

Hi. I am

Heather Clayton-Terry,

Philanthropy Consultant
for Dominion Energy.

And thank you all so
much for being here today.

Everyone, give yourself
a round of applause.

Thank you.

(Applause)

I will tell you.

This is my favorite event.

Every year

we have not had the opportunity

to have this type of
function due to COVID.

I will tell you that the last time

I was going to bring together
nonprofit organizations to uplift them

and to congratulate them
for their job well done.

It was a week before in March

when we were all told to go home.

And so I want to say to you

all today, that we are here.

This is a safe space for us,
because if we're going to be celebrating

one another and I'm just so happy
that we all made it through.

So please give yourself a
round of applause back.

(Applause)

So I will tell you

that this is our
28th year of doing

this program, Community Impact.

And every single year

I have the privilege of talking
to my boss, Paul Cheatam

and saying to him, we need to set aside
\$110,000 to provide awards,

not grants, but awards to people
that are already doing phenomenal work.

What I think is really important to
to put out there about these grants

is that it's an opportunity

for nonprofits to do something
that they never had an opportunity to do,

and that's bragging about the work
that you're already doing.

All right, this is the good part.

The first organization that
will come up to the microphone.

They did a wonderful
program in Lima, Ohio.

This organization is called
Children's Hunger Alliance.

And this is for their food access
for Allen County Children Food Program.

So I need a representative to come up
from Children's Hunger Alliance.

And if you could please give
them a round of applause.

Thank you.

I have a couple of members
of my staff with me.

We are thrilled to be here,
I love the fact

that the Committee of Judges

looked at our

grant request and looked
beyond the footprint here

in northeast Ohio to another part
of the geography of Dominion Energy.

We are a statewide organization.

We do work all across the state.

We're in 66 of the 88 counties,

and mostly because the other 22 may
maybe don't need us

because addressing food
insecurity is takes a village.

And if we've got small communities
that have some grassroots

efforts to get meals and different
kinds of food to food insecure children,

and we're not needed there,
then we put resources somewhere else.

So this \$10,000 has done a lot
with our programs here in Lima.

I'm sorry, we're not in Lima. In Lima.

We work with schools.

We work the number of organizations
that do after school and summer programs

because food insecurity
does not take a break.

When kids aren't in school
and they have access to meals

like free and reduced breakfast and lunch.

So thank you very much.

We're very grateful.

The next organization.

I remember this deliberation

in great detail. I really do.

And I think it's such
an important organization

to support,

and I think it's for a multitude
of reasons, right?

And so I just remember that deliberation
process and what went into it.

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
receiving a check for \$10,000

for providing healing services
for survivors here in Cleveland.

So come on up, Cleveland Rape
Crisis Center.

We're very thrilled
and honored to be here.

My name is Megan Williams.

I'm the Chief Prevention

and Education Officer with
the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center.

And I see some familiar faces
in the audience today.

Hi, Dana.

One of our amazing board members.

I did prepare just a few words,

but if you didn't know, the
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

supports survivors of
rape and sexual abuse,

promotes prevention and healing,

and also essentially
advocates for social change.

We do a lot in our community.

Without the philanthropic efforts
of Dominion Energy Charitable,

Charitable Foundation,
much of this would not be possible.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you for seeing us, for hearing us,

for recognizing the Cleveland
Rape Crisis Center in our efforts.

We are so very honored
to receive your continued support.

Last, I congratulate and celebrate
each organization here today.

Again, this is a village and
we're...for being honored today

for the amazing work
that you do that you have done

and that you will continue
to do to uplift our communities.

Thank you. And much success.

All right.

Thank you, Megan.

Economic and Community
Development Institute

for their set up shop here in
Cleveland, Ohio for \$10,000.

Come on up

Economic and Community
Development Institute.

Good afternoon, everyone.

My name is Jasmine Dixon,
and I am the Vice President for ECDI

Northern Ohio Market.

For some of you
who are not familiar with us,

ECDI is a statewide community
development financial institution.

We actually are headquartered

in Columbus and our second largest office is here in Cleveland.

And then we have total about seven offices around the state.

Our mission is to create measurable and enduring economic and social change.

And so because of that, our motto is to invest, educate, innovate.

And so what that means is we provide access to capital for small businesses,

particularly businesses of color,

individuals who have a hard time getting access

to funding through traditional avenues such as banks, startups.

And it can be for various reasons why they may need access to those funds.

We also provide education through our training in our culture.

We have a women's business center.

So we do have

coaches that are specifically working with female entrepreneurs,

helping them to grow.

And then the large.

The last part of our model is to innovate part.

And so that's where Set Up Shop came in.

We want it to create an opportunity for retail businesses and particularly

black and brown retail businesses to be able to go into a retail space

and to be able to grow their business without the burden

of all the costs associated with the retail space.

Everything that we represent
is helping to strengthen

economic opportunity for our black
and brown local entrepreneurs.

So I want to thank Dominion so, so,
so much for this because I'm just so happy

that you guys see the value in
what we're trying to do.

Next up, this organization.

I wasn't very familiar with.

I think Stephanie and I had some drawn out
conversations about this organization.

And so now I'm going to introduce Grace
House, Akron Grace House, Akron's Comfort

Care Home Program, which was highly
received by our judges for \$10,000.

So come on up, Grace House.

Thank you.

And congratulations to all of you as well.

My name is Holly Klein.

I'm the Executive Director
and Co-Founder of Grace House.

Grace House.

Akron is Summit
County's only comfort care home.

Even once you expand
outside of Summit County,

there's only two homes in Ohio
and 40 across the entire nation.

Even within that network of homes,

we are unique because of the
population we focus on and serve.

So we accepted our first resident
September 3rd of last year

and we provide housing and basic needs

to people enrolled in a hospice program

who don't have access to a caregiver
or can't afford a caregiver.

So we're approaching our one year
anniversary of being open,

and we've served 52 residents.
We're really grateful we can operate

without organizations like Dominion
supporting us and our community.

We chose the name Grace House
because the word means gift.

So we wanted this to be a

gift not only to our residents,
but to and from our community.

And it's really worked out that way.

So thank you for all of your support.

All right.

Thank you.

Next up,

we're going to go into Stark County.

I got, I got two Stark County right.

The first one is for and I met
the young lady, the young lady

who is responsible
for the youth entrepreneurial program

and establishing the curriculum for that.

Stark County Minority Business

Association based out of Canton, Ohio.

If a representative can come up from
there and speak for 2 minutes,

it looks like Leonard coming.

So teamwork makes the dream work.

We've gone by that philosophy,

my husband and I, for 43 years now.

And so....

Yes, as she says, we're really just one.

I know you said one word
and we're just once again, my.

My name is Leonard Stevens,

and I'm the CEO of the Stark County
Minority Business Association.

And we've been around since 2008.

What we do is we work with minority women
owned and veteran owned businesses.

They help them get started,
their existing businesses.

We help them be able to grow
and scale their business.

We currently have over 300 businesses

that are members of the Association.

We have several programs
that we manage, but

the program that we wanted
to talk about today is our Youth

Entrepreneurship Program,
which is one that is dear to my heart.

I've been a business owner for 25 years,
so working with these middle schoolers

and getting them
interested in understanding

what it takes to become a business
owner has been very important to me.

And Brendan was responsible
for really writing the curriculum

for the program and then Miss
Lee sitting back there.

She managed and executed the program,
so we worked together

as a team to make all of this happen.

So I got the idea from watching a number
of lemonade stands that started popping
up around our neighborhood
and then watching Shark Tank one evening.

And there is a

Nine year old standing
before judges who are

millionaires close to being billionaires.

And so when I wrote the program,
I wanted to see.

Middle school students who have this
immense creativity and
energy, and we'll call it energy.

That we wanted to harness that energy.

So that we could steer them towards
perhaps a career in entrepreneurship.

So we want to thank
Dominion for this award.

We thank you for all of
the work that you do.

We understand that
we don't do this work to get awards.

We do this work
because the work needs to be done.

Thank you.

All right, hold on.

Here we go.

Next one up is Stark
Economic Development Board

for their career Connect
program in Canton, Ohio.

Come on up.

Thank you so much.

My name is Aleisha Stout,
and I am the Community Engagement Manager

at Strengthening Stark,
which is an Office of Stark

Economic Development Board.
I'm so, so pleased

to have the tone set.

that describes my seat with
Career Connect quite well.

We have a team of eight organizations
throughout Stark County

who contribute to Career Connect,
and I have the great,

great honor of convening that group
and aggregating their data.

One of the things that
we see happen, and I'm

sure this is kind of singing
to the choir for this group,

but there's so much good work
happening in the community, and often

that good work is not turned
into quantifiable data

to illustrate to others who
are in seats of decision making.

So with Career Connect,
what we like to do is take the best

practices of all eight organizations in growing

share best practices, share the successes,

share the struggles, and really

break down the formula of what it means
to get somebody connected to jobs.

So with

\$10,000, we can address a lot of barriers
in our community

and really making an impact
for sustainable change

for economic mobility
for these individuals.

So thank you so much and congratulations
to everyone.

Next is someone who I consider a friend.

Lisa Collins and the Superhero Project.

Her work has been so instrumental
in helping some of our youth.

what she's been able to do
is give them a sense of hope.

Lisa, come on up.

So my name, as Heather said,

is Lisa Collins, and I'm the Founder
and Director of the Superhero Projects.

On behalf of our board, our artists,
and most importantly, our families.

I'm delighted to thank the
Dominion Energy Charitable

Foundation and the Committee of Judges

for recognizing our work
with this generous award.

We're especially honored to be included
with an amazing cohort of organizations

who are making such a positive
difference in the lives of so many.

So congratulations to you
all. At the Superhero Project

we celebrate the arts as a tool

for healing, as we empower
youth impacted by serious illnesses,

disabilities, trauma and complex mental
health and medical needs.

Everything we do is guided
by four core values imagination,

inclusion, representation and joy.

We're proud of our
commitment to inclusion.

We've supported families of youth
with over 200 diagnoses.

Whether a child is fully verbal, uses
augmented communication, or has parents

or siblings to answer
the interview questions on their behalf,

we welcome the participation
of all families.

I am personally, deeply
grateful to the foundation

for their support and professionally
thrilled that because of this gift,

we are in a better place
to continue to continue providing

this positive experience
to many more families.

Thank you.

Next up is The Well Community Development

Corporation for restoring housing 60/60 campaign.

So come on up.

Come on.

So Zack Kohl, Executive

Director of the World Community
Development Corporation in Akron.

We started seven years ago,
and it was really after

almost a decade of community
engagement where we sat in block

watches and neighborhood meetings
and just heard the same story

over and over again
in a disinvested neighborhood.

There wasn't a lot of money
coming into the community, and there was
a huge need to invest in housing.

So we woke up one day in 2016 and realized
we were learning about this industry
called Affordable Housing.

And after rehabbing eight homes,
we realized we were probably
a part of this industry.

We had a commitment from the Knight
Foundation and the City of Akron
of an additional funding
for probably another almost 60 houses.

And we had a neighbor
who who said that she
she thought she was moving into a house
and what she found was a community.

And so having a stable home for Mikita,
she's been able to find
employment actually, with us.

She's our business manager.

She's got a stable home for her kids.

And we've realized
that it's not just about housing.

It's also about career development.

It's about placemaking

and it's about commitment to a community
and a group of people.

And this funding from Dominion really
helps us be able to provide a holistic

support to the Middlebury neighborhood
in, a way that really helps people

not have to leave their neighborhood

to live in a better one,
not to steal a quote from a George Carter.

So thank you, guys.

Appreciate this gift and the work
that we get to do every day.

All right.

Next up is Nicole McGee.

I've known Nicole McGee
since my time at St Luke's Foundation

a long time ago.

I and she is also someone who launched.

She started her own business from nothing.

This is the Upcycled Part Shop

and the Social Enterprise
Education Program.

Come on up, Nicole.

Thank you.

Thank you, Heather.

Thank you to the selection committee.

Thank you to the Dominion
Community Energy Foundation.

This is so fun to listen
to all of your work.

I can't believe I actually get
to talk about mine too.

It's such an energizing group,
and I feel honored to be

to be here, to be among
the people recognize.

My name's Nicole McGee.

I'm the Co-Founder and Executive
Director of Upcycle Part Shop

and the Social Enterprise Education
Program is not our biggest program

and it's not the primary thing we do,
but it has become my favorite part

of my work.

And the best days are the days where
we get to work with high school students.

So what we do is at Upcycle Part Shop,
we take in second hand materials

that get donated to us.

It's like a thrift store meets an art supply store,

and it's an organization
that takes all these donated materials

and gives them new life.

So it's about environmental
resourcefulness, talking about reuse

that we can do right here
with our own hands.

We don't have to send things

away to recycle or we don't
have to throw as much away.

There's value all around us.

Our Social Enterprise Education Program
talks to high school students about this

and grade school students.

But they are high school,
and we invite students to think

about social enterprise, a business
that has a social mission

or maybe a nonprofit like us,
but has a business model

and we introduce them to
that concept and then we say,

All right, now you're a social entrepreneur.

Here's a bunch of upcycled materials.

Let's spend 30 minutes making a business
to address a social problem you care about

and to hear the social
problems they care about.

To see the prototypes
that they come up with is sort of

like the greatest honor of my work
and I love getting to do it.

and to share business that can be fun,
that can be authentic to who we are

and that can have social impact in
the communities and causes we care about.

I know many of you in this room
also care about that,

and I think many of us should work
together, actually.

So thank you so much.

All right.

Next step, Village of Healing.

Dana, Tunisia

also quit their jobs, right?

Launched, started their own business.

I know them from the work
that I do with a Giving Circle

that was established in collaboration
with the Cleveland Foundation.

And so it's a pool of about ten people.

We give our personal dollars,
\$500 every year,

and then we figure out
a nonprofit to give to.

Last year,

we gave to the Village of Healing,
and it was matched by United Black Fund.

And so I had the pleasure of seeing
their facility, which is just a dream.

And as a result of that, Stephanie and I
and the crew yesterday went out

and did some footage there.

So thank you for having us.

But I'm going to bring up
to the microphone a representative,

one of the co executive directors

to talk about the Village
of Healing Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Come on up, Dana.

First of all,

I would be remiss
if I did not acknowledge

I had the pleasure and privilege
to serve as co founder.

But I would be remiss if I did not
acknowledge my other co-founder,

Tanisha Gaines, who walked
away first from her job.

And that was like, if you got to move in
with me, we'll figure it out.

But we knew that we were in toxic
traumatic situations and that we needed

to do something about it
and we needed to do something about it.

For all the other black women

that were coming into health care
and being mistreated.

And so we did that.

And I'm so proud to work with her.

I'm so honored to work with her.

She is the ying to my yang.

I am the outspoken public one
and she is the one behind me.

Like, I don't know if we should say that.

So I am

blessed and honored

to work with you every day.

Also to be in this room.

I remember reading on Instagram
one day they said,

If you're the smartest person in the room,
you're in the wrong room.

So I'm honored and privileged
to be amongst you all.

All are the recipients,
the judges, everyone in this room.

Thank you all so, so much.

In 2020, Bloomberg came out with a study
that said that Cleveland,

Ohio, was the worst place to live
if you were a black woman.

And that included second
to last in health care outcomes.

And we worked in health care at the time,
and I remember going to a hospital

the next day for work
and people were sitting around boardroom

tables, flabbergasted,
clutching their pearls like, what?

This can't be real.

Like, we provide awesome and great care.

And Tanisha and I sat at the table like,

That's debatable.

And so we knew that
something had to be done.

And so we walked away,
like Heather said, from our jobs

to start Village of Healing,
in the Village of Healing Center.

We opened our doors last year.

In 2022, we just ran our numbers
for our first fiscal year

finishing and we saw over
540 women come through our door.

Then that first year we had over 11 visits

and just this month alone
we've done seven full time births.

And so we are ecstatic
about what we do every day.

We are happy to serve our
community every single day.

So to you, are you judges
that voted for this?

Thank you so, so much
because you validated

what we already knew was evidence based
and because of your decision to say

that we actually made an impact
on the community based off of these words.

So we are forever grateful.

If organizations like Dominion Foundation
and other philanthropy

did not exist, black organizations would not exist.

So we are tremendously grateful
that you allow us to exist every day

and to do the work

for the women that come after us
to not only survive, but thrive.

So thank you all so much.

All right.

One more to go.

Youngstown, Where's my Youngstown people?

This one is for Youngstown
Neighborhood Development

Corporation for their
Glenwood Plaza. Revitalization.

And so I am very excited for you all.

Please come at Youngstown.

My name is Jack.

I'm the Neighborhood Stabilization
Director with YNDC.

We're a nonprofit community
development organization in Youngstown.

We do a lot of different things
in Youngstown, working to

make neighborhoods of choice, places
that people choose to live

because there are decent places to live
and they reflect our values.

And what we want to see
in our neighborhoods.

So the Plaza is
one of the coolest projects

I think we've done in the ten years
I've been involved in YNDC.

It was a five unit commercial
building built in the 1950s.

Fire damaged, had been empty for years,
and we knew we needed to get a hold of it

because it was on a major corridor
right down the road from our office.

Huge eyesore.

The neighbors were sick
and tired of seeing it.

And we worked with a lot of our city
and our local foundation partners,

and we leverage the resources

we needed to buy the building
and get it fixed up and make that space.

So now the building
has been totally transformed.

It went from one of the deadest areas
along the corridor to one of the

most vibrant hubs of neighborhood activity
on the south side of the city.

Thank you to Dominion
for being a supporter and partner

and just thank you all
for the work that you do

because it's very inspiring to hear
about and just keep it up.

All right, We did it, y'all.

That was awesome.

I want you all to be blessed and be
well, Community Impact Awards.

The grant submissions opens up again
so I hope you take advantage.

Our judges are ready to read
and congratulations to our recipients.

Enjoy. Have a great day.