



City of Barberton
William B. Judge
Mayor



BARBERTON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Jim Stonkus
President & CEO

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Barberton and the Barberton Community Foundation Continue Project Impact Initiative with Recent Grant Award

The City of Barberton has received a \$25,000 grant from the Barberton Community Foundation (BCF) to continue its Project Impact community image and neighborhood stabilization program. Project Impact involves the demolition of condemned/vacant/blighted structures, with an emphasis on areas that will improve residents' quality of life and enhance the community's overall perception from both within and without the city.

Since 2012, with funding assistance from the BCF, over 210 structures have been removed through Project Impact. These newly created vacant lots are either redeveloped with new owner-occupied homes, sold to responsible abutting property owners for additional yard/green space, or, if commercially

zoned, positioned for potential economic development. Recent Project Impact successes include the removal of two abandoned gas stations, the demolition of an abandoned motel, and city led razing projects that have resulted in numerous housing starts.

“Vacant/abandoned/blighted structures not only create a safety hazard for our residents, they also steal value from responsible home owners and drain city resources,” stated Barberton Mayor William B. Judge. “With the assistance of the BCF, Project Impact continues to stabilize neighborhoods and enhance the community’s image.” He further added, “I remain committed to improving the wellbeing of Barberton residents and am appreciative of the BCF’s continued support.”

Since 2001, BCF has awarded \$775,000 to the program. “Project Impact aligns well with the BCF’s mission of improving the quality of life for Barberton residents,” added BCF President and CEO, Jim Stonkus. “We realize that good housing is an important factor in strong communities and the BCF Board of Directors are pleased to play a role in its ongoing success.”



From Left to Right:
Mayor William B. Judge
Deborah Rolland, BCF Vice President of Community Impact
Jim Stonkus, BCF President & CEO

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