support and celebrate the diverse
photographers and videographers
who brought it to life.



BARBERTON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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