

THE CHARLES AND SALOME  
**Reymann**  
FOUNDATION

SPRING

# NEWSLETTER

**Supporting Northeast Ohio's Developmental  
Disabilities Community Since 1967.**

April 2024

# THE CHARLES AND SALOME Reymann FOUNDATION

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## A Spring Welcome from Steve Reymann

Dear Friends and Family,

Welcome to Spring everyone! True to form, the Reymann Foundation finished 2023 very strong, and it is with great excitement we look to the many opportunities 2024 presents to continue the good works of Charles and Salome Reymann. Guiding the Board of Directors this year will be four Key Initiatives identified by the Board in our January strategic planning meeting. In this Chairman's letter I'd like to share them with you.

The first Key Initiative is that we will drive accountability. In this, we will improve all that we do while driving accountability - accountability to our mission, our members and family, our community partners and accountability to each other on the Board. In short, we will do what we say we will do.

The second Key Initiative is to define our fundraising strategy. A major part of this initiative is to identify where we can go for support. Certainly the Reymann family has generously fueled our growth over the years, yet our story is one that resonates with the entire region. Joining our Reymann supporters have been many members of our community who see the good work that is being done. We will seek out those individuals and organizations who want to ensure that the Foundation thrives in its mission to serve individuals with developmental disabilities.

Our next Key Initiative calls for us to be more expansive in our planning. We have had good one-year plans, but we also recognize that we need to think in the longer term. Therefore, we challenge ourselves to plan for what the Foundation will look like in three and five years. The plan will help us to execute the work we do today and tomorrow.

Our fourth Key Initiative has been driven more and more by the people reading this newsletter. You have asked us "How can we get more involved? We want to be part of the organization." To help you, and us, achieve what we are re-imagining, we lean on our volunteer organization called the Ambassador Group. Our Ambassadors contribute with their time and talent. They help us with tasks that would overwhelm the Board. There are no requirements of the Ambassadors other than to help when they have the time and a need arises. This year we will ramp up communication with our Ambassadors and also offer more social opportunities to get together and enjoy our shared mission. We will make every effort to let you know how important to us you are.

In closing, I would like to recognize our Immediate Past Chairman, John Reymann. For the last six years, John has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors. During that time, we experienced remarkable growth, both in assets and programs. John's steady hand has positioned us for an exciting future. John has elected to leave the Chairman's position, but remains on the board as a continued source of experience. All on the Board thank John for his dedication to our success.

Very truly yours,



Steve Reymann



# BECOME AN AMBASSADOR!

A year ago, in the 2023 Spring Newsletter, we introduced our newly created Ambassador Group. Since then, we couldn't be more pleased with how the group has grown. We are a dynamic non-profit Foundation. In order to support programs and initiatives that deliver on our mission to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, we rely on our volunteers. Our Ambassadors serve many roles, whether they live in the Akron area or in far-flung states. They were a tremendous help working all aspects of our August Friends & Family Celebration, which would not have been the success and fun that it was without our Ambassadors' efforts. Ambassadors not in Akron or even Ohio have helped to spread the good works of the Foundation by liking and sharing, and even more impactfully, following our social media posts on Facebook and Instagram. It is amazing how hitting that "share" button exponentially increases awareness.

Among other things, this year the Ambassadors will be working alongside Foundation and Board members with Spring and Fall clean-up days at our anchor Reymann Home.

Our Ambassadors are strong advocates for our cause, people who share their time, talent and passion with the Reymann Foundation. We are fortunate to have them and shout out a loud "Thank You"!

To learn more about joining our Ambassador group, visit [reymannfoundation.org](http://reymannfoundation.org), email us at [Reymann.Foundation1967@gmail.com](mailto:Reymann.Foundation1967@gmail.com) or directly contact any Board member.



Photos credit: John Luse, Reymann Ambassador

THE CHARLES AND SALOME  
**Reymann**  
FOUNDATION

### MISSION

The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in Northeast Ohio.

### VISION

To be a leading charitable organization in Northeast Ohio that makes significant contributions to the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

### VALUES

We will build our community by respecting the inherent dignity of all citizens. We will treat those we serve with empathy, support and love. We will lead in all we do. Our actions are guided by the Catholic heritage of the Reymann family.

### AMBASSADORS

**Gene Fitch**

**Michael Jessberger**

**Kristen Reymann Kubisch**

**Kevin Lawson**

**John Luse**

**Anne Najeway Vainer**

**Donna Rakerd Converse**

**Charlie Reymann**

**Courtney Reymann**

**Joe Sokol**

**Bill Staycheff**

**Cindy Staycheff**

## Committed to Making An Impact

The Reymann Foundation has a rich history spanning decades, marked by a significant impact on communities throughout Northeast Ohio. Over the years, our commitment to supporting programs offered by our partners has helped to make a positive difference in the lives of many individuals with special needs.

Some of our more recent contributions have included:

Continued development and support of Transition-To-Work Programs at both St. Vincent-St. Mary High School and The University of Akron. The training and experience that students with disabilities receive teach them life skills and prepare them for competitive integrated employment after graduation.

Ongoing partnership of Community Support Services, and Master Artist sponsorship at their Art of Recovery. This event showcases beautiful pieces of art, all created by participants in CSS' Expressive Arts Therapy program.

Continued support and sponsorship of Faith and Light USA, East, a ministry that tends to the spiritual and social needs of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families. The organization will be hosting its 34th Annual Retreat at Loyola Retreat House in Clinton, Ohio, and will attract participants from within Ohio, the Midwest, Eastern US and southern states.

Repeat sponsorship at the Premiere Partner level of the Akron Rotary Camp's Chili Open. This event is the main fundraiser for the Camp, which provides traditional camping experiences for children and adults with disabilities. The serene camp location, its amenities specifically outfitted for individuals with handicaps and the top-notch programming offered make the Camp a sought-after summer destination for many families.





Continued support of ArtSparks' Dynamite Duos program, providing children with developmental disabilities the opportunity to experience the art of dance and perform with their peers. This heartwarming program encourages friendships that go beyond the classroom.

One of the largest Endowed Scholarships at The University of Akron College of Education, supporting students pursuing careers in the field of Special Education.

Newly created Endowed Scholarships at both Archbishop Hoban High School and Our Lady of the Elms High School, focusing on students with learning disabilities and demonstrating incremental financial need.

Maintenance of Reymann Foundation-owned group homes, providing safe, dignified independent living environments.

Creation of the Father James J. Reymann Community Service Award, recognizing those who have made significant progress in improving the lives of the developmentally disabled community in Northeast Ohio.

The future of the Reymann Foundation is bright, bolstered by strong community partnerships and support. We continue to forge ahead with renewed vigor and dedication to our mission of making a lasting impact.



## Reymann Roots: Reflecting on the Atlantic Foundry Demolition

Demolition of what remained of the Atlantic Foundry in Akron, Ohio, began on March 7, 2024. This effort to clean-up and remediate property led by the Summit County Land Bank is a positive action for the betterment of Akron; however it is a bittersweet event for the Reymann family.

The Atlantic Foundry was formed in 1905 by Charles Reymann and four fellow immigrant foundrymen. They named their new business the Atlantic Foundry Company as a tribute to the ocean crossed in search of better lives. A year later, the foundry building was destroyed by fire. Undaunted by their loss, the five men rebuilt the foundry. Their business grew rapidly in industrially booming Akron. What began as a small unpretentious foundry grew with and within the city. To meet the growing demands for iron, in 1910 they built a modern iron foundry. In 1919 they added a steel foundry and began a steel casting business. By this time Charles' partners sold their interests to him and he became the sole proprietor and President of the Atlantic Foundry Company.

Over the years since its beginning, the Foundry expanded its operations. The original force of 12 employees grew to nearly 450. The Foundry employed many Reymann family members. In 1955, Charles' first-born son, Charles, assumed leadership, followed by son Marcel in 1973, and finally Charles' youngest son, Thomas, became President of the Foundry in 1983. Unfortunately, due to the exit of tire manufacturing by most of the Akron-based rubber factories, as well as depression in the oil industry, declining foreign business and softening demand for iron molds and steel castings, the Foundry became unprofitable.

The behemoth foundry, once the largest in Akron and an icon among the city's industrial and entrepreneurial businesses, ceased operations in 1989. All assets were liquidated, and the blighted property on Beaver Street was sold. Though no longer having ownership, the memories and emotions tied to the Foundry remain firmly rooted in the Reymann family.

Still, change is a good thing. The 13-acre parcel of land in Akron's Middlebury neighborhood that once clinked, clanged and spit fire is silent, but is destined for new purposes. The demolition is a major milestone in the revitalization of Akron, and will undoubtedly bring many future growth opportunities for the city. And the Reymann family will take solace in the fact that they were, and continue to be, part of Akron's great history.



## Blossoming Hearts: Honoring Salome's Legacy of Love and Goodwill

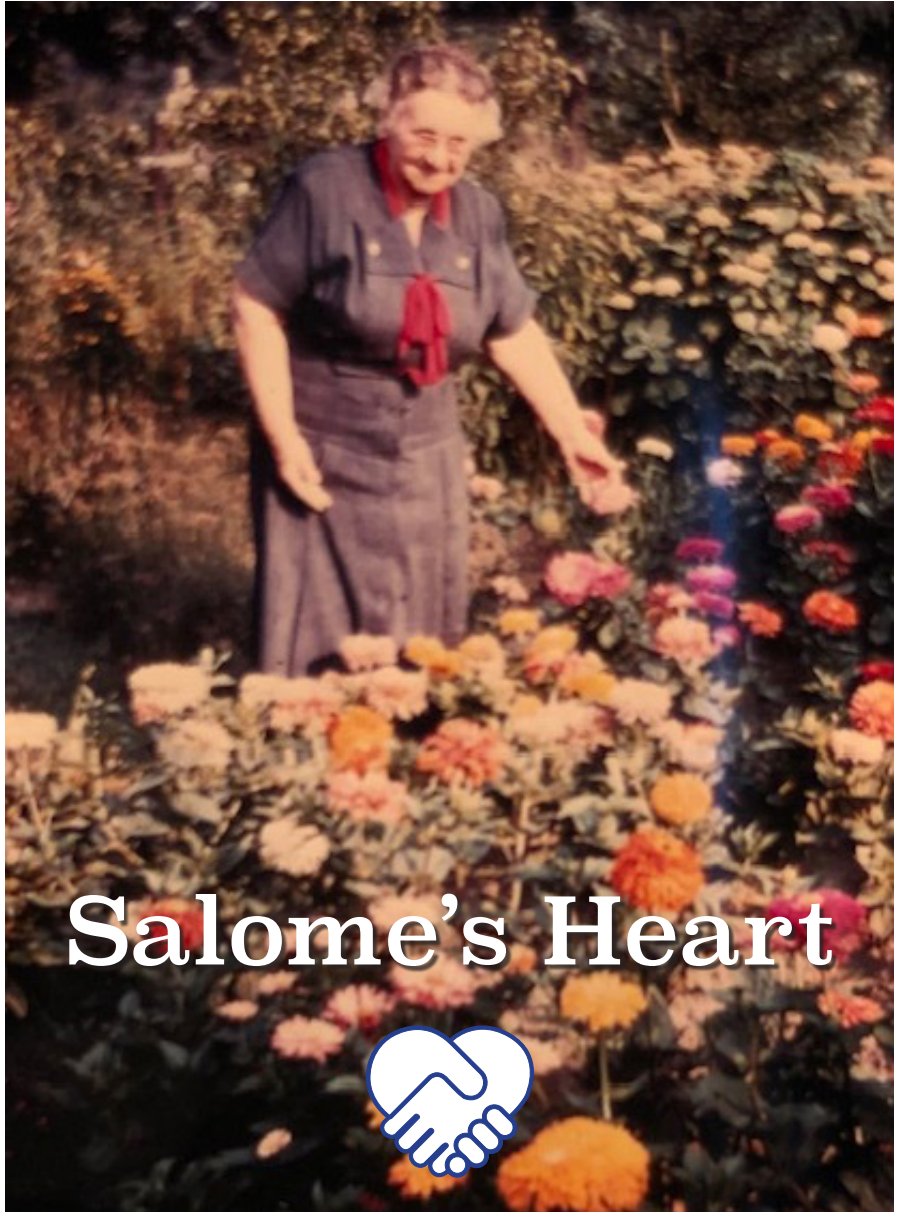
Salome Reymann was known as a beacon of love and nurturing not just for her own family; she extended her warmth and care to everyone around her, much like the tender touch she gave to her beloved flower garden. Under her care, her children flourished, the neighborhood grew and her flowers burst with colorful blooms.

Salome was not only a devoted wife and mother of 16 children, but also a skilled homemaker, infusing every aspect of her household with love and purpose. Her intelligence and astuteness were evident in her role as a businesswoman, where she navigated challenges with grace and determination. Yet, it was her philanthropic spirit and her unwavering commitment to her community that truly set her apart. Salome was actively engaged in her community, tirelessly advocating for those who needed support and championing causes close to her heart.

Salome's influence left an indelible mark on the community she cherished, and her dedication to activism continues to inspire us to action. In the spirit of Salome's legacy, this Spring beckons us to follow her lead. As we plant our gardens, be like Salome, and sow seeds of kindness, compassion and goodwill in our communities. Just as Salome's heart overflowed with love for her family and neighbors, let ours, too, join in the spirit of love and generosity.

By supporting Salome's Heart Appeal, you are not only honoring her memory but also continuing her legacy of supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. Your gift will help someone with special needs receive the care, support and opportunities they deserve, enabling them to blossom and thrive in a world nourished by pure love.

Visit [reymannfoundation.org](http://reymannfoundation.org) and make your donation today, or fill out and return the enclosed envelope to mail your donation.



**SCAN TO DONATE**

## Supporting ArtSparks Dynamite Duos Program

We are excited to, for the second year, sponsor ArtSparks Dynamite Duos Program. This is a 20-week program that provides students who have disabilities the opportunity to experience dance and perform with their peers. The students are paired with non-disabled peers to dance in partnership. The goals are to maximize participation in fine arts and to challenge every dancer to achieve their best through teamwork, creativity, empathy and discovery. The program culminates in a performance celebrating every student's talent and achievement.

Reymann Foundation representatives who attended last year's recital could not stop praising the program. If that is any indication, we are looking forward to watching this year's performance and seeing the students take the stage in a joyous end of year showcase. This year's performance, titled "Thrive: The Story of the Last Dinosaur!", is about how one curious chicken will show that we can be more than we imagine when we choose to change ourselves. The performance, open free to the public, will be held May 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th at Firestone High School.



## Akron Rotary Camp Chili Open Was a Success

What better way to enjoy a snowy Saturday morning than golfing with our partners at the Akron Rotary Camp? The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation proudly continued our support of the Camp through a premier sponsorship at the 34th Annual Chili Open on February 3, 2024 at Hale Farm & Village in Bath, Ohio. The event was well attended by many golfers, friends and supporters of the cause, with the ultimate goal to maintain the beautiful grounds, cabins and shoreline of Rex Lake, home of the Akron Rotary Camp. The Camp serves more than 1,200 children and adults with developmental, physical and mental disabilities, along with their families, providing traditional camping experiences that will last a lifetime for participants. The mission is perfectly aligned with the goals of the Reymann Foundation -- their programs bring our vision to help others with disabilities to life in a very personal way.



(l-r) Jon Wyly, Chris Reymann and John Reymann, Reymann Foundation Board Members; Brooks Ames, Akron Rotary Camp Trustee; Gene Fitch, Reymann Foundation Lead Ambassador

(l-r) Board Members Maggie Reymann Skinner and Rose DeBord with Amanda Warner from the Akron Rotary Camp

(l-r) Board Member Alice Maher Luse with Jill Kolesar, President and CEO, Akron Area YMCA



## Announcing Two New Endowed Scholarships

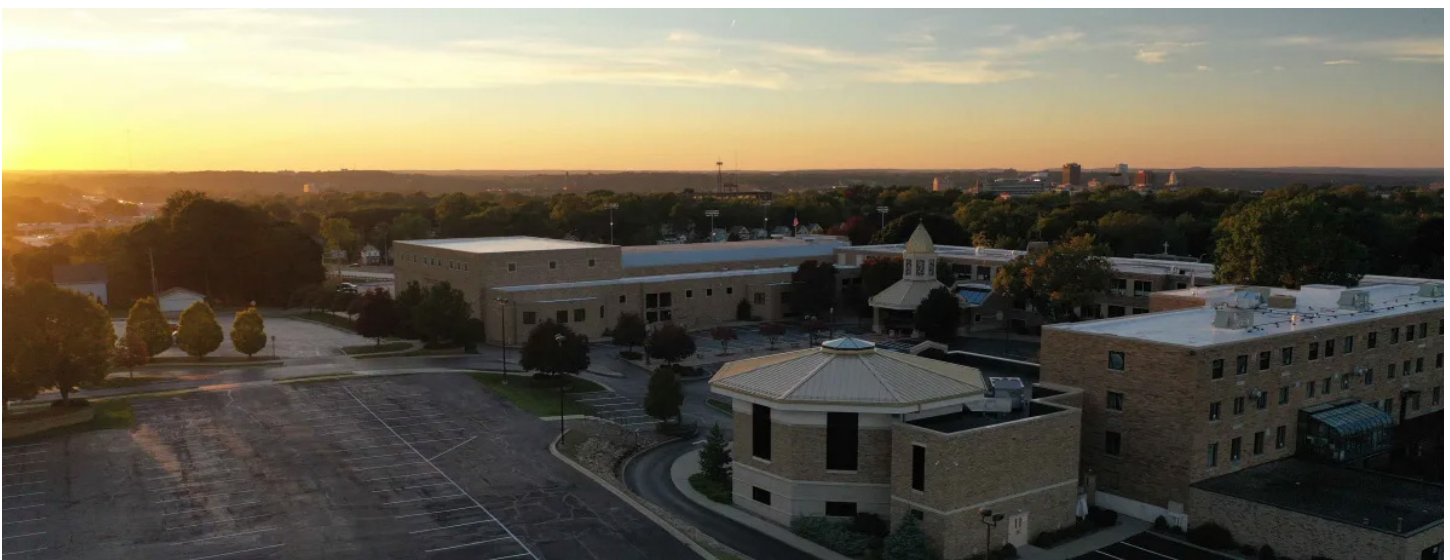
Charles and Salome Reymann believed in education, as was evident in the quality schools that educated their 16 children. Whether they endorsed schools in Akron such as Annunciation, St. Vincent's, St. Mary's or St. Thomas School of Nursing, or schools in nearby Indiana like Notre Dame or St. Joseph's in Rensselaer, their goal was to ensure each child obtained the training, education and skills they would need for the future. In fact, many of the Reymann children obtained master's and doctorate degrees to augment their undergraduate studies.

With the same goal in mind, and in tandem with our mission, the Reymann Foundation recently established two endowed scholarships at private high schools in Akron. We are proud to announce the creation of The Reymann Foundation Endowed Scholarship at Our Lady of the Elms, and The Reymann Foundation Endowed Scholarship at Archbishop Hoban High School. Both scholarships focus on students with developmental disabilities who require additional support to enable successful academic completion. We couldn't be more thrilled to partner with both of these stellar educational institutions and support their goals to make a quality education possible for students with disabilities.

Our Lady  
of the Elms



(l-r): Alice Luse Maher, Development & Community Engagement Chairwoman, Reymann Foundation; Maureen Reymann, OLE Latin & Arts Teacher; Margaret Reymann Skinner, Marketing & Communications Chair, Reymann Foundation; Cindy Kellett, OLE Institutional Advancement Director; Steve Reymann, Chairman, Reymann Foundation



## Be the Lucky Winner of a Cleveland Baseball Quilt!

Once again, the Reymann Foundation is honored to have the support of quilter and retired Pentagon engineer, Dr. Amy Spraitzer. This year's quilt theme is a nod to the things that America loves: hot dogs, apple pie and...Cleveland Baseball! Amy has handcrafted a 67"x 82" twin-sized quilt perfect for toting to outdoor games, proudly displaying as wall décor or showcasing as a coverlet on a twin bed. The quilt features 30 tee shirts printed with Cleveland Guardians and Indians logos, including some vintage collectible icons. The red, white and blue quilt top design is complimented with a backing of baseball, Indians and Guardians printed fabrics. If you're a sports enthusiast, love the sandlot or just like munching on unshelled peanuts while holding your breath for a home run, this quilt is perfect for you.

The quilt will be raffled online throughout the summer, and the winning ticket will be drawn on August 17th. Just in time for those cooler games in the Fall! Raffle tickets will go on sale soon. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates.



SCAN TO FOLLOW  
THE RAFFLING  
ON FACEBOOK



# Why Major Donors Trust the Reymann Foundation

It's our story. There's something compelling about an organization founded in 1967 that has never wavered from its mission. For decades before that, Charles and Salome Reymann modeled for us how to care for others. Their legacy remains this simple but meaningful mission: Support the programs that improve the lives of our neighbors with special needs.

If you are able, your major donation will help more people, continue successful programs, make it easier to create new programs and enable the Foundation to be more solvent longer into the future. Support levels range from our Helping Hands donors starting at \$500 to our Friends in Mission donors with generous gifts of \$25,000 and up.

Our many giving options range from structured giving and estate planning to creating an endowment. This maximizes the impact of your generosity and creates a meaningful, long-lasting legacy. Want to become a major donor? Visit [reymannfoundation.org](http://reymannfoundation.org) to learn how.



SCAN TO BECOME  
A DONOR



Over  
**\$59,000**  
contributed to  
the community  
in 2023





**Because of  
your generosity,  
our mission continues.**

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