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**A Spring Welcome from John M. Reymann,  
Chairman of the Board of Directors**

Dear Friends and Family,

Welcome Spring! If you're like me, after being closed up all winter, I'm anxious to venture outdoors and enjoy the nice weather. Perhaps the winter months teach me to be more grateful for change, which is always a good thing! I believe this is also true with the Reymann Foundation, as the Board of Directors are truly activists – they are driving change for the better.

While our beliefs remain the same, we continue to challenge ourselves, strive to be better, and look for more ways to be of help within our communities. We recognize our responsibility to care for others, especially the persons that need us the most. We have a proud history of 'being there' for our families, friends, and neighbors, and are grateful for the Reymann family, our supporters, patrons, and our partners within the Greater Akron area. Without your support, our efforts would be futile. With your support, we're able to continue the good works exemplified by the lives of Charles and Salome Reymann.

Please know that you make a difference to us, and remember, "The Reymann Foundation is changing the world." – Jay Y.

Have a beautiful Spring season,

John

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**Our Involvement in Our Communities**

The Reymann Foundation has a long history of impacting communities in Northeast Ohio through support in programs offered by our partners. Our more recent contributions have been:

- Partnering with St Vincent-St Mary High School in their Transition-to-Work program, enabling high school students to prepare for post-graduate employment.
- Supporting Community Support Services' Art of Recovery, a showcase of beautiful artwork created by participants in CSS's Expressive Arts Therapy program.
- Co-Sponsoring The Brooke McMahan Memorial Swim Meet hosted by Summit Stars of Ohio Athletic Club, providing a forum for 150 swim athletes to compete under the guidance of coaches, friends, and family. The event has been held at the University of Akron, and we are hopeful it will be reintroduced this Fall (post COVID-19).
- Sponsoring the Faith & Light Ministries annual retreat at Loyola Retreat House, enabling spiritual respite for individuals with disabilities and their families. The retreat draws participants from Ohio, the Midwest and even Texas!
- Supporting the Akron Rotary Camp through sponsorship of their main fundraiser, the Chili Open, and also through co-sponsoring of a handicapped-equipped pontoon boat.
- Scholarships at The University of Akron for students pursuing careers in the field of special education.
- Scholarships at Our Lady of the Elms, focusing on students with financial need and learning disabilities.
- Maintaining group homes providing safe, independent living environments.

**ArtSparks has Joined our Partner Network!**

We are thrilled to introduce our newest partner, ArtSparks, an organization that believes in the power of dance expression in fostering the creativity and self-confidence necessary to become a productive citizen. As part of their offerings, ArtSparks hosts the Dynamite Duos program, which provides children with developmental disabilities the opportunity to experience the art of dance and perform with their peers.

Children with disabilities in the Dynamite Duos program are paired with non-disabled peers to dance in partnership, with the goals of maximizing participation in the fine arts and challenging every dancer to recognize that everyone can achieve their best through teamwork, creativity, empathy, and discovery. The program culminates in a performance celebrating every student's talents and achievements; this year their recital is May 15, 16 and 17th.

Although this program warms our hearts with building many life skills, one of the most touching observations was recently relayed to us by an ArtSparks team member. "Children with disabilities are not only embracing dance and learning to be part of an ensemble, but many are forming social connections with their non-disabled peers, even being invited to birthday parties and gatherings." What a powerful statement of program success!



**The Father James J. Reymann Community Service Award**

The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation is proud to announce the creation of The Father James J. Reymann Community Service Award. The purpose of this award is to honor the life, legacy, priesthood and community activism of Fr. James J. Reymann, the first chairman of the Reymann Foundation upon establishment of the private non-profit organization in 1967.

Fr. James Reymann, one of two priests in the Charles and Salome Reymann family, lived his entire life in Northeast Ohio. In 1976, the Cleveland Diocese assigned him as pastor of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Wellington, Ohio. He remained in the village until his death on June 11, 2022 at the age of 98 years old. Although Fr. Reymann was very accomplished in the world of academia prior to this assignment, it was his deep involvement in the Wellington community that brought him his greatest joy. Fr. Reymann was held in high esteem by his family, parishioners, civic leaders, village residents and colleagues.

Hans Schneider, Mayor of Wellington, considers Fr. Reymann as one of the top five influential leaders in Wellington, and one of the most beloved persons in the area. "He brought people together," states Hans. One of Fr. Jim's earlier initiatives was to create an ecumenical council with one purpose: to unify the denominations in Wellington, thus encouraging bonds across faiths. "Fr. Reymann's stubbornness and boldness became an asset; he was a clear-thinking visionary," Hans continues, when speaking about Father's zest in championing projects to enhance the historic village. Key among these efforts was the building of a new church for St. Patrick's parish, construction of a train underpass in the downtown area, and building a facility for low-income housing. And as commonly noted in Wellington, St. Patrick Church will always be known as 'Fr. Jim's Church'.

But physical structures were secondary to Fr. Reymann's greatest mission, which was shepherding his people in a loving way. "He impacted people every day," says Hans, "so greatly that the impact still resonates with Wellington residents today. He made everyone feel welcome, even visitors while in town. He is here in spirit, and we can all feel it. It is well known that Fr. Jim loved Wellington, its people and his church. We are his family, and this is his home." Even in death, Fr. Reymann remains in Wellington, reposed in Greenwood Cemetery.

Known as an upstanding man of character and a man of faith, Fr. Reymann believed in always doing things right, regardless of the difficulty. His love for God, people, and his family, clearly guided this courageous priest as he made significant contributions to his community. Adds Hans, "The priesthood was a calling for Fr. Jim, but I believe Wellington was also a calling for this man."

In tribute to this incredible leader, priest, uncle and friend, the Reymann Foundation will recognize the person, persons or organization that has made significant progress in improving the lives of the developmentally disabled community in Northeast Ohio, or has contributed significantly to their community through civic activism and brotherly love. The recipient must demonstrate values and actions that are in keeping with the core values and mission of the Reymann Foundation.

The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation looks forward to honoring those among us who are truly making a difference every day. Stay tuned for our award recipient announcement soon!



## My Story of Love and Dedication, Rose DeBord, Treasurer of the Board

“My life was so much richer because of my sister,” states Rose A. DeBord, treasurer for The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation. When reflecting on the life and death of Nancy, Rose speaks with wisdom, a full heart and an undeniable laugh that belongs to Rose alone.

Nancy Ann Marzano was born with developmental disabilities, and as Rose describes, was mentally challenged. She had the mind of a five-year old and required 24-hour assistance. Nancy’s parents decided to care for her in their own home, surrounded by her siblings, yet against the common guidance to ‘institutionalize’ their daughter with special needs. “Nancy didn’t know she was different,” chuckles Rose, and adds “she accepted everyone, no matter who they were.” Nancy was not aware of her own limitations; therefore, she did not recognize limitations in others. Unfortunately at the time, the general public did not understand Nancy’s challenges either.

Due to Nancy’s challenges, family life in the Marzano household was a bit limiting. Even the simplest pleasures were compromised. Family vacations were rare, dining at restaurants was impossible, and family outings just didn’t happen. “I rarely invited people to my home unless they were true friends,” Rose says. “My closest friends understood Nancy.” Clearly, those sisterly bonds were stronger than anything negative that might have come their way, and both girls grew up learning from each other. Nancy thrived in a nurturing environment, and loved others unconditionally. Rose learned patience, tolerance and the importance of advocacy. “I realized how critical it was to speak out for individuals who can’t advocate for themselves.”

The family leaned on the developmentally disabled community, which provided constant support for the Marzanos. Whether it was camaraderie, guidance, emotional or practical support, the community became part of the Marzano family, and those ties were reciprocated. Case workers created personal care plans for Nancy. They advocated, advised on care and housing options, and ‘walked the walk’ with the family.

Fortunately, the general public has grown more accepting of persons with disabilities since the 1960s. Group homes have become a more viable option to provide safe housing for adults with special needs. In the mid 1970’s, Weaver School and Workshop opened, providing transportation and programs appropriate for Nancy. Later, as both Nancy and her parents aged, the decision was made to relocate Nancy to a group home in Tallmadge. It was at that point that Rose assumed guardianship duties for Nancy. “I’ve made some difficult and challenging decisions on behalf of Nancy, but I believe those decisions not only benefited her, but will ultimately benefit others,” Rose confidently states. At less than 5’ tall, Rose is a strong and bold woman, and certainly has broad shoulders! In that regard, she is very much like Salome Reymann, the matriarch of the Reymann Foundation.

“My heart is with Salome. She was a giver to others and an advocate for the less fortunate, and I feel a kindred spirit with her,” sweetly says Rose. “I deeply desire to give back to the developmentally disabled community.” Rose has chosen to do this through her service to the Reymann Foundation as treasurer on the Foundation’s board of directors, lending her accounting skills to help manage the organization’s operations. “I’ve known the Reymann family for many years, and I was aware of the mission of the Foundation. Although my sister passed away last December, I feel I can continue to advocate for her and for others who face similar challenges.”

As an active member of the Reymann Foundation, Rose has a front seat to the partners, sponsorships and activities that the Foundation supports. She loves the causes that the Foundation grants monies to, believes in their programs, and appreciates that she has a voice in the Foundation’s involvement with other organizations. She is proud of the impact that the Foundation is making in the Akron area, and recognizes all the good works that are occurring in our



communities. But Rose also comments that there are yet more opportunities that exist, and a lot more work that needs done.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, “Nothing worth having comes easy.” For Rose and her family, life wasn’t necessarily easy. But their challenges were definitely worth it, and they were richer because of the blessing of Nancy Ann Marzano in their lives. Likewise, The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation is richer because of Rose and her service to our shared cause. Thank you for your passion and commitment Rose!


## Become an Ambassador





Like Rose, we have a great story to tell, and we need your help to broaden our reach, and assist our Board of Directors through volunteerism. All direct descendants of Charles and Salome are lifetime members of the Reymann Foundation. Our Foundation is a dynamic non-profit entity that is experiencing growth. To continue the prospering of our programs and initiatives, we seek volunteers who desire to actively support delivering on our mission. Therefore, the Foundation has created the Ambassador group to be active advocates of our cause regardless of the Ambassador’s residency. We applaud our charter Ambassadors for the contributions they have already made to our organization: Bill and Cindy Staycheff, John Luse, Anne Najeway Vainer, Louis Reymann, Courtney Reymann, Kevin Lawson and Gene Fitch. For more information on the Ambassador group please visit our website at [reymannfoundation.org](http://reymannfoundation.org) or directly contact any Board member. We need your help with as little (hitting that share button on Facebook posts) or as much (volunteering at one of our fundraisers) as you can provide.

## Be Social with Us!

Did you know that we are on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn? The Foundation identified the need to expand our outreach to increase the public’s awareness of our organization and our good works. To that end, we significantly increased our social media presence, curated and created oodles of content, and enhanced our website as well. Those of you who have already found us on these channels have enjoyed interesting stories and rich Reymann family history, and are reading highlights about our partners, seeing shout-outs to people who make a difference, and are obtaining information regarding fundraiser events as well as our annual Salome’s Heart Appeal. If you are one of our followers, more great stories are coming! If you haven’t discovered us, you don’t know what you are missing! Please follow us on your favorite social media platform. Even better, like, share and comment on the Foundation’s posts. You would be amazed how that little act of sharing a post will exponentially get our word out!

 [facebook.com/reymannfoundation](https://facebook.com/reymannfoundation)

 [instagram.com/reymannfoundation](https://instagram.com/reymannfoundation)

 [linkedin.com/company/the-reymann-foundation](https://linkedin.com/company/the-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.

## Financial Wellness

We are always proud to report that the Reymann Foundation consistently complies with the IRS guidelines dictating the amount of monies to be distributed to worthy causes. In 2022, the Foundation granted in excess of \$40,000 to our partners in support of their programming, directly benefiting individuals in need in our communities.

Also in 2022, the Foundation became members of the Akron Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity composed of more than 810 charitable funds, many with origins similar to our organization. Think of ACF as a 'fraternity' of individuals and foundations, large and small, all with their own focus, funds and dedicated mission. These foundations pool their monies to create one large investment fund, which has obvious advantages. And the members of the Akron Community Foundation enjoy member benefits and support each other. So in the future, it may be possible that the Reymann Foundation could leverage more affiliations through this network, and grow our ability to make a deeper impact in Northeast Ohio.

## Salome's Heart Appeal



Over the past three years, our annual appeal was launched in November during our Fall fundraising event. This year, we will introduce our Salome's Heart Appeal in July, as we also announce another date for celebration: Our Founder's Day. According to our corporation records, The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation was established on July 7, 1967 in Akron, Ohio. Through

the hard work of many friends and Reymann descendants, the Foundation has flourished for nearly 56 years, and we would like to commemorate our beginnings, celebrate the now, and plan for the future. Do you have a fond memory of Salome or the Reymann family that you'd like to share? Call our secretary, Mary Michael Lawson at 864.764.5054 or email the Foundation at [reymannfoundation1967@gmail.com](mailto:reymannfoundation1967@gmail.com) with your story.

More information regarding Salome's Heart and Founder's Day will be communicated in June/July.

## Thank You for Supporting Our Growth!

We have a strong future with strong partners, and together even more exciting programs are being developed to assist individuals with disabilities. Hopefully, we will be prepared to share yet more accomplishments with you in our Fall Newsletter, so let the anticipation build! We remain grateful for our opportunities, for the many blessings on our journey to help others, and for supporters like you! If you haven't gotten involved yet, join us on our quest to make a difference in the lives of those who need us. Email us at [reymannfoundation1967@gmail.com](mailto:reymannfoundation1967@gmail.com).

The Charles and Salome Foundation Board of Directors