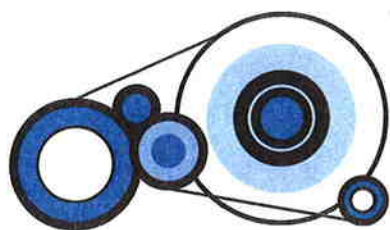
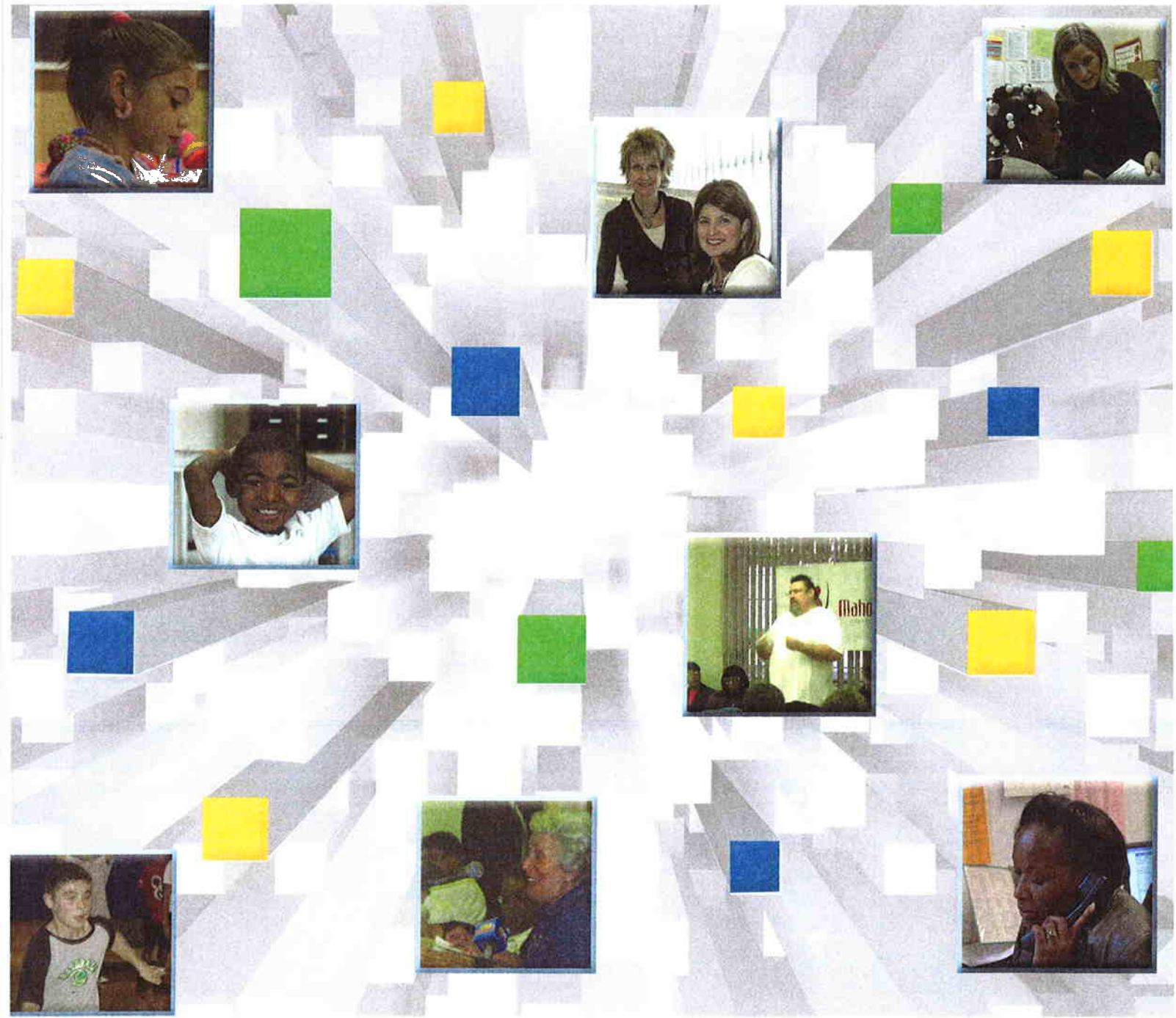


2008 ANNUAL REPORT



THE RAYMOND JOHN
WEAN FOUNDATION

Raising the Mahoning Valley's Capacity for Change



Joel Ratner



Gordon B. Wean

Dear Friends,

Despite the challenging economic climate, 2008 was a year marked by significant accomplishment in the Mahoning Valley. Through carefully targeted grants, workshops and other programs designed to build local nonprofit capacity, as well as a variety of opportunities for the community to convene, the Wean Foundation was able to help area residents and organizations come together to change their community for the better. These activities represent genuine progress in the Foundation's efforts to bring authentic, meaningful change to the Valley.

When the Wean Foundation engaged PolicyLink to assess the strengths and needs of the Mahoning Valley, among the key recommendations was that residents needed more opportunities to come together in pursuit of their various community goals. To help promote these activities, the Foundation began a community grants program and helped launch an organizing effort to serve the Warren-Youngstown area. The Neighborhood SUCCESS Grants Program and the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative are highlighted elsewhere in this report, and both are intended to promote community engagement and provide a mechanism for residents to achieve their shared objectives. Whether at neighborhood meetings or through the SUCCESS grants awarded by resident committees, we see residents taking greater control of their neighborhoods and strengthening their community.

In addition to the engagement created through these efforts, the Wean Foundation has made a variety of grants intended to improve the delivery of services in the Valley. A grant to the Ohio Board of Regents helped give local stakeholders a voice in the creation of a community college, bringing more affordable post-secondary education to the area. For Help Hotline Crisis Center, a grant to increase efficiency, update technology and provide support and training for staff will allow the organization to better serve residents. At Ohio North East Health Systems, Inc., a grant has been used to strategically plan for a changing health care environment. The Foundation understands that lean times require more effective and efficient organizations.

Realizing that our contributions to the community go well beyond grant dollars, the Foundation has continued to act as convener and capacity builder in the Valley. We invited local stakeholders, including both United Ways and various health and social service agencies, to form a coalition whose goal is to ensure that eligible local children are enrolled in government sponsored health insurance programs. We also offered the Nonprofit Advancement Program, through which nonprofit professionals gathered over eight months to receive training and share experiences in order to more effectively carry out their missions. And September brought the second annual Nonprofit Summit arranged by the Foundation to bring speakers, educational sessions and networking opportunities to the nonprofit community. It is our intention to continue similar efforts to bring together those dedicated to improving life in the Mahoning Valley.

While we realize that our efforts to join with residents to transform the community have just begun, we nonetheless celebrate the progress during 2008 and thank all who have worked with us on these exciting projects. The Mahoning Valley will continue to benefit from your efforts, and we look forward with great optimism to 2009 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Joel Ratner, President of The Raymond John Wean Foundation

Gordon B. Wean, Chairman of The Raymond John Wean Foundation

MISSION STATEMENT

The Raymond John Wean Foundation enhances community well-being and vitality in the Mahoning Valley through grantmaking, convening, advocating and providing leadership with a focus on economically disadvantaged people and neighborhoods.

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS EXPERIENCES THAT LAST A LIFETIME

Investing in the early development years of a child's life is one investment that comes without risk. With 90 percent of brain development occurring before age six, the early years in a child's life are a critical time. Charged with a desire to help children reach school age healthy and ready to learn, The Raymond John Wean Foundation's support of Early Childhood Development continued into 2008 with notable progress.

"To be successful in school and in life, the Mahoning Valley's young children must grow up in an environment that develops their self-confidence, their social and emotional skills, as well as a love for learning," Program Officer Janet Weisberg says.

Great improvements in Valley early childhood care were made in 2008 according to the standards of Step Up To Quality, Ohio's voluntary quality rating systems for licensed childcare programs. The first Mahoning Valley center to receive a star rating and an accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children was one of the Foundation's grantees, St. Rose Sunny Days Child Care in Girard. The center received both of these honored distinctions in 2008.

The Foundation's Invest in Quality Grants Program continued to aid childcare centers in achieving these quality ratings. In 2008, 13 early care centers received grants totaling \$92,377. Those centers care for 975 infants, toddlers and preschool age children throughout the Valley. Working in the Early Childhood Development field, Weisberg sees the effects that positive early experiences have on a child. "Children in high quality early education settings experience significantly improved scholastic success and educational attainment, lower crime rates, less dependency on social services and greater economic stability," she says.

One grantee working to make a significant impact on the well-being and education of young students is Community Solutions Association's Project KIND program. The program provides for visits to Warren elementary students and, through creative approaches, teaches good manners, respect and kindness. "It is a better investment to prevent problems rather than fix problems," Weisberg says. Launched in 2005, the program is now receiving national attention for its groundbreaking curriculum.

Through increased standards of quality and a continued focus on helping children reach their full potential, the Foundation's early childhood effort continues to help grantees create early experiences that will last a lifetime.

ADVANCING VALLEY NON-PROFITS

Consistent with its other new programs in 2008, the Foundation also launched the Nonprofit Advancement Program. This exciting opportunity brought together nonprofit professionals representing eight Mahoning Valley organizations for peer to peer training.

Throughout the course of eight months, leaders attended sessions facilitated by Organizational Development Consultant Janus Small that covered a range of topics including fundraising, volunteer development, financial accountability, planning, engaging a board and developing an audience. The training provided at these sessions was tailored specifically to the needs of the participating organizations. In addition to the training and capacity building component, the sessions featured an opportunity to act as a support group that encouraged peer learning and networking. With a unique and focused curriculum and the opportunity to learn from one another, the program was provided free of charge by the Foundation to participating organizations.

Nonprofit organizations were selected for participation through a competitive application process and required to have three representatives attend the sessions—the CEO, a key board leader and a key staff member. The mix of representatives ensured that the information and experience provided by the program would be useful at all levels of the nonprofit organization.

The Foundation's support of nonprofit advancement is an opportunity to invest in the quality of nonprofit leadership and create a positive effect on the community. Through engagement, education and support, Mahoning Valley nonprofit organizations will continue to thrive and grow.



2008 GRANTS

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

7th Ward Citizens' Coalition, Inc.	\$ 60,000.00
Alliance Community Outreach Program, Inc (ACOP)	\$ 25,000.00
American Red Cross, Mahoning Chapter	\$ 1,000.00
Angels for Animals	\$ 50.00
Beatitude House	\$ 35,500.00
Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Mahoning Valley	\$ 8,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Youngstown	\$ 28,590.00
Burdman Group, Inc.	\$ 60,000.00
Caritas Communities, Inc. (Eastwood Village)	\$ 17,500.00
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Youngstown	\$ 6,000.00
Children's Museum of the Valley	\$ 20,000.00
Coalition on Homeless & Housing in Ohio	\$ 25,000.00
Coleman Professional Services, Inc.	\$ 15,000.00
Community Legal Aid Services, Inc.	\$ 25,000.00
Consumer Credit Counseling Service	\$ 5,000.00
Corporation for Enterprise Development	\$ 15,000.00
Dress for Success Warren-Youngstown	\$ 3,600.00
East Side Organizing Project	\$ 50,000.00
Etruscan Press, Inc.	\$ 15,000.00
Family Service Agency	\$ 30,000.00
Friends of Transit (Support for WRTA Levy)	\$ 13,500.00
Greater Warren Youngstown Urban League	\$ 31,500.00
Habitat for Humanity of Mahoning County	\$ 35,000.00
Hard Hatted Women	\$ 5,000.00
Help Hotline Crisis Center, Inc.	\$ 112,900.00
Home Repair Resource Center	\$ 3,000.00
Hopewell Inn	\$ 5,000.00
Interfaith Home Maintenance Service, Inc.	\$ 33,000.00
Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley	\$ 16,848.00
Kent State University - Trumbull Campus	\$ 30,000.00
Leadership Mahoning Valley, Inc.	\$ 3,000.00
Lien Forward Ohio Community Foundation	\$ 50,000.00
Mahoning County Continuum of Care	\$ 16,000.00
Mahoning Valley Historical Society	\$ 1,000.00
Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative	\$ 412,000.00
McDonough Museum of Art	\$ 8,500.00
Neighborhood Ministries, Trumbull Baptist Association	\$ 30,000.00
Newton Falls Public Library	\$ 5,000.00
Northeast Homeowners & Concerned Citizens	\$ 65,000.00
Northeastern Educational Television OH	\$ 3,500.00
Ohio Cultural Alliance, Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Ohio North East Health Systems	\$ 149,000.00
Planned Parenthood of Northeast OH	\$ 50,000.00
Second Harvest Food Bank	\$ 1,000.00
Southington Local Schools	\$ 2,500.00
Southside Ministries, Inc.	\$ 2,000.00
St. Patrick's Church of Youngstown	\$ 5,000.00
St. Vincent DePaul Society	\$ 1,500.00
Students Motivated by the Arts (SMARTS)	\$ 45,000.00

Supporters of Youngstown Schools	\$ 2,500.00
TC Family & Children First Council	\$ 4,585.00
The Butler Institute of American Art	\$ 2,500.00
The Citizens' Committee for Warren City Schools	\$ 2,500.00
The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County	\$ 40,000.00
Trumbull 100	\$ 5,000.00
Trumbull Art Gallery	\$ 1,000.00
Trumbull County Educational Service Center	\$ 5,000.00
United Methodist Community Center	\$ 28,115.00
Valley Counseling Services, Inc.	\$ 50,000.00
Volunteer Services Agency, Inc., nka HandsOn Volunteers, Inc.	\$ 60,000.00
Warren G. Harding High School (Robotics Program)	\$ 5,000.00
Warren Joint Apprentice & Training	\$ 50,000.00
West Elementary School	\$ 500.00
Western Reserve Housing Development Corp	\$ 30,000.00
Wick Neighbors, Inc.	\$ 5,500.00
Wick Pollock	\$ 6,000.00
YMCA of Trumbull County	\$ 100,000.00
YMCA of Youngstown	\$ 40,000.00
Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries	\$ 7,000.00
Youngstown City Schools	\$ 5,000.00
Youngstown CityScape	\$ 70,000.00
Youngstown Early College	\$ 5,000.00
Youngstown Grey to Green Festival	\$ 1,500.00
Youngstown Hearing & Speech Center	\$ 25,000.00
YSU English Festival	\$ 2,000.00
YSU Human Ecology Department	\$ 2,500.00
YSU Smoky Hollow Community Outreach	\$ 4,500.00
YWCA of Warren	\$ 17,035.00

NEIGHBORHOOD SUCCESS

WARREN

Agape Assembly Church	\$ 4,415.00
Believers' Christian Fellowship	\$ 5,000.00
Boy Scouts of America	\$ 1,700.00
Community Volunteer Council	\$ 4,000.00
Neighborhood/School Association	\$ 5,000.00
Neil Armstrong Historical Site	\$ 3,000.00
North East Warren Neighborhood Assoc.	\$ 1,882.00
North End Environmental Development	\$ 5,000.00
Stop One Place Help is Available, Inc.	\$ 3,000.00
Trumbull Art Gallery	\$ 5,000.00
Warren Athletic Club	\$ 5,000.00
Warren Little Raiders	\$ 5,000.00
Warren Ohio Basketball Academy	\$ 5,000.00
Warren Youth Development & Sports Alliance	\$ 4,871.00
York Avenue Church of God	\$ 1,650.00

YOUNGSTOWN

7th Ward Citizens' Coalition, Inc.	\$ 3,872.00
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Beulah Baptist Church	\$ 3,600.00
Centenary United Methodist Church	\$ 3,230.00
Destination ImagiNation	\$ 4,631.00
Eagle Eye Block Watch	\$ 3,135.00
Fairgreen Neighborhood Garden	\$ 2,765.00
Harding Elementary School	\$ 2,160.00
Idora Neighborhood Association	\$ 1,200.00
Know Your Neighbor Block Watch	\$ 3,635.00
Latinas United Networking Association, Inc.	\$ 5,000.00
Learning Tree	\$ 5,000.00
Lost Then Found Evangelic Ministries	\$ 4,137.00
Mahoning County 4-H	\$ 3,275.00
Mahoning Valley Bulldawgz	\$ 5,000.00
Metro Assembly of God	\$ 5,000.00
Mill Creek Jr. Baseball League, Inc.	\$ 4,425.00
North Elementary School	\$ 2,006.00
Northeast Homeowners & Concerned Citizens	\$ 5,000.00
Northside Farmer's Market	\$ 4,000.00
P. Ross Berry-Williams Historical Society	\$ 5,000.00
Parkside Neighbors Block Watch	\$ 1,500.00
Peruvian Society	\$ 4,898.00
Plaza View II Incorporated	\$ 4,888.00
POGO Neighborhood Block Watch	\$ 2,400.00
Representatives of Christ	\$ 5,000.00
Rising Star Baptist Church	\$ 5,000.00
Sisters of Serenity Mentoring Corp.	\$ 5,000.00
Sojourn to the Past	\$ 5,000.00
Spanish Evangelical Church	\$ 2,600.00
St. Patrick's Church of Youngstown	\$ 5,000.00
St. Vincent DePaul Society	\$ 2,500.00
Taft Elementary School	\$ 3,234.00
Treez Please, Inc.	\$ 5,000.00
Williamson Elementary School	\$ 2,912.00
Young at Heart	\$ 1,448.00

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Boardman United Methodist Preschool	\$ 7,000.00
Child Care Connection	\$ 45,400.00
Community Solutions Association	\$ 269,282.00
CSA Mercy Ministries	\$ 39,921.00
D & E Counseling Center	\$ 35,000.00
Discover My World, Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Easter Seals	\$ 5,000.00
HAPPY HOMES	\$ 12,998.00
Heart Reach Ministries, Inc.	\$ 5,000.00
Jewish Community Center	\$ 8,625.00
Mahoning County Family & Children Council	\$ 10,000.00
Millcreek Children's Center	\$ 30,000.00
Ohio Association of Education of Young Children	\$ 14,040.00
Potential Development Program, Inc.	\$ 20,000.00

St. Paul's Child Care Center	\$ 3,754.00
St. Rose 'Sunny Day' Child Care Center	\$ 15,000.00
Struthers Presbyterian Church	\$ 7,000.00
The Center for Community Solutions	\$ 60,000.00
Tru-Mah-Col, AEYC	\$ 102,000.00
Trumbull Lifelines	\$ 45,000.00
Voices for Ohio's Children	\$ 50,000.00
YWCA of Youngstown	\$ 12,000.00

PHILANTHROPIC

Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley	\$ 1,500.00
Council on Foundations	\$ 9,240.00
The Foundation Center	\$ 7,500.00
Ohio Grantmakers Forum	\$ 23,262.00

LEGACY AND BOARD INITIATED

Ashtabula County Educational Service Center	\$ 1,000.00
Blair Academy	\$ 40,000.00
Church of the Transfiguration	\$ 1,000.00
Citizens' Academy	\$ 3,000.00
Cleveland Artists Foundation	\$ 2,000.00
Cleveland Foodbank	\$ 2,000.00
Cleveland Heights Historical Society	\$ 1,500.00
Coventry Village Special Improvement Dist	\$ 1,000.00
CYC-ABC Polk Bros. Center	\$ 1,000.00
Deerfield Academy	\$ 5,000.00
Delta Research & Educational Fdn.	\$ 5,000.00
First Presbyterian Church of Warren	\$ 5,000.00
FutureHeights	\$ 30,000.00
Greater Cleveland Community Shares	\$ 3,000.00
Heights Arts Collaborative, Inc.	\$ 2,000.00
Heights Emergency Food Center, Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Heights Parent Center	\$ 3,000.00
Heights Youth Club, Inc.	\$ 5,000.00
Hiram College	\$ 6,000.00
Indiana University Foundation	\$ 3,000.00
Jefferson Area Local Schools	\$ 1,500.00
Kulture Kids	\$ 2,500.00
League of Women Voters of Cleveland	\$ 1,000.00
Miss Porter's School	\$ 25,000.00
NAACP	\$ 1,000.00
National MS Society	\$ 2,000.00
Noble Nela Merchants	\$ 1,000.00
Pymatuning Valley School District	\$ 1,500.00
Reaching Heights	\$ 2,500.00
Red Hawk American Indian	\$ 5,000.00
Saints Home Church of God & Christ	\$ 1,000.00
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	\$ 3,000.00
St. Vincent Hospital Foundation, Inc.	\$ 1,000.00

Tabernacle Baptist Church
University School

\$ 4,000.00
\$ 20,000.00

Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Ctr
Western Reserve Chorale

\$ 1,000.00
\$ 1,000.00

2008 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets	\$ 69,618
Net Equipment and Improvements	\$ 39,063
Investments	\$ 65,092,589
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	\$ 65,201,270
Unconditional Promises to Give	\$ 1,101,173
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 64,100,097
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	\$ 65,201,270

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Interest, Dividends, and Other Income	\$ 2,044,067
Net Investment Losses	(\$ 20,794,370)
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	(\$ 18,750,303)
Expenses:	
Grants and Pledges	\$ 4,283,019
Investment Expenses	\$ 440,963
Personnel	\$ 404,587
Community Program Expenses	\$ 306,150
Occupancy and Office Expenses	\$ 119,123
Professional Fees and Federal Excise Taxes	\$ 68,366
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	\$ 5,622,208
Decrease in Unrestricted Assets	(\$ 24,372,511)
Unrestricted Net Assets	
Beginning of the Year	\$ 88,472,608
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End of the Year	\$ 64,100,097

ORGANIZING EFFORT HELPS NEIGHBORS TAKE THE LEAD

It took just a year for the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative to make its mark on the neighborhoods of Warren and Youngstown. The Raymond John Wean Foundation salutes the work of the MVOOC and celebrates its achievements.

"At the heart of our effort is a belief in people to lead and shape their own destiny," MVOOC Executive Director Kirk Noden says. And in one year, their impact has been felt. MVOOC has knocked on more than 1,000 doors, held over 125 meetings with public officials, recruited more than 700 actively involved neighbors throughout Warren and Youngstown, and held organizing meetings at churches, schools, homes and community centers. All of this is done to empower others to take the lead in creating a better community. Through its engagement with the community, MVOOC developed an organizing agenda to improve neighborhoods and impact issues of public policy.

"Organizers have successfully recruited neighborhood associations, churches, labor unions, social service agencies and other community institutions in this effort," Noden says. A focus of the agenda is the Vacant Properties Organizing Campaign, which includes area legislators in the fight against urban blight. MVOOC also led the way on a vacant property survey with more than 150 community leaders surveying each parcel of land and rating the abandoned structures and lots. Reshaping the image of many neighborhoods in Warren and Youngstown also continued this year through a landmark agreement with a property owner under which he will demolish or repair more than 300 structures in Youngstown to once again restore safety and pride in neighborhoods.

Based on concrete accomplishment in 2008, MVOOC is poised to continue its success and mission well into the future. The Wean Foundation is encouraged that neighbors will continue to take the lead in improving the communities of Warren and Youngstown for years to come.



NEIGHBORHOOD SUCCESS GRANTS TRANSFORM COMMUNITY

During 2008, the Foundation created a community grants program that focused on the heart of the Valley – the neighborhoods. The Neighborhood SUCCESS Grants Program is based on a similar program in Cleveland, but tailored to the specific needs and strengths that exist in Warren and Youngstown. The program provides grants of \$500 to \$5,000 to neighborhood groups in the two cities for locally initiated projects to improve life in the neighborhoods. A notable feature of this program is that grant requests are evaluated and decided not by the Foundation but by two committees of residents, one each in Warren and Youngstown.

After just one year, the program has caught on in the community, with applications growing with each round of grantmaking. The Neighborhood SUCCESS Grants Program now funds a number of diverse and creative projects throughout Warren and Youngstown. "As a lifelong resident of Youngstown, I am proud to be a part of the positive influence the Foundation demonstrates in the Mahoning Valley," Program Officer Jennifer Roller says.

The community's response to the program has been more than the Foundation could ask. "From the orientations on how to seek funds to the workshops to assist those who were not successful, the feedback has been positive," Roller says. Not only does the program improve the community, but the feedback proves useful as the Foundation learns the issues that are most important to the community.

Roller credits much of the program's success to the hard work of the resident grantmaking committees - 12 residents in Youngstown and six in Warren. "These committees of dedicated, local residents volunteer their time to review applications for small community development projects that can have a positive impact on the community," she says. Keeping a focus on the community is what remains at the core of the work of the program and the Foundation.

BOARD



Germaine Bennett
Director



Jennie Dennison-Budak
Director



Mary R. Halfacre
Director



William E. Mullane
Director



John L. Pogue
Director



Patricia Sweet
Director



Gordon B. Wean
Chairman

Special thanks to Mary Halfacre and Jennie Dennison-Budak for their years of service on the board and their commitment to the Foundation and the Mahoning Valley.

STAFF



Joel Ratner
President



Janet E. Weisberg
Program Officer,
Early Childhood
Development and
Social Services



Jennifer E. Roller
Program Officer,
Urban Affairs and
Neighborhoods



Cheryl R. Crooks
Grants Administrator,
Office Manager