



United Way
of Greater Stark County

Serving Carroll and Stark Counties

Hopeful New Beginnings

Dear friend,

As we begin a new year, I've spent some time reflecting on the past year. There's no doubt that we've faced challenges – individually, organizationally and as a community. From those challenges we've seen change, perseverance, growth and humbling generosity. In the coming weeks and months, you'll hear more about the past year as well as what's to come in 2021. Today I want to highlight one specific initiative that started amid chaos as a way to offer stability. We had no idea the ultimate hope it would offer in a year of uncertainty for so many.

The COVID-19 Impact Fund was created at the start of the pandemic to provide the most basic of needs to families in our community – shelter. The fund provided rent or mortgage assistance to individuals who had been affected by job loss or a reduction in hours due to the pandemic to ensure they could stay safely sheltered.

Recently, we distributed 100% of the nearly \$450,000 raised from that fund. While we continue to look for additional funding opportunities for the COVID-19 Impact Fund, and accept donations to it, I wanted to share a year-end update with you of what you've made possible.

There have been many generous individuals, corporations, foundations and grantors to the fund who have made this critical assistance possible over the past nine months. A few of the incredible highlights include:

- A total of 403 households with 606 children received assistance
- A challenge match from an anonymous donor of \$50,000 was achieved through community donations
- Many generous local corporate and foundations gifts including, H-P Products, Inc., The Hillman Foundation Fund, The Hoover Foundation – Immediate Impact Alert Fund, KeyBank, North Canton Medical Foundation, PNC Bank, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton and Stark Community Foundation
- A gift from The Timken Charitable and Education Fund in September allowed us to expand from only rent and mortgage services to include additional emergency assistance services of utilities, food and prescription assistance
- A \$150,000 grant was received through the City of Canton to provide city residents with rent, mortgage and utilities assistance

This work with the COVID-19 Impact Fund is a prime example of the work you make possible every day. In a year of uncertainty for so many, one thing is certain – you stepped up to show your support with incredible generosity. Thank you for believing in us and thank you for believing in this community.

While the Impact Fund was a success, we know our work isn't over yet as we continue to navigate the needs from the pandemic. Yet, we are hopeful and inspired for the future because of you.

President & CEO, United Way of Greater Stark County