



Community Foundation

LORAIN COUNTY



Lorain County
Community College

FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LifeShare Community Blood Services to Make Legacy Gifts to Community Foundation of Lorain County and LCCC Foundation.

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On December 22, LifeShare Community Blood Services announced it would become part of Blood Systems, one of the nation’s oldest and largest non-profit transfusion medicine organizations, which is based in Phoenix, AZ. The transaction closed on December 31. As a result of that sale, the LifeShare Foundation Board of Directors has voted to distribute **approximately \$17.5 million**, or 100 percent of its assets, in equal portions to two Lorain County anchor institutions – the Community Foundation of Lorain County and the Lorain County Community College Foundation.

The LCCC Foundation and The Community Foundation have each created a “LifeShare Legacy Fund” to carry out, in tandem, initiatives focused solely on health and wellness. This will be done through grant-making, scholarships, and capacity building.

<p>Impact: Community Foundation of Lorain County</p> <p>The LifeShare Legacy Fund provides an opportunity to assess and target the county’s most urgent and long term health needs.</p> <p>Currently the Community Foundation includes health and wellness projects as part of its competitive grant process. This gift will about double the amount of grant dollars available for health and wellness grant requests and for initiatives to respond to emerging health and wellness needs. This support will increase over time as investments grow.</p> <p>The LifeShare Foundation Board of Directors will work with the Community Foundation Board of Directors, and other community experts to develop a new process for providing grants from the LifeShareLegacy Fund.</p>	<p>Impact: Lorain County Community College</p> <p>The LifeShare Legacy Fund will promote health care and wellness education and economic development initiatives in Lorain County. The LifeShare donation will be focused within two of the College’s cornerstones: Education and Economy.</p> <p>On the academic side, two of the College’s cornerstones funds will be used to immediately create two scholarships: the David Dobrow Scholarship and the Richard Cluck scholarship. These scholarships will be for students enrolled in Allied Health and Nursing programs.</p> <p>Within economy, the LifeShare donation will help to strengthen LCCC’s Innovation Fund, which provides funding to early-stage start-up companies.</p>
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“Lorain County Community College is thrilled to be a joint-recipient of this incredible legacy gift that will contribute to the health, educational and economic vitality of our entire community for decades to come,” said Dr. Roy Church, President of Lorain County Community College.

“We applaud the Board of LifeShare Foundation for its foresight in creating endowed funds as a gift that will forever benefit the county. We are so honored for the trust demonstrated by the LifeShare Foundation to allow the Community Foundation and Lorain County Community College to be stewards of this gift and to be partners dedicated to making Lorain County a better place to live,” said Brian Frederick, President/CEO of the Community Foundation of Lorain County.

Garis Distelhorst, Executive Director for the LCCC Foundation stated, “The impact a gift of this magnitude will have on our institution is truly remarkable. We are so thankful to LifeShare’s Board of Directors and leadership team for recognizing the strengths LCCC brings to the community.”



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The LifeShare Legacy Fund, a transformational gift to the community.

The LifeShare Board of Directors approached the two institutions in 2014 seeking a way to provide the greatest community impact and permanent benefit with its gift. The Community Foundation and the College, through a joint proposal, demonstrated how this gift could build on the key strengths provided by each institution to provide a multifaceted approach for tackling urgent needs in Lorain County. The two institutions will work together to strategically use this gift to make a significant impact on health and wellness needs in Lorain County, now and forever. The gift marks one of the largest donations ever received by the LCCC Foundation and the largest corporate donation ever received by the Community Foundation.

LifeShare Community Blood Services is a 501c3 organization and the only localized source of blood provided to Lorain County. LifeShare was formed in 1948, serves some 35 hospitals in and around the Cleveland metropolitan area and expects to collect approximately 40,000 blood donations this year.