



The Business Journal

Wean Foundation Awards \$2.1 Million in Grants

The Raymond John Wean Foundation awarded nearly \$2.1 million last year through 41 grants to organizations whose work aligns with the foundation's strategic priorities of community revitalization, economic and educational opportunity, and public service leadership.

Among those receiving funding from the Warren-based philanthropy were the Warren City School District, Inspiring Minds and the Eastern Ohio Education Partnership, which collectively were awarded \$55,000 for the We Are Warren initiative.

"We believe our community is best served when diverse organizations and constituencies come together and share their knowledge, resources and experiences to address issues and opportunities," says Jennifer Roller, foundation president,

The foundation also provided ongoing support for its partnerships with the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative, Trumbull Neighbor-

hood Partnership and Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corp.

"These investments and partnerships have created a much stronger community development infrastructure in the Mahoning Valley that has impacted numerous neighborhoods and residents," affirms Ian Beniston, YNDC executive director.

Two of the foundation's initiatives, Neighborhood Success and Leadership Program 1.0: Engaging Residents, awarded 28 grassroots organizations from Warren and Youngstown nearly \$100,000 in 2015. An additional \$53,543 in quick-response grants was awarded to groups that maintain a relationship with the foundation's strategic partners.

Beyond the foundation's grant-making role, its capacity building events provided nonprofit professionals the tools to do their work efficiently. Workshops and events held during 2015 focused on organizational excellence and leadership development.