



# Discovery



BARBERTON  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2025 Barberton Community Foundation Annual Report



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

# Welcome to Our 2025 Annual Report

Dear friends of Barberton,

Every year at the Foundation, we choose a word to guide our thinking. It helps focus our conversations, frame our decisions, and reflect the spirit of the work ahead.

## For 2025, that word was “Discovery.”

Discovery is about curiosity, listening, learning, testing ideas and asking hard questions. It is about recognizing that progress rarely comes from standing still.

For us, discovery meant taking a close look at our work and asking where Barberton Community Foundation can have the greatest impact in the years ahead.

**That process began with listening. Over the past two years, we spent time talking with residents, educators, nonprofit leaders, donors, and partners throughout the community.**

One conversation was with a young mother who explained she could only afford to send one of her two children to preschool. She had to choose which child would receive that opportunity. Stories like that remind us why this work matters.

In 2025, we took what we heard and began the process of studying it more carefully. Through research, data gathering, and thoughtful discussion, our board and staff worked together to better understand the challenges and opportunities facing Barberton today.

The result of this work is in our newly adopted 2026-2031 Strategic Plan.

This plan identifies four areas where the Foundation can make the greatest difference in our community: birth-to-five education, workforce development, downtown revitalization, and basic needs.

Strategic planning is not simply about writing a document. It is about building a roadmap. It gives our board, staff, and donors a shared understanding of where we're going and how we intend to get there.

**Discovery also meant something else for us this year: trying new things.**

Some of those ideas were small experiments, such as our new Foundation endowment Drivers Ed Scholarship. Others were significant initiatives, like the \$365,601 we launched in matching grant dollars to revitalize buildings in downtown Barberton through our new Barberton Is Back program and in partnership with Main Street Barberton and Barberton Community Development Corporation.

Regardless of scale, all of our programs are grounded in the same set of beliefs: thoughtful leadership, responsible stewardship, and a willingness to invest in the future of Barberton.

**In this annual report, you'll read more about the early results of our “Barberton is Back” program.**

We also explored new ways of supporting students. This year, we hosted our inaugural First-Generation Scholarship Dinner at Remarkable Diner, bringing together six recipients of the Foundation's First-Generation Scholarship, their families, and representatives from University of Akron and Kent State University for a shared meal and conversation.

## Thank You

**Lynne Holcomb** concluded nine years of service on the Board in 2025, including her final year as Board Chair. Her leadership helped strengthen the Foundation's endowment and reinforce a long-term focus on perpetuity—ensuring lasting impact for the Barberton community.

The Foundation also thanks **Justin Chenault**, who served on the Economic Development Committee in 2025, and **Justin Greer**, who served ex officio from 2022–2025 as President of Barberton City Council.

We are grateful to Lynne, Justin, and Justin for their service and commitment to the community.



In fact, 2025 was a big year for scholarships. We established six new funds, five of which are scholarships. As you read about these new funds in our report, you might note how these funds align with our strategic plan. That alignment is encouraging and suggests a growing momentum around the ideas and opportunities that can move Barberton forward.

We are deeply grateful to the fund representatives and donors who chose to partner with the Foundation in this work and who continue to invest in the future of our community.

Later in the year, our community gathered for the Annual Dinner and Game Changer Celebration, recognizing individuals and organizations whose leadership continues to strengthen Barberton.

But the year also reminded us how quickly needs can shift. A federal government shutdown and changes to food assistance programs created uncertainty for millions of Americans, including families here in Barberton. In response, the Foundation provided \$50,000 in grants to the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank, helping ensure local organizations could continue providing meals during a critical time..

Behind the scenes, we also took an important step to strengthen the Foundation for the long term by selecting Goldman Sachs as our new investment advisor. This decision followed a comprehensive evaluation process and reflects our commitment to stewarding the endowment with the highest level of professionalism and care. The strength and growth of the endowment is what allows the Foundation to support Barberton today and continue serving this community for generations to come.

Throughout the year, we were reminded that progress is rarely the result of a single effort. It is built through many small steps, partnerships, and ideas coming together over time.

In the pages that follow, you will read more about the work behind these efforts: the launch of new programs, the donors and partners who made them possible, and the ways the Foundation continues to invest in Barberton's future.

Discovery sharpened our focus and strengthened our resolve. It reminded us that the best work happens when we listen carefully, act thoughtfully, and remain open to new ideas.

Most importantly, it reaffirmed something we already knew: Barberton is a community full of people willing to invest in one another and in the future of this community.

**Thank you for being part of that work.**

With gratitude,

**Josh Gordon**  
Executive Director

**Lynne Holcomb**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Barberton Community  
Foundation





Helping children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn begins long before the first day of school. Through two program investments, Barberton Community Foundation is partnering with the Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC) to strengthen early learning opportunities for Barberton families and childcare providers.

**The Foundation awarded \$25,000 to support the SPARK program (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids), an in-home kindergarten readiness program that works directly with families to build early learning skills.**

Through this grant, 12 children living in the Barberton City School District have been enrolled in SPARK for the



current program year and are receiving individualized learning support through August 2026. Each family is paired with a trained home visitor called a parent partner, who meets with the family once or twice each month to guide learning activities focused on early literacy, math, motor development, and emotional regulation skills.

During each visit, families receive a SPARK learning kit containing a new book, activity card, and educational supplies so parents can continue working with their child between sessions. The program is designed to empower parents in their role as their child's most important teacher while helping children build the skills they need to succeed in school.

SPARK was created in Canton in 2003 and has since served more than 20,000 preschoolers across Ohio. Since the program's inception, independent external evaluations have consecutively shown that SPARK participants outperform their peers on the Ohio Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, particularly in language and literacy benchmarks commonly linked to reading success by third grade.



**The Foundation also awarded \$36,000 to support Barberton's participation in the Unified Early Learning System (UELS), a collaborative initiative designed to strengthen early childhood education across Summit County.**

Managed by the Early Childhood Resource Center in partnership with the City of Akron GAR Foundation and numerous others, UELS brings together childcare providers, community partners, and families to improve the quality and stability of early learning. Participating childcare programs receive business and leadership support, workforce development assistance, and resources to improve program quality, while families benefit from expanded wraparound services and access to community resources.

Barberton Community Foundation is proud to partner with an organization like the Early Childhood Resource Center as we advance our strategic focus on supporting our youngest residents. By strengthening both family learning experiences and the childcare programs that serve them, these investments help ensure more Barberton children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

# Discovering New Partnerships

**In 2025, ECRC emerged as a key strategic partner for the Foundation's focus on early learning support for Barberton's youngest residents.**



# Discovering The Next Workforce

**Aligning training, industry, and opportunity in Barberton**

In January 2025, the Foundation received its first-ever grant from JobsOhio, a \$20,000 matching investment to support a comprehensive redevelopment real estate study. This work includes site due diligence, preliminary design, project feasibility, and proforma analysis for a potential state-of-the-art workforce training center in Barberton.

Building on that momentum, the Foundation was awarded an \$80,400 Planning and Local Technical Assistance grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in September. These funds support a regional feasibility study focused on expanding workforce development capacity within Northeast Ohio's dense polymer manufacturing cluster.



**“Our community is proud of our history of hard work in manufacturing, and this grant for a workforce study will help us identify the right career opportunities that are in demand in the present and in the future, for our residents, and for anyone in the region seeking to elevate their career pathways.”**

Josh Gordon, Executive Director  
Barberton Community Foundation



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

**Discovery**

OVER **\$111,152,000**  
in grants since 1996

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2025  
**+\$369,995** (Grants)  
**+\$112,156** (Donor Funds)

**Discovery**

OVER **\$5,563,000**  
in scholarships since 1996

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2025  
**\$336,128.13**  
Annual Payment  
**AND**  
**\$501,397.47**  
Total Commitment Over 4 Years

**Discovery**

OVER **\$1,846,316**  
in economic and community development initiatives since 2022

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2025  
**\$365,601**  
Barberton is Back Grant Program

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.



## Give

**\$1,337,530**  
awarded in new grants and scholarships

- \$365,601 Barberton is Back program grants
- \$50,000 Main Street Barberton grant
- \$369,995 Endowment grants
- \$215,806 Donor designated grants
- \$336,128 Scholarships

**\$103,650**  
given through donor designated scholarships

**84** scholarships awarded to **51** students

**59 Grants**

## Get

**\$380,196**  
in gifts made by generous donors

**6 New Funds**

**Questions?** Contact Us!

**Call:** 330-745-5995

**Email:** Josh Gordon, Executive Director at [jgordon@barbertoncf.org](mailto:jgordon@barbertoncf.org)

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

## Grow

**\$107 Million**  
in net assets in 2025

Composed of 121 Donor Funds and 1 Endowment

**11.46%** growth year over year

# Discovery in Action: Scholarships



## Expanding Scholarship Program

In 2025, we introduced new programs designed to test fresh ideas and better support students. What we learn through these efforts is already shaping what comes next.

**This year, Barberton Community Foundation launched two new initiatives focused on expanding opportunity for local students.**

### First Generation Scholarship

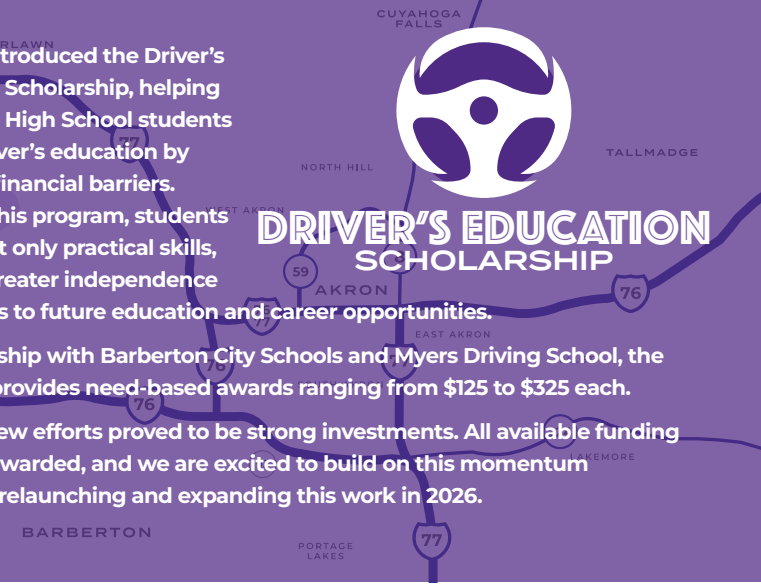
Our First Generation Scholarship Dinner brought together six students who are forging new paths for themselves and their families. **Landon Davis, Alexa Guerro Manzo, Aiden Macken, Kennedy Macko, Melora Shue, and Brennah Valencia** gathered with their families at Remarkable Diner, alongside partners from The University of Akron and Kent State University. The evening created space for connection, encouragement, and a simple but powerful reminder that students do not have to navigate this journey alone. **For these students, this is a moment of discovery, one where they begin to see new paths, new possibilities, and their own potential.**



We also introduced the Driver's Education Scholarship, helping Barberton High School students access driver's education by reducing financial barriers. Through this program, students gained not only practical skills, but also greater independence and access to future education and career opportunities.

### DRIVER'S EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

In partnership with Barberton City Schools and Myers Driving School, the program provides need-based awards ranging from \$125 to \$325 each. These new efforts proved to be strong investments. All available funding was awarded, and we are excited to build on this momentum by relaunching and expanding this work in 2026.



# 2025 Grant Awards

Total grant amounts reflect combined support from competitive awards, donor funds, and strategic year-end investments.



In 2025, Barberton Community Foundation awarded grants through three competitive cycles: Education, Workforce & Economic Development, Health & Wellness, and Arts & Community, prioritizing programs that supported early learning, strengthening families, and building a more vibrant Barberton community.

## Cycle 1: Education, Workforce & Economic Development (\$110,000 total)

**\$25,000 to Early Childhood Resource Center** for the SPARK kindergarten readiness program.

**\$20,000 to Child Guidance & Family Solutions** to strengthen the TAPS program for early childhood educators and classrooms.

**\$20,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio** to expand afterschool programming for Barberton youth.

**\$20,000 to Limitless Ambition** to support the Purposely Chosen Teen Program, including additional year-end funding.

**\$15,000 to National Inventors Hall of Fame** to provide Camp Invention 2025, including additional year-end funding.

**\$10,000 to Summit Education Initiative** to build the Barberton Preschool Collaborative.

**“What excites me most about these grants is how intentional they are. We are not just funding programs. We are investing in systems that can change outcomes for our kids, our families, and our community over time.”**

Josh Gordon, Executive Director, Barberton Community Foundation

## Cycle 2: Health & Wellness (\$163,025.27 total)

**\$25,000 to Victim Assistance Program** to provide advocacy services for Barberton residents impacted by crisis, with additional support from the Stefan-Leightner Endowment Fund.

**\$15,000 to Portage Path Behavioral Health** to expand the Co-Occurring Disorder Treatment Program.

**\$15,000 to Child Guidance & Family Solutions** to enhance mental and behavioral health services, including training and therapeutic supplies.

**\$12,525.27 to Humane Society of Summit County** to deliver services through the MABEL Mobile Veterinary Clinic.

**\$12,000 to Embracing Futures** to provide orthodontic care for Barberton children.

**\$7,500 to Axxess Family Services** to provide meals for low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities.

### Responsive Grant:

**\$50,000 to Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank**  
In November, disruptions to SNAP benefit distribution created immediate uncertainty for families in Barberton who rely on this support to access food. Local pantry partners began to feel the strain as demand increased and households looked for alternatives to fill the gap.

Barberton Community Foundation responded quickly, awarding \$50,000 to Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank to support Barberton-area distribution sites. This reflects the Foundation's ability to act with urgency when the community needs it most, ensuring local partners could continue serving residents without interruption.

**\$7,500 to Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank**  
An additional \$7,500, made possible through combined support from Barberton Community Foundation and the Merrilee and Jimmy Anthe Endowment Fund, supported the Barberton Direct Food Distribution Program, expanding local capacity and strengthening coordination among partners.

Together, these investments provided \$57,500 in support, helping meet immediate needs while building a more resilient and responsive food system for Barberton families.

**\$7,000 to Greenleaf Family Center** to advance adolescent suicide prevention programming.

**\$6,500 to Ben Curtis Family Foundation** to sustain the Birdie Bag Program, with additional support from donor funds.

**\$5,000 to Vantage Aging** to support Meals on Wheels services for Barberton.

### Special Project Grant (\$36,000)

Barberton Community Foundation awarded \$36,000 to support Barberton's participation in the Unified Early Learning System (UELS), a countywide effort to strengthen early childhood education across Summit County. This investment marks Phase 1 of a multi-phase pilot to stabilize programs, improve quality, and build a stronger foundation for kindergarten readiness and long-term success.

## Cycle 3: Arts & Community (\$60,000 total)

**\$25,000 to Magical Theatre Company** to provide the Barberton P.A.C.T. program.

**\$15,000 to Salvation Army** to deliver wrap-around services for Barberton residents.

**\$10,000 to ArtsNow** to advance the 2026 ArtsForward program, leveraging matching support through the Knight Foundation.

**\$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity** to implement the Neighborhood Reborn initiative in Barberton.

### Small Grant Awards

In 2025, Barberton Community Foundation awarded 17 small grants through a combination of General Fund dollars and fund representative support, totaling \$60,881.93 in program investment, including \$16,268.75 from fund representatives.

**\$5,321 to BHS Golf Team** to support a golf simulator, funded by the Jeep Davis Olympic Hopeful Fund.

**\$5,000 to Barberton Primary School** to support SFA Schoolwide Solutions Team implementation.

**\$5,000 to Scouting America** to support Exploring program registrations for students.

**\$5,000 to Main Street Barberton** to support Placer.ai software, with additional support from the Main Street Barberton fund.

**\$4,879 to Barberton Youth Football Association** to support the purchase of training equipment, including additional support from the Jeep Davis Fund.



**\$3,500 to United Way** to support 2-1-1 information and referral services.

**\$3,408 to Barberton High School** to support teaching and learning with TI-Nspire CX technology.

**\$2,710 to Salvation Army** to support the purchase of a new freezer.

**\$2,400 to Barberton Preschool** to support family literacy nights.

**\$2,000 to Victory Gallop** to support rider scholarships, funded through the Marilyn & John May Fund for Developmentally Disabled Youth.

**\$2,000 to Barberton Preschool** to support a field trip without transportation barriers.

**\$1,900 to Akron SCORE** to support Barberton community and workforce development programming.

**\$1,836 to Barberton Primary School** to support kindergarten t-shirts.

### Strategic Partnership:

#### Main Street Barberton

Barberton Community Foundation's partnership with Main Street Barberton continues to play an important role in advancing downtown revitalization. In 2025, the Foundation fulfilled its third-year commitment with a **\$50,000 investment**, sustaining momentum in efforts to strengthen local businesses, improve the built environment, and enhance the overall vitality of downtown.

This ongoing support reflects a shared vision for Barberton's future and aligns closely with the Foundation's focus on downtown development as a key driver of economic growth and community pride.



**\$1,286 to Main Street Barberton** to support garbage receptacles for the DORA district.

**\$1,090 to Barberton Preschool** to support the "Reading is Magical" mural.

Goldman Sachs selected as Foundation financial advisor



Another milestone in 2025 was the Foundation's

selection of Goldman Sachs as our new investment advisor and outsourced Chief Investment Officer. After a comprehensive evaluation of nine professional firms, our board and finance committee selected Goldman Sachs for its deep investment expertise, sophisticated analytics, and commitment to providing attentive, high-quality service. Managing the Foundation's endowment is one of our most important responsibilities. These funds support scholarships, grants, and community investments that benefit Barberton residents every year. By partnering with a firm that brings global resources and investment insight, we are strengthening our ability to grow the Foundation's assets over time and ensure that the endowment continues to serve our community for generations to come.

# Barberton is Back!

**Strategic Partnerships:** Barberton Community Development Corporation and Main Street Barberton

## Discovering Downtown Potential

In 2025, Barberton Community Foundation continued its investment in downtown as a driver of community and economic growth. Through the Barberton is Back program, the Foundation awarded **\$351,000 across six projects, leveraging more than \$800,000 in private investment and generating over \$1.15 million in total economic impact.**

This work demonstrates the power of targeted investment. For every dollar committed, \$2.30 in private capital followed—supporting small businesses, revitalizing key properties, and creating new jobs. Beyond the numbers, these projects are helping shape how residents, workers, and visitors experience Barberton every day.

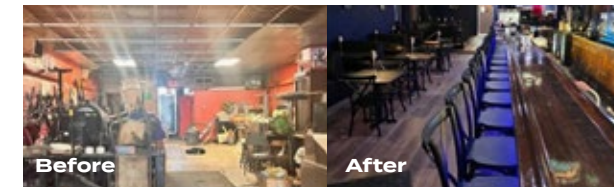
In partnership with Main Street Barberton and Barberton Community Development Corporation, the Foundation is discovering what is possible when strategy, collaboration, and local momentum come together in the heart of the city.



### Clem's Viral Bites

477 W. Tuscarawas Ave.  
Barberton, OH 44203  
ClemsViralBites.com

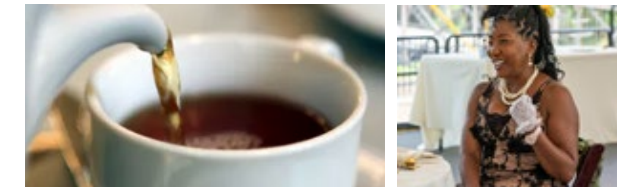
With a \$95,000 grant awarded, Clem's Viral Bites is bringing new energy to downtown Barberton. The project supports key building improvements while helping a fast-growing, locally owned restaurant expand its footprint, drawing new visitors and contributing to a more active and vibrant evening economy.



### The Tea Lady

190 2nd St NW  
Barberton, OH 44203  
OhioTeaLady.com

Supported by a \$20,000 Restaurant & Retail Challenge grant, The Tea Lady is creating a unique, experience-driven destination in downtown Barberton. Known for its high tea service and special events, the business brings daytime activity and new reasons to gather downtown.



### Downtown Building Rehabilitation Grants

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Clem's Viral Bites         | <b>\$95,000</b> |
| Caddie Corner              | <b>\$95,000</b> |
| Italian Restaurant Concept | <b>\$30,500</b> |
| 572 W. Tuscarawas Ave.     | <b>\$30,500</b> |
| 162-164 2nd Street         | <b>\$60,500</b> |

### Restaurant & Retail Challenge Grants

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| The Tea Lady  | <b>\$20,000</b> |
| Caddie Corner | <b>\$20,000</b> |

**BCF Grant Funding:**  
**\$351,000**  
awarded across 6 projects



**Leveraged Private Investment:**  
**\$800,000**  
in private capital committed across all projects



**Total Economic Impact:**  
**\$1.15 Million**  
+ projected community-wide upon full completion

2025

# 6 New Funds at Barberton Community Foundation



## Barberton Police FOP Lodge #13 Service Above Self Scholarship

In 2025, the Barberton Police Department was named a Barberton Community Foundation Game Changer organization, recognized not just for public safety, but for a culture rooted in humility, teamwork, and service.

From that recognition, the Barberton FOP Lodge 13 Service Above Self Scholarship was created by Barberton Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #13 to recognize and uplift students who lead with character, humility, and a commitment to others.

The scholarship is open to any Barberton High School graduating senior who has demonstrated the principle of “service above self” through volunteerism, work, sports, or extracurricular activities. Rather than focusing on grades or career plans, the award celebrates students whose actions reflect integrity, compassion, and service.

Reflected here is a simple but powerful belief shared by the FOP and the Foundation: strong communities are built by people who lead by serving.

This scholarship will make its first \$1,000 award in April, 2026.



**To make a donation:**

Scan code or visit [barbertoncf.org/donate](http://barbertoncf.org/donate) and select fund name from the dropdown menu.



## BWXT Building the Future Endowment Scholarship Fund

The BWX Technologies Building the Future Endowment Scholarship was established in 2025 to invest in the next generation of skilled welding, machining and engineering professionals emerging from Barberton High School.

BWXT launched the program with an initial \$5,000 scholarship award for 2026 and pledged to provide an additional \$5,000 annual scholarship award for four more years. In support of this investment in Barberton students, the Foundation is matching BWXT’s commitment by contributing \$5,000 annually to build the scholarship’s permanent endowment, allowing the fund to grow through investment and provide long-term support for future students.

At BWXT, precision is more than a standard. It is a mindset. In industries such as nuclear energy, defense, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing, the difference between “close enough” and “exactly right” matters. The scholarship’s essay prompts reflect that belief by asking students to demonstrate how precision shows up in their own work and decision-making. By prioritizing students who value excellence, collaboration, and accountability, BWXT is helping cultivate the kind of professionals who will thrive in high-skill, high-responsibility careers.

By supporting Barberton students pursuing accredited machining and welding programs, BWXT is opening doors for individual students while also helping build a sustainable pipeline of talent that will shape the future of advanced manufacturing and energy industries. Through this partnership, local investment becomes lasting opportunity.

**To make a donation:**

Scan code or visit [barbertoncf.org/donate](http://barbertoncf.org/donate) and select fund name from the dropdown menu.



## Sue Cianciola Career Pathway Endowed Scholarship Fund

Sue Cianciola comes from one of Barberton’s well-known and deeply rooted families, where hard work, generosity, and community pride were instilled early as a way of life.

She continues that legacy through the Sue Cianciola Career Pathway Endowed Scholarship, created to support students pursuing skilled trades and technical careers. Inspired by her late husband Danny’s belief in “paying it forward,” Sue’s goal is simple: help young people in the community.

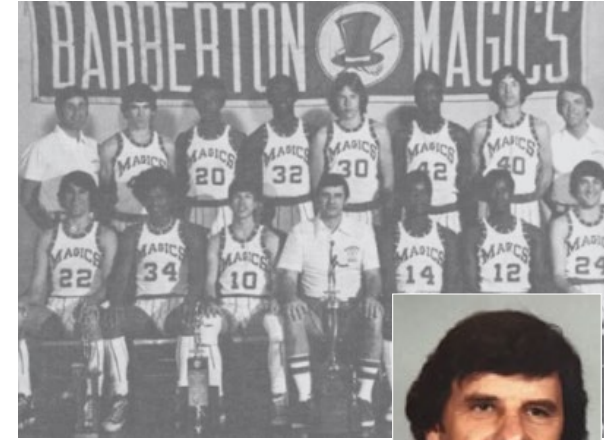
As demand for skilled trades continues to grow, this scholarship invests in students entering fields like welding, electrical work, HVAC, and construction—strengthening both individual opportunity and Barberton’s workforce.

Sue’s belief is at the heart of this fund:

*“A lot of kids are smart in ways that school doesn’t always measure. They just need someone to believe in them.”*

**To make a donation:**

Scan code or visit [barbertoncf.org/donate](http://barbertoncf.org/donate) and select fund name from the dropdown menu.



## Jack Greynolds GRIT Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Jack Greynolds Memorial Scholarship honors the legacy of one of Barberton’s most influential leaders, a coach who shaped not only a championship team but an entire community.

The 1976 Barberton Magics basketball team remains one of the most iconic moments in the city’s history. At a time when Barberton faced economic uncertainty, that team gave the community something powerful: pride, unity, and belief. Under Coach Greynolds’ leadership, they played with intensity, discipline, and grit, finishing a perfect 26–0 season and bringing home the 1976 state championship.

Coach Greynolds’ impact went far beyond wins and losses. He believed in developing people, holding his players to high standards, and helping young men see their potential. His influence shaped lives long after the final buzzer.

Today, that legacy lives on through this scholarship, which supports student-athletes who demonstrate perseverance, leadership, and character.

**To make a donation:**

Scan code or visit [barbertoncf.org/donate](http://barbertoncf.org/donate) and select fund name from the dropdown menu.



## Julie & Jayson Humble Bright Beginnings Endowed Scholarship Fund

A Barberton High School graduate, Jayson grew up in a family where resources were limited and opportunities were not always guaranteed. He understands firsthand how early support can shape a child’s path and how access to opportunity can change what feels possible.

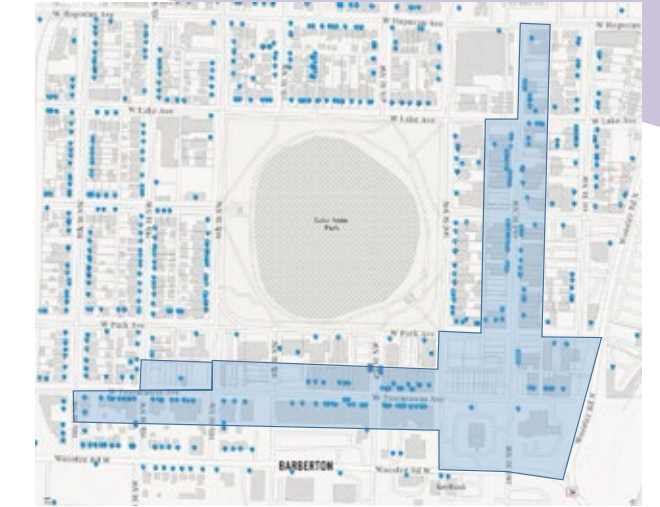
Together, Jayson and his wife Julie created the Bright Beginnings Endowed Scholarship to address a critical early education need in Barberton. Today, only 22.8 percent of children enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness, and many families face financial barriers to high-quality preschool.

By helping cover tuition costs, this fund removes that barrier, giving children access to early learning experiences that build confidence, curiosity, and a strong foundation for success.

Jayson and Julie’s vision is to start by supporting one child at a time, while building a lasting resource for the community. It is a simple but powerful idea rooted in lived experience: when a child is given the right start, it can change everything that follows.

**To make a donation:**

Scan code or visit [barbertoncf.org/donate](http://barbertoncf.org/donate) and select fund name from the dropdown menu.



## Downtown Barberton Community Investment Fund

Established by Denny Liddle, the first Board Chair of Main Street Barberton, this fund supports the ongoing development and revitalization of downtown Barberton.

Working within Main Street Barberton’s footprint, the fund advances efforts to strengthen the downtown through building improvements, business growth, and economic development initiatives. Since its founding in 2022, Main Street Barberton has focused on creating a vibrant, welcoming downtown experience for residents and visitors alike.

This fund reflects a shared belief that a strong downtown is essential to a strong community, and that continued investment will help Barberton’s historic core grow, evolve, and thrive.

**To make a donation:**

Scan code or visit [barbertoncf.org/donate](http://barbertoncf.org/donate) and select fund name from the dropdown menu.





BARBERTON  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# GameChangers

## Annual Dinner

On November 6, 2025, Barberton Community Foundation welcomed a record number of guests to our Annual Dinner, bringing together donors, partners, and community leaders for an evening of connection and celebration. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us and continues to invest in Barberton's future.

We proudly honored two 2025 Game Changers: Ray E. Leach Jr. of Leach's Meats & Sweets and the Barberton Police Department.



Ray's story is one of grit, craftsmanship, and deep community roots. Carrying forward a trade passed down from his father, Ray has built more than a business, he's built lasting relationships across generations of Barberton families. His consistency, care, and commitment to showing up every day reflect the kind of leadership that quietly strengthens a community over time.

**Ray asked donors to give to his family's scholarship, named in honor of his father: Ray E. Leach Memorial Scholarship.**

**To make a donation:**

Scan code or visit [barbertoncf.org/donate](http://barbertoncf.org/donate) and select fund name from the dropdown menu.



The Barberton Police Department was recognized for its role as a steady and trusted presence in our city. Their work goes beyond public safety, fostering relationships, supporting residents, and contributing to the overall well-being of Barberton. Together, these honorees remind us that community is built through both everyday dedication and collective service.

**The Barberton FOP Lodge #13 created a scholarship as a way to support their value of service. The FOP Lodge #13 Service Above Self Scholarship will be awarded in 2026.**

**To make a donation:**

Scan code or visit [barbertoncf.org/donate](http://barbertoncf.org/donate) and select fund name from the dropdown menu.



Holly Barkdol, Dennis O Connel & Nicole Mullet

Moriah Cheatham Williams & Emma Huchison

Brian Canale, Dr. Doug Gormley & Police Chief Vince Morber

Josh Gordon

# Thank You to Our Generous Donors

|   |  |   |  |  |   |   |  |   |   |                                      |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
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## 2025 Barberton Community Foundation Annual Report



**BARBERTON**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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