



# LOCAL IMPACT

## ALLIANCE

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Annual Report 2021



I AM  
A DIFFERENCE MAKER



## Dear Friends,

Giving back to your own community is one of the highest services you can provide to those in need. And those of you receiving this Annual Report are some of the most generous in our world; and for that, I congratulate and thank you.

But along with being charitable yourself, helping others in your circle of influence to learn how to give is an effort well worth all of our time. During the holidays, I urge you to have conversations with friends and family

members to explain how you give back to your community. Show them a path to philanthropy. Examples are a great way of illustrating to someone the many ways they can give back — and you all are fantastic representatives in showing how to be generous.

In addition, our team at the Local Impact Alliance (LIA) has provided you stories of people right here in Western Wayne County who have worked with our various foundations in order to fulfill their philanthropic dreams.

You'll learn about Serena Baker who is fast becoming a "difference maker" within her community, thanks to what she learned from her mentors in the Lead Like a Girl program. The Canton Police Benevolence Fund, the Last Hope Fund, the Canton Cares Fund, and the Community Foundation of Plymouth are also making their mark in our community.

Through stories like these, you can show someone whom you care about how they can become a "difference maker" in their community. And, of course, we hope that you will point them back to our family of foundations (The Canton Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Plymouth, Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle, and now we are pleased to add the Westland Community Foundation to our LIA family). Beth Meade and the team at LIA would be happy to help.

Finally, as we enter this season of giving, I hope that you will do as my family does, and take a look at our commitment to philanthropy, what our focus is, and at what level we hope to give in the coming year. Any time you would like to discuss your own fund or an idea for a fund with Beth the the team, please call the LIA office at 734-495-1200 and they will be happy to make an appointment to meet with you.

I wish you a happy and healthy new year and an easy winter.

Your Board Chairman,

*Steven Sneideman*



**Please help support the mission of the Local Impact Alliance of serving the communities of Canton, Plymouth, Westland and surrounding areas by scanning the QR code and making your year-end gift.**

**Questions? Contact Beth Meade at 734-495-1200 or [bmeade@cantonfoundation.org](mailto:bmeade@cantonfoundation.org)**



# Serena Baker Is 'Leading Like a Girl' to Make a Difference



What started out as an ad slogan at the 2015 Super Bowl to do something “#LikeAGirl,” led to a challenge for the staff at Canton Township’s B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center. Laura Mortier and her staff accepted this challenge to do something “#LikeAGirl” and designed a program to mentor young women to “Lead Like a Girl.” This pilot program serving middle school-aged girls, was designed to change the way these girls think about what it means to “Lead Like a Girl.”

Monthly program curriculum was developed to promote positive behavior, enhance social skills and encourage academic performance. Female government leaders, business owners, medical professionals, public safety officers and others provided interactive experiences for the initial group of 14 participants. The results were unbelievable! “It has been an amazing experience getting to work with such a bright and talented group of girls,” said Mortier. “In just four short months we have seen them grow into confident, well-spoken and understanding young women.”

One of those young women who graduated from the program was then-14-year-old Serena Baker. Serena joined the LLAG program in its second year. She said what she liked about the program was that it didn’t feel like a club. “Everyone participated in the monthly programs, they were always interactive, and we got to see a more personal side to classmates.”

Serena was so immersed in the experience and became such a positive role model that she was awarded the first Lead Like a Girl college scholarship. This scholarship, managed by the Canton Community Foundation, is awarded annually to an LLAG “graduate” who completes a scholarship application and writes an essay. The scholarship is held by the Foundation until the student graduates high school.

Serena has put her experience with LLAG and the B.L.O.C.K. program, as well as her scholarship, to good use on the campus of Wayne State University. This exemplary dual-enrolled student is currently studying Nursing with the hopes of becoming a nurse midwife. Her dream is to become a traveling nurse midwife.

While Serena works her way through college, she is also giving back to the community that gave her her start by working as a summer day camp supervisor with her long-time mentor, Laura Mortier.

Serena Baaker is a “Difference Maker” who is working everyday in the lives of other young girls so that they too can “Lead Like a Girl.”



Laura Mortier (left) with “difference maker” Serena Baker (right)

**For more information on how you can support the Lead Like a Girl Scholarship, contact Beth Meade at 734-495-1200 or at [bmeade@cantonfoundation.org](mailto:bmeade@cantonfoundation.org).**

# Canton Residents Create Programs to Make a Difference in the Community

The mission of a community foundation is greater than assisting donors with their philanthropic objectives. It is also to listen to community members, business owners and leaders to determine the needs and find ways to address those needs. The Canton Community Foundation continues to create programs to help make our community the best place to live, work and play for our residents.

The Canton Cares program was the brainchild of previous Township Supervisor Pat Williams. His goal was to create an avenue for people to donate to any of five different categories within the Canton Cares Fund to support needs that are ineligible to be covered by tax dollars. The fund has made grants of more than \$30,000 over the past three years to provide assistance to our youth, the senior community, our public safety officers and individual residents in dire circumstances. To donate to the Canton Cares Fund, visit our website at [LocallImpactAlliance.org/funds/canton](http://LocallImpactAlliance.org/funds/canton).



The Canton Police Benevolence Fund was established in 2003 in memory of fallen officers Lew Stevens and Brian Darow. The fund's original charitable purpose of supporting the families of fallen and injured officers has grown to also assisting the needs of Canton residents with things like emergency temporary housing and basic home repairs, as well as working with youth and seniors in the community. The fund also provides an annual scholarship to a graduating high school senior who has participated in the Police Explorer program. Sadly, this year it was necessary to use funds to support the family of Canton Police Officer Ed Jangst after his untimely death. To donate to the Canton Police Benevolence Fund, visit our website at [LocallImpactAlliance.org/funds/canton](http://LocallImpactAlliance.org/funds/canton).

This past year of having to isolate from friends and family during the height of the pandemic was difficult for most people. But for many this feeling of isolation and loneliness is not unique to the Covid situation.

CCF's PORCH program was created to combat social isolation and loneliness by hosting social events with seniors, as well as partnering volunteers with clients to create lasting friendships.

To become a PORCH volunteer or to refer a client for services, contact Mili Tandon at 734-495-1200 or [mtandon@cantonfoundation.org](mailto:mtandon@cantonfoundation.org).



***These are just a few of the programs managed by the staff and volunteers at the Local Impact Alliance. To learn more about these and other programs or to discuss an idea for a new program so you too can become a "difference maker," contact Beth Meade at 734-495-1200 or at [bmeade@cantonfoundation.org](mailto:bmeade@cantonfoundation.org).***



# Community Foundation of Plymouth & Camp Casey Make a Difference With Local Family



This year the Community Foundation of Plymouth provided grants to several local organizations including Camp Casey. When Camp Casey founder and Executive Director, Molly Resser, reached out to the Foundation with an urgent request for funding for a Plymouth family whose 5-year-old son was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma brain cancer, the Foundation was happy to help.

Camp Casey is a nonprofit organization that provides cost-free horseback riding programs to children diagnosed with cancer, rare blood disorders, and life-threatening illnesses in Michigan. The mission of Camp Casey is to provide safe and fun experiences for children and families affected by childhood cancer, rare blood disorders, and other life-threatening illnesses through accessible horseback riding programs.

Camp Casey's programs provide memorable experiences for sick children and their families to briefly escape the challenges and fears that pediatric cancer and illness can present.

This grant from CFP made it possible for "hero horse," Miss Pennie to knock on the door of this Plymouth family for a "Horsey Housecall." Following the October 31 "Horsey Housecall," Resser said, "I wish I had the words to properly express what an absolute BLESSING it was to have the support from the Community Foundation of Plymouth to be able to bring such a beautiful experience to little Shaan. There are simply no words that can describe the powerful way he connected with the horses and volunteers. I just can't thank you and your team enough for making this happen!"

For more information on Camp Casey, visit their website at [camp-casey.org](http://camp-casey.org).



**For more information on  
supporting the Community  
Foundation of Plymouth,  
contact Beth Meade at  
734-495-1200 or visit our  
website at  
[LocalImpactAlliance.org/  
Plymouth](http://LocalImpactAlliance.org/Plymouth)**



**community foundation  
Plymouth**

**For good. For ever.™**



# 2021 Top Donors

***Thank you to the hundreds and hundreds of people who supported our mission with their financial contributions. Below is a list of our top donors of 2021.***

Tim Agajeenian  
Drs. Muzammil and Asra Ahmed  
Nazneen Ahmed  
Maureen Alexander  
Ann Arbor Police Benev. Assoc.  
Art Foundation  
Deborah Ash  
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Tim Chan  
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Community Financial Credit Union  
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Bethann Gyorke  
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Ryan Hodges  
Greg Hohenberg  
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Pam Igrisan  
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Joseph Meier

# 2021 Top Donors

Menard Premiere Builders  
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Nancy & Stephen Molson  
Laura Mortier  
M.S.A., INC.  
Joe Mullally  
Kris Munroe  
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Jeff Murray  
Kellie R. Murry  
N.A. Mans & Sons, Inc.  
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Joan Noricks  
Omnex Accounting & Tax Services  
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Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation  
Plymouth Police Department  
POAC  
Police Officers Labor Council  
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Ramolli Coffee  
Mike Ramsey  
Vani & Vidya Rao  
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Ahmer Rehman  
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Lauren Roberts  
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Team Messina, LLC  
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Shari Thakady  
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Maureen A. Visser  
Wade Trim  
Gregory Warnecke  
Phillip Watkins  
Westland Car Care

Westland Community Foundation  
Westland Police Lts. & Sgts. Assoc.  
Kristen Whalen  
Stacy and Jeremy Whiddon  
Shannon & Michael Williams  
Dana Willis  
Jason Witt  
Xuereb Law Group PC  
Yazaki North America, Inc.  
Robert Young  
Robert Zaetta  
Joseph Zylka



50430 School House Rd.  
Suite 200  
Canton, MI 48187

With your support we can keep making a difference within our local communities.



**Scholarships awarded  
in 2021  
\$108,517**

**Scholarships since  
inception:  
\$620,808**



**Grants awarded  
in 2021  
\$839,420**

**Grants since  
inception:  
\$4,849,333**



**Total Assets  
\$5,600,000**

**LocalImpactAlliance.org**

The Canton Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Plymouth, the Westland Community Foundation, and the Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle are members of the Local Impact Alliance.

