

Building a Stronger Community Together

Spring 2025

Foundation Matters



The Power of Partnership

Building a Stronger Community Through Early Education

When visionary organizations unite around a shared goal, extraordinary things happen. The partnership between Chicks for Charity, Toledo Rotary and HOPE Toledo is a collaboration that's transforming early childhood education in our community.

These organizations recognized a critical challenge: Ohio loses \$3.2 billion annually due to childcare shortages, affecting both families and businesses. At the state level, Toledo is the only major city that does not have a publicly funded pre-K program.

Beginning in 2018, a coalition of Toledo-area nonprofits, community leaders, childcare providers and others developed a plan to increase the number of children receiving affordable, high-quality childcare and pre-k education. HOPE Toledo, formed in 2020 to coordinate educational activities in the region, assumed responsibility for implementing the community-wide plan.

Over four years, the program has connected more than 800 children to high-quality ECE at existing childcare

centers. It focuses on families who do not qualify for governmental support providing funds to unlock affordable care for them. "We're not looking to provide a universal approach: we're looking to support families that are left in the gaps," John Jones, President and CEO of HOPE Toledo, said. Children at HOPE Toledo affiliated centers, which must meet specific quality standards, score nearly two times higher on kindergarten readiness assessments than others in the district.

During the COVID crisis many of Toledo's childcare centers closed, leaving parents scrambling to find care when work resumed. These small businesses operate on thin profit margins and many owners lack financial administration capacity. To support these childcare centers, the community-wide plan recommended a shared services approach where they could outsource business functions and utilize automation to increase profits.

Recognizing the potential of shared services, investors like Greater Toledo Community Foundation, PNC, Andersons, and ProMedica supported HOPE Toledo in coordinating a program with YWCA and Toledo Early Learning Coalition (TELC). Both organizations are recognized leaders in assisting childcare providers with essential services with TELC providing shared services support since 2009.

Today more than 30 daycare providers participate in the program resulting in a 17% enrollment capacity increase since 2021.

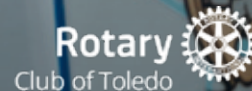
As we head into 2025, the critical need for public and private dollars remains, and a community-based approach to high-quality early childhood education is essential. This effort will require a public and private partnership, increased awareness, and support. With Toledo Rotary, Chicks for Charity and HOPE Toledo linking arms, a stronger Toledo is possible.

"When the passionate Chicks teamed up with The Rotary, we knew we were onto something big. Together, we're backing HOPE Toledo in their mission to create opportunities and transform the future for our children and our entire community. Because when passion meets purpose, anything is possible."

Martha Vetter, Founder/Trustee, Chicks for Charity



Scan to visit our
Initiatives page for
more information.



A Life of Compassionate Action

Remembering Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Ruppert

Libby contributed to and enriched our community in so many ways that it was difficult to decide how best to honor her. The group finally decided that a fund to help others carry on the work of this generous and loving woman would spread her influence in the widest way possible.

The Friends of Libby Ruppert Steering Committee

Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Ruppert’s life was defined by an extraordinary commitment to children who needed her most.

Born in Cleveland and inspired by Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell—the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States—Libby charted a remarkable path that would transform healthcare for children with disabilities.

Her personal journey began with her own daughter’s deafness, an experience that opened her eyes to the systemic challenges faced by children with special needs. As a pediatrician and professor at the Medical College of Ohio, she developed groundbreaking centers like EduCare and the Anne Grady Prescribed Pediatric Center.

These were revolutionary spaces where children of all abilities could learn, grow and interact together.

Her impact extended far beyond individual patient care. She became a powerful advocate at local, state and national levels, earning recognition that included induction into the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame and lead as President of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Libby was also the first woman board chairman of the United Way of Greater Toledo and a former Community Foundation board member.

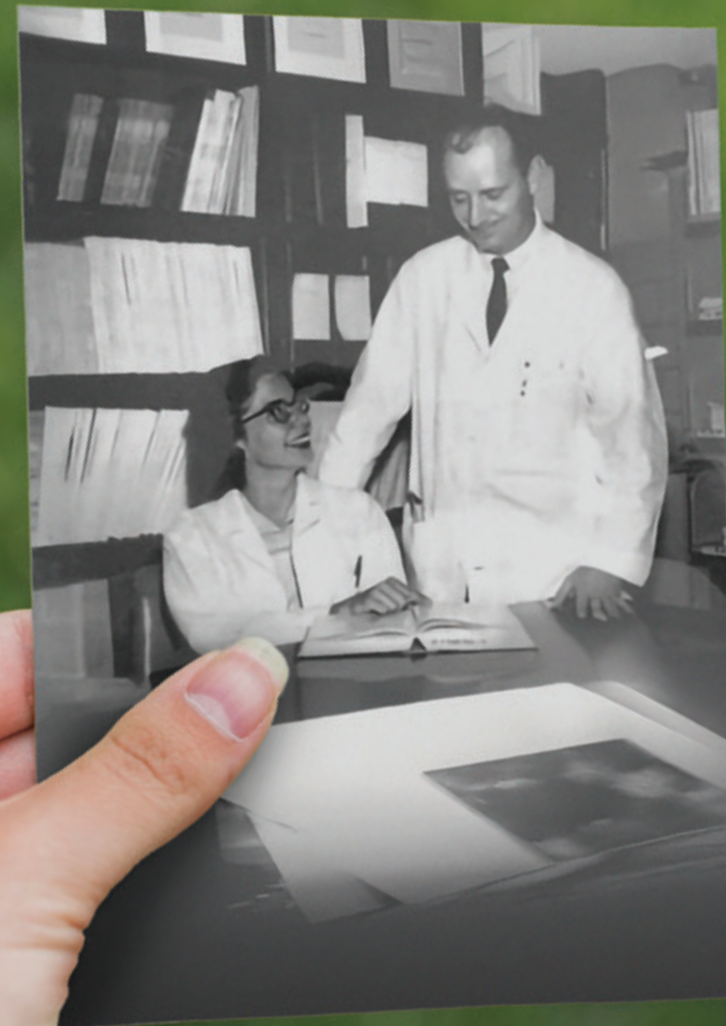
A group of Libby’s friends, colleagues, and her four daughters inspired by her achievements, came together to plan a fitting tribute to her work. They created the Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Ruppert Fund, managed by Greater Toledo Community Foundation.

This fund, as it grows, will help cover the training and certification of community health workers through the Northwest Ohio Pathways HUB program. These dedicated people assist those who need aid navigating healthcare and other available systems. This model, brought to the Toledo area by Libby, has proved sustainable and effective.

Libby’s story demonstrates the profound impact one person can have when they transform personal passion into community action. Her memorial fund now continues her work by supporting community health workers, ensuring her vision lives on.



Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Ruppert and her husband, Dr. Richard Ruppert, at The Ohio State University Medical School, circa 1960



Scan to donate
to the Dr. Elizabeth
“Libby” Ruppert Fund
or call 419.241.5049.

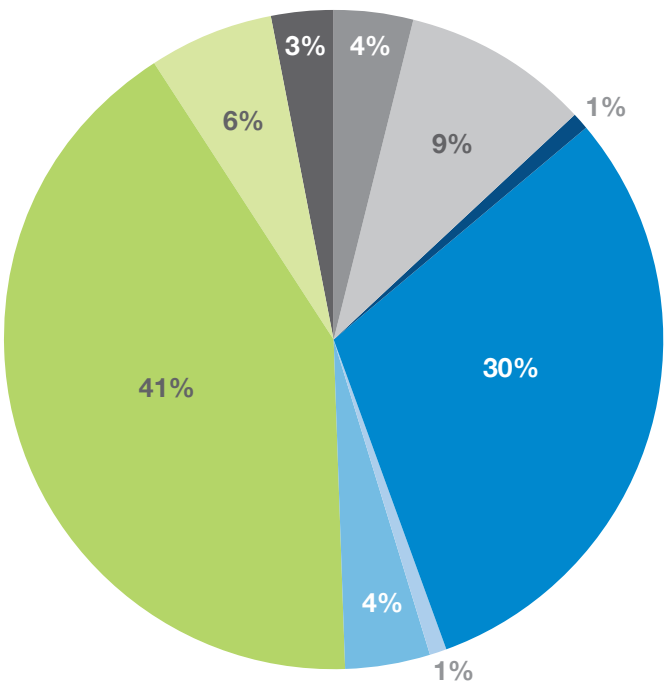


Your Generosity at Work

Grants Awarded

October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Thanks to compassionate donors like you, we awarded \$9.6 million in grants in Q4 2024. From supporting innovative collection of high-quality water data through a regional collaboration advocating for healthier waterways, to funding critical housing initiatives that helped 173 families achieve safe housing, your generosity is transforming lives. Every dollar you give joins with others to create a powerful force for good. When you partner with the Community Foundation, you're investing in our community's future.



Focus Area	Awarded
Animals/Animal Welfare	\$399,223
Arts & Culture	\$886,895
Economic Development	\$124,549
Education	\$2,862,841
Education - Scholarships	\$140,447
Environment/Natural Resources	\$411,854
Health & Human Services	\$3,901,784
Religious	\$619,726
Other	\$274,720

Totals \$9,622,039

Field of Interest Funds

At Greater Toledo Community Foundation, we understand that many donors want to support specific causes, but don't have fixed organizations they'd like to fund. If this sounds like you, our Field of Interest (FOI) funds may be a meaningful way to create lasting impact in areas that matter most to you and your family. These funds ensure your generosity will adapt to meet the ever-changing needs of our community while staying true to your vision.

Through FOI funds, donors can make a difference by supporting multiple organizations and initiatives working together toward shared goals—maximizing their impact across the region.

▼ Girls on the Run of Southeastern Michigan



New Field of Interest Funds

The Mental Health FOI Fund was created in 2024 and addresses our community's growing mental health challenges by providing ongoing support for services, prevention programs and innovative treatments. As mental health needs evolve, this fund ensures sustainable resources are available to promote mental wellness, expand access to care and reduce stigma.

The Elder Care FOI Fund was created in 2024 and is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our aging population. It supports programs like in-home care, social engagement opportunities and caregiver assistance. With the needs of seniors constantly changing, this fund guarantees sustained support for organizations addressing their diverse and evolving challenges.

By contributing to these FOI funds, donors provide flexible resources that address current priorities while adapting to future needs. Once your fund is created, the Foundation works to identify and issue grants to the most effective programs supporting your passions, ensuring your charitable intentions continue to have meaningful impact year-over-year.

If you'd like to explore how you can support these causes—or others you care about—we'd be happy to help. Together, we can create a fund that reflects your vision while responding to the constant shifting needs of our community.

To learn more, please contact **Kurstyn Loeffler, vice president of Philanthropic Services**, at kurstyn.loeffler@toledocf.org or 419.241.5049.



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Our Mission

Greater Toledo Community Foundation is a public, charitable foundation which exists to improve the quality of life in the region.

Providing a flexible, informed, effective means for donors to achieve their charitable goals in perpetuity.

Addressing the changing needs of the region through efficient, prudent, high impact grantmaking.

Serving as a source of information about and as a catalyst in shaping the region's response to those needs.

Facilitating the work of other grantmaking organizations in order to achieve effective and efficient grantmaking practices.

