

# Foundation expands SocksPLUS into Lorain County

## Area leaders help people experiencing homelessness

*Staff report*

Community West Foundation, based in Westlake, announced it has expanded its SocksPLUS initiative into Lorain County through partnerships with area leaders helping people experiencing homelessness, according to a news release.

Community West started SocksPLUS in 2014 after learning that socks were, and still are, the number one requested item by homeless people, the release said.

Every year, Community

West collects new socks and other essential items to be given directly to those in need.

Items collected for SocksPLUS can now be taken to Good Neighbor Thrift Shop, a ministry of Avon Lake United Church of Christ, located at 158 Lear Road in Avon Lake.

The donations will be picked up by nonprofit community service agency, Neighborhood Alliance, for sorting and distribution to those who are struggling through the Lorain County Taskforce for the Homeless,

according to the release.

"We are thrilled about the program expansion into Lorain County because it means more support for those who are suffering," said Marty Uhle, president and CEO of Community West Foundation.

"Individuals and families experiencing homelessness desperately need basic supplies," said Alicia Foss, president and CEO of Neighborhood Alliance. "The SocksPLUS program will help us to distribute essential items to those who need it most in Lorain County, and we

are honored to play a role in ensuring donations reach as many people as possible."

SocksPLUS items needed for people who are homeless include new socks, new underwear, toiletries, winter gloves and hats, backpacks, sleeping bags, and tents, which must be folded tightly to be accepted, the release said.

Monetary donations are always welcome and can be made online at [www.SocksPlus.org](http://www.SocksPlus.org) or mailed to the Community West Foundation office located at 800 Sharon Drive, Westlake,

OH 44145.

A gift of just \$10 will help purchase 10 pairs of socks, the release said.

A larger donation provides socks PLUS gloves, hats, boots and other necessities that are so desperately needed, the release said.

When you support SocksPLUS, 100% of your donation is used to provide caring assistance to struggling neighbors, according to the release.

The program has seen exponential growth since its inception in 2014 providing over \$1 million in fund-

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ing and in-kind donations to the homeless in the community, the release said.