



Urban Connection

WINTER 2022

LEPPO RENTS EXTENDS DONATION MATCH

Now through the end of the year, LEPPPO RENTS will continue to match any donation made up to \$10,000. We have quite a way to go after Giving Tuesday, so they generously extended their offer to help us meet our goal of raising \$20,000. Their passion and commitment to the AUL creates connections that strengthen the power of our community. *We hope their kindness inspires you to give generously!*

Every dollar you give to help support our programs will double! That means you can celebrate the holidays knowing your gift will go twice as far. Your giving brightens futures for so many people in Summit County.

Thank you for your generosity this Giving Season.

LEPPO RENTS



This issue:

Donation Match

PAGE 01

Organization Outcomes

PAGE 02

Event Focus

PAGE 03

In The News

PAGE 04

Updates

PAGES 05-07



YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES AN IMPACT

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



During our past contract year, Summit County NEXT, a "benefits cliff" program, participants earned \$157,600 in cash incentives, and 58% completed financial literacy coaching.

PLUS

15% Achieved Employment Progression

20% Gained Wage Progression

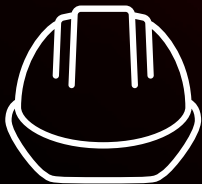
This summer, 24 students received full scholarships to our Summer Enrichment Day Camp.

Our STEAM after school program includes classwork and activities that aims to spark an interest and curiosity in science, technology, engineering, the arts and math in children grades 3-5. We teach applicable in-demand skills that will prepare students to become innovators in our everchanging world.

EDUCATION



MCCAP



Since the inception of the program in 2020, the Minority Contractor Capital Access Program (MCCAP) has accepted 17 participants who have won 181 new contracts totaling more than \$4M in revenue and created 80 new jobs.

Since July 2021, the Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) has helped clients receive over \$5.4M in contract assistance, access \$869,000 in capital, and assisted 66 applicants with earning their MBE, EDGE, or WBE certifications.

MBAC



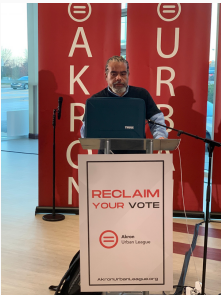
THE MISSION OF THE AKRON URBAN LEAGUE IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE CITIZENS OF SUMMIT COUNTY, PARTICULARLY AFRICAN-AMERICANS, THROUGH ECONOMIC SELF-RELIANCE AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT.

akronurbanleague.org

RECLAIM YOUR VOTE

We had a great turnout at the Reclaim Your Vote Town Hall hosted by the Akron Urban League (AUL) and National Urban League (NUL) on Thursday, November 3, 2022. The purpose of the town hall was to raise awareness on Issue 10, police accountability and redefining public safety, and justice for Jayland Walker. The event kicked off with Marc Morial, CEO and President of the NUL, sharing the importance of voting in the midterm election. A panel discussion was facilitated by Reverend Mark Thompson, host of the Make it Plain podcast. Panelists included: Jerika Richardson, Esq., Teresa R. LeGrair, Bishop Joey Johnson, Pastor Robert DeJournett, Reverend Nanette Pitt, Judi Hill, and Imokhai Okolo, Esq.

President Morial and Jerika Richardson shared NUL's 21 Pillars of Redefining Public Safety and Restoring Community Trust, which provides a framework for advocacy that redefines public safety and restores community trust between communities and law enforcement. The panelist spoke to the issues on the ballot, the importance of passing Issue 10, justice for Jayland Walker, and how the community can collectively work toward equity and healing. Community members were engaged and asked critical questions to close the town hall. We received great feedback from the community about the town hall, and we are excited that AUL played a role in the passing of Issue 10!



REGIONAL LISTENING TOUR

The State of Ohio Minority Business Development Division (MBDD) held Regional Listening tours across the state, hosted by the seven Minority Business Assistance Centers (MBAC). The event hosted at Akron Urban League's MBAC-Akron center on September 28, 2022, was a huge success! The 51 participants were able to engage with State leaders and learn about business resources and opportunities.

In attendance from the State of Ohio:

- **Lydia Mihalik, Deputy Director, Ohio Dept. of Development**
- **Monica L. Womack, Chief, Minority Business Division, Ohio Dept. of Development**
- **Stacy Cornett, Deputy Chief, Certification, Compliance and Research, Office of Minority Business**
- **Shaundretta Boykins, Manager of Business Development and Entrepreneurship, Office of the Minority Development Division**

Regional Director, Misty E. Beasley stated, "The Regional Listening Tour was an engaging and empowering event for our business owners. Participants had the opportunity to learn about State resources directly from State leaders and were asked to share their needs and challenges as business owners. Their voices were heard!"

Business owners and entrepreneurs, make sure you are connected to your local MBAC centers to participate in events like these!

MACKENZIE SCOTT DONATES \$2.4M

“We are honored and grateful that Ms. Scott and her team have recognized the Akron Urban League’s value and impact on the community,” President and CEO Teresa LeGrair said. “By placing racial equity and social justice at the forefront of her philanthropic mission, Ms. Scott is shining a much-needed spotlight on the nation’s structural and institutional limitations and showing the significance of the Akron Urban League’s efforts to promote and advance economic self-reliance, equity, power, and civil rights for those who have been historically underserved. Lastly, while this gift allows for aspirational planning, it is important that our local investors and partners continue to support the relevant and impactful programmatic efforts our community deserves.” [Read the story.](#)

TURKEY GIVEAWAY

On Wednesday, November 16, 2022, in partnership with CareSource and Giant Eagle, the Akron Urban League had a Turkey Drive-Thru for the most deserving families in our community. AUL staff volunteered to go out in shifts to pass out 113 turkeys. Even though the temperatures were below freezing, our hearts were warmed by being able to serve our community.



TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MCCAP

We are now recruiting for the Fourth Cohort of the Minority Contractor Capital Access Program (MCCAP) beginning January 2023. The program is a collaboration between the Western Reserve Community Fund and the Akron Urban League that provides financial and technical assistance to Akron and Summit County-based minority, women, LGBTQ+, Veteran, and Disabled-owned businesses in the construction trades.

Eligible businesses are evaluated based on need, experience, and growth potential. Once accepted, those businesses are given the opportunity to apply for financial assistance in the form of short-term credit to pay for costs related to specific construction contracts.

Participants are also connected to educational resources, including training and certification programs to help their businesses grow. The program is designed to support minority-owned and disadvantaged construction businesses with the best long-term success and stability opportunities. [Apply today for the next cohort in January 2023.](#)



MLK BREAKFAST TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW

Save your seat and [buy your tickets](#) today for January 16, 2023, at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn, 8 AM – 9:30 am. For sponsorship opportunities contact Melanie Korman at 330-434-3101.

SCHOLARS ACADEMY

The inaugural class of our Scholars Academy has been selected! There are 27 scholars across Summit County from the following schools: Akron Early College High School, Buchtel CLC, Copley High School, East CLC, Firestone CLC, Hoban High School, NIHF STEM High School, Twinsburg High School, and Walsh Jesuit High School. All students selected for the program are guaranteed a scholarship. The scholarship awards will range from books, room, and board, all the way to full scholarships! Stay tuned for more updates on this outstanding group of young scholars.

AUL SEES BLACK PANTHER

On November 15, 2022, the organization went as a team to see Black Panther: Wakanda Forever! This early Thanksgiving celebration at Highland Square Theatre came complete with snacks and good times. Each person felt appreciated, valued, and loved! It was a memorable day and a good movie.

SPOILER ALERT – this isn't the end of Black Panther.



SAVE THE DATE

MLK Breakfast - Monday, January 16, 2023

Annual Meeting and Scholarship Luncheon - Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Annual Gala - Saturday, August 12, 2023

FOLLOW US



DONOR THANK YOU'S

Thank you to our generous **September, October and November** donors. It is donors like you that help keep our mission alive. Your contribution supports education in our STEAM and scholarship programs, connects jobseekers to employers with Workforce Development, joins together small businesses with resources in our Entrepreneurship Empowerment Center, and so much more. Thank you for helping us be of service to Summit County!

September Donors

ALLYSON JAMES
 AMY ALLEN
 BRIANNAH BLACK IN HONOR OF TRACEY L. GRIGGS
 BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS TRUST FUND
 CYNTHIA D ROBINSON
 DANIELLE THOMPSON
 DEAN MARTIN
 DENIECE VALENTINE
 DENIESHA NEWBY
 DORLAN FEDRICK
 DR. MICAH BAIRD
 DR. N. J. AKBAR
 EVELYN STIGGERS
 HEIDI REGAL
 JANARIS ALSTON
 JILL BACON MADDEN
 JOE STANZIANO
 JOHN BLISCHAK
 KIMBERLY HAWS-FALASCO
 KIMBERLY MORGAN
 MICHELLE ELLIS
 MIRIAM BENNETT
 NEETHA MAMOOTILE
 RACHEL FOWLER
 RACHEL SWEET
 RENEA WOODS-BAYLOR
 ROBERTA ROGERS
 SEIBERTKECK INSURANCE PARTNERS
 TANYA LUNDY
 THE BENEVITY COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND
 THE J.M. SMUCKER COMPANY
 THE MANUFACTURING ADVOCACY
 AND GROWTH NETWORK
 THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE
 THERESA CARTER
 TRACI M LEWIS
 V. RENA SUBER

October Donors

AKRON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
 AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION
 EVELYN STIGGERS
 HERNDON ROBINSON
 HUNTINGTON-AKRON FOUNDATION
 JILL BACON MADDEN
 JOE STANZIANO
 JOHN BLISCHAK
 JULIAN DUNLAP
 LEPO RENTS
 MARQUETTA BODDIE
 MIRIAM BENNETT
 RACHEL SWEET
 RANDALL KENNEDY
 ROBERT W. BAIRD & CO
 SHARONDA GILBERT
 THE ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS
 THE GLENN & KAREN LEPO FAMILY FUND
 THE J.M. SMUCKER COMPANY
 WESTFIELD INSURANCE FOUNDATION



DONOR THANK YOU'S

November Donors

AKRON AREA YMCA
AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
ALISSA SHIVELY
ANN OTTO
BARB AND TODD GREENE
BENESCH, FRIEDLANDER, COPLAN, & ARONOFF LLP
BRANDI DAVIS
BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS TECHNICAL CENTER
CASEY ROBINSON
CATHY BAER
CHANDRA BRAMLETT
CHRIS CAVENTER
CITIZENS BANK
DALLAS AND LATIFAH GRUNDY
DEBORAH MOBLEY
DR. AND MRS. GREG HILL
EVELYN STIGGERS
FIFTH THIRD BANK
FRANK WILLIAMS
GAIL MAXWELL MARSH
JASON LOCKETT SR
JOHN BLISCHAK
KARL MAJORS

LEONARD M FOSTER
LISA KING
MATTHEW PETRUZZI
MEGA RANKIN
METIS CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
MICHAEL & WENDY BOLAS
MIRIAM BENNETT
RACHEL FOWLER
SANDY & JEFF NARAGON
SHARONDA GILBERT
STARK STATE COLLEGE
STEVEN & JULIE BRANDLE
SYNTHOMER FOUNDATION
TANYA LUNDY
TARA JEFFERSON
TED BABIY
TERESA R. LEGRAIR
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
THOMPSON ELECTRIC, INC.
UNITED WAY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
WESTFIELD INSURANCE FOUNDATION

Thank You

