Our Beginnings

Beth K. Stocker was born in Faribault, Minnesota on March 15, 1908. She died on August 23, 2005 at her home, Kendal at Oberlin, Ohio. She graduated at age 20 from Ohio University with a BS degree in Biology. From 1928-1935, she was employed as a research bacteriologist by the New York City Board of Health Research Laboratories, working on the development of vaccines. She married C. Paul Stocker in 1930 and they moved to Lorain in 1935. Mr. Stocker retired in 1973. They spent the next several years traveling. Mr. Stocker’s health began to decline, and he died on August 23, 1978.

With the help of her three daughters, Mrs. Stocker established The Stocker Foundation in 1979. Mrs. Stocker was instrumental in shaping the Foundation’s grantmaking by serving as President of the Board for the first 24 years. While The Stocker Foundation is first a mission-driven organization, it is also a way to keep five generations of family in contact and close to one another.

Her personal philanthropy was quiet but significant, reflecting strong personal and family values. Over the years she was recognized for her volunteerism and leadership. In 2003, Ohio University presented her with an honorary doctorate of humane letters degree. Then, in 2005, Lorain County Community College honored her by naming the Stocker Center’s fine art space the Beth K. Stocker Art Gallery.

Our Work in Action

930+
NONPROFIT PARTNERS

6,136
GRANTS AWARDED
AND COUNTING

TOTALING MORE THAN
$60 M

OUR MISSION

Improving the quality of life for children, youth and families; strengthening communities where trustees reside.

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The Stocker Foundation invests in literacy and STEAM-focused programming, from educating students to read and write to teaching students to think critically and creatively with a design and entrepreneurial mindset.

**Grantmaking Goals & Priorities:**
The Stocker Foundation adopted a broader 21st century definition of literacy to help students keep pace in today’s rapidly changing world.

The Stocker Foundation remains committed to closing the education equity gap and making good educational practices great by supporting kindergarten readiness and ensuring students can read at or above grade-level by third grade. However, we can achieve more by combining these priorities to include STEAM-focused grantmaking. Remember, literacy is a part of every content area, always!

What is STEAM? STEAM is an educational approach that creates access points for guided student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking through the infusion of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

The Stocker Foundation will partner with new and existing 501(c)(3) charitable organizations that can effectively and realistically address the following areas of interest:

- Development of foundational reading and writing skills.
- Implementation of cross-disciplinary and project-based learning through STEAM.
- Safety-net services that ensure students are healthy, engaged, supported, and challenged, removing barriers to learning and academic achievement.

A small percentage of available funding per community will be considered.

**Our Geographical Focus:**
Eligible communities include Lorain and Cuyahoga counties, Ohio; Pima County, Arizona; Alameda and San Francisco counties, California; Dona Ana County, New Mexico; King County, Washington; and Hartford County, Connecticut.