

THE CHARLES AND SALOME  
**Reymann**  
FOUNDATION

# FALL NEWSLETTER

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

October 2024

# THE CHARLES AND SALOME Reymann FOUNDATION

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## A Fall Welcome from Steve Reymann, Chairman of the Board of Directors

Dear Friends and Family,

This year continues to be an exciting one for The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation. In accordance with our strategies and goals, existing programs have been expanded, new programs have been added and a thrilling project has begun. Many of the endeavors I highlight will be discussed in-depth later in this newsletter. No doubt, there's a lot to share with you!

Programs that the Foundation supports are unique, transformative and, true to our mission, focused on our neighbors with disabilities. We have achieved that through our sponsorship of ArtSpark's Dynamite Duos, an after-school dance program for Akron Public School students with disabilities, endowing scholarships at The University of Akron, sponsoring a weekend of renewal for persons with developmental disabilities and their families hosted by Faith and Light East, supporting a Transition-to-Work program readying high school students with disabilities at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School for life after graduation, and launching a novel Transition-to-Work program at The University of Akron.

That wasn't enough for your dynamic board of directors. The Foundation assisted Weaver Industries' Summer Youth Exploration Program, which provided career experiences for teens with developmental disabilities, we sponsored the EmpowerAbility Workshop Series hosted by the Dane Foundation as part of Miss Wheelchair USA and we recognized the good works by Wednesday's Child, honoring them as this year's recipient of the Fr. James J. Reymann Community Service Award.

As our founders did, we believe strongly in education. The Foundation established The Charles J. Reymann Endowed Fund for students with disabilities pursuing college degrees at The University of Akron and also established endowed scholarships for students with developmental disabilities and financial need at both Our Lady of the Elms and Archbishop Hoban High Schools.

Yet, our board of directors pushed further. We have approved a project returning us to our spiritual and family home, by transitioning the garages and barn at the historic Reymann Home into offices. This is truly a game-changer. We will have a permanent place to call home, located on property we already own. We will be able to show we are a valued part of Akron by honoring our roots. The Reymann family will have a place to display our proud history for all generations of the family to enjoy, as well as to share our story with the community. Not only will we be creating the basis for the next generation of leaders, we will accelerate building relationships with philanthropists, the supportive community and governmental agencies. As you can see, this is an exciting step as we continue to grow, investing in ourselves, our mission and our future.

I end by thanking our members, the board of directors, the Advisory Board and our Ambassadors for their selfless work on behalf of the Reymann Foundation and the people we serve. They are truly making a difference.

Very truly yours,



Steve Reymann



# Help Us Nurture Salome's Legacy

## It Was Sweeter from Salome's Garden

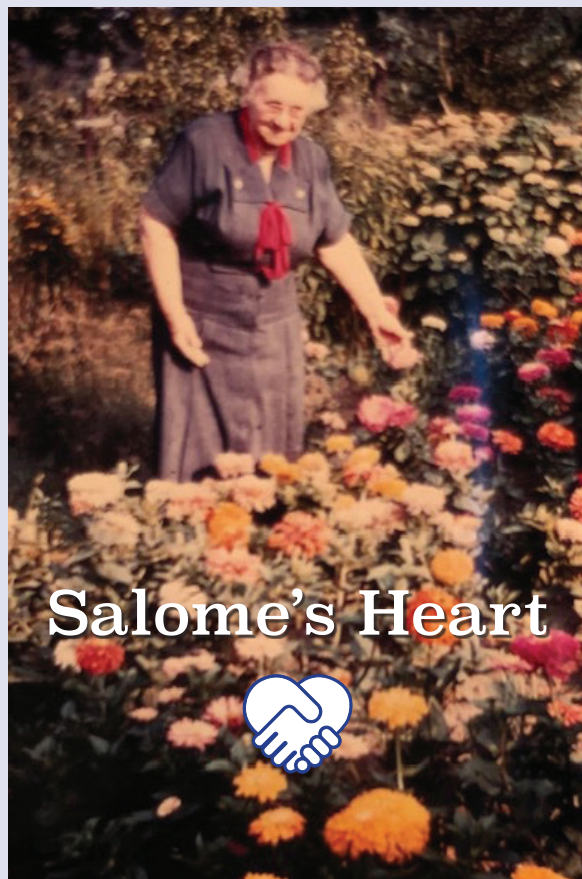
There was something special about taking a bite out of the tomatoes, peppers and corn that grew in our grandmother (and great-grandmother and great-great grandmother) Salome's garden. It tasted fresh and sweet, unlike anything that you could buy in the neighborhood grocery.

Maybe it's just our sentimental imagination, knowing that it was our sweet and generous Salome who planted, nurtured, picked and shared this bounty with her family, neighbors and even strangers who were hungry and needed food and nurturing. Their lives were also made lovelier with the gift of flowers that represented her love of life and her celebration of God's creations.

What's true is that Salome's flowers and other plants thrived under her tender touch, her family and community flourished from her boundless love and dedication.

The community took note, too – including the Akron Beacon Journal newspaper in an article that shared a cute story about Salome's green thumb. It was a comical story about how she was thrifty and mindful – so instead of throwing away an avocado pit – she planted it. But instead of avocados thriving in the pot, up grew a bountiful lemon tree.

We still scratch our heads and say, "That's so much like our grandmother Salome." It seems like when she put her mind and heart to her gardening, something beautiful would grow – including wonderful, mysterious surprises.



## Salome's Love Was Bigger Than Just the Garden

Salome Reymann was known for nurturing, and pouring her heart into her family, her community and her garden. Under her care, her children flourished, the neighborhood grew and her flowers burst with colorful blooms. Her philanthropic spirit and unwavering commitment to others was an example to us all.

That's how we think of the efforts we make in The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation.

Salome passed away in 1969. Now, long after she grew and shared her garden's final harvest, the memory of Salome and her garden continues to inspire the Foundation to serve people with developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers, and the dedicated people who educate and support them.

## Planting Seeds of Hope

Join us in celebrating Salome's enduring legacy through our annual campaign, Salome's Heart Appeal. Your donation will help provide individuals with developmental disabilities the support and opportunities they need to thrive. With your kindness and generosity, we can make our community impact flourish!

## Support Our Mission

We at the Reymann Foundation strive to follow Salome's example and carry forward her kind works. Together, we will plant a garden with good seeds, good deeds and good will. Please consider giving to the Reymann Foundation today. Your gift will enable individuals with developmental disabilities to blossom and thrive in a world nourished by pure love.

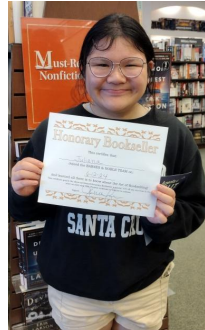


## Shaping Brighter Futures Together

From empowering youth with disabilities through career exploration programs to strengthening local services and expanding educational opportunities, our Foundation's contributions support a diverse range of initiatives led by our valued partners. These efforts collectively help shape brighter futures for individuals with disabilities across Northeast Ohio. A few recent highlights:

### Proud to Support Weaver Industries' Summer Youth Career Exploration Program

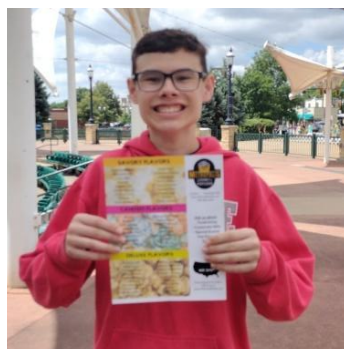
Summer learning, fun and friendship! That's what Weaver Industries provided for many teenagers with disabilities, in part due to a grant from The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation. Weaver Industries, Inc.'s Summer Youth Career Exploration Program wrapped up on July 26, 2024. The program was focused on providing job experiences to 14-15-year-olds with disabilities.



### Career Exploration for Teens with Disabilities

Thirty-one participating teen students were given a glimpse into the types of roles that may be in their future and were introduced to the "meaning and value" of work. They visited various businesses, from Peppers Fresh Market, the Hilton Garden Inn, Winking Lizard, Summa Wellness Center, Dayton Nursery, Myers Tire, Lowe's Hardware and even the Hudson Fire Department...and lots, lots more. Among the industries included were food service, health care, hospitality, manufacturing, recreation, retail and transportation. At the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, they learned about vocational programs available to them upon entering high school.

**The Reymann Foundation is proud to be involved in shaping the future of these young adults.**





## A Weekend of Connection and Joy at the Faith and Light USA, East Retreat

The 34th Annual Faith & Light USA, East Retreat, sponsored by The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation, was held the weekend of June 21-23 at Loyola Retreat House in Clinton, Ohio. This ministry tends to the spiritual and social needs of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families, and draws participants from Ohio, the Midwest, Eastern US and southern states.



### 2024 Theme: "Be the Light"

The theme this year was "Be the Light," and it was clear that the retreatants loved this theme, with smiles, friendships, worship and love filling the weekend. Foundation Board member Moggie Skinner attended with Ambassador Anna Reymann. What a pleasure to have dinner, participate in Mass and see the wonderful evening talent show. Father David Durkee was touched by the genuine air of welcome towards all. We are reminded how blessed we are to have such sweet people in our lives!



## Honored To Be a Supporting Sponsor of EmpowerAbility Workshops

In July, The Dane Foundation hosted the Miss Wheelchair USA Competition, which included the EmpowerAbility Workshop Series. This two-part series consisted of working sessions designed to provide information and education for individuals with disabilities, encouraging them to be more, to find their vision and to live their dreams.

The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation was honored to be a Supporting Sponsor of this event, and to know that the experience positively impacted many young women with special needs. You are all beautiful ladies!





## Celebrating Together

### 2nd Annual Friends & Family Celebration at the Akron Rotary Camp

The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation is grateful for our network of friends, family, partners and supporters. The Foundation's mission to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities in Northeast Ohio could not be achieved without their support. By sharing their time, talent and treasure we are making significant contributions. To express our gratitude we gathered for our second Friends & Family Celebration, held recently at the beautiful Akron Rotary Camp on Rex Lake.



### Perfect Weather and Endless Smiles

With the threat of rain, Charles and Salome were watching out for us as we were favored with sunshine and beautiful weather. Guests enjoyed comradery, Reymann Foundation and family trivia, pontoon boat rides, delicious food and learning about the Foundation's involvement within our community.



### Exciting Raffles, Awards and Future Plans

One highlight of the day was drawing the winning raffle ticket for the Cleveland baseball quilt – congratulations to Joe Sokol, Foundation Ambassador! We were also thrilled to present Wednesday's Child with the Father James J. Reymann Community Service Award, honoring their dedication to our community. And we were especially excited to share with all our friends and family the challenging plan for the future, reclaiming a Foundation permanent presence at the Reymann Home property.

### Celebrating Akron Rotary Camp's 100th Year

This is a special year for The Akron Rotary Camp, an organization that celebrated their 100th year this summer. We are honored to partner with them to deliver on a shared vision. Some impressive facts about the 2024 Rotary Camp's Summer Program – 868 Campers collectively enjoyed 140 Pontoon Rides, while over 13,000 meals were served, and 1,972 hours of service were provided by 179 volunteers. Clearly this camp is delivering on its motto of "creating a world where there are only abilities!"

**Thank you to the Akron Rotary Camp for sharing your beautiful shoreline camp and to Ambassador John Luse for donating your photography skills by capturing the essence of our people, partners and activities.**



## Honoring Civic Excellence

### Wednesday's Child Receives the Fr. James J. Reymann Community Service Award

The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation is proud to announce the presentation of the Father James J. Reymann Community Service Award to Wednesday's Child Nonprofit. This award was established in memory of the Foundation's first Chairman of the Board, Fr. James Reymann, a loving shepherd of people, an ecumenical advocate and a community activist. The Foundation seeks to honor Fr. Reymann and his good works by recognizing others who have made significant progress in improving the lives of the developmentally disabled community in Northeast Ohio, contributing significantly to their community through civic activism and brotherly love.

Read more about this tribute to Fr. Reymann by scanning the QR code.



### How Wednesday's Child Nonprofit Supports the Community

Wednesday's Child supports members of the community who are developmentally disabled as well as homeless and at-risk youth. The organization is 100% volunteer and donor-run, and partners with Summit County DD to work with community agencies and area school districts. The partnership allows them to provide special events and programs, such as the Birthday Buddy program, pairing sponsors with clients to make their day extra special. They also provide Easter, Halloween and summer fun baskets to over 400 clients. Their annual Christmas pail delivery wonderfully connects the community and local businesses with their DD friends throughout Summit County. In addition to the special events, they also work with area agencies to provide clothing, shoes, hygiene products and small household items.

Wednesday's Child is committed to enhancing and improving the quality of lives of persons with disabilities, believing that everyone deserves to know that they matter and that people in their community are there to help them. They feel it is a privilege to serve others. The Reymann Foundation feels that it is a privilege to help them in their efforts.

To learn more about Wednesday's Child, visit [wednesdayschildnonprofit.org](http://wednesdayschildnonprofit.org)

## A New Way to Empower Students

### Introducing the Charles J. Reymann Endowed Fund

In partnership with The University of Akron and its Office of Accessibility, The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of the Charles J. Reymann Endowed Fund. This Fund is dedicated to supporting students with intellectual, mental or physical challenges while they are pursuing degrees. Students may use the funds for any purpose that will help them stay enrolled and persist to graduation, including tuition, assistive technology or special accommodations.

### A Fitting Tribute to Charles J. "Chuck" Reymann

This unique award was established in honor of Charles J. "Chuck" Reymann, grandson of Charles and Salome. In 1977, the Reymann family was profoundly devastated by the tragic deaths of Chuck and his 15-year-old son, Charles J. Reymann, Jr.. Chuck, a talented attorney, served on the board of the Reymann Foundation as both a founding member and author of the Foundation's original charter.

The Fund is a fitting tribute to Chuck and his son, contributing to the Foundation's mission of improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.



Learn more about this award, our scholarships and how you can contribute here:



**The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation is blessed with talent and support from the Reymann family, hailing from all corners of the United States.**

**Fairly new to our board of directors are Ted Reymann from Dayton, Ohio, and Louis Reymann from Maryland. And Cousin Mary Michael Lawson resides in South Carolina. In our effort to showcase our board members, here's a bit more detail about these wonderful Reymanns:**

## MARY MICHAEL LAWSON

Mary Michael is the only child of Agnes and Clad "Bud" Kennedy and grew up in Middletown, Ohio. Agnes was the youngest of the three Reymann daughters and number nine of the original sixteen. If Charles and Salome Reymann had had their way, Mary Michael might not be among us, as rumors are strong that neither was keen to losing registered-nurse Agnes to her suitor Bud. No one is alive to confirm, but the prospect of surrendering their golden years caregiver to Bud might have even involved persuasive means – even as late as the father-daughter walk down the wedding aisle and possibly a knife brandishing during what Bud thought would be a casual kitchen conversation.

Mary Michael inherited her mother's strong independent streak, as well as countless artifacts of family history. This includes letters, postcards, pictures and other mementos. These help to connect the foundation to our rich history, while the directory keeps us connected in the present, even though the family has scattered with time. Mary Michael considers it an essential component of our legacy to impart our history to all Reymanns, and especially her son, two daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mary Michael's foundation work is a logical extension of her lifelong commitment to others by means of her long career in Social Work and her volunteerism. Her efforts took many forms – spanning crisis intervention, counseling, foster care and adoption services, and working with children with disabilities.

When not doing foundation work or reading, Mary Michael is likely spending time – and often traveling – with Kevin, her husband of over fifty-one years, whom she married while still an undergrad at The Ohio State University. That may explain her zealous passion for the Buckeyes, and on fall Saturdays their frequent sojourns to Columbus to cheer on the Scarlet & Gray. This is a distant trek from their home in South Carolina, but when Mary Michael – like Agnes before her – has a cause, it's best not to stand in her way.

An abiding personal commitment to the Reymann Foundation's mission led Mary Kennedy Lawson to lend her time and talents to serve on the Board of Directors. Currently operating as the Secretary, her scope also encompasses duties on the Marketing & Communications Committee, maintaining the Family Directory and more.



## TED REYMANN

"Divine Providence," if you ask Ted. That's the heavenly hand that led Ted Reymann to become involved with The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation's Board of Directors. As serendipitous as it was, when Ted was planning for retirement and looking for ways to fill his time, he was approached by cousin and then Vice Chairman Steve Reymann, who suggested serving on the Board. "It was a genuine and emotional outreach to me" states Ted, "and I was honored to be considered for a board seat on the family's foundation."

Ted is the son of Thomas and Barbara Reymann – Tommy was the youngest son of Charles and Salome, and Barb is the last living Aunt in the second generation to oodles of nieces and nephews in the Reymann family. It was the opportunity to lead





the Atlantic Foundry that lured Tom, Barb and their four boys back to Akron from Mayfield, Kentucky in the late 1970's. Barb was very "Reymann oriented" states Ted, "she knew more about the family than my dad did." Barb held a seat on the Board years ago and was instrumental in hosting the Foundation's first Reverse Raffle. So, following in his mother's footsteps, as well as his brothers Greg and Chris who also hold board seats, Ted is ready to make his own impact on the Foundation. "I feel called to serve and I want to give more," says Ted quietly.

The Foundation equally looks forward to Ted's contributions. After graduating from Notre Dame, which was his father's alma mater, Ted had a short stint in the Air Force, followed by a lengthy career in the engineering field as a project manager. His humble and unassuming posture belies the fact that he is a doer – he has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for over a decade, which led to wielding a hammer for Habitat for Humanity. He is actively involved in his parish as two churches are merging, and currently serves on his parish's finance committee. And since he's a retired empty nester, he hits the gym daily and still looks for rewarding activities to round out his day.

Ted and his wife Patty, who is a teacher, reside in Dayton, Ohio. They have two college graduates who have launched their own careers; daughter Sarah is in the field of Communications, and son Luke has a degree in Biology. And yes, the question has already been asked of Ted regarding the next generation of talent in his family; perhaps Ted is setting the example for his observant children. In the meantime, Ted is assuming responsibilities on the Foundation's Marketing & Communications Committee, as well as the Finance & Legal Committee.

## LOUIS REYMANN

After testing the role of an Ambassador for The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation, Louis H. Reymann set his sights on becoming a board member for his family's foundation. He was impressed with the focus and talent on the Board, and felt his talents were not only aligned with the Board's direction, but were also necessary to assist the Board to achieve its goals. So, in February 2023, Louis assumed a seat as a Trustee, and has been shaking things up ever since.

Louis is one of eight children, and the youngest son of Marcel and Linda Reymann. Marcel, one of Charles and Salome Reymann's 16 children, served as President of the Atlantic Foundry from 1973 until 1983. Marcel was also one of the original founders of, and a driving force in the establishment of the Reymann Foundation. Two of Louis' siblings, Russell and Lucille, special needs individuals, ultimately became the inspiration for the mission of the Reymann Foundation. Theirs was a big, busy and loving family, but one that Louis bid farewell to as he assumed an officer's commission in the United States Army.

Beginning in 1968, Louis served three tours in the Vietnam conflict, growing his military career. He had a first-row seat to the horrors of war, and witnessed many heroic actions by comrades. He forged life-long relationships with fellow servicemen – those serving under him, his peers and many high-ranking military leaders. "I lost 19 men under my command, but I still stay in touch with most of their families. I've attended weddings, graduations and other events, and am honored to share these special times with these special people."

During and immediately following his active duty, Louis earned a Bachelor's degree as well as two Master's degrees. Not surprisingly, he has served as chairman in national, state and local volunteer organizations where he became widely known as a growth agent while turning under-achieving volunteer organizations into widely acclaimed successes. Louis is clearly a leader, keenly aware of his civic responsibilities, loves his family, and is a proud Reymann!

Louis and his wife Mary Jane, affectionately nicknamed Cookie, reside in Maryland, where they are enjoying retirement and many pastime activities. Cookie designed and crocheted a temperature afghan as a tribute to Salome Reymann, which was raffled at the 2023 Friends & Family Celebration hosted by the Foundation. Louis is assuming responsibilities on the Foundation's Governance and Strategic Planning Committee.



### 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**

**Anna Reymann**

**Charlie Reymann**

**Courtney Reymann**

**Joe Sokol**

**Bill Staycheff**

**Cindy Staycheff**

**Bill Reymann**

## Ambassadors Have FUN!

Step forward and be part of all that we do! Our Ambassadors are our 'power panel' of volunteers. In order to support programs, and execute our projects and initiatives, we rely heavily on our Ambassadors. They serve many roles, whether in Akron or elsewhere. This group has been critical in hosting fundraisers and the Friends & Family Celebration, they have attended sponsored events representing the Foundation and they help spread the word on our good works within our community.

### Can't Support Our Mission In-Person? No Problem!

With the advantages of the internet and social media, Ambassadors can easily become involved remotely to help deliver on our mission to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. It is amazing how hitting that "share" button exponentially increases awareness on Facebook or Instagram.

### Join Our Ambassador Group and Advocate for Our Cause

Become an advocate for our cause by stepping up, and sharing your time, talent and passion with the Reymann Foundation. 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.



Front Row (L to R): Anna Reymann, Cindy Staycheff, Donna Rakerd-Converse  
Back Row (L to R): Anne Najeway Vainer, Advisor Jeff Wilhite, Graduate Student Kai Falcone, Cindy Wilhite, Gene Fitch, Bill Staycheff, Bill Reymann, Merle Gambrell

## Celebrating Good Works at Appreciation Night

The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation appreciates all the folks who contribute their time and talent to help us achieve our mission to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. This past Spring, Foundation Members, Trustees, Advisors and Ambassadors came together with a few of our scholarship recipients from The University of Akron to celebrate good works in this field. The event was held at the Nauti Vine Winery on the beautiful Portage Lakes.

### A Heartfelt Message from a Scholarship Recipient

One of our scholarship recipients, Andreanna, was quick to express her gratitude on our Facebook page. "Today I was honored for being a scholarship recipient from The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation. Not only was I given praises and support from the Foundation Board Members and Ambassadors, I was able to give a small speech. I am so thankful to have worked alongside a program that advocates for children with exceptionalities. It has always been my mission to be a voice for children who are often overlooked and this Foundation was able to help that mission come to life. I want to also thank my parents, for consistently pouring faith, hard work and diligence into me."

### Growing Together for a Greater Impact

As the Foundation continues to make an impact on Northeast Ohio, we continue to grow our support base and attract good people who want to accomplish great things. We appreciate you!







## Embarking on Akron Renovation Project

Adding to our rich Akron history, The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation is embarking on our boldest project yet – the renovation of the Reymann Home's garage and barn structures in Ellet. The board of directors decided that it is time for a physical presence in Akron, complementing our already strong emotional footprint in the area. The initiative includes repurposing the existing garage and barn to accommodate a board room, office and storage space, an ADA restroom, kitchenette and small Reymann museum.

## Where It All Started for Charles and Salome

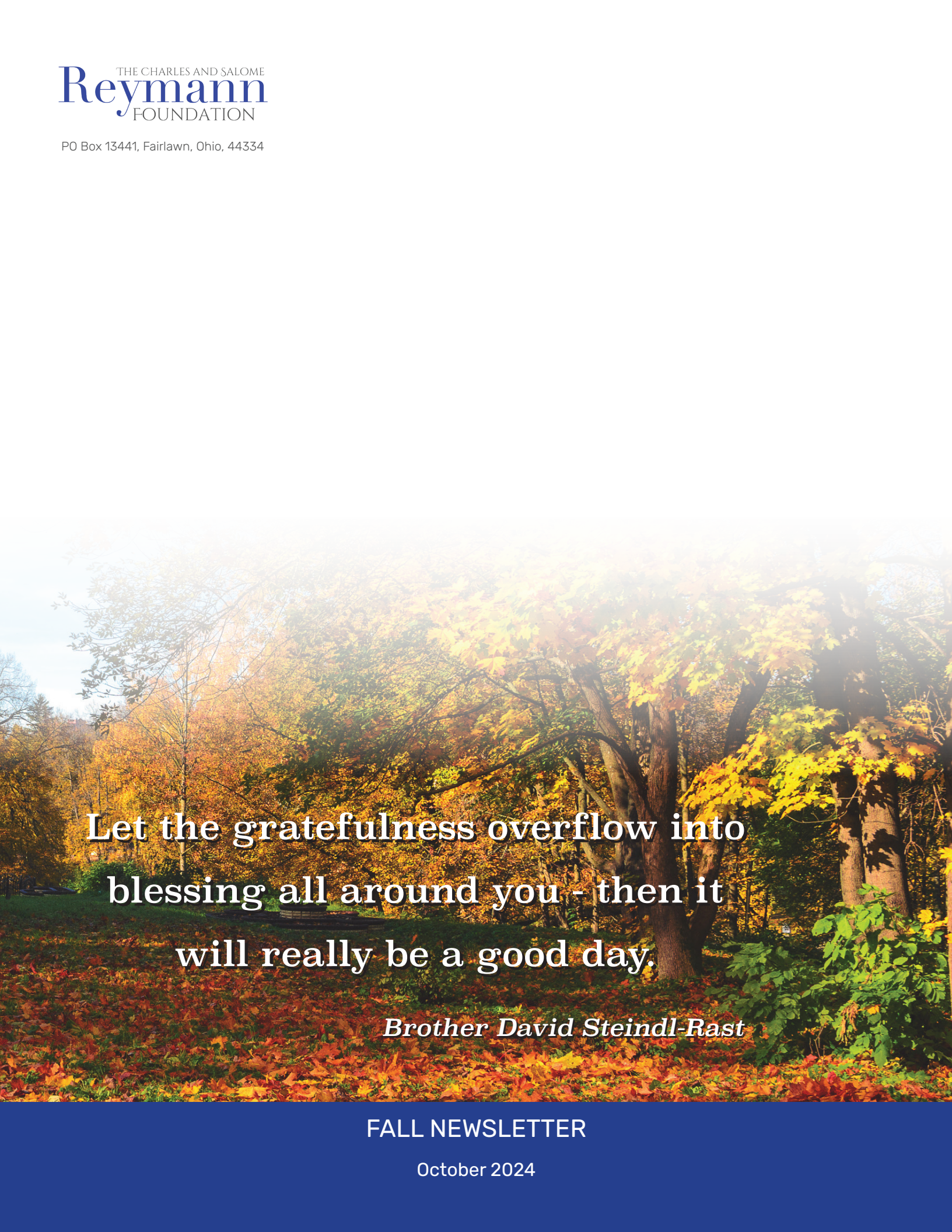
The Foundation has such a great story to tell, and this space will enable the board, family and supporters to visually tell that story. It's a homecoming for us, to be able to occupy the land that Charles and Salome so lovingly developed and nurtured to raise their family – where it all started over a century ago. Our plans include launching a Capital Campaign to fundraise for this purpose. You'll hear more about how you can participate in early 2025!

## Help Us Update the Reymann Family Directory

People are busy, on the move and making changes in their lives! We are updating the Reymann family directory again, so help us stay in contact with you and your family. Please send us your street and email addresses, share dates of births, marriages and deaths, and assist us in maintaining accurate family information.

Kindly submit any additions or updates to **reymann.foundation1967@gmail.com** or contact our secretary, **Mary Michael Lawson** at **864.764.5054**.





Let the gratefulness overflow into  
blessing all around you - then it  
will really be a good day.

*Brother David Steindl-Rast*

FALL NEWSLETTER

October 2024