



## **2023 Annual Report**

***Providing Low-Income Lucas County Residents With Access  
To Coordinated Healthcare Services***



***CareNet Community Health Worker Glori Puskarich, left, with client Carolyn Smith and her daughter. More about Carolyn can be found on the next page.***

Dear Friend of CareNet,

Toledo/Lucas County CareNet appreciates the aid the community gave to our neighbors who needed healthcare - and who received more than \$1.95 million in services in 2023 as a result. CareNet's dedicated donors, healthcare providers, volunteers, staff, and other partners are essential to sustaining our collaborative efforts to provide low-income Lucas County residents with this vital access to coordinated healthcare services.

This annual report features one of many clients who is grateful for CareNet's assistance. Carolyn Smith was pregnant and needed care coordination help during the early months of the pandemic. She continued to work as a team with her CareNet community health worker while caring for her children. More information about Carolyn, who is pictured above with her daughter, can be found on the next page.

The following pages also provide highlights of the work CareNet did in 2023, as well as the donations and other contributions that make all of these efforts possible. Without this generosity, CareNet simple could not exist.

Kind Regards,

Julie Grasson, MEd  
CareNet Executive Director



# Help During The Pandemic And Beyond

For most people, 2020 was tough. As a single Mom, the first few months of the pandemic was particularly hard for Carolyn Smith. Not only was Carolyn pregnant, but getting dependable child care for her older son was impossible.

Carolyn lost her job as an activities assistant at a nursing home because she was unable to secure child care that was limited due to precautions and illnesses. With everything going on, Carolyn knew her mental health was suffering, and she sought help. Luckily, her Harbor caseworker gave her information about CareNet so she also could get help with her finances, housing, and other needs.

Right away, CareNet Community Health Worker Glori Puskarich helped Carolyn sign up for unemployment and get a section 8 voucher to help pay for housing. Glori also helped Carolyn pay for the security deposit and her electric bill. Plus, Glori helped Carolyn get a crib, beds, and other needed items for her new home, as well as connect to various services.

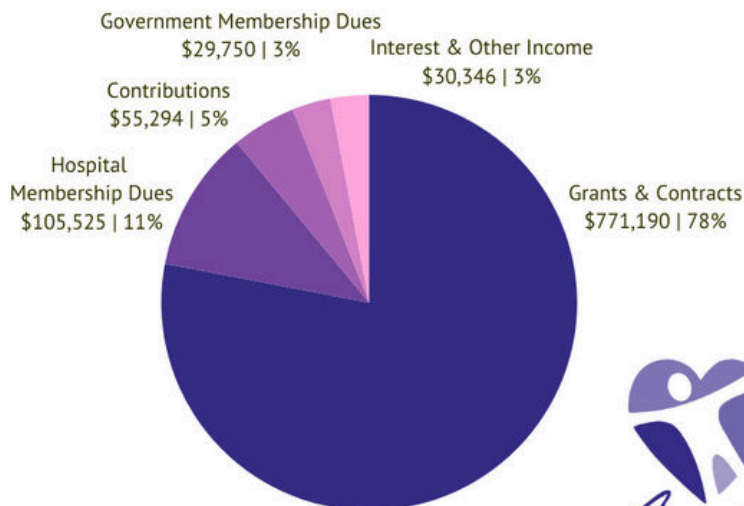
“She was there to help me step by step,” said Carolyn, with Ja’Neareya above.

Glori has continued working with Carolyn, who now has three children. That included support to advocate for Ja’Neareya, who had health issues a few months after she was born in 2023.

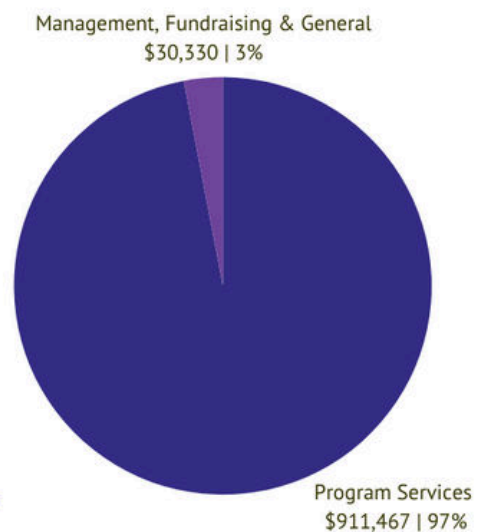


## CareNet's Return On Investment 2023

2023 Revenue = \$992,105



2023 Expenses = \$941,797



*Audited Financial Statements as of December 31, 2023 by Mira + Kolena*



# **CareNet Provided More Than \$1.95 Million In Services Overall Highlights for 2023**

Toledo/Lucas County CareNet built on its successful foundation while continuing to meet community needs. Since 2003, CareNet's charity care network has helped more than 29,000 low-income, uninsured Lucas County residents get medical care for free or at a reduced cost. CareNet's community health workers (CHWs) have connected more than 1,200 low-income residents to needed medical and social services. And CareNet's navigators have assisted thousands of residents throughout northwest Ohio with assessing and applying for health coverage through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace and Ohio Medicaid.

The following are key highlights by area for 2023.

## **Community Health Workers**

**197 Clients ♥ 683 Home Visits ♥ 764 Connections**



CareNet's community health workers (CHWs) provided care coordination to pregnant women, women of childbearing age, adults with chronic diseases, and other vulnerable clients. CHWs worked one-on-one with clients to assess their greatest needs and connect them to medical and social services, including a medical home, medical coverage, housing, transportation, food, and other necessities.

In 2023, CareNet CHWs took part in a UnitedHealthcare pilot project to assist Medicare recipients. Needs among senior clients included financial assistance with utilities, access to healthy food, and understanding prescription medications.

CareNet CHWs also worked onsite at both the Wayman D. Palmer YMCA and the Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (JFS). CHW Michele Webb, pictured at left, staffed an office at the YMCA to provide care coordination to members and local residents. At JFS, CareNet CHWs assisted more than 380 people from March through December with a variety of one-time needs, such as applying for heat assistance.



## Navigators

**150 QHP Enrollments ♥ 542 Medicaid Applications**

CareNet's certified and licensed navigators provided residents of 21 northwest Ohio counties with assistance assessing and applying for medical coverage through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace and Ohio Medicaid.

In 2023, CareNet navigators were especially busy assisting northwest Ohioans due to the unwinding of continuous Medicaid coverage that had been in effect during the pandemic. Navigators attended hundreds of enrollment events and provided one-on-one assistance to thousands of northwest Ohioans for free.

As with other areas, CareNet works to ensure navigation services meet community needs. Navigator Henry Garcia, pictured at right at Tent City, was one of two bilingual navigators assisting area residents. While Henry speaks Spanish, fellow navigator Abdallah Aldaher speaks Arabic.



## Charity Care Network

**468 Active Members ♥ \$1.7 Million in Services**

The virtual charity care network was at the root of CareNet's community-wide collaboration. CareNet members received care for free or at a reduced cost from participating healthcare systems and physicians. To qualify, members must have income below 200% of the federal poverty level and be ineligible for any healthcare coverage, such as Medicaid or employer-sponsored plans.

2023 Service Provided	Number	Total Value
Primary Care Visits	1,706	\$692,636
Specialty Care Visits	114	\$94,620
Medical Tests	1,128	\$882,300

Source: Charitable Healthcare Network

# CareNet Donors

January 1 through December 31, 2023



## **Founders Circle**

**\$70,000+**

Mercy Health

## **CareNet Circle**

**\$20,000+**

Lucas County Commissioners

**\$15,000+**

University of Toledo Foundation

**\$10,000+**

McLaren St. Luke's

## **Caring Society**

**\$5,000+**

Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Barbara Berebitsky

City of Toledo

Dr. & Mrs. Richard & Dorothy Munk

Signature Bank, N.A.

TKBW Private Foundation

## **Safety Net Society**

**\$2,500+**

Drs. Jay & Valentina Jindal

## **Supporters**

**\$2,000+**

Dr. Arthur & Mrs. Mary Mancini

Mrs. Dorothy Kay Murray

Mr. David Reed

**\$1,500+**

The Anderson Foundation

Mrs. Susan Hartman Muska

**\$1,000+**

Mr. & Mrs. Dave & Cindy Bishop

Dr. Mark Bruss

Drs. Frank & Carol Kollartis

Dr. Dan Rapport & Ms. Judy Leb

Dr. Jason Ofori & Comfort Ofori-Akyeah

Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Susan Savage

- The Savage Family Foundation

Mr. C. Michael Smith

Dr. R. Jeffery & Mrs. Diana Stephens

**\$750+**

Ms. Nancy Feltz

**\$500+**

United Way of Southeast Michigan

Dr. & Mrs. R. Daniel & Joan Rigal

Ms. Bridget Estvanik

Dr. Timothy Sigman & Ms. Chinda Misra

Mr. & Mrs. Pete & Jan Ruma

Ms. Barbara Fry and the Fry Family

Mr. & Mrs. William & Sara DeHoff

Mr. & Mrs. David & Carol Haddix

Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Karen Fischer

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen & Mary Malia

Dr. & Mrs. Suresh & Marna Ramnath

Drs. Daniel Dessner & Jonna McRury

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey & Kerry Burmeister

**\$250+**

Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Joyce Guinness

Ms. Julie Grasson

Mrs. Judith Grasson

Ms. Glori Puskarich

Dr. & Mrs. Yogesh & Smita Patel

Dr. & Mrs. Nasir Ali

Mrs. Pat Appold

Mr. & Mrs. John & Elaine Bachey

Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Stephanie Cihon

Ms. Lindy Cree

Mr. Kevin Gilmore & Mrs. Linda

Hilstrom-Gilmore

Drs. William & Barbara Gunning

Dr. & Mrs. Robert & Joan Kose

Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Jane Manahan

Ms. Julie McKinnon

Thomas M. Wernert Center

Kaptur Community Fund

**\$200+**

Kroger Community Rewards

Ms. Jennifer Discher

Dr. Michael & Joyce Guinness

Ms. Rita Mansour

Ms. Erin Peterson

Mr. Jack Rodgers

**\$100+**

Jūpmode's Here for Good Program

Ms. Marchelle Lee

Ms. Rebecca Fuhrman & Mr. Donald Leary

Dr. & Mrs. Mukesh & Asha Pitroda

Mrs. Valerie Wiley

Mr. Clare Conrad

Mr. & Mrs. William & Jean Buckley

Ms. Kathy Crawford

Mr. Shane Douglas

Mrs. DeShawn Jackson

Ms. Pamela Jensen

Mr. J. Robert Jesionowski

Mr. & Mrs. Leo & Sharon Knox

Dr. & Mrs. Donald & Sue Marshall

Mrs. Judy McCracken

Mr. & Mrs. Doug & Ann Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick & Sharon Moor

Ms. Susan Morgan

Mr. & Mrs. Ed & Linda Reiter

Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Robin Smigelski

Mr. & Mrs. Joe & Kim Sofo

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Strauss

Sr. Dorothy Thum

Mrs. Margy Trumbull

Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Barb Wilkowski

**\$50+**

Mr. & Mrs. George & Barb Sarantou

Ms. Leslie Miller

Mrs. Richard Cohen

Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Kathleen Faist

Ms. Linda Fields

Mrs. Dee Geer

Ms. Sheryl Grasson

Drs. Razi & Shahida Rafeeq

**Up to \$50**

Amazon Smile

Mr. Taylor McConkey

Ms. Shelah Bechtel

Mr. Ken Leslie

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory & Michelle Burkhart

Ms. Linda Dewey

Mr. & Mrs. Dave & Julie Oppenlander

Ms. Suzanne Smitley

Ms. Holly Pappada



## CareNet's Key Partners

Charitable Healthcare Network  
National Association of Free Clinics  
Northwest Ohio Pathways HUB  
Ohio Association of Foodbanks  
United Way of Greater Toledo

## Special Tributes In 2023

In Honor of **Dr. Stephen Bazeley** - Dr. & Mrs. Daniel & Joan Rigal

In Memory of **W. Scott Fry** - Ms. Julie McKinnon

In Memory of **Deacon Tom Grasson** - Ms. Judith Grasson  
- Mr. & Mrs. Doug & Ann Miller

In Memory of **Edward Hoffman** - Mrs. Pat Appold

## Here for Good Participation

CareNet was selected to participate in Jūpmode's Here for Good Program, a zero-cost opportunity for nonprofits and other organizations to sell branded apparel and earn extra revenue. The following people purchased CareNet t-shirts and/or sweatshirts featuring its 20th anniversary logo:

Melinda Cree  
Jennifer Discher  
Julie Grasson  
Barbara Gunning  
Tina Hacker  
DeShawn Jackson  
Marchelle Lee  
Julie McKinnon  
Susan Murphy  
Glori Puskarich  
Carly Salamone



## CareNet Board

Stephanie Cihon, Chair - ProMedica  
Jennifer Discher, Vice Chair - Mercy Health  
Kerry Burmeister, Treasurer - McLaren St. Luke's  
Melinda Cree, Secretary - Dental Center of Northwest Ohio  
Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz - City of Toledo  
Jessica Ford - Lucas County  
Doni Miller - Neighborhood Health Association  
Angela Ackerman - University of Toledo Medical Center  
Tatiana White - University of Toledo CommunityCare Clinics  
Lisa McDuffie - YWCA of Northwest Ohio  
Fatima Al-Hayani, PhD - Retired Professor, Middle East and Islamic Studies  
Dr. Anne Ruch - Compassion Health Toledo

## CareNet Leadership Group

Mike & Barb Berebitsky, Co-Chairs

Dr. Stephen & Cathy Bazeley	Erin Peterson
Jamie & Ellen Black *	Larry Peterson *
Stephanie Cihon	Mike & Chrissy Rode *
Jennifer Discher	Dr. Greg & Janine Rosenthal
John & Jeanie Hayward *	Jan Ruma
Drs. Jay & Tina Jindal	Pete & Carly Salamone
Dr. Bob & Joan Kose	Bob & Sue Savage *
Dr. Arthur & Mary Mancini *	C. Michael Smith
Robert & Kathie Maxwell	Karl Strauss
Kay Murray	Sr. Dorothy Thum
Tim & Barb Petee *	<i>*Emeritus Members</i>

## CareNet Staff

Julie A. Grasson, MEd - Executive Director  
Andrea Vasquez - Lead Navigator  
Glori Puskarich - Lead Community Health Worker  
Maria Hunter - Community Health Worker and Navigator  
Cheryl Miller - Navigator  
Henry Garcia - Navigator  
Abdallah Aldaheer - Navigator  
Jodi Young - Navigator  
Katarina Wilcox - Navigator  
Michele Webb - Community Health Worker  
Ariel Gromer - Navigator  
Shannon Anderson - Administrative Assistant and Navigator

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LinkedIn: [bit.ly/CareNetLI](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CareNetLI)