Nominate the Most-Talented, Driven Young Professionals in Stark County!

ystark! is currently seeking nominees for the 14th ANNUAL TWENTY UNDER 40! These awards recognize 20 incredible young leaders who are actively making a positive impact in the county across various sectors of the business, civic, government, arts, education and non-profit communities.

Nominees are selected based on career acumen, community service and trusteeship, and personal and professional achievements. The Twenty under 40! selection committee is comprised of diverse business and community leaders representing a range of industry sectors from around Stark County.

Eligible young professionals are between 21 and 40 years old, who work in all career industries, and live or work in Stark County. Full eligibility information at www.ystark.org.

Online submissions due by 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2021; no exceptions. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

NOMINATE A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL TODAY AT WWW.YSTARK.ORG!
PrimeTime Health Plan was judged best — plus was the only plan in all of Ohio to be recognized by the experts at U.S. News & World Report for 2021.

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Join us at the AultCare QuickConnect Luncheon on Wednesday, March 17!

The luncheon will feature Randy Gonzalez, Jackson Township, Fiscal Officer/Economic Development Director. Randy will be covering, “Economic and Recreational Development of Jackson Township While Dealing with Covid 19.”

He is a graduate of Canton Lincoln High School. Technical courses completed at Cleveland State, Ohio Judicial Collage, National Center for State Courts, and The Ohio Municipal Court’s Clerks Association. Certified to invest Jackson Townships tax dollars, by the Ohio State Treasurer’s Office at the Center for Public Investment Management.

ABOUT THE LUNCHEON:
In following state guidelines for safety, the following are approved safety protocols. Limited Seating - 100 attendees (6 to a table). Temperature will be taken at check-in. Walk-ins will not be permitted at this event. Reservations must be made and paid by March 12 at 12:00 p.m. Masks are mandatory and social distancing guidelines will be followed. Door prizes will be limited to 12. If you would like to bring a door prize and promote your business in a 30 second commercial please email Sydney Klein sydneyc@cantochamber.org this will be first come first serve.

Wednesday, March 17
11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
(Registration begins at 10:30 am)  
La Pizzaria  
3656 Dressler Rd. NW, Canton 44718  
$20/members, $30/non-members  
Register by March 12 at www.CantonChamber.org  

AultCare QuickConnect attendees can obtain business leads through enjoyable networking activities, hear a compelling speaker, meet new business contacts and enjoy a delicious meal.

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The Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and AultCare have partnered together to offer a healthcare plan for the small business community through a Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement (MEWA).

The MEWA was developed to provide additional options and to help control the costs of healthcare benefits. Medically underwritten MEWA rates may provide a less expensive option than a smaller community rated plan obtained under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This plan is available for small group employers with less than 50 employees.

**Product Overview**
- Small group coverage
- Self-funded plan with fixed monthly payments
- Groups are not subject to ACA community rating
- Benefits administered by AultCare
- AultCare Provider Network

**Eligible Employers**
- Under 50 eligible employees
- 75% minimum participation requirement
- 50% minimum employer contribution for single coverage
- Member in good standing with the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

**Benefit Plan Options**
- 14 plan options
  - Traditional co-pay plans
  - Consumer Driven Health Plans/Health Savings Account (HSA) Compatible
- Ancillary Product Offerings
  - Dental Coverage
  - Vision Coverage

For Chamber Membership information call 330-456-7253. For healthcare or health fund information, contact your independent Broker or your AultCare Representative. All AultCare health plan quote proposals include commission, unless otherwise specified.
Bold leadership is needed when it comes to the attention and action needed to not only educate our Stark County students but to also address their mental and physical wellbeing during and after this pandemic. And from what I can see in Stark County, our superintendents, administrators, teachers and support staff at ALL of our Stark County schools have provided bold leadership to keep our Stark County students safe and in the face-to-face classroom setting.

Studies are showing that children are better off in a face-to-face instructional setting for many reasons including well-being checks, mental health issues, socialization skills and of course this is the best way to advance their education. The CDC confirms it is safe to open schools and our kids need to be in school. As of mid-January, one third of Ohio’s public schools have not gone back to face-to-face instruction yet. Stark County is one of the few of Ohio’s 88 counties to provide face-to-face instruction the entire year. And as of January, Canton City Schools is the only one of the eight major urban districts in the state to provide face-to-face instruction.

For this I applaud the Stark County school districts as I believe the superintendents and their staff members “get it.” Our Stark County Health Departments “get it.” Now we have to work to make sure our families “get it.”

The lingering effects of the stress and anxiety this year has placed on our students and our school staff is not known yet. As you can see our county is and will continue to be a leader in advancing the entire well being of our students. As part of this, our Chamber Education Committee has developed a plan of action to encourage business engagement with our school systems. The plan will be rolled out through this feature in the coming months.

Oh what a year – indeed!
By: Barbara Hammontree Bennett, PE, PS, LEED-AP Vice President of Education and Workforce

Black McCuskey Welcomes Two New Attorneys
Jason A. Brown and Michael J. Class have joined the firm as Associate Attorneys.

Jason focuses his practice in the areas of real estate development & finance, business law and trusts & estates.

Michael’s practice areas include litigation, labor & employment, and business law.

Both attorneys attended The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and participated in the firm’s summer associate program in 2019.

Our passion for legal excellence drives our dedication. Our commitment to providing exceptional service sets us apart.

Experience the difference.
Due to COVID-19, we’ve received a spike in requests from small business members who are struggling to renew their dues. We are asking members who are in a positive position to consider providing assistance through our “Members Helping Members” program.

Here’s how you can help members in need as we weather the pandemic:

• Consider donating $310 (our basic small business membership), or your own specified amount, along with your annual dues payment. You’ll see a “Members Helping Members” line on your invoice or when you pay online. Any funds will go toward covering the dues of a member who simply can’t renew this year.

• Go anytime to cantonchamber.org/members-helping-members to donate.

We’d like to give a special thanks to these companies who already donated and helped save the Chamber memberships of eight small businesses:

• RE/MAX EDGE REALTY
• H-P Products Inc.
• Paul Yoder Construction
• Leppo, Inc.
• Young Trucks
• Turfscape, Inc.
• Kendall House Inc DBA Kentucky Fried Chicken
• Ohio Head and Neck Surgeons, Inc.
The Canton Regional Chapter of SCORE practices what it preaches to its small business clients. The chapter works to a strategic business plan, prepares for an annual audit and files an annual report. The chapter works to measurable objectives and uses key performance indicators to track progress monthly.

Moreover, the chapter has standing committees for structuring and scheduling workshops, fundraising, marketing, recruiting and retention. It also has a three-person client assignment team.

That said, what the chapter doesn’t do is go it alone. Crucial to the chapter’s work is support from donors.

The longest standing supporter of the chapter, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is the Hoover Foundation. It has consistently shown its belief in SCORE’s mission with generous grants.

The Stark Community Foundation began annually supporting SCORE with grants about a dozen years ago when it learned that the chapter mentors both non-profit organizations and for-profit businesses - both existing and start-ups.

Other donors that have stepped forward so far in 2021 include Commercial Savings Bank, Buckingham Doolittle & Burroughs, Ramsburg Insurance & Financial Services, Consumers Bank and Westfield Bank.

For 15 years Kent State University at Stark generously hosted the chapter, providing offices, conference rooms and workstations. Starting this year, the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce kindly has taken up the support cloak and at no charge is providing office and conference space plus workstations and storage room in its branch at 5735 Wales Ave., NW, Massillon.

Canton Regional SCORE serves clients throughout Stark, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Holmes and Harrison counties. For more information on the chapter visit www.canton.score.org or email cantonscore@gmail.com.

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or Spencer Hartung 330.936.0276
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Apply Now! Signature Program 2021-2022

The Leadership Stark County Signature Program is an eye-opening experience that will help you build on your strengths for heightened personal and professional success.

Our programs are always adapting to current events and developments.

Leadership Stark County has taken concrete steps to be more inclusive, embrace change, and to ensure that all voices are heard including:

• New strategies of heightened minority recruitment
• Minority-specific scholarship opportunities
• Amplified efforts to increase minority representation among committees, facilitators, and guest speakers.

The program begins with an overnight retreat and meets for 10 full-day sessions once per month. Tuition is $2,950 all-inclusive; the scholarship application is within the online program application.

Apply online at LeadershipStarkCounty.org. Applications are due April 16. If you have more questions about our programs, please call Stephanie Werren, director, at 330-458-2093.

“[The Signature] program challenged me to develop a stronger sense of self-awareness which allowed me to increase my leadership development. Focusing on the various leadership styles, strengths, ethics, community boards, communication skills, innovative thinking, and strategic agility has opened my horizon to a greater thinking and understanding of a world outside of my personal comfort zone!”

Jamie Carbone
Director – Mercy Medical Center
33rd Signature Class

“We truly have so much to offer in Stark County and it was nice to be reminded of that in such interactive ways. The experience was absolutely wonderful and I consistently recommend it to all my peers looking for new ways to get involved in the community. I forged some true friendships, made some valuable professional contacts, and have a multitude of great memories from the experience.”

Michael Chiappini
Manager, Debt Validation - Synchrony
33rd Signature Class

JAMIE CARBONE

MICHAEL CHIAPPINI

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Your pint-sized group will be mixed and mingled as you work your way through some of the best spots in downtown Canton. To adhere to Covid-19 safety guidelines, each stop will accommodate a Pub Tour group of no more than 10 at a time. Pub Tour routes will be assigned by the “luck of the draw”!

You will receive a text notification when it’s time to walk to the next spot.

$15 and include swag, complimentary appetizers, and drink specials all evening long, exclusively provided for Pub Tour partygoers!

Parking: All street & meter parking is FREE after 4pm downtown • Bliss Parking Deck at 300 Cleveland Ave NW is $5
GET TO KNOW THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WHO WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CANTON/STARK COUNTY! EACH MONTH, WE’LL INTRODUCE YOU TO A YP WHO IS LIVING OR WORKING, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, THRIVING IN STARK COUNTY!

Name: Naja Palmer

Occupation/Title/Place of work: IT Professional, System Analyst at First Energy with a carpet cleaning company, Tech Geniuses LLC

Age: 30

Why are you interested in Stark County’s Young Professionals initiative?
I wanted to encourage everyone no matter what you face in life keep pushing towards your dreams and never let life obstacles hold you back. Stay positive, trust God and his process. In 2019, that whole year I was sick. I had to see a specialist at the Cleveland Clinic. I lost weight, I couldn’t eat. Because of my faith and trust in God my health is better. What I went through motivated me to achieve everything I can. I had high expectations of myself. I’m achieving everything that comes my way.

What would you share to encourage other people to join?
Your future starts here, trust God and his process.

Did you grow up in Stark? If so, where? If not, where did you move from and why?
Yes, I lived in Canton, Ohio my whole life. Currently, I live in Jackson Township.

Why do you stay in Stark County, from both a personal and professional point of view?
I stayed in Stark County to continue to beat the odds. To let everyone know no matter where you live you can make the best of it. I felt I had something to prove to help and want to encourage others in Stark County. From a professional perspective, I want to bring hope. The best businesses keep Stark County great.

What do you like MOST about Stark County?
I love the support the people give. The community always finds ways to improve. The community support is great.

What would you change about Stark County if you could?
I would minister God and bring more outreach programs to Stark County to help give everyone greater hope. I will continue to find ways to stop the violence here in the community by being that light and speaking to the heart of the people.

What do you see as valuable opportunities for YPs in Stark County when it comes to career opportunities, cultural access, leadership or community involvement opportunities?
I feel this will help business accelerate to the next level. This will help other business get more engaged with other businesses in the community. This will bring everyone, of every nationality together and help us grow together creating unity.

What would attract more YPs to Stark County?
Reaching out and getting people involved making them knowledgeable of what Stark County is like.

What do you do in the evenings or on the weekends for fun in Stark County or NE Ohio?
I write out my next goals and the things I want to achieve next. Ways to have even more success on top of the success I already have.

Could you see yourself spending your lifetime in Stark County and if not, what would cause you to leave?
I can see my life spending a lifetime because this is where it all started and you can make the best of it.

NAJA PALMER
NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME to our newest members, who joined Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce in January. We encourage you to patronize their businesses. If you know of other businesses that would benefit from Chamber membership, please contact Molly Romig, Director of Membership and Retention at (330) 833-4400.

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Winick, DDS
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University of Mount Union
Gervasi Vineyard
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Anderson Management
Rinehart Home Service Inc.
Rupp Construction, Inc.
Banyan Product Solutions, LLC
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Construction
Stone Products, Inc.
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McKinley Presidential Library & Museum
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Acorn Secure Self Storage
FASTSIGNS of Central Canton
Bair's Powersports/ Bair's Indian Motorcycle
Commquest Services, Inc.
Sylvesters North-end Grill
Ironworkers Local 550
O's Power Tong Inc.
MDS Foods, Inc.
Speedee Auto Salavage
Winking Lizard Tavern
Giant Eagle on the Strip
Williams & Johnson Family Dental
Hukill Tile LLC
VictoryGate Custom Homes, LLC
Karlo-Libby Funeral Home
Uptown Cheapskate
Boggs Chiropractic
Brahlers Cleaning & Restoration
Mellon Orthodontics
Copeland Oaks Retirement Community
Stark County Veterinary Emergency Clinic
Jerzee's All American Bar & Grille
Fulton and Belden locations
Gallicks, Inc
Destafoano's LLC
Canton Memorial Civic Center
Brookshire Wealth Management
American Solutions for Business
WHBC, WHBC-FM
Hall of Fame Resort & Entertainment Company
Lynn Shimko Graphic Design
The Knoch Corp.
Legacy Business Leaders, LLC
Aqua Ohio Inc
Archer Sign Corporation
SB Welding & Design, LLC
Cassaday-Turkle-Christian Funeral & Cremation Service
Hall of Fame Center
Paul Yoder Construction
North Canton Racquet Club, Inc
J Babe Stern Community Center
Excalibur Fence Company
Ultra Clean by Design
Samaritan Care, Inc.
Black McCuskey Souers & Arbaugh, LPA is pleased to announce that six attorneys have been recognized by Super Lawyers. Attorneys Bruce M. Soares (business/corporate), Randolph L. Snow (general litigation), Gust Callas (labor & employment), and Joel K. Dayton (creditor debtor rights) have been named by Ohio Super Lawyers magazine as top attorneys in Ohio for 2021. This is an exclusive list, recognizing no more than five percent of attorneys in Ohio.

Additionally, attorneys Ryan A. Kuchmaner (estate planning & probate) and Whitney L. Willits (civil litigation: defense) were each named an Ohio Rising Star for 2021. Every year, no more than 2.5 percent of the lawyers in the state are selected by the research team at Super Lawyers to receive this honor. The selection for this respected list is made by the research team at Super Lawyers.

CommQuest Services’ Smith and Bright House residential and outpatient adolescent addiction and mental health services began operation at their new home on the Massillon Recovery Campus 1660 Nave Rd. SE, Entrance B, Massillon, Ohio 44646.

The decision to relocate these services to the CommQuest Massillon Recovery Campus stems from their commitment to providing high-quality mental health and substance abuse services to youth in their region and community. CommQuest Services CEO, Keith Hochadel, says, “This move will allow CommQuest to further adapt to the enduring impact of COVID-19 and continue to provide the best possible care to our clients.”

Congratulations to Allay Senior Care of Meyers Lake for receiving the 2021 Best of Assisted Living Award in Canton from SeniorAdvisor.com. The past year has been tough for so many and Allay Senior Care has shown its resilience in the face of this challenge. Top reviews from families showcase outstanding care provided by their staff to keep guests feeling safe, healthy and happy. This exclusive designation honors only the top 3% of senior care providers across the United States and Canada. In the seven years of the award, Allay Senior Care has been a 3-time award recipient. Allay Senior Care is an assisted living dedicated solely to caring for those individuals with Alzheimer’s and related dementias with a homelike, environment designed specifically to meet their needs and enhance their independence.

Barbco, Incorporated President and National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) Board of Directors member David M. Barbera recently presented the NUCA Toolbox Talk entitled “Identifying & Protecting Against the Coronavirus (COVID19)” to his manufacturing supervisors. The team at Barbco converted a warehouse space into an ad hoc meeting room in order to allow for socially distancing protocols.

Topics presented included Signs of the Virus, How the Virus is Spread, How Severe is this Virus, and How to Protect yourself and your family from this Virus. Barbco has been very proactive in fighting the virus and keeping the Barbco employees, or as we like to call ourselves, The Barbco Pride, safe from the virus. Barbco has met and exceeded all recommended CDC protocols during this pandemic.

Eight “Heroes of the Game” have been elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2021. The Hall’s 48-person Selection Committee met virtually Jan. 19 for its annual meeting.

The new class of Enshrinees was just announced during “NFL Honors,” a two-hour primetime awards special that aired nationally on CBS. The newest members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame are guard ALAN FANECA, coach TOM FLORES, wide receiver CALVIN JOHNSON, safety JOHN LYNCH, quarterback PEYTON MANNING, contributor BILL NUNN, wide receiver DREW PEARSON and cornerback/safety CHARLES WOODSON.

The annual selection meeting capped a year-round selection process. The newly elected Hall of Famers were chosen from a list of 18 Finalists who had been determined earlier by the Pro Football Hall of Fame’s Selection Committee. Representatives of the accounting firm EY tabulated all votes during the virtual meeting.

The Class of 2021 will be enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame during “the greatest gathering of football” inside Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021. Hall of Fame Health and global medical technology leader Smith+Nephew today are announcing a partnership to deploy the company’s digital health portfolio for former NFL players seeking joint replacement through a quality care network.

The rollout will include Hall of Fame Health selectively joining with surgeons and facilities across the United States that demonstrate leading clinical outcomes, certifying those locations as Centers of Excellence and ensuring these advances in care are available to all communities nationwide.

“From the beginning, our mission has been to provide world-class services to former NFL players and their families and to do so in a way where the programs we build can have a greater impact across our communities,” said Jeremy Hogue, CEO of Hall of Fame Health. “Our partnership with Smith+Nephew is a terrific example of that commitment.”

Barbco, Inc, a world class manufacturer of capital equipment for the trenchless excavation, horizontal directional drilling, and underground manufacturing industries is pleased to announce, Thomas W. Schmidt, has been promoted into the newly created position of Vice President, Business Development. Mr. Schmidt is Manufacturing veteran with many years of leadership in numerous local plants including Harrison Paint, Heinemann Saw Company, and Georgia Pacific. While reporting directly to the Owners, he will lead the charge to world domination of the capital equipment market for the trenchless excavation and underground manufacturing industries.

Mr. Schmidt is a long time Canton, Ohio resident with a B.A. from Kent State University (Summa Cum Laude), a M.B.A. from the University of Akron (Cum Laude), holds APICS certification, and is a Leadership Stark County graduate. He is also a passionate local business advocate and dedicated community volunteer.

Have business news you’d like to share via Biz Bitz? Send your news release to Collyn Floyd, director of marketing, at collynf@cantonchamber.org.
Enhancing your safety as we continue to serve our patients and the community.

**Telehealth Visits**

**Virtual Appointments: Statcare & Primary Care**

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**Statcare Telehealth**

Online steps for a virtual visit for minor injuries and illnesses:

1. Visit: CantonMercy.org/Telehealth
2. Register your information
   
   You will be contacted to complete the registration and provided with information on your virtual visit.
   
   Available: Monday-Friday (8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.) Saturday & Sunday (9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
   
   Please note this is a medical service billed to your insurance and co-pays and deductibles do apply.

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**ProCorp Primary Care**

Steps to make a virtual appointment:

Call 330-489-1DOC (1362) and request a virtual visit.

Our representative will assist you in completing the registration process and provide information on your virtual visit.

Available: Monday-Friday (7 a.m.-5 p.m.) *Hours may vary by office location.

- This service is offered to existing patients. New patients are also being accepted.
- Please note this is a medical service billed to your insurance and co-pays and deductibles do apply.

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A virtual visit requires use of a Smart Phone, tablet or computer.

CantonMercy.org/Telehealth  facebook.com/cantonmercy

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**Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital**

A Catholic hospital sponsored by The Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

330-489-1Doc