



Twenty Nineteen marked a year of progress toward the Raymond John Wean Foundation's vision of empowered residents creating a healthy, equitable and economically stable Mahoning Valley.

The year commenced with the implementation of its Strategic Direction: 2019 – 2023; a staff-led project guided by the principles of race equity and inclusion and the engagement of residents.

Committed to race equity and inclusion, the Foundation sponsored training throughout 2019. Moving away from a focus on personal bigotry and bias, the workshops presented a historical, cultural and structural analysis of racism. Since 2017, nearly 500 Valley influencers, representing 131 organizations, have participated. Visit [www.rjweanfdn.org](http://www.rjweanfdn.org) for 2020 Training opportunities.

The Foundation's grassroots grantmaking program, Neighborhood SUCCESS, culminated its 10th Anniversary Celebration with the release of *SUCCESS: A Decade of Transformation*, a book chronicling the impact of 241 Warren and Youngstown organizations and the 468 resident-led projects funded through the program.

Seeking a coordinated and thoughtful approach to community-building, the Foundation collaborated with community stakeholders and civic groups including the Communities of Excellence and The Fund for Our Economic Future.

Community stakeholders across the Valley were invited to share the most pressing challenges and opportunities they experience in their neighborhoods through a community survey. Their insight will inform the Foundation's grantmaking, capacity building, convening and partnerships. Visit [www.rjweanfdn.org](http://www.rjweanfdn.org) for the full report.

Honoring the Foundation's long tradition of supporting initiatives that strengthen community, the Raymond John Wean Foundation Park opened in Youngstown late summer 2019. Intentions for the 20-acre riverfront property include opportunities for engaging residents and promoting diverse participation.

Activities and achievements throughout 2019 both reflected and celebrated the Foundation's values and its commitment toward a vibrant Mahoning Valley.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

### THE MAHONING VALLEY'S FUTURE

- A lovely place to live
- More diverse
- More progressive
- Safer, smarter and more prosperous



### ISSUES TO ADDRESS

- Blight
- Crime
- Literacy
- Poverty
- Failing Education
- Food Insecurity
- Housing

OF THE FOUNDATION'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES - MOST IMPORTANT...



### COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION - 28%

100% of those who selected this priority consider "Strategies that rehabilitate blighted, vacant residential properties" to be most important.

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY - 38%

94.8% of those who selected this priority consider "Access to qualify jobs, job training and job placement" to be most important.



### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY - 23%

94.3% of those who selected this priority consider "Access to quality programs serving grades 6-12", "Attainment of skills to succeed in postsecondary job training/apprenticeships", and "Connections among providers serving students and families" to be equally important.

### PUBLIC CIVIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP - 11%

88.2% of those who selected this priority consider "Achievement of excellence in operations, governance, strategy and leadership" to be most important.



"The Foundation is already the best in their commitment to REI. Conversations in schools and honest teaching of subjects dealing with these critical issues is definitely a plus."

77.3% of 150 respondents report a positive perception of the Foundation's commitment to Race Equity and Inclusion



"The Foundation should seek the voice of those they seek to better serve. Maybe more roundtable discussions and open dialogue to better understand the racial divide that exists in the Valley."

### RACE EQUITY AND INCLUSION