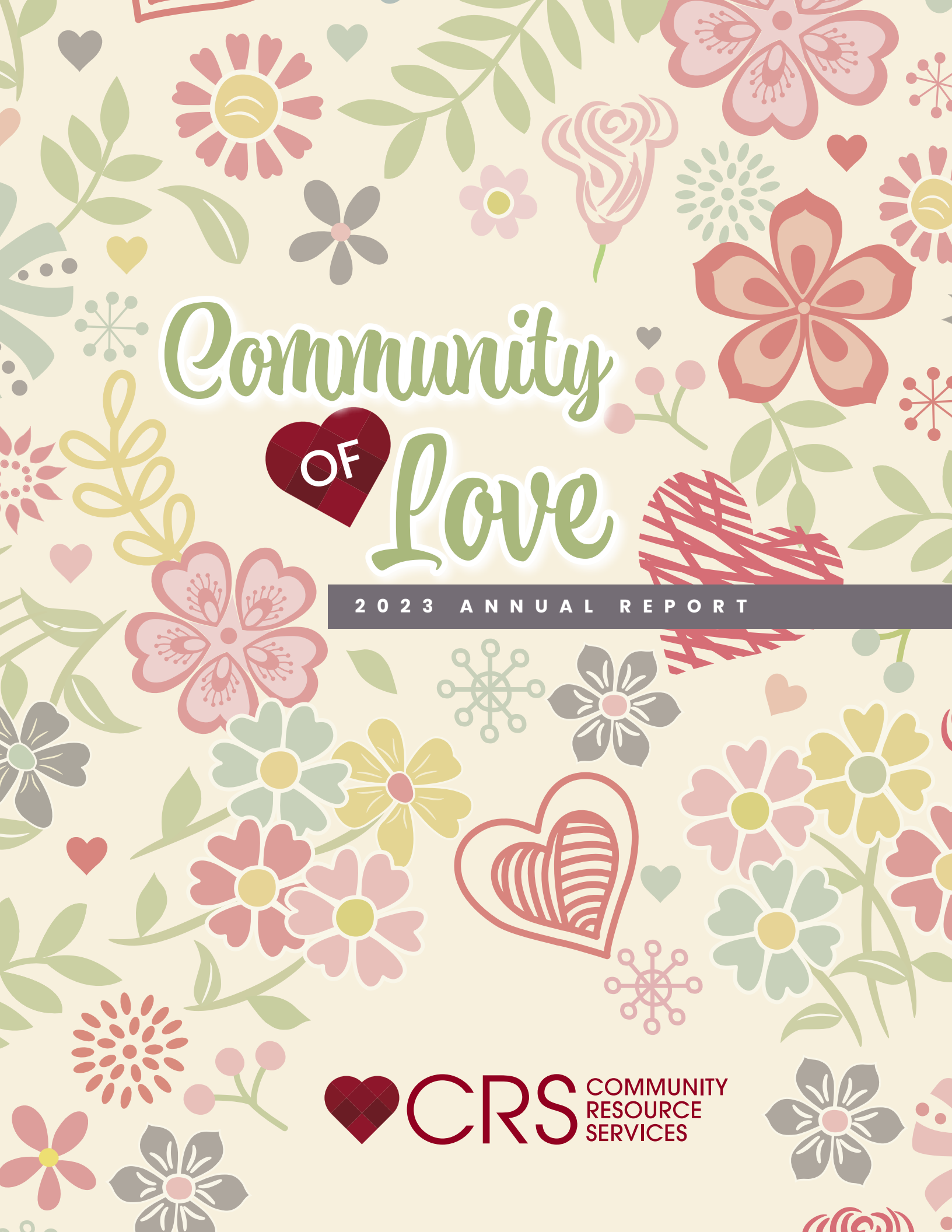


The background of the entire page is a dense, repeating floral pattern. It features various types of flowers in shades of pink, red, yellow, and green, along with green leaves and small heart motifs. The pattern is vibrant and cheerful.

Community OF Love

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A solid red heart icon with a subtle grid pattern.

CRS COMMUNITY
RESOURCE
SERVICES

Dear Friends

More than 35 years ago, a group of volunteers shared a commitment to helping their neighbors who were struggling financially. They recognized the need and took action to build the foundation for Community Resource Services (CRS), which has since then assisted countless residents of Avon and Avon Lake through difficult times.

In 2023, CRS achieved remarkable milestones that have significantly advanced our mission to diminish the effects of poverty in Avon and Avon Lake. Your support, whether through our on-site food pantry, emergency financial assistance, or our Client Personal Development Programs focusing on financial education, health & wellness, and job assistance, has enabled us to effect positive change by empowering individuals to overcome obstacles and realize their full potential.

We experienced an increase in service units for every program that we offered in 2023 including:

- Total food assistance (food pantry, grocery cards) increased by 25%
- Utility assistance increased by 17%
- Housing assistance increased by 45%
- Auto Assistance (car repairs, fuel cards, etc.) increased by 9%
- School related assistance (fees, supplies, etc.) increased by 40%
- Participation in Personal Development Programs increased by 109%

Additionally, the total funds expended for all assistance programs went from \$261,618 in 2022 to \$314,282 in 2023, an increase of 20%.

And behind every life touched and transformed, lies the support of our generous community. It is through the kindness of local individuals, the compassion of businesses, the dedication of organizations, and the spirit of our churches that we are able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors. These contributions, whether big or small, enable us to continue our unwavering commitment to provide essential services.

Special thanks to the following outstanding community partners: The Alyce J. and Ann J. Metka Foundation, The City of Avon, The City of Avon Lake, Avon Lake United Church of Christ, Christ Church Westshore, Community Foundation of Lorain County, Community West Foundation, the Hooks for Hunger Committee, The Salvation Army, The Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio and the United Way of Greater Lorain County/United Community Assistance Network.

As we look ahead to the future, we are more committed than ever to our vision of a community where poverty does not exist, and all individuals have the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their economic circumstances. On behalf of the Board, staff, volunteers and especially the individuals that we serve, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your support of CRS and your commitment to giving back to your local community.

Sincerely,



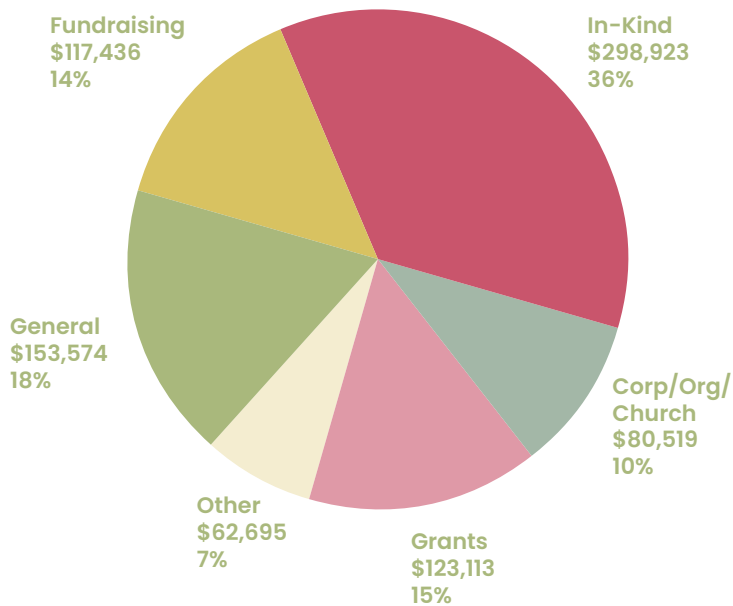
Pam Ohradzansky
Executive Director



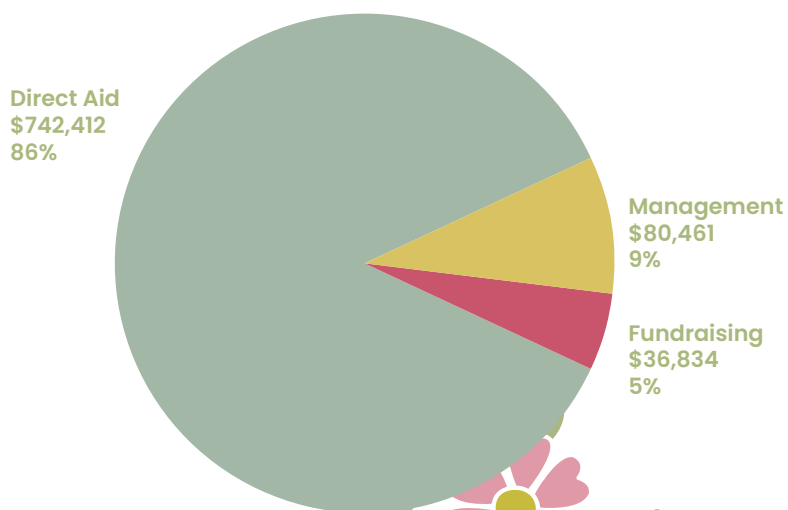
Katie Virtue
Board President

2023 Financials

REVENUE \$836,260



EXPENSES \$859,707



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Empowering Low-Income Families:

The Significance of Grocery and Fuel Gift Cards

In the complex landscape of socio-economic disparities, one vital aspect stands out: the struggle of low-income families to meet their basic needs. CRS is committed to addressing this gap through our mission to diminish the effects of poverty for the residents of Avon and Avon Lake. We do this through our on-site food pantry, and through financial assistance for critical expenses such as rent, utilities, car repairs, school supplies and other unexpected expenses.

Our clients also face daily challenges such as the high cost of groceries and gasoline. CRS plays a significant role in helping our clients with these challenges by offering fuel cards to help offset the cost of gasoline and grocery gift cards to purchase perishable items that our food pantry does not provide. These seemingly simple interventions can have profound impacts, offering not just immediate relief but also helping to alleviate long-term stress.

In 2023, CRS served almost 500 households. Due to the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide our families with 676 fuel gift cards and 807 grocery gift cards. Although this assistance is relatively small compared to the number of households we served, we know that the importance of providing these gift cards cannot be overstated. This type of assistance addresses immediate needs, promotes dignity and autonomy, enhances food security, and facilitates economic mobility. When families thrive, communities thrive, creating a ripple effect of positive change that extends far beyond the immediate beneficiaries.

Addressing Immediate Needs

For many low-income families, putting food on the table and ensuring transportation to essential destinations are constant worries. Grocery and fuel cards directly address these pressing needs by providing access to food and transportation without adding financial strain. In times of crisis or uncertainty, such assistance can be a lifeline, ensuring that families do not have to choose between buying groceries or fuel and paying for other necessities like rent or utilities.

Facilitating Economic Mobility

Access to transportation is a key determinant of economic mobility. Without reliable means of getting to work, school, or medical appointments, individuals and families may find themselves trapped in a cycle of poverty. Fuel cards help alleviate this barrier by ensuring that transportation costs are not prohibitive. By enabling access to employment opportunities, education, and essential services, these gift cards contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering economic independence.

Enhancing Food Security

Food insecurity remains a pervasive issue, with millions of individuals unsure of where their next meal will come from. Grocery gift cards provide low-income families with the means to access nutritious food options, thereby promoting food security and supporting overall health and well-being. Additionally, by enabling families to purchase groceries of their choice, these gift cards can encourage healthier eating habits, which can have long-lasting positive effects on both physical and mental health.

Thank You

2023 DONORS

At CRS we recognize that our programming could not exist without the invaluable support of our donors. Heartfelt thanks to each individual, organization, and corporation listed below for their contributions, dedication, and belief in our mission. Together, we are transforming lives and building a brighter future for all. This list includes all monetary donations received through our Annual Fund Campaign, the Charity Ball, the SOUPer Bowl Food Drive and all other general donations received in 2023.

Legacy Society Platinum

\$15,000 +

The Alyce J and Ann J. Metka Foundation
City of Avon
City of Avon Lake
Hooks For Hunger
The Salvation Army
United Way of Greater Lorain County/United Community Assistance Network (UCAN)

Legacy Society

\$5,000-\$14,999

Avon Lake United Church of Christ - Good Neighbor Thrift Shop
Rick & Sheila Chiricosta
Community Foundation of Lorain County
Community West Foundation
Jason & Renee Copsey
Eagle Run Committee
Empty Bowls By The Lake
James & Tonya Haddad
Matt & Stacey Litzler
The M5 Family Foundation
Westside Toyota & Honda of Middleburg Hts.

Foundation Society

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Avon High School Student Council
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Holy Spirit Parish
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PJs From Grandma, Inc.
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Jeffrey Stenzel
The Gerborg Family Foundation
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Avon High School Key Club
Avon High School Year Book Committee
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Avon Lake High School Student Council
Avon Lake Sewer Cleaning
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Carolyn Stilwell*
Alice Stilwell

*In Memory of Richard
Tomanek*
Timothy & Loralyn
Stuebner

In Memory of Robert Tomanek
Timothey & Loralyn
Stuebner

We appreciate all gifts at
all levels and also thank the
following individuals who
support us by designating
all or part of their United Way
pledge to CRS:

Anonymous (3)
Michael Brunetti
John Elton
Audrey Hemlinger
Sherri McComas
Evan Paine
Theresa Patton
David Stonecipher
Kevin Schneider

We have made every attempt
to create an accurate list,
and we want to correct any
errors. Please let us know
if your name is missing or
listed improperly. Thank you
for your cooperation and
understanding.

Making a lasting impression
in your community may be
easier than you think. CRS
is pleased to offer options
for planned giving. Let us
know if you would like more
information.

Thank You

2023 IN-KIND DONORS

We extend our deepest gratitude to the generous individuals, businesses, and organizations who have contributed in-kind resources in support of CRS programs. Each donation fuels our efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. The following list of donors supported one or more of our many programs including Holiday Food Baskets, School Supplies, Grocery Gift Cards, Easter Baskets, Summer Snack Bags, Santa's Workshop (Toys, PJs, Coats, Scarves, Gloves, Hats, Family Baskets, Teen Gifts, Stockings, Senior Gifts), Mother's Day Gift Bags, and Food Pantry Items.

In-Kind Donors

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Katy Anechino
Alan Applegate
Heather Auburn
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Avenbury Lakes Quilt Club
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Avon East Boosters
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Avon Girl Scouts
Avon Heritage Elementary
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Avon High School Save Club
Avon Lake Big Trucks Event
Avon Lake Boat Club
Avon Lake Boys Soccer Team
Avon Lake Early Childhood PTA
Avon Lake High School Student Council
Avon Lake Kiwanis Club
Avon Lake Police Department
Avon Lake Post Office
Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
Avon Lake Scouts, Scouting for Food
Avon Lake Swim Team
Avon Lake United Church of Christ
Avon Lions Club
Avon Local Schools
Avon Middle School
Avon on the Lake Garden Club
Avon Police Department
Avon Post Office
Avon PTA
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Eastview Elementary, Mrs. Lyon's Kindergarten Class
Sharon Edwards
Amira Els
Equine Essentials
Ergomat, Inc.
Erie Outfitters
Evereve
Eyring Movers
Sarah Fejes
Mark & Jennifer Fenderbosch
Bridget Foertch
Michael Foote
Found Vintage Home & Gifts
Russell & Danielle Freeman
Freeman Manufacturing & Supply
Doreen French
Margaret Fries
Albert & Linda Garceau
Gary Georgi
Dave Gerboc
Larissa Gervis
Giant Eagle Avon Lake
Amy Gibson
Naya Gigliotti
The Giminani Family



Anne Ginley
Girl Scout Troop #50720
Girls on the Run
Corey Gomez
Good Neighbor Thrift Shop
Donna Goodwin
Ted & Deb Gordon
Marilyn Guinter
Eveline Gulbrandsen
Andy Haas
Harrington Village Association
Mary Harrison
Jeanne Hassel
Karen Heinlein
Heritage School Avon
Kristin Hewko
Hinckley Lighting, Inc.
Marianne Hocking
Diane Hollars
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
Holy Trinity Parish
Holy Trinity School
Honey Baked Ham
Hooks for Hunger
Amy Houk & Family
Howard Hanna
Christine Huffman
Tracy Hughes
Beth Hughes
Hunger Network Food Rescue
Independence Village
Maryellen Inglis
Kathleen Jaworski
Mike & Dianne Johnson



Rod Johnson
Troy Journalism
David & Vicki Joyce
Maribeth Kalb
Kate Kalvitz
Donna Kasinec
Les & Judy Kean
Jane Keene
Noah Kehl
Kathleen Keller
Michelle Kelly
Martha Kelly
Lindsay Kelly & Family
Nate & Janna Kepner
John & Christine Kilgore
Knights of Columbus
Diane Koch
Mark & Carmella Kofron
Leslie Koskey
Trudy Kovatch
Debra Kraft
Kim Krock
Glenn & Barb Kuemerle
Lori LaBanc
Judson Laipply
Lake Erie Crushers
Lakeshore United Methodist
Church
Mary Lasky
Jerry & Lu Leak
Learwood Middle School 7th
Grade Volleyball
Jane Lennon
Joan Lissner
Carrie Loe
Lee Lohr
Lorain County JVS
Linda Lotko
Lowe's
Gayle Luker
The Machovina Family
Nancy MacIvor
Amy Manco

Marc Matlock
Patrick & Pamela May
Gregg & Ann McAllise
Leannie Mcallister
Judy McCain
Matt & Liz McNaghten
Mealey School of Music
Meijer



Carol Miller
Minutemen Ohiocomp
Miss Kristin's Dance Studio
Kathryn Modock
Erin Montis
Moose's Mission
Dana Mueller
Carlene Murphy
Janene Murphy
Kris Murray & Family
Jennifer Nagy
New Westsiders
Dan & Colleen Nicastro
Sharon Nicholas
Mary Noeller
Lindsey Nordloh
Normandy Elementary School
North Coast Mustang & Ford
Club of Ohio
North Coast Rotary Club &
Foundation
Anna Paige
Dave & Anne Paine
Evan Paine
Parker's Grille and Tavern
Carol Pelty
Toby & Mindy Penn
Peter & Co. Jewelers
Tom & Carol Petty
Cathy Phillips
Diane Pierce
Anthony Pitts
PJ's from Grandma



Kim Plumley
Donna Pollarnie
Mike Pray
Preschool Sports
Kathleen Price
Primrose School of Avon
Diane Purcell
Dr. John Pyke
Rainforest Car Wash
RE/MAX Above and Beyond
Redwood Elementary First
Grade
Redwood Elementary School
Redwood K Kids
Redwood Living
Cheryl Lynn Regan
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Ngal & Kim Saluja
The Salwan Family
Ilona Sargent
Joy Schenker
Dorothy Scherler
Kevin & Mary Kay Schneider
Linda Schneider
Doug & Robin Schosser
Jason & Megan Scott
Tracy Seeley & Mary Jane
LaSure
Scott & Martine Shuker
Tricia Sisson
Dick & Lee Smelko
Christie Smouk
Mark & Chris Spaetzel &
Grandchildren
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St. Mary of the Woods
St. Vincent DePaul
Sandy Stack
Dan & Catherine Starwalt
Leslie Stephens
Shar Stetler
Joann Stetzy
Stevan Dohanos School
John & Nancy Sullivan
Mark & Stephanie Summers



Jeanine Surace
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Rick Tansey
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The Cove
The Goddard School
The Reddy Group-Keller
Williams
The Vitamin Shoppe Avon
The Wine Room
Judy Thompson
Pat Tokarcik
Tom and Pat Toth
Mike & Kathy Tracy
Trifecta
Troy Intermediate School
Sandy Truax
U H Community Outreach
Glen Vasilof
Vestolit
The Vignale Family
Janice Wagner
Nora Wall
Norm Waller
Denise Walsh
The Walters Family
Sally Weakley
Cathy Weller
Vickie Wert
Westside Flea
Westview Elementary
Westview Elementary School
K-Kids
Westwinds Cooking Club
Russ Whealy
Don & Adele Wheeler
Diana Whisenant
Michelle Wimmer
Marie Witt
Eileen Wozniak
Y Princesses
Rob & Donna Yonkers
Rob & Katherine Zawtock
Margaret Zucker



Thank You

2023 CHARITY BALL SPONSORS

The 34th Annual Charity Ball, Toward Tomorrow Together, was held on April 22, 2023, in celebration of over 34 years of service to our community.

Diamond Sponsors

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The Hen 'n the Ivy
Westlife



2023 Statistical Recap

Overall, we assisted residents in Avon and Avon Lake:

9,809x
through various programs.

488 households

1,199 individuals

481 adults

538 children

180 senior citizens

TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT FOR ALL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

\$314,282

FOOD PANTRY

5,538 visits

104,322 pounds of food distributed

\$10,202 in food purchases

\$26,925 in grocery gift cards distributed

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

181x

\$91,811

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

277x

\$56,020

GAS & AUTOMOTIVE

827x

\$49,455

MEDICAL & PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE

35x

\$3,569

SPECIAL SEASONAL PROGRAMS

1,351 x

\$10,318

CLOTHING & FURNITURE

85x

\$2,458

SCHOOL SUPPLIES & FEES

981x

\$34,469

CLIENT PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

338x

\$27,013

MISCELLANEOUS/REFERRALS

196x

\$2,040

1 full time staff

6 part time staff

More than

200 volunteers,
2,735 hours

Per CRS Service Guidelines for Financial Assistance, most services are available on a limited basis, including automotive, medical, utility, rent, and grocery cards. Clients may receive pantry assistance as needed. Seasonal gifts and school supplies are primarily donor-driven and available based on supply.



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*The noblest question in the world
is what good may I do in it?*

Benjamin Franklin

