

# Summer NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION

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



A Homecoming Welcome from

# Steve Reymann

## Chairman of the Board of Directors



### Friends and Family,

I have always been amazed at how extraordinary achievements sometimes have their birth in the most humble events. The Reymann Foundation's journey home to repurpose part of the historic Reymann Home for its offices had such a beginning.

In the Fall of 2023, board member Margaret Skinner (Moggie) and husband Jack were dining at an outdoor restaurant and noticed the establishment's overhead doors were similar to the garage doors at the Reymann Home. The thought occurred to Moggie that the space behind our garage doors could be used for a better purpose.

Later that year, I toured the home's garages and attached barn as Moggie explained her vision. The potential benefit for this space to the Foundation and our community became apparent – and the journey home began. Months of research followed, the idea was presented to our Board of Directors, which then conducted its due diligence on the proposed project. Throughout this time, community leaders, non-profit executives and potential supporters made it clear that this was a transformational step for the Foundation. In fact, no one contacted opposed the concept. Last August, the Board decided it was time to vote, and the repurposing met with overwhelming approval.

Momentum was now on our side. The mayor's office contacted us with their support. Ellet 6th Ward Councilman Brad McKittrick remarked that this would be a strong display of reinvestment in the East end of town.

Dave Lieberth, executive director of the Akron History Center, said the home would take its rightful place as one of the great residences of Akron. Members of the Ellet Historical Society toured the project area expressing their delight. Our Advisory Board unanimously urged us to strengthen the Foundation by establishing permanent headquarters. Holding our hand figuratively, and sometimes literally, during all this was our good friend and former board member architect Alan Burge. Alan and his wife Lauren, a specialist in restorative architecture, enjoy rescuing historical properties. They have worked on the Akron Civic Theater, the Falls Theater and the repurposing of St. Sebastian's convent to educational space. Alan also partnered with us to select a construction firm worthy of the work.

Once completed, the building will feature a second-floor board room in the former hay loft, a Reymann museum for memorabilia that we continue to collect, an office, meeting space, ADA bathroom, kitchenette and outdoor gathering space. In these new headquarters, the Reymann Foundation will be better able to serve the family, our community and most importantly those disabled neighbors who need our help to live the full life they deserve. We are grateful that you are joining us in **our journey home**.

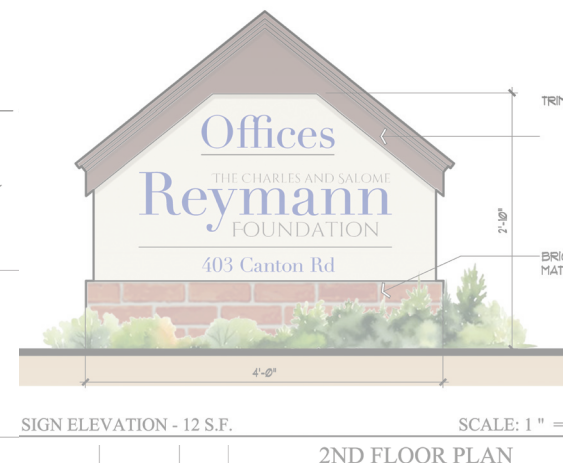
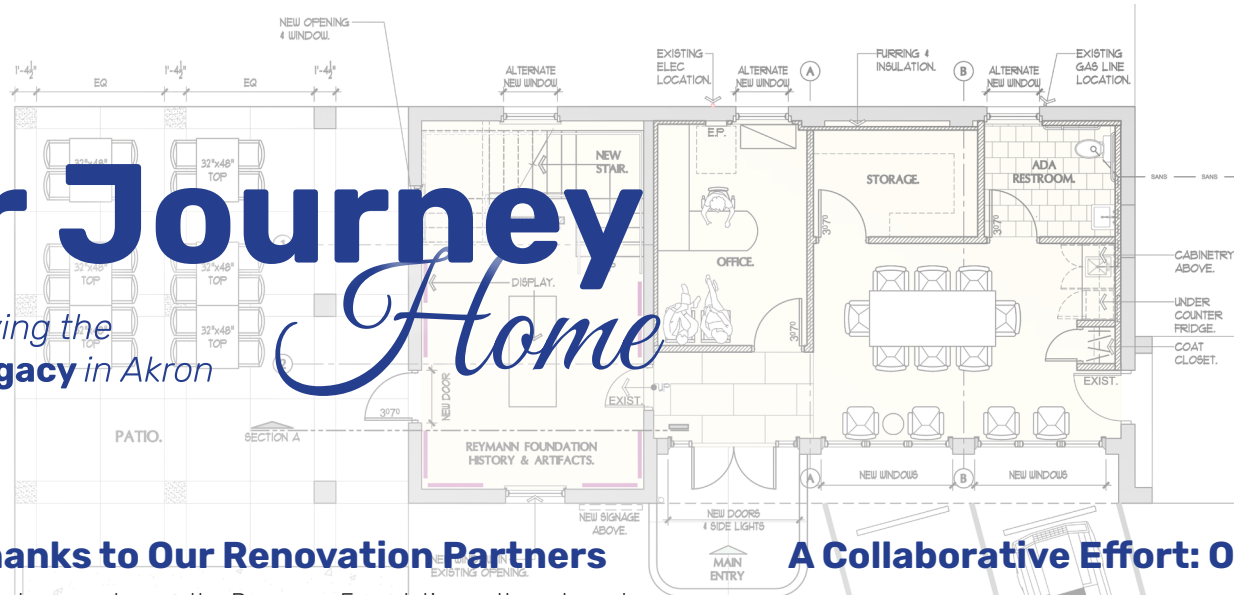
**Very truly yours,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen C. Reymann".

**Steve Reymann**

# Our Journey

Preserving the  
Reymann Legacy in Akron



## A Special Thanks to Our Renovation Partners

As expected with any large endeavor, the Reymann Foundation gathered much talent to manage the renovation of our garage and barn at the Reymann Home in Ellet. Firstly, we sought the advice of Alan Burge Architecture, who vetted the viability of the project and subsequently developed the plans. Alan is a former



Reymann Foundation board member and has been involved with previous enhancements to the buildings at the Canton Road property.

Both Alan and his wife Lauren are experts in restoration of historic buildings and have a long list of preservation projects that they have tackled in the Akron and Cleveland areas. Per Alan, **"I believe preservation**

**always benefits the neighborhood. An older historic structure has an inherent quality that cannot be replaced or duplicated, and is worth renovation. It is a positive return on equity, especially if it's a non-profit real estate holding. This is the legacy of Charles and Salome Reymann; it has a real pulse, a heart and deserves to be preserved as part of their memory."**

The construction firm selected for this project is Adkins Building Company, with President Phil Adkins as general manager. A local builder with great credentials and expertise, Adkins came to us highly recommended.



## A Collaborative Effort: Our Project Committee

While all Reymann Foundation board members are involved in this effort, Chairman Steve Reymann assigned dedicated persons to serve with him on a special 'ad hoc' project committee. Ambassador Bill Staycheff, board member Jon Wyly, and architect Alan Burge comprise the core team. Design choices are the responsibility of Christine and Chris Reymann, and Moggie Skinner. Reymann cousin Joseph Spoonster, a business lawyer who represents the construction industry, has offered his expertise to guide us through the legal aspects of this project.

## Support Close to Home

Support for our renovation project was also sought from several adjacent neighbors. Plans were shared with Fr. Mike Williamson, who thoughtfully responded, **"...given that the location of Saint Matthew Parish was founded in large part by the generosity of the family of Charles and Salome Reymann, ...Saint Matthew Parish would make our parking area available to the Foundation during their meetings and events."**

Additionally, the Foundation received encouragement from Community Support Services, renters of the Reymann Home. Per Bob Stokes, CSS supports this project and will work with us to make adjustments to schedules as necessary. Ward 6 Councilman, Brad McKittrick, is also enthusiastic about our plans. **"Akron needs this investment; you are doing your part in revitalization, returning home and showing the community that you believe in the area."**



# GROUNDBREAKING MARKS A NEW CHAPTER



Jeff Wilhite, Advisor; Brad McKittrick, Ward 6 Councilman; Rose DeBord, Treasurer; Bill Staycheff, Advisor; Steve Reymann, Chairman; Margaret Reymann Skinner, Vice Chairman



*"Did you ever wonder why the Reymann men have such big shoulders? My memories of the barn are of the animals and especially the hay loft. I recall the Reymann 'heydays' – going with my uncles and watching them cut hay, load it onto the wagon behind the tractor, go to the barn, and then heave it up from the wagon, using pitchforks, into the loft."*

**Joan Saunders**  
Reymann Granddaughter



The groundbreaking ceremony marked a turning point, filled with big smiles, blue-ribboned shovels and shared excitement.



Surrounded by family and community members like Councilman Brad McKittrick, the Reymann Foundation officially launched the next phase of the garage and barn's story.





# CELEBRATING COMMUNITY IMPACT

As the Reymann Foundation moves toward establishing a permanent home, our commitment to service remains at the heart of our mission. This spring's grant recipients reflect the spirit – supporting children, families, students and neighbors through programs that make a meaningful impact in our community.

## Helping Wednesday's Child Spread Love in Our Community

If you ever need a little mood boost, read about the many kindnesses that Wednesday's Child extends to members of the community who are developmentally disabled, as well as homeless and at risk youths. More simply put, they spread love. Pure LOVE.

The volunteers at Wednesday's Child find creative ways to care for others by providing clothing, personal items and household goods for persons in need. They serve many clients and families in such fun ways, recognizing the dignity in every recipient, and delivering each package with joy – even arranging Easter Baskets! The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation recently awarded a grant to Wednesday's Child to help with their overhead and administrative expenses, alleviating some burdens so that their team can focus on what they do best – putting smiles on the faces of our neighbors!



Follow Wednesday's  
Child on Facebook.

## Proud to Support ArtSparks' Dynamite Duos Program

The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation was once again a proud sponsor of ArtSparks' Dynamite Duos annual performance. The program provides children with developmental disabilities the opportunity to experience the art of dance and perform with their peers. Erica Piper, Artistic Director at ArtSparks, states,

**"The Dynamite Duos program is unique, it's not just about being inclusive, but students with disabilities are the center, they are the inspiration, they are the driving force of that program. We're not just including them, we are celebrating them, who they are, and the many different ways we can be human in this world."**

The program culminated with a performance honoring every student's talent and achievement, which was held at Firestone Community Learning Center in May. This year's theme was "Dancing Through the Decades."



Jamie Morris from Wednesday's Child, and Chairman Steve Reymann





## Honoring a Legacy, Empowering Futures

The Reymann Foundation, partnering with The University of Akron, created the Charles J. Reymann Endowed Fund. The award was established in honor of Chuck Reymann, grandson of Charles and Salome and a founding member of the Foundation. Chuck was the father of board member John Reymann, who is very proud to carry on his father's legacy.



### First-of-its-Kind Award for University of Akron Students

Students encountering intellectual, mental or physical challenges, identified by The University of Akron's Office of Accessibility, are awarded the funds to be used for any purpose that will help them stay enrolled and persist to graduation. The award is first of its kind at the university and supports a part of the college population that is often overlooked when it comes to aid.

### Gratitude from the First Award Recipients

This award was given for the first time this school year. Recipients recently expressed their thanks to the Foundation. Emily, on track to graduate in 2026, has several goals for after graduation, including pursuing a Masters in Social Work. **"Your financial contribution has directly contributed to the completion of these goals and milestones, and I cannot express how grateful I am for your support."** Isaac, another recipient, promises to do everything in his power to take advantage of the opportunities available to him and to **"prove that your faith and investment in me is well-placed."**

### A Partnership with Purpose

Jessica DeFago, Director of the Office of Accessibility at The University of Akron, echoes gratefulness for the financial support from the Reymann Foundation. **"The donation is helping two students with disabilities achieve their academic goals, enabling them to complete their degrees because of this opportunity. It is an honor to know Chuck through his son John, and through this award."**

## Teeing Up for a Great Cause at Rotary Club of Akron's Chili Open Golf Classic

The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation makes time for fun, even in cold temperatures! In February, the Foundation participated in the Rotary Club of Akron's 35th Anniversary Chili Open Golf Classic fundraiser, once again as a Premier Sponsor of the event. Board Members Jon Wylly, John Reymann and Chris Reymann, paired with Ambassador Bill Staycheff as our foursome. Staying cozy in the clubhouse were Board Members Alice Luse, Moggie Skinner and Rose DeBord, along with Ambassador Donna Rakerd-Converse. All proceeds from the event benefit the Rotary Club's camp for children with special needs.

The Reymann Foundation has a long history of partnering with the Rotary Club of Akron to deliver on a shared vision, helping to create a world where there are only abilities.



*"I was surprised to first learn of the plans to renovate the Reymann home garage and create a permanent headquarters, but the more I thought about it, the more logical it sounded. Having a space to meet and conduct business will assist board members but also help to bring all family members together to celebrate our heritage."*

**Chris Reymann**  
Reymann Grandson

## The Power of Art: Master Artist Sponsor at CSS' Art of Recovery

Community Support Services' art therapy program helps clients break free from their anxiety, trauma and negative thoughts while also helping them to see themselves as more than their diagnosis. Recently, representatives of The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation attended CSS' 10th Annual Art of Recovery event to celebrate their clients' creative expression. As a Master Artist sponsor of the event, the Foundation was presented "Roar" by artist Lewis.

Per Lewis, **"Art makes me stronger, like this tiger, art gives me inner strength. It shows me I am stronger than my illness. It shows me I have the ability to reach heights that I never thought possible. Art is my tool to unleash my 'roar.' With art, the world is smaller – and the smaller the world, the easier it is to conquer it."**



*"Preservation is a conversation between the past and the present about the future. The adaptive-reuse of the barn at 403 Canton Road to a meeting and museum space places the property in a position to serve for the next 100 years."*

**Jeff Rosenberg**  
Reymann Great Grandson

## Strengthening Our Community's Commitment to Education

The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation believes in education as an avenue to improve ourselves, help others and enhance our communities. We inherited this focus from our matriarch, Salome Reymann, who encouraged her children to recognize opportunities for betterment, whether in the classroom or in everyday life.

### Supporting Hoban Students with Fully Endowed Scholarships

We support education through many scholarships at the college and high school level. At Archbishop Hoban High School, the Foundation is pleased to offer a fully endowed scholarship for students with disabilities who are pursuing a Catholic education and require financial assistance.

### Holy Cross Pathways: A New Program for Students with Special Needs

Hoban is also launching Holy Cross Pathways in the Fall of 2025, a program tailored to the specific needs of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The staff is actively making the necessary adjustments to both the campus and curriculum to ensure a successful inaugural year, and the student body is eagerly awaiting the arrival of a few Knights with special needs.



Scan the QR code to learn more about this exciting program.



**Cathy Reeves, Hoban Chief Advancement Officer; Steve Reymann, Chairman; Christopher DiMauro, Hoban President**



## Why I Give: A Reflection from Lois Reymann

Quietly enjoying her golden years in West Akron is Lois McPherson Reymann, who joined the family in 1966 upon marrying Robert "Bobby" Reymann, the first-born grandson of Charles and Salome. Anyone who has had a conversation with cousin Lois is amazed at her intellect and recall of many Reymann factoids – something we value as we continue to chronicle Reymann history.

### A Consistent Source of Support

Although Bobby passed away in 2015, Lois remains a steadfast supporter of the family and the Reymann Foundation. Lois has always been a consistent donor to the Foundation, whether by attending fundraisers, donating her time to sell tickets or helping with event setup.

### Straightforward and Heartfelt

Since the introduction of our annual appeal, Salome's Heart, Lois has always contributed to the effort. So when asked "Why Do You Give?", Lois responded in her trademark straight-forward approach – she provided a list of seven bullet points. And throughout her justification, Lois' reasoning is clear, dotted with care and love:

**"We are a local organization, with followers in many states and countries. We were called into action to support family members who were developmentally disabled. We provide housing for individuals with special needs, we support training and camps and retreats, as well as high school and college scholarships in the field of Special Education. The Foundation is nearly 60 years old and fiscally strong. And, the Board taps various talent across the Reymann family and within the community to execute its mission."**

### Together, We Create Lasting Impact

Who can argue with fact? The Reymann Foundation does all these things and more. It's clear that we have captured Lois' interest and welcome support from extended family and community members. Thank you, Lois – together we are making an impact on those who need our help.

*"When I saw the plans for 403, I thought what a great idea to make use of the space for all things Reymann (including cousins)! The Foundation needs its own office where the community and family can gather."*

**Anna Reymann**  
Reymann Granddaughter

## Honoring Fr. James J. Reymann, Philanthropist & Community Activist

The Reymann Foundation and family fondly remember Father James J. Reymann (1924–2022) who would have celebrated his 101st birthday this past April. In memory of his parents, Charles and Salome, and their legacy of charity and philanthropy, Father, along with other Reymann descendants, established the Foundation in 1967. Father served as its first Chairman of the Board.

### A Pillar of the Church & Community

Father Reymann, a dedicated shepherd to his people, was very passionate about helping others. He felt a strong responsibility to his church, family and communities, whether they be his schools, the Army, his parish or the many charities that he championed and supported. In 1976 Father was appointed the pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Wellington, Ohio. He became a pillar of the church and community, serving on many boards and local committees.

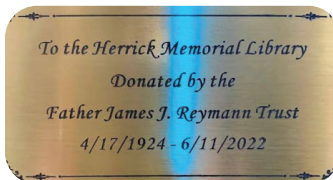
### New Space for Teens at Herrick Memorial Library

This past September, the Herrick Memorial Library honored Father by showcasing a newly created space for teens. Handcrafted curved bookcases, wall art and reading nooks adorn the area. And of course, recognizing Father's life-long love of dogs, a giant dog is the finishing tribute to honor the benefactor, Father Reymann.

To learn more about Father Reymann, visit [ReymannFoundation.org](http://ReymannFoundation.org) to read his impact story and obituary.



Fr. James J.  
Reymann Community  
Service Award.



# Advancing Our Mission with the Help of New Voices

The mission of The Charles and Salome Reymann Foundation is to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in Northeast Ohio. To help advance this mission, the Foundation proudly welcomes Gia D. Bell and Michael J. Reymann as the newest members of its Board of Directors. At the same time, we extend our heartfelt thanks to outgoing members Greg Reymann and Mary Michael Lawson for their years of meaningful service.

## Gratitude for Greg & Mary's Expertise & Dedication

Greg, an attorney specializing in investment advising and compliance, dedicated many years to the Foundation, especially at a pivotal time during strategic renewal in the organization. He served as legal counsel as well as a member of the Finance & Legal Committee. His calm demeanor, paired with his long list of accomplishments and expertise, was the edge needed as we outlined a new future path for the Foundation. Residing in Florida, Greg was always willing to hop on a flight or a video call for committee discussions or annual meetings.

Likewise, Mary Michael invested much of her personal time, not only serving as Secretary for the Foundation, but also as a member of the Marketing & Communications Committee. She introduced reporting and documentation structures to us and was present at many events hosted by the Foundation – even traveling from South Carolina in snowstorms! Mary's many contributions include a foray into the social media world, creating and curating interesting content for use on our website, social platforms and in messaging. Her vast reservoir of Reymann history has been, and continues to be, a huge asset to us. Mary intends to continue as an Ambassador for the Foundation and will still support our content efforts.

## Welcoming Gia & Michael to Our Board of Directors



**Gia** is the Chief Program Officer at JRC Learning Centers / JRC Adult Day Centers. She is a nurturer and, as a mother of a child with autism, she keenly understands the unique challenges presented to individuals with disabilities.

Advocating for her son is a passion for Gia and she does so in the most loving way. Gia found her way to the Reymann Foundation through her strong professional network, bringing a proven record of contributions to many non-profit organizations. This mom is a dynamo, and we are very fortunate to have her serving on our Board of Directors.



**Michael** is a Senior Vice President & Division Manager at U.S. Bank. Being a Reymann and the son of one of the original founders of the Foundation, Michael is intimately familiar with our organization. He has served as a Foundation Advisor and is now assuming a

seat on the Board of Directors. Michael and his wife, Stephanie, have experienced first-hand the concerns of children with special needs as parents of two children

*"This endeavor will be an essential tool for the organization, especially as they expand their footprint, make new alliances and forge deeper relationships with the doers in the Akron region."*

**Ken Dorsett**

CPA, AIFA, MBA, Senior Financial Executive

*"I believe that in order for the Foundation to take the next step in its future development, it is important to have a permanent presence in the local community."*

**Gary Cook**

Retired CEO & President, Direction Home Akron Canton

*"The Reymann family needs a home base, a headquarters and a way to tell others who we are in a physical manner – our history and our culture."*

**Michael Reymann**

Reymann Great Grandson

## Looking Ahead with Gratitude & Purpose

To Greg and Mary, thank you for your steadfast service. To Gia and Michael – welcome aboard! With the help and support of our past and present board members, the Foundation is looking forward to making an even greater impact for the betterment of our neighbors.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Stephen C. Reymann**  
Chairman

**Margaret Reymann Skinner**  
Vice Chair, Marketing & Communication Chair

**Rose A. DeBord**  
Treasurer, Finance Chair

**Christopher C. Reymann**  
Secretary

**Alice Maher Luse**  
Development & Engagement Chair

**Jonathan Wyly**  
Special Projects Chair

**Louis H. Reymann**  
Governance & Strategic Planning Chair

**Gia D. Bell**  
Trustee

**John M. Reymann**  
Trustee

**Michael J. Reymann**  
Trustee

**Theodore M. Reymann**  
Trustee

## ADVISORY BOARD

**Bill Considine**  
CEO Emeritus, Akron Children's Hospital

**Gary L. Cook**  
Retired President & CEO, Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities

**Michael Davids**  
Retired Senior Consultant, Strategic In/Sights Partners

**Ken Dorsett**  
CPS, AIFA, MBA, Retired, Senior Financial Services

**Kent Hillhouse**  
Senior Vice President, Cushman & Wakefield

**Jeffrey E. Wilhite**  
Executive Director, Family Promise of Summit County

## AMBASSADORS

**Gene Fitch**

**Michael Jessberger**

**Kristen Reymann Kubisch**

**Kevin Lawson**

**Mary Kennedy Lawson**

**John Luse**

**Anne Najeway Vainer**

**Donna Rakerd-Converse**

**Anna Reymann**

**Bill Reymann**

**Charlie Reymann**

**Courtney Reymann**

**Joe Sokol**

**Bill Staycheff**

**Cindy Staycheff**

## 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.

# Special Thanks to Our Partners Who Make It All Possible!

Our partners are the hands and feet of all that we do. It is only through the collective efforts of our Board Members, Advisors, Ambassadors, supporters, family and friends that our Foundation can consistently deliver on our mission to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

We humbly celebrate YOU, and appreciate your commitment to working beside us to make a difference in our communities. Thank you!



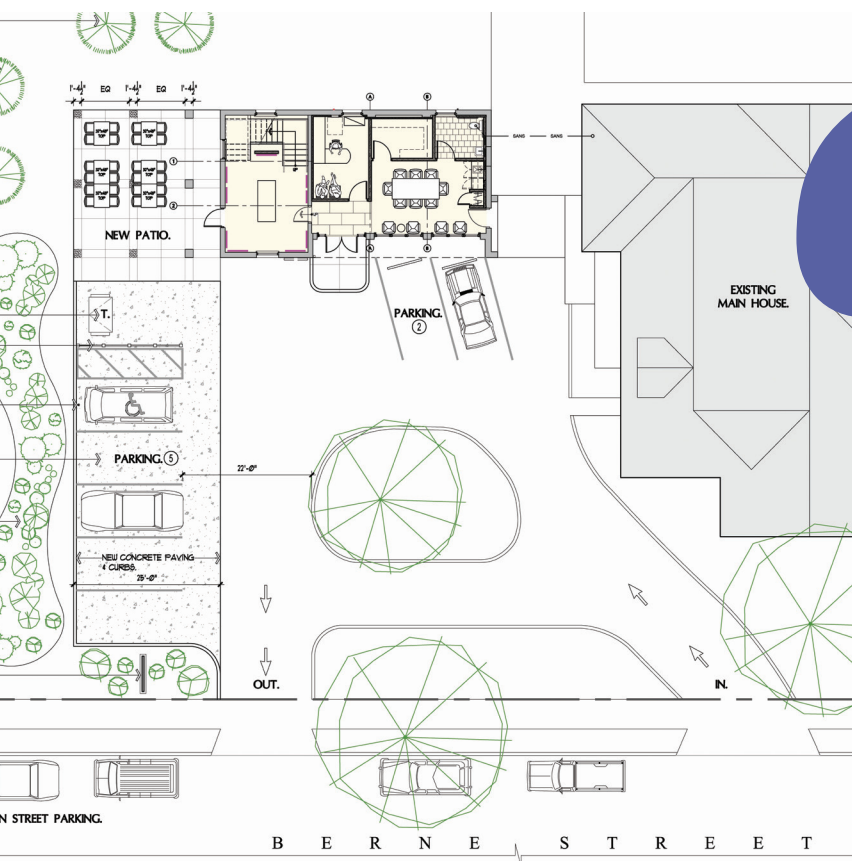
SARAH'S VINEYARD  
CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO

St Matthew Parish  
Catholic Church

The Dane Foundation  
Help, Encouragement & Understanding

THE CHARLES AND SALOME  
**Reymann**  
FOUNDATION

PO Box 13441, Fairlawn, Ohio, 44334



*"The Reymann family legacy in Akron has been, and continues to be, a significant portion of our 200-year history. By having a visible, publicly recognized location, the Foundation gives shape to the organization's boldest dreams, highest ideals and noblest causes."*

**Jeff Wilhite**

Executive Director, Family Promise of Summit County

*"This project will truly enhance the Foundation's visibility, presence and awareness throughout the community, while building on the Reymann family heritage."*

**Bill Considine**

CEO Emeritus, Akron Children's Hospital