

**Unique Club of Stark County
1241 Shawn Circle
Louisville, OH 44641**

February 1, 2019

Guidance Counselor
East Canton High School
310 Browning St
East Canton, OH 44730

Dear Guidance Counselor:

The Unique Club of Stark County is awarding a minimum of \$10,000 in college scholarships for the 2019-2020 scholastic year. Applicants will be judged based on scholastic ability and involvement along with character. To qualify, an applicant must be of Italian descent, a resident of Stark County and a graduate of a Stark County High School. Transcripts of high school credits must be presented with the written application for scholarship. Scholarships are available to any male or female meeting the requirements.

Application forms may be requested from me at the above address. Applications must be completed and returned no later than **May 31, 2019**.

To assist in advising potential scholarship recipients, we request that you submit the enclosed press release describing the program to your school newspaper or appropriate organization as well as posting it on your scholarship bulletin board. East Canton High School students have received our awards in the past. It is hoped that we attract qualified applicants again this year.

Sincerely,

THE UNIQUE CLUB OF STARK COUNTY
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



Ben Stoffer
Chairman

Enclosure

PRESS RELEASE DATE: February 1, 2019

UNIQUE CLUB OF STARK COUNTY OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Unique Club of Stark County will award a **minimum** of \$10,000 in college scholarships for the 2019 - 2020 scholastic year.

The scholarships are awarded based on scholastic ability and involvement along with character. The scholarship will be awarded to applicants of Italian descent residing in Stark County who graduated from a Stark County High School. The Club has awarded over 300 scholarships valued in excess of \$400,000 since the organization was formed in 1958.

Qualified applicants may **request applications** until May 31, 2019 by writing to: **The Unique Club of Stark County, 1241 Shawn Circle, Louisville, Ohio 44641.**

Official high school transcripts must be presented with any written application. Scholarships are available to any male or female who meets the requirements.

— END of RELEASE —



Unique Club of Stark County ***for professional men of Italian descent***

Incorporated August 6, 1957

The Unique Club was formed in 1929 as an informal club comprised of men of Italian decent. They would meet at each other's houses to enjoy their company and of course good pasta. The men who spearheaded the founding of the Unique Club in 1929 were:

- Leroy Contie, Sr. • Ben Marconi
- Angelo Curci • John Rossetti • Unberton D'Atri • Adam Rossi, Sr.

The Club formally incorporated in 1957 as a social club and to help Club members in support of their small businesses. The Club awarded its first scholarship in 1961 but it wasn't until the 1970's when it formed the Unique Club Scholarship Foundation. This 501(c) 3 organization awards scholarships to college bound students of Italian descent. The Club tries to issue ten \$1,000 scholarships every year, but has issued as many as thirteen in prior years. The Club has issued scholarships totaling over \$400,000 since its inception. A scholarship dinner is held at LaPizzaria in August each year where the students and their family are invited to attend the scholarship awards ceremony. The foundation was chaired by Joe Vitale for several years; then in 2015 Ben Stoffer, president of the Club, accepted the position. Upon the death of a member or spouse, the Unique Club sends funds to Walsh College library to purchase text books for students who don't have money to buy them.

Club members meet the first Tuesday of every month for a dinner meeting at local restaurants of Club members rotating between Papa Bears in Belden Village area, Tozzi's on 12th Street, LaPizzaria and Skyland Pines. The past couple of years, the Club has sponsored bus trips to West Virginia, Pittsburgh and Cleveland to participate in Italian American festivals and visit casinos and ball games. The Club also has a reverse raffle, Gervasi Night and a Christmas Dance. This year the Club also plans to have a social night out with a bocce tournament at a local establishment plus a bonfire with family members at a member's house. Plans are being made to have a booth at the Canton Italian Festival this year to give needed exposure to the Club and scholarship program.

The Club limits membership to 125 general members. After 25 years of being active in the Club, a general member may apply for honorary status if he is 70 years of age and retired. There is no limit to the number of honorary members in the Club. The Unique Club currently has over 100 active members and 25 honorary members. The Club is having a membership drive at this time. Anyone of Italian descent or married to a spouse of Italian descent can find an application form at www.uniqueclubofstarkcountyohio.com or through a Club member. Scholarship applications can be acquired through local high schools. Any questions can be referred to Club president, Ben Stoffer at 330-417-2650.