Adopt-a-Need donations are distributed to organizations that actively help the homeless and poor, but do not receive continued government support or help from the United Way,” he said. “These organizations operate under occasional grants and the help of private donations.”

According to Marie S fern Ditz, executive director at Canton Calvary Mission, folks really depend on them having toilet paper, diapers and laundry detergent, for example. “They can be embarrassed to ask for these items, but it’s reassuring we have them available here. Also, the teenagers really appreciate decorative toilet paper,” she said. S fern Ditz also shared how baby care items are crucial for one great grandmother who has been caring for siblings ages 2, 3 and 4 and now an infant. “She doesn’t have a car and doesn’t get support or benefits for these kids. We do our best to provide everything these children need as well as other families.”

Since 2009, the Aultman Wellness on Wheels ( WOW ) mobile health-fair unit has been traveling throughout Stark County and beyond to schools, community centers, churches, senior centers, block parties and other locations by invitation. “Mobile health education is not a new concept, but we are going the extra step to meet Stark County residents in their own communities where they are most comfortable,” said WOW ’s Clinical Outreach Coordinator Linda Brunk, who is a certified pediatric registered nurse. “And we strive to make it fun and interactive.”

The WOW van provides free health education for all ages and screenings including blood pressure checks, height, weight and Body Mass Index (BMI). The van is staffed by medical professionals such as registered nurses, pharmacy technicians, dietitians and others based on the need of an event. “We have gone to more than 585 events to reach 47,000 people during the last 2.5 years,” Brunk shared. “Although it’s hard to track outcomes because we may not be seeing someone more than once, we do review data from every screening such as blood pressure and BMI and then modify our program to reflect the trends of what our communities need – and it can be different for various parts of Stark County.”

For example, just like national statistics show, high blood pressure can be a silent killer, especially for African-American males, said WOW. “A lot of education on blood pressure and the importance of having it checked regularly. Overweight obesity is another primary area of concern, but those words are too harsh, Brunk said. “We want to build self-esteem and help people get to a healthy weight. Parents are especially protective of children. We encourage families to have their BMIs taken together and make changes as a family.”

Every month, the WOW team goes to approximately 20-30 events but is always at the following locations. “We encourage folks to come see us every month to have their blood pressure rechecked. We are here to connect the dots and get them the help they need,” Brunk concluded.

“Mobile health education is not a new concept, but we are going the extra step to meet Stark County residents in their own communities where they are most comfortable.”

– LINDA BRUNK, WOW’S CLINICAL OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Do you know how to achieve health wealth? It’s all about making small changes to live a healthy lifestyle.

Safety First

For seven years, Aultman Health Foundation has been preparing area first-graders for a lifetime of sailing safety. Aultman employee Lee Kelly, shown with an Akron Elementary School first-grader, is one of more than 400 employee volunteers each year who teach 250-classes at 50 different schools throughout Stark County. Almost 22,000 helmets have been distributed during this program called Safety First. Bike accidents result in an estimated half million injuries in the United States annually. The American Academy of Pediatrics believes that if bike helmets could save as many as 450 children from harm each year.

Junior Achievement*

Junior Achievement, a program of the Aultman Health Foundation, has focused on entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. On Feb. 9, more than 20 Aultman and AultCare employees spent a half day teaching elementary students how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, to create jobs which make their communities more robust, how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. Aultman has partnered with JA for more than a decade, and this year also helped eighth graders focus on career readiness and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. On Feb. 9, more than 20 Aultman and AultCare employees spent a half day teaching elementary students how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, to create jobs which make their communities more robust, how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. Aultman has partnered with JA for more than a decade, and this year also helped eighth graders focus on career readiness and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.
HOW YOU CAN HELP COMMUNITY HARVEST FILL MORE STOMACHS WITH HOT MEALS

Forty percent of all food produced in the United States is thrown out.

In 22 years, Community Harvest of Stark County has been striving to rescue as much of this food as possible and provide it to 35 Stark County community service organizations that collectively serve hot meals several times a week to people who would otherwise go hungry.

In 2009, Community Harvest received a $7,500 grant from The Aultman Foundation to help further grow its services and impact to the hungry in Stark County.

Community Harvest Executive Director Faith Barbato said the funds were used to hire increased capacity and recruit new organizations that could donate unused cooked and fresh food such as local restaurants, caterers, stores, cafeterias and hotel kitchens.

“We grew from 65 regular donors to 90 regular donors in a short time as a result of the additional marketing efforts,” Barbato shared. “The funds also enabled us to get a new safe freezer, buy a year’s worth of supplies and cover increased fuel and mileage costs for the truck.”

Community Harvest is unique from other food rescue programs across the country because it does not charge for food, pickup or delivery. The 14-foot specially equipped refrigerated truck safely and efficiently moves more than 5,000 miles each year just to Stark County roads.

“We operate on donations, grants and volunteers,” said Barbato, who is the only paid employee and runs the office by herself. “It takes a lot of coordination to get donated food to those in need as soon as possible. Most of the time, the food is served the very day or the day after it is donated!”

Food donors must be health department approved venues and are protected by the Ohio Good Samaritan Food Law that safeguards food donors from liability. The exceptions to this are fresh produce and food donated in sealed packaging that have never been opened.

There’s a great need for healthy food choices such as meat and produce, according to Barbato, who has worked to get the program listed on ampcharitas.org to improve awareness among local farmers.

In addition to helping her grow the program, Barbato is thankful for Aultman Foundation’s guidance and vast knowledge of the community. “Things are getting tough, and the local agencies need to collaborate more. Aultman Foundation keeps us connected by strategically connecting community agencies together.”

In 2007, Aultman Health Foundation established The Aultman Foundation to improve the health of the community using a twofold process:

- Targeted grant funding to area nonprofit organizations.
- The acceptance of charitable gifts to the foundation and hospital.

“The primary Aultman mission is to lead our community to improved health,” said Vicki Flaim, vice president of The Aultman Foundation. “We want to help those that further this mission and are striving to really make a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors. Gifts to our foundation will be channeled back into the community or to benefit designated areas of Aultman Hospital, as specified by each donor.”

GIFT FUNDING

Twice yearly, the foundation accepts gift requests from 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with projects focusing on health, education and human services.

“Special consideration is given to proposed projects and services that focus on the underserved, especially the poor, elderly and children,” said Tracy Figuerra, program director. Additionally, proposed projects or services must impact the community served by Aultman Health Foundation, which include Stark, Wayne, Holmes, Carroll and Tuscarawas counties.

According to Figuerra, The Aultman Foundation does not fund individuals, capital or annual campaigns, foundations or endowments.

Applications are available for download at aultmanfoundation.org and will be accepted now through Sept. 2 for $100,000 in grants awarded in the fall.

Another grant round will be held in the late spring of 2012.

Since its inception, the foundation has distributed $25,000 in grants locally.

DONATING TO THE AULTMAN FOUNDATION

Donors may target their gifts to specific areas of the hospital, such as hospice services or children’s programs. Contributions to the unrestricted fund will be used where they are needed most.

Orthopaedics

Many orthopaedic problems need more than medical service. You may require emergency room treatment, medical beds, surgery, therapy, medical equipment for the home or intense on-site rehabilitation.

Heart

Aultman Hospital has been named one of the nation’s 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals by Thomson Reuters for 2011. At the Aultman Heart Center, prevention is a priority. Our education and risk factor identification program can help you keep your heart healthy.

Cancer

The Aultman Cancer Center is a fusion of ideas, technology, talent and compassion. The physicians associated with Aultman Cancer Center evaluate and design individual treatment plans based on the type, stage and aggressiveness of the patient’s disease.

Neurosciences/Stroke

Trauma or illness involving the brain, spinal cord or nervous system can be a frightening experience for a patient and especially for a patient’s family. The Aultman Neuroscience/Stroke Center, staffed by board-certified neurological experts, neurosurgeons and stroke specialists, will be channeled back into the community or to benefit designated areas of Aultman Hospital, as specified by each donor.”

The Aultman Foundation Distributes Grants, Accepts Charitable Gifts

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In June, 18 area nonprofit organizations learned they were receiving grants from The Aultman Foundation totaling $100,000.

“It’s our eighth round of grants since Aultman Health Foundation established The Aultman Foundation in 2007,” according to Tracy Figuerra, program director. “Since that time, grants totaling $925,000 have helped further Aultman’s mission by funding local agencies’ projects and services in our five-county area.”

The foundation is guided by a 12-member board of directors. Grant applications are evaluated by a Giant Review Committee to ensure the dollars will make the greatest impact in our community, according to Figuerra.

Receiving a grant in June for the specified amounts below were:

- AGAPE Partnerships: $4,000 for It Takes A Village youth mentoring program.
- Blessings in a Backpack: $10,000 for Disaster Elementary Blessings in a Backpack food distribution program.
- Children’s Discovery Centers, Inc.: Canton: $5,000 for Ople2isa Education Center.
- Edgewood Community Project: $6,500 for Developmentally Disabled Baseball Field for use by Challenger Baseball and Special Olympics.
- First Two of Canton: $5,000 for The First Two Nine Healthy Habits Program.
- Girl Scouts of North Ohio: $5,000 for Lego Teams Robotics Program.
- Hammans & Nalls, Inc.: $5,000 for Stark County residents with physical limitations to live independently.
- Hope Wellington Community Organization, Inc.: $2,000 for Everything Physical program for inner-city citizens.
- Interfaith-Child Development Center: $5,000 for Learning to be Healthy program for children to learn healthy habits.
- Margaret B. Shirley Child Health Clinic, Inc.: $6,500 to safeguard the storage of vaccines and improve the efficiency of Shirley Child Health Clinic’s Pediatric Healthcare Program.
- Refuge of Hope: $6,000 for a meal program to alleviate hunger.
- Senior Independence of Akron/Canton: $7,000 for its Heater 2.0 computer system for the Canton-Allentown Day Center.
- Stark County Safe K ids, Inc.: $4,000 for training for certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians.
- Turnaround Community Outreach: $4,500 for an identification card program.
- We are Touched on Every Side (WOTES): $7,000 to support wellness outreach for urban families in Canton.
- Wastan Family Services, Inc.: $6,000 for Geriatric Case Management and Senior Outreach.
- YWCA of Canton: $5,500 for STAR-Stark Area Rapid Re-Housing to provide beds, clothing, supplies and dangerous or temporary housing and individuals upon placement into permanent or transitional housing.

To learn which organizations received grants in the prior seven rounds, go to aultmanfoundation.org.

GrAnt FunDinG 18 Nonprofits Receive $100,000 in Grants

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