



# LEADING

*the Way*

Alexis de Tocqueville Newsletter  
Spring 2021



2019 Alexis de Tocqueville Society  
Appreciation Event



Dave and Laura Grabowsky

"We're all responsible to help each other. We're all one world, one earth. Whatever happens to the weakest of us, affects all of us. So, we all have a responsibility to make this a better world. Everybody can make it better in some way, through their time or their money. It's important that we give something back.

We've always been very impressed with how United Way takes care of our community. Being a part of the Alexis de Tocqueville network is an honor. Members are surrounded

by like-minded people who are local leaders. It is inspiring to see people who are willing to give back so generously. We feel grateful to live in such a philanthropic community."

**Dave Grabowsky**  
President, Standard Plumbing and Heating  
**Laura Grabowsky**  
Community Volunteer  
2019-2020 Alexis de Tocqueville Society Co-Chairs  
2021 Campaign Co-Chairs

"The late Cicely Tyson once said, 'Challenges make you discover things about yourself that you never really knew.' 2020 was an extremely challenging year, and I've always believed that the Greater Stark County community was generous and caring. Through the success of our 2020 campaign, I have learned that this community can rise to meet even the most daunting challenges and obstacles to take care of those

in need. I thank you all for being fully committed to excellence and making a difference. Thank you for seeing what's possible when we face challenges and move past them."

**Chris Goff**  
CEO & General Counsel  
Employers Health  
2020 Campaign Chair  
2021 Alexis de Tocqueville Society Chair



Chris and Michele Goff



75

total Alexis de  
Tocqueville  
Society members



\$1.3  
Million

invested by Alexis  
de Tocqueville  
Society members



\$5.9  
Million

results of 2020  
fundraising  
campaign

# UNITED WAY OF GREATER STARK COUNTY 211

## 2020 Annual Summary for Stark and Carroll Counties



United Way  
of Greater Stark County  
Serving Stark and Carroll Counties

United Way of Greater Stark County's 211 helpline connects people in need with services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We provide referrals by phone, text, and through our online resource database at [211stark.org](http://211stark.org).



Full 2-1-1 report available at [uwstark.org](http://uwstark.org)

## GREG DiNARDA

### Sharing His Story

#### 2019 new Alexis de Tocqueville Society member

When asked what inspired his philanthropic giving, Greg DiNarda responds, "I don't know if I consider myself a philanthropist. I just share the things that I am fortunate to have in a way to give back."

Greg has been involved in the Greater Stark County community for many years. Serving as President of the Louisville Chamber of Commerce, Treasurer of the Canton Museum of Art, on the board of the Louisville YMCA, Louisville Community Foundation, St. Louis Church finance committee and parish council among many others. He is a graduate of Leadership Stark County. This involvement has allowed him to see many aspects and places in the community. He was inspired by the generosity of those who sponsored efforts

throughout the county. It also gave him the perspective that little things can make a difference. **"Making a donation is about making a difference," he says. "It doesn't matter how big or how small."**

He and his partners of RCD Wealth Management follow the deep-seated Merrill Lynch tradition of participating in the communities they serve. "We recognize we must illustrate our commitment to the local community, both physically and charitably. Which is why our practice helped sponsor United Way of Greater Stark County." Greg began giving to United Way of Greater Stark County through payroll deductions at Merrill Lynch in the early 2000's. He has increased his giving and is now a member of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of Greater Stark County. **"United Way has a broad**



**brush that paints this community. As donors we are giving help to a lot of different places. We are helping people in poverty. Through United Way, the dollars are spread out to reach diverse populations," he says.**

As Greg describes it, the pandemic created unprecedented needs around the world, turning people upside down. In our own community we saw long lines of people waiting for food - many of whom had never sought help before. **"Life is dynamic, not static. You never know where there will be a need and an opportunity to respond to that need."**

## COVID-19 IMPACT FUND

# \$450,000+

Distributed to help  
households

through Dec. 22, 2020

# 418

Households  
helped



# 626

Children in households  
helped



# A MESSAGE FROM MARIA

The year 2020 presented us with challenges that we never could have imagined. I want to thank you for making it an amazing year, nonetheless. Because of the many individuals, workplaces and corporations who contributed, we exceeded our campaign goal. In addition to the new, virtual format of our campaign, we established the COVID-19 Impact Fund which, through a match from an anonymous donor, and the generosity of the community allowed us to help so many who found themselves in need as never before. The campaign was not the only initiative that switched to a virtual format last year. Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) serviced tax clients through drop off and remote processing of taxes with great success. **Over the past 7 years, our VITA volunteers have processed over 27,000 state and federal tax returns and saved**

**community members over \$2.7 million in tax processing fees.** With pandemic protocols in place, our volunteers and donors helped us serve the community through Day of Action, Day of Caring, Young Leaders Society Literacy Kit assembly, Women United Family-Friendly Workplace Awards and Health Kit collection. In August United Way of Greater Stark County joined forces with the Dismantling Racism Coalition of Stark County to launch the Unity Challenge to Dismantle Racism and we continue to be committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. **It is because of you, our loyal Alexis de Tocqueville members, and all our donors that these programs and activities continue to happen as we work toward building a stronger, more stable, united community.** We cannot thank you enough for your generosity, and ongoing commitment to United Way.



**Maria Heege**  
President & CEO

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Thomas Botzman  
Elsa Cave  
Kay Conley  
William R. Cook\*  
Linda DeHoff\*  
Ken Douglas, CPA



*Judge Michael L. Howard, Retired  
Chair, Board of Directors*

Matthew Eckels  
Liz Edmunds  
Philip L. Francis  
Christopher Goff  
Dave Grabowsky  
Laura Grabowsky  
Christopher Henson  
Cindy L. Hickey  
Michael L. Howard  
Ann Hunt  
Geoff Karcher  
Stephanie Maier  
Don McCord  
Lucia M. Pileggi  
Todd Pugh  
DeAnn Riley

Taylor Schauer  
Ryan Schmidt  
Gary Schumacher  
Denise Seachrist, Ph.D.  
William Sherer II  
Kevin Smith  
Sara Stratton  
Jeff Talbert  
Fonda Williams

### \*Emeritus Board Member

We would also like to recognize the following Board members whose term ended March 31, 2021:

Joe Liolios  
Sandra Rapp  
Mark Wright



Mark your calendars for some interesting ways to get involved in the community!

## ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

**AUG.  
18TH**

### Virtual Panel Discussion

Inclusion is one of United Way's core values. It is vital that we continue to discuss and focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in order to strengthen our community. Participants will hear from a panel as they delve into United Way's work around diversity, equity, and inclusion.



2019 Project Blueprint

**OCT.  
23RD**

### Make a Difference Day

Organizations join forces on the fourth Saturday in October to make a difference, big or small. Millions of people have united in the common mission to improve the lives of others.

### Women United Advocacy Events

Women United continues their work of supporting and advocating for families in our community. Plans are in the works for a summer collection event to support local women's agencies and for the annual fall Family-Friendly Workplace Awards.



2020 Women United Health Kit Collection

**TBD  
TBD**

**VARIOUS  
DATES**

### Stone Soup

A great engagement activity for employees or small groups of any kind! Volunteers are assigned to bring ingredients (\$5-\$7 per person) needed to complete larger meals that are donated to area shelters, youth groups or community centers. Contact [laura.pregaman@uwstark.org](mailto:laura.pregaman@uwstark.org) for more information.

### Centennial Celebration

In February 2022, United Way of Greater Stark County will mark its Centennial Anniversary in the community! Watch for updates on the various ways we plan to commemorate this momentous occasion.

**Visit [uwstark.org/events](https://uwstark.org/events) for the most current information on upcoming events!**



2019 Stone Soup at Gervasi Vineyard

**FEB.  
2022**

#### Thank you to our partners:

DEHOFF REALTORS®, for donating the professional design work and PPI Graphics, for donating the printing. We are always thankful for all you do for our community.



The Alexis de Tocqueville Society was established by United Way Worldwide in 1984 as a movement to celebrate and recognize individuals investing in their community with gifts of \$10,000 and more.

Since 1996, United Way of Greater Stark County's Alexis de Tocqueville Society members have been the leaders in our community in improving the lives of countless families through extraordinary financial gifts, volunteerism, and advocacy. Our local Society members join a national network of 420 Alexis de Tocqueville Societies and more than 25,000

philanthropic leaders committed to creating opportunities for everyone in their local communities.

**Locally, there are 75 members, who invested more than \$1.3 million in**

**United Way's 2020 Campaign to raise the quality of living for all of us in greater Stark County. Our community thanks you.**



2019 Alexis de Tocqueville Society Appreciation Event

## 2020 *Alexis de Tocqueville Society Members*

\* Deceased Member

David and Kristen Beck  
Mark and Bev Belgya  
Dr. Michael Bernard  
The Biery Family  
Dave and Candee Bishop  
Paul and Jane Bishop  
Dr. Gregory and Carol Bonavita  
Cricket and Ted Boyd  
Michael and Dawn Conny  
Chris and Teri Coughlin  
Bob and Linda DeHoff  
The Dan DeHoff Family  
The Deuble Foundation  
Greg DiNarda  
Jeff and Sandy Doll  
Mark and Michelle Fedor  
Scott and Karen Fitzpatrick  
Joan and Phil Fracassa  
Ryan T. and Evrim B. Fulmer  
Mary Ann\* and Art Garfield  
Robert and Nancy Gessner  
Chris and Michele Goff  
David and Laura Grabowsky  
Vicki and Rick Haines

Joe and Nancy Halter  
Larry and Nancy Hoover  
Rosemarie and Chuck Hoover  
Mike and Holly Jeffries  
and the Jeffries Families  
Geoff and Amy Karcher  
The Kempthorn Family  
Stacey and Rich Kyle  
William and Pearl Lemmon  
Kathi and Dick Maggiore  
Michael and Amy Mast  
Gerard and Laura Mastroianni  
Larry\* and Pat Merriman  
Ronald C.\* and Patricia A. Miller  
Dean and Grace Olivieri  
Virginia and Fred Olivieri  
Steve and Sondra Perry  
Jack and Madge Peters  
Lucia and Joe Pileggi  
Todd and Anna Pugh  
Doug and Sandy Rapp  
Susan and Larry Ray  
Christopher and Stacy Remark  
The Michael and Elaine Reolfi Family

Terri and Ed Roth  
Lisa and David Schauer  
Gerald Schroer, Jr.  
Gary and Linda Sirak  
The Johnny and Susan Sirpilla Family  
Larry and Ginny Smerglia  
Linda and Kevin Smith  
Sally and Carl Sorenson  
Mark and Amy Sterling  
The Swaldo/Blackerby Family  
Drs. Michael and Julie Thomas  
Jane and Tim Timken  
The Tolerton Family  
Chris and Nicole Todaro  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Toot, Jr.  
Jim and Evelyn Valentine  
Robert Vitale  
The W. Henry Hoover Fund  
Harvey and Linda Wagner  
Howard and Sandy Wenger  
Mark and Tonya Wright  
Harold E. Ziegler, Jr.  
Six Alexis de Tocqueville Society  
members wish to remain anonymous



# ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY MENTORS

## 2020-21 MENTORS

Alexis de Tocqueville Mentors are honored for their contributions to the community and their impact on the lives of people close to them.

Those affecting change in either the personal or public realm have done so by example – their unselfish commitment to giving back is a

shining beacon in our community.

An additional \$10,000 was donated in their name to United Way as a way of recognizing the mark they made on the individuals paying tribute to them and on Stark County as a whole.

If you are interested in honoring

someone who has impacted your life with a gift to United Way in their name, please contact:

Terri Bate  
Director of Philanthropy  
330-491-9969  
terri.bate@uwstark.org

**William “Bill” Luntz** grew up in a home where giving was considered more important than receiving. Bill says, “My father always told me when you derive your livelihood from a community, you have an obligation to give back.”

Bill joined the Luntz Corporation shortly after returning from France after serving in the Army Air Corps. He was VP of Luntz Corporation by the age of 45, and President by age 50.

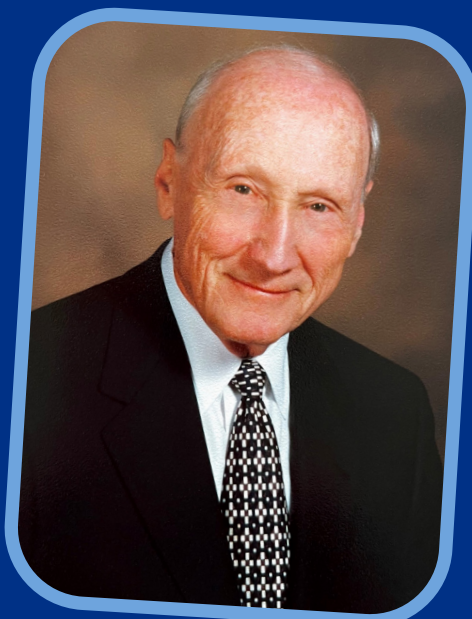
Always the leader, over the years he lent his vision, leadership, and experience to more than 30 organizations and boards.

One of Bill’s favorite endeavors was Project Wheelbarrow, a program of which he was a founder, and served for many years with his son Greg and daughter, Michelle. Dedicated to mentoring grade school, middle school,

and senior high school students who were at risk, Project Wheelbarrow’s goal was to improve their educational experience. By enhancing their work ethic and improving self-esteem the students were successfully prepared for their future.

**Bill says, “If I can bring a smile to a child’s face, make a lonely senior feel a little less lonely or help make my community a little better; then I know that I have served a good purpose – perhaps even a divine purpose.”**

Bill has four children, seven grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren and is being honored by his wife Sharon, who says, “It has been a joy to support him all these years through his many endeavors. Embodying the word, ‘mentor’, he is an inspiration to me, his family, and the Canton Community.”



**William L. “Bill” Luntz**

**Richard (Dick) Nicely**, earned a degree in Civil Engineering in Syracuse, New York, and is a veteran of the Army Corps of Engineers. After college, Dick returned to Canton, and joined his father, Christy, at R. G. Smith Company. Dick eventually purchased the company from his father and now R. G. Smith, an industrial general contractor, is in its third generation of Nicely leadership with Dick’s son, Geoff, serving as Chief Operating Officer.

In 1999 Dick’s life changed; he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. Dick says, “Parkinson’s has made me humble.” He became passionate about finding a cure and served on the Board of The Michael J. Fox Foundation and as chairman of the Parkinson’s Action Network lobbying in Washington, D.C. for funding for Parkinson’s research. In 2016, he opened a local Rock Steady Boxing, a nationwide program that provides exercise and physical training to Parkinson’s patients. “Physical activity is very important in slowing the

progression of the disease. That’s why I opened Rock Steady Boxing.”

Dick describes himself as a “driver” and says, “You have to have a passion; a drive to make things happen.” His drive to make things happen locally has been evident by, among other things, his board service on Whispering Grace Horses, a non-profit faith-based program dedicated to providing hope for people through building relationships with horses and with each other. It was Dick’s idea to establish Freedom Farm at Whispering Grace Horses to serve veterans and their families and he made it happen.

Dick is being honored by Geoff and Shawn Marie Nicely, his son and daughter-in-law. Geoff says, “Our father has, and continues to be, an inspiration when it comes to philanthropy and his love for his community. We felt the best way to recognize his generosity and his mentorship would be to honor him this way, by making this donation in his name.”



**Mentor – Richard Nicely**  
“To live is to give.”

**Coming Soon!** Full stories and complete list of past mentors will be in the 2020-21 Leaders in Giving book. [uwstark.org/leaders](http://uwstark.org/leaders).