



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



In 2025, HLF updated its mission, vision, and values statements as follows:

OUR MISSION

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation champions the collective pursuit of health and well-being for the Lakewood community through grantmaking, resource sharing, and collaboration with local organizations.

OUR VISION

Lakewood is a community where all residents have the resources and support they need to thrive.

OUR CORE VALUES

Equity	We are committed to those most affected by health disparities and systemic barriers, prioritizing initiatives that address root causes of inequity and create fair access to resources for all.
Community	We value meaningful connections between all people in Lakewood and recognize community members as experts in their own experiences, centering their voices in our decision-making.
Integrity	We take a sound, ethical approach to resource stewardship, maintaining transparency and accountability in our partnerships through honest communication about our decisions.
Learning	We practice trust-based philanthropy through continuous improvement, listening to nonprofit staff and Lakewood residents, and adapting to better serve our community.
Collaboration	We believe partnerships create sustainable change by building on existing community strengths and developing solutions that reflect local priorities.



LETTER FROM HLF Leadership

Dear Friends and Partners,

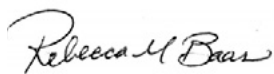
In 2025, HLF awarded \$536,405 in grants to 38 organizations across Lakewood, supporting food security, youth development, health services, housing stability, and the programs that underpin our community's well-being. We are proud of this work and clear-eyed about the environment in which it happens.

The past year brought significant disruption to the nonprofit sector. Since January 2025, the National Council of Nonprofits has tracked more than 50 federal executive orders affecting charitable nonprofits — targeting DEI programs, federal funding, immigration services, and housing assistance. The result has been repeated cycles of uncertainty: funding freezes rescinded within days, program changes withdrawn after legal challenge, and grants terminated. As Cuyahoga Human Services Chamber Director Annette Iwamoto recently noted: “Even brief disruptions weaken frontline services, pulling staff away from direct care and into crisis management, contingency planning, and damage control.”

HLF responded on two fronts. Locally, we convened nonprofit and municipal partners to assess impacts, work that has since grown into the Lakewood Human Services Network — a monthly learning and coordination initiative supporting our community's organizations in this changing landscape. Regionally, we joined the Greater Cleveland Funders Collaborative to better align with funders for collective impact. Both reflect our belief that grantmaking alone is not sufficient — that convening, coordinating, and learning alongside partners is equally part of our role.

That belief also guides the evolution of our grantmaking. Through conversations with grantees and philanthropic research, our Board heard that administrative burden and funding unpredictability limit effectiveness. Through the resulting 2026-2029 Strategic Plan and revised Grantmaking Framework, HLF is deepening its commitment to the practices that responsible place-based grantmaking calls for — trust-based relationships, flexible operating support, and reduced administrative burden on the organizations doing the work. We hope this report reflects our continued learning and evolution.

With gratitude,



Becca Baas
Board President



Kate Ingersoll
Executive Director

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2029

In November 2025, HLF's Board of Directors unanimously approved a new Strategic Plan for 2026-2029, along with the revised Mission, Vision, and Values statements. This plan represents a meaningful evolution in HLF's understanding of its role and responsibilities in Lakewood. Four strategic priorities emerged:

Priority I: Refine and Enhance Grantmaking Processes

Redesign and rebrand grant programs to be clearer, more community-centered, and fully aligned with health equity and trust-based philanthropy principles.

Priority II: Deepen Community Engagement and Partnerships

Strengthen HLF's presence and role in Lakewood by clearly defining its identity as a place-based funder and fostering genuine collaboration, shared decision-making, and ongoing feedback with nonprofits, grantees, and residents.

Priority III: Strengthen Organizational Capacity and Learning

Build HLF's internal capacity, governance structures, and learning culture to effectively support growing programs, communicate impact, and embrace informed risk-taking and community-led innovation.

Priority IV: Advance Health Equity in Lakewood

Direct funding, investment, and advocacy toward community-driven initiatives and policy change that address Lakewood's most critical health equity issues, centering the leadership, strengths, and needs of underserved populations.

For additional information, please read [HLF's Strategic Plan Executive Summary](#).





GOVERNANCE

HLF's Board of Directors brings diverse professional expertise and deep community ties to stewarding a growing community foundation.

HLF welcomed two new Board members, both Lakewood residents, in 2025. **Faith Noble** is a Certified Public Accountant and Chief Financial Officer at Ideastream Public Media, bringing more than two decades of financial leadership experience in nonprofit organizations across Northeast Ohio. **Jon Gromek** is Director of Justice Formation and Action at the Ignatian Solidarity Network, where he leads national, faith-based social justice programming and advocacy rooted in Catholic social teaching.

Additionally, HLF extends its gratitude to **Rick Kemm**, whose Board service concluded in late 2025. An inaugural Board member, Rick brought to HLF the same commitment to community that defined his distinguished 44-year nonprofit career — including 16 years as Executive Director of May Dugan Center.

Reflecting on the new Strategic Plan, HLF also streamlined its governance structure from five committees to four: Executive, Finance, Governance, and Grants and Learning — creating a more focused and efficient approach to Board work.

2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

HLF's Finance Committee provides oversight of investment policy, financial controls, and spending decisions. The 2025 increase in HLF's spending policy — from 4% to 5% of a 13-quarter rolling average of assets — reflects a decision to maximize community impact while maintaining the endowment's long-term sustainability. Asset growth from \$9 million in 2020 to over \$29 million in 2025 represents a significant expansion of HLF's capacity to serve Lakewood.

The following summary presents the Foundation's financial position as of December 31, 2025.

Starting Asset Value: \$26,400,246	Grants Paid: \$536,405
Public Support Received: \$614,255	Operating Costs: \$278,506
Investment Earnings: \$1,248,742	Ending Asset Value: \$29,925,950

GRANTMAKING:

Investing in Community Health

In 2025, HLF continued its grantmaking strategy focused on addressing the structural, economic, physical, and social conditions that influence health in our community. The HLF Board of Directors allocated \$536,405 to 38 organizations serving Lakewood.

Community Grants provided multi-year program support for core Lakewood organizations that provide essential services that address factors that affect health outcomes. HLF invested \$247,500 in this program in 2025.

HLF's Neighborhood Opportunity Grants provided \$106,905 to support community-based projects and initiatives. These small, accessible grants supported grassroots community projects that built connections and strengthened neighborhoods.

HLF also continued investing in capacity-building and systems-change work, providing \$120,000 to area organizations that address structural barriers and the root causes of health disparities.

HLF funded an additional \$62,000 in Sponsorships and Discretionary Grants that supported time-sensitive community needs and organizational partnerships.

In 2025, HLF approved a new Grantmaking Framework, making 2025 the final year of the previous grant cycles. The new framework launched in 2026 and is detailed on HLF's website.



HLF AWARDED GRANTS

Neighborhood Opportunity Grants

Friends of Madison Park	\$2,000
Kauffman Park Friends	\$2,000
GardenWalk Lakewood	\$2,300
Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation	\$3,000
Empower Sports	\$4,000
HELP Foundation, Inc.	\$4,500
Lakewood Student Philanthropy Club	\$4,500
Beck Center for the Arts	\$5,000
H2O "Help to Others"	\$5,000
Lakewood City School District	\$5,905
Lakewood Black Caucus	\$6,200
GiGi's Playhouse Cleveland	\$7,500
LCSD Recreation & Education Department	\$7,500
Lakewood Family Room	\$7,500
Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee	\$7,500
Lakewood Public Library	\$7,500
Madison Court Community Coalition	\$7,500
Tree Advisory and Education Board	\$7,500
Connecting for Kids	\$10,000
Total NOG Funding	\$106,905

Community Grants

The Literacy Cooperative	\$7,500
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center	\$10,000
Reach Out and Read Greater Cleveland	\$10,000
Building Hope in the City	\$12,500
Barton Center	\$15,000
Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio	\$15,000
Asian Services In Action, Inc.	\$17,500
Haus of Transcendent (HOT)	\$17,500
Lakewood City School District	\$17,500
Journey Center for Safety and Healing	\$20,000
LakewoodAlive	\$25,000
Lakewood Community Services Center	\$40,000
Neighborhood Family Practice	\$40,000
Total Community Grants Funding	\$247,500

Systems-Level Grants

Center for Community Solutions	\$10,000
Division of Early Childhood	\$10,000
Lakewood Community Services Center	\$30,000
The Land	\$30,000
Legal Aid Society of Greater Cleveland	\$40,000
Total Systems-Level Funding	\$120,000

Discretionary and Sponsorship Grants

LakewoodAlive	\$2,000
Lakewood Athletic Boosters	\$5,000
Cleveland Area Resettlement Agencies	\$10,000
Division of Early Childhood	\$15,000
Greater Cleveland Funders Collaborative	\$15,000
Lakewood Community Services Center	\$15,000
Total Discretionary & Sponsorship Grants	\$62,000

TOTAL 2025 GRANTMAKING
\$536,405



ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

On September 17, 2025, HLF hosted its seventh annual community gathering at the Cove Community Center, bringing together nonprofit leaders, elected officials, and community members for an evening of learning and candid conversation. Keynote speaker Annette Iwamoto, Director of the Cuyahoga County Human Services Chamber, drew on her expertise in nonprofit leadership and government relations to examine how federal policy shifts are destabilizing funding for local human service organizations.

Following Annette's presentation, attendees broke into facilitated small-group discussions guided by HLF Board and community members. Three key insights emerged:

Key Insight 1: Funding Uncertainty Is Destabilizing the Entire System

The loss of federal funding is not simply financial – it is structural. Private philanthropy cannot replace federal dollars, leaving organizations under strain. Collaboration gives way to competition, partnerships weaken, and the people who rely on services bear the consequences.

Key Insight 2: Fear, Exhaustion, and Uncertainty Are Community Health Issues

Participants named the human toll clearly: nonprofit staff are struggling to plan and retain talent amid rapid change, fear is keeping community members from seeking services, and the stress itself has become a public health concern.

Key Insight 3: Collaboration Is Both the Need and the Challenge

Collaboration emerged as both a survival strategy and a challenge. Participants called for fewer silos, shared services, and regular convenings — while acknowledging that meaningful collaboration requires incentives, structure, and supportive funders. The message to funders was direct: be present, understand the environment, and create equitable conditions for partnership.

A recording of the full meeting is available on [HLF's YouTube channel](#).





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

HLF's role in Lakewood extends well beyond grantmaking. As a place-based community foundation, we invest in relationships, shared information, and collaborative structures that strengthen the entire nonprofit ecosystem.

Updated Lakewood Community Resource Guide

Building on the success of the original Community Resource Guide, HLF partnered with Case Western Reserve University students and community partners to produce an enhanced, research-informed edition shaped by extensive community feedback. The result is a more comprehensive, user-friendly resource that both residents and organizations can rely on.

The guide continues to generate requests from nonprofits and city, and is available on HLF's website.

KEY COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

City of Lakewood's Community Health Action Team (CHAT)

HLF remains actively involved in the CHAT, the cross-sector collaborative implementing the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment and Action Plan. This work links HLF's grantmaking to Lakewood's broader public health strategy and keeps us grounded in evidence-based community priorities.

Lakewood Human Services Network

In 2025, the Lakewood Human Services Network was launched – a newly formed forum for human services organizations to share information, coordinate resources, and strengthen their collective response to community needs. HLF was a founding convener of this network, which has quickly become a valued forum for nonprofit coordination across the city.

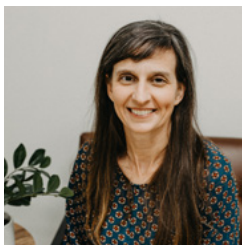
Greater Cleveland Funders Collaborative

HLF's participation in the Greater Cleveland Funders Collaborative keeps us connected to regional philanthropic trends, best practices, and peer learning opportunities. These relationships make us a better funder — more informed and more attuned to the broader landscape in which our grantees operate.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF



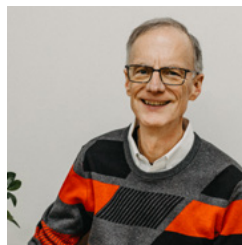
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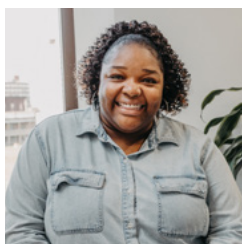
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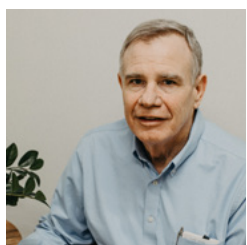
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Melissa Federman



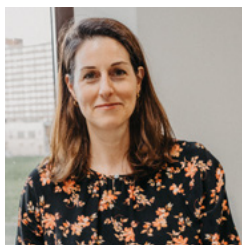
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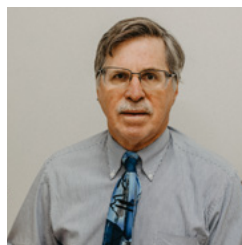
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