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Sue and Steve Dyke



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A Sacred Place for All People

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# WELCOME

Dear Friends of AMIS,

Four years ago, a Cleveland Heights group called “Ansly’s Army” rallied in support of a Haitian asylum seeker who was being wrongfully incarcerated in a Northeast Ohio prison.

More than helping just one person, that first collective effort taught us something — when brave, innocent people are harmed by our country’s unjust systems, many Americans are eager for the chance to make it right.

For Ansly, our first fundraiser in 2018 meant he could send money home for his kids’ education and pay for his legal fees. For AMIS, it was the start of a volunteer-led movement that would go on to raise over \$275,000 — paying for rental assistance, utilities, legal fees, medical and dental costs, mental health services, transportation and much more for immigrants from 27 countries.

More importantly, we have become a caring community and network of support, welcoming newcomers and helping them re-build their lives in Greater Cleveland.

AMIS’ mission is a simple one, and the impact of your donations is often immediately felt by those we serve. We raise money so we can give it away, no strings attached, to meet the basic needs of people seeking legal status in the United States. There is no red tape between your generosity and recipients of our support.

In fact, some of those original funds are still being held on Ansly’s behalf for

his ongoing legal fees, and we are still hopeful that his wife and children can join him in America one day.

In many ways, AMIS is Ansly’s legacy. His willingness to speak up against political corruption started a movement that has brought us together and enriched the lives of hundreds of people from around the world.

So thank you, Ansly. Thank you to all of the families we serve, for inspiring us through the bravery and hope that brought you to America. We are grateful to be a companion on your journeys, and we are blessed to know you.

And thank you, again, to our deeply generous donors and our dedicated board of directors for making this work possible. As a Jewish carpenter from Bethlehem once said, “We are more blessed to give than to receive.”

In faith and gratitude,



**Pamela Tuross, Board President**  
**Americans Making Immigrants Safe**



(2016) Alivera Nyiramacibiri and family, survivors of the Rwandan genocide, pictured with my family. While they are not direct recipients of AMIS support, they are my inspiration for being a part of this work. - Pam

# AGENDA



## **WELCOME**

Pam Turos, President

## **AMIS ANNUAL REVIEW**

Jeff Smith, Treasurer

## **VOICES OF OUR RECIPIENTS**

**Rahim Bance** Burkina Faso

**Claudia and Maikol Aponte-Gonzalez**  
Peru and Venezuela

**Abdoulaye Deh** Mauritania

**Carolina Coloma** Peru

## **FUND-A-NEED**

Rev. Jessica MacMillan  
Church of the Covenant

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Pam Turos

## **AMIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Pam Turos, President

Anne Hill, Vice President

Jeffrey Smith, Treasurer

Barb Clint, Secretary

Lois Annich

Gary Benjamin

Jennifer Castellano

Sue Dean-Dyke

Bobbi Reichtell

Samantha Ryder



# ABOUT AMIS

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## **Mission statement**

To inspire hope and contribute to the well-being of immigrants and their families as they seek legal status in the U.S. by providing financial resources for legal services, education, basic living expenses and self-sufficiency.

## **Vision statement**

We seek a world where immigrants seeking legal status in the U.S. function with dignity in their daily lives. Hope and opportunity replace fear of oppression as a pervading feature of their lives. Finances are not a barrier to attaining their legal rights, living in housing safely and securely and developing a path toward economic self-sufficiency. Their children receive the education needed to be productive citizens.



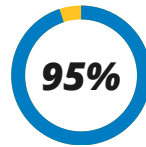
# AMIS Giving Summary

Jan 2019 - July 2023

4

## We are still growing

AMIS is only 4 years old! The first check was issued on August 5, 2019.



## Very Little Overhead

Year over year, the percentage of funds raised is directly given to individuals in need.

27

## Where Recipients Come From

Recipients from 27 different countries of origin received support

88

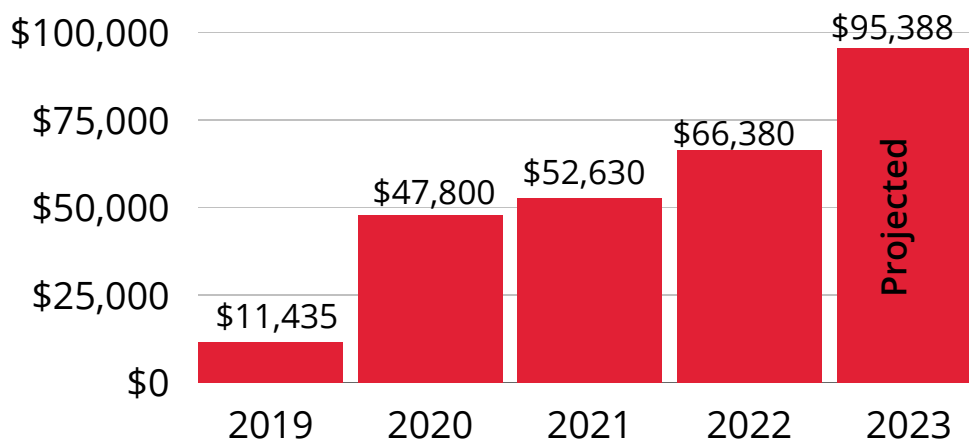
## Giving Impact

At least this many families directly benefited from AMIS support

### What makes AMIS unique?

We are one of the few organizations that are able to give funds directly to an individual -- no hoops, no reporting requirements, just help when you need it most.

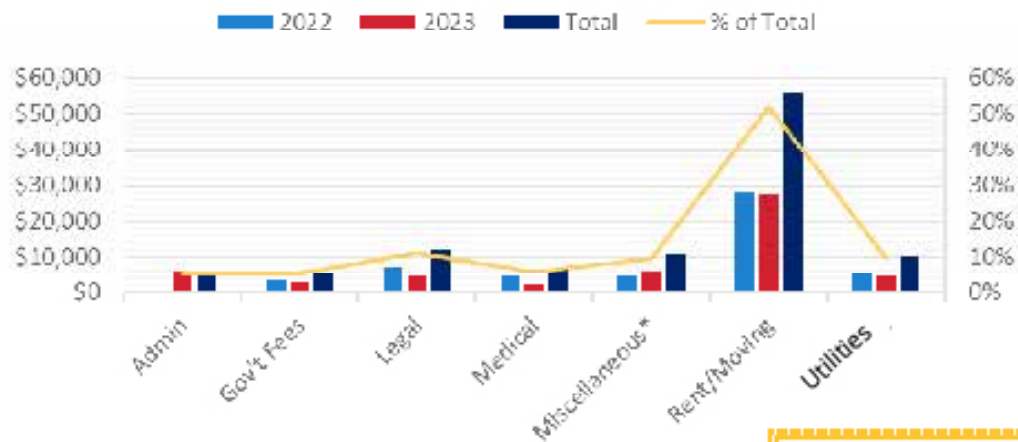
## Total amount gifted per calendar year



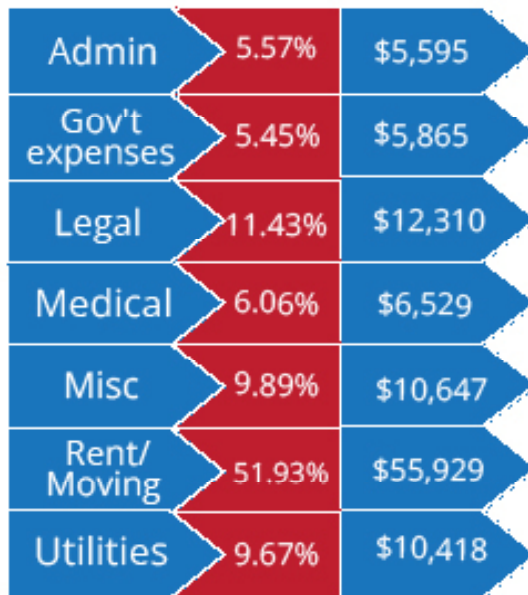
# AMIS Giving Summary

## Jan 2022 - July 2023

### AMIS Expenditures 1/1/2022-7/31/2023



### Distribution of funds by category



Housing is a consistent leading expense. This spring we had a special fundraiser allowing us to support more families.

Sometimes, it's the little things, like not having to worry about paying for a bus pass while you start a new job, that makes all the difference.

Legal representation is always expensive, but especially when you are going through a multi-year process to gain legal status.

# THE RIVERA ROJAS FAMILY

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Meet the Rivera Rojas Family! Parents, Jackeline (mom) and Tulio (dad), came to Cleveland from Lima, Peru in February of this year. Tulio had a successful home remodeling business in Lima, but they fled their home country because of extortion and death threats by quasi-government gangs. Because of Tulio's membership in the opposition party APRA (American Popular Revolutionary Alliance) and involvement in protests against the gang violence, the police and government would not protect him and his family.

Upon arrival, the family was connected immediately to AMIS via Sagrada Familia Church and Nehemiah Mission. Their family is comprised of son Tony (28 years old), daughter Fernanda (16 years old), daughter Simei (25 years old) and niece Jamayra (age 28). They have a son (age 27) who is still living in Peru. The family hopes that one day he will be able to join them in Cleveland as well.

With support from AMIS and volunteers from Northeast Ohio Friends of Immigrants, the Rivera Rojas have been living in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, receiving food pantry deliveries, monthly bus passes and financial support, and are working hard toward establishing themselves so they can hopefully one day gain permanent status. They have applied for asylum. Daughter Fernanda has been attending Garret Morgan High School. Tony, who has Down Syndrome, is working on learning English in local ESL classes and is attending adult events at GiGi's Playhouse, a local center for individuals and families impacted by Down Syndrome. Tulio is working a construction job and Jackline is working in a local bakery. After living in transitional housing at Nehemiah Mission and St. Colman's rectory, they recently were able to rent half of a double house. They are becoming self-sufficient as they go through the long asylum process.



# RAHIM BANCE & HABIBOU DJEBRE

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Meet Rahim and Habibou! Habibou Djebre and Rahim Bance, both in their mid-20s, escaped violence in their home country of Burkina Faso. AMIS has been working with them since 2021, when Habibou was expecting their third child. The couple's two older children are still in Burkina Faso with her mother.

Rahim went to a Madrassa/Moslem school for ten years to learn the Koran, so he reads Arabic. Over the past two years, he has made enormous strides in learning literacy using an alphabetic system. Habibou, who did not have any formal education in her home country, is eagerly learning to read, write, and speak English.

After two years in the U.S., in June both obtained work permits and Social Security numbers, thanks to their lawyer, Lara Nochomovitz. Hopefully, they will soon have their asylum status accepted so they can begin their next step toward Green Cards. Rahim is working the night shift on a factory assembly line, while looking for a job that builds useful skills and future prosperity. Habibou is studying English with three different tutors while mothering their daughter Aishatou, who was born in November 2021 in the U.S. They are looking for a childcare facility close to their apartment in the Cedar/Fairmount area so Habibou can begin working outside their home. They will be self-sufficient once she has a job and they have affordable childcare for Aishatou.

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## JOSE GARCIA & CAROLINA COLOMA

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Meet the Coloma family! Carolina and Jose Coloma came to Cleveland from Peru with their two children, Stephano (11 years old) and Kate (7 years old) after Jose and his family received serious death threats from drug cartels. They received the threats because Jose was a customs officer at the port in Lima and would not “look the other way” to allow drug shipments through the port.

They arrived in Cleveland in December 2022 and have been living at the Nehemiah Mission. Since then, they have received financial support, food pantry deliveries from Forest Hill Church twice a month via NEOFI volunteers, monthly bus passes for Carolina and Jose to get to their part-time jobs, and legal representation from attorney Brian Hoffman, whose work is financially supported by AMIS. The children attend CMSD Newcomer Academy.

The family’s first “Master hearing” for their asylum case in Immigration court was in July. Both Jose and Carolina recently received their work permits. AMIS contacted Refugee Response to ask for help securing jobs for them. Carolina is fluent in English, so Refugee Response recently hired her as a full-time Navigator to work with Spanish-speaking refugees. After a few months of working, they look forward to being self-sufficient, able to rent their own apartment, and make room for a new asylum-seeking family at Nehemiah Mission.

# OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS



## **HOME SPONSOR (\$10,000)**

Sue and Steve Dyke



## **HARBOR SPONSOR (\$5,000)**

Judy and Bob Charlick  
Church of the Covenant  
Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian

## **OASIS SPONSOR (\$2,500)**

Anne Hill  
Anonymous  
Anne and Jeff Smith

## **HAVEN SPONSOR (\$1,000)**

Lois Annich and Rich Israel  
Gary Benjamin and Melody Hart  
Rita and Peter Carfagna  
Maureen and Chris DeVito  
Federated Church UCC  
Anonymous  
Julie and Gary Lustic  
Bobbi Reichtell and Mark McDermott  
Steve Sedam and Virginia Weiss  
Sharon Shumaker and Mark Chupp  
Deborah Smith  
William Smith, Sr.  
Tony Wesley and Al Cowger



# OUR GENEROUS DONORS

JAN. 1, 2022 - SEPT. 7, 2023

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Sue Wolpert  
Sr. Erin Zubal



*The Church of the Covenant is a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation in the vibrant cultural center of University Circle in Cleveland, Ohio. We are a multi-cultural, multi-racial, and intergenerational community seeking to know Jesus and make him known through meaningful worship, inspiring music, compassionate outreach, and in-depth theological study that leads us to engage our community and our world that God so loves.*

**Harbor Sponsor**

*We are so very thankful to be a part of NEOFOI and AMIS in the Cleveland area because they are local outlets for our commitment, distress, and determination to make a difference in the lives of people from many countries who are desperately, courageously seeking to stay alive and make a safe and happy life for themselves and their children. Together, we are expressing the principle that "Neighbor is not a geographical term. It is a moral concept." (Rabbi Joachim Prinz)*

*When we think about all the ways that AMIS and NEOFOI allow us to make a difference in the lives of the people we assist, we expand our heart connections to these people's families back in their countries of origin. What a deep relief and how much hope our actions are giving to the parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and the rest of the families and friends of the asylum-seekers and refugees whom we are assisting here. And when we feel overwhelmed by news of more people in more places in distress, we remind ourselves to "Know no boundary to what you contribute." We invite you to do the same.*

**Judy and Bob Charlick  
Harbor Sponsor**



Discover Forest Hill Church  
where you are invited to...

**ENJOY** dynamic music, energizing services, serving others

**MEET** caring, involved, diverse people

**BUILD** a child's inclusive beliefs, your personal faith

**EXPERIENCE** meaningful worship, social justice activities

**FIND** life's purpose, your next church home

**Harbor Sponsor**

*"Congratulations to  
all the AMIS  
recipients for the  
progress made in  
joining the Cleveland  
Community."*

**Anne Hill  
Oasis Sponsor**

**HOME  
By Warsan Shire**

no one leaves home unless  
home is the mouth of a shark  
you only run for the border  
when you see the whole city running as well

your neighbors running faster than you

breath bloody in their throats  
the boy you went to school with  
who kissed you dizzy behind the old tin  
factory

is holding a gun bigger than his body  
you only leave home  
when home won't let you stay.

**Anne and Jeff Smith  
Oasis Sponsor**



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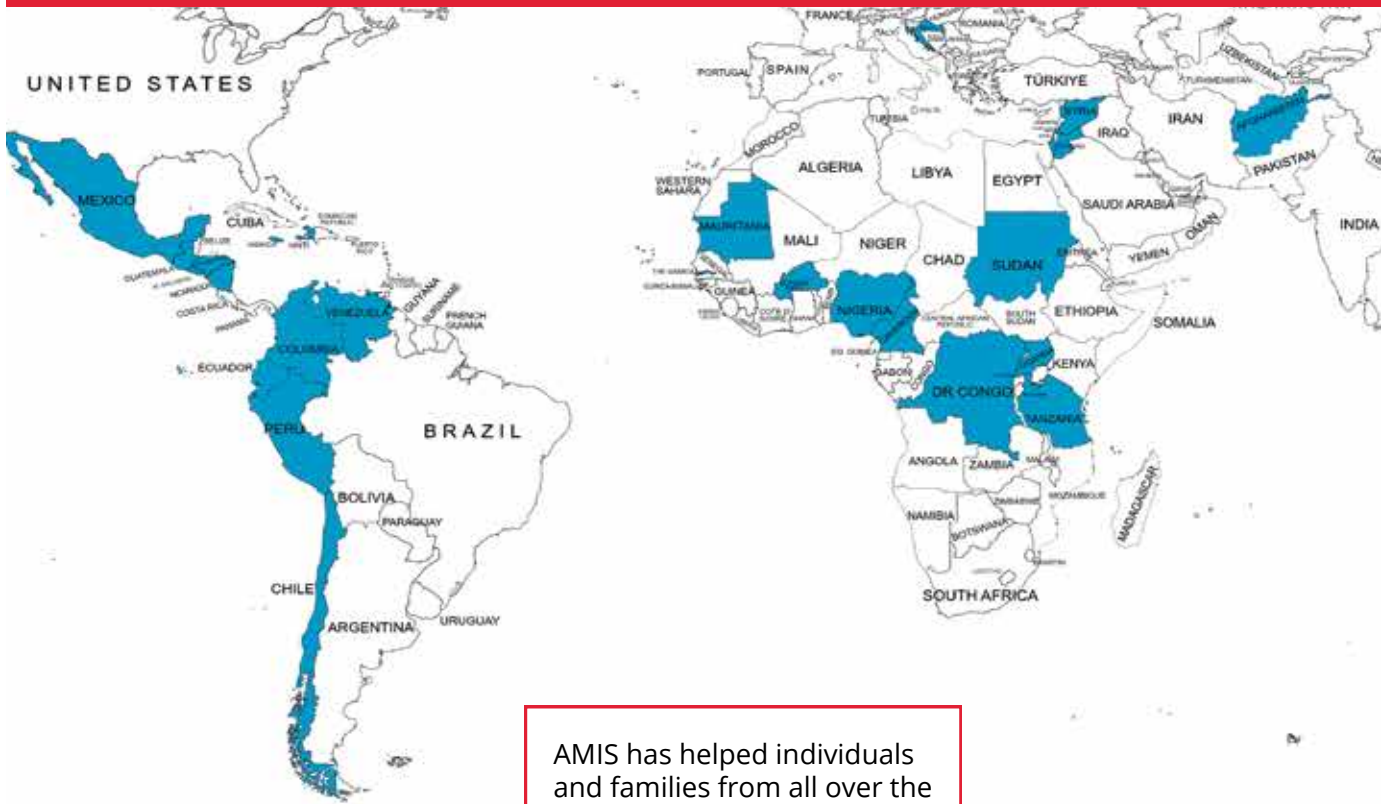
## INVALUABLE COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Athens United Immigrant Support Project       | Federated United Church of Christ                       | Ohio Immigrant Alliance   |
| Beaumont School for Girls                     | Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian                        | St. Colman Catholic Church                                      |
| Beth El – The Heights Synagogue               | Global Cleveland  | St. Paul’s Episcopal Church                                     |
| Cleveland Catholic Charities                  | Humble Design Cleveland                                 | The Ohio Center for Strategic Immigration Litigation & Outreach |
| Cleveland Jobs with Justice                   | Interreligious Task Force on Central America & Columbia | The Refugee Response  |
| Church of the Covenant                        | LGBTQ+ Center of Greater Cleveland                      | United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants             |
| Church of the Saviour                         | Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland                           | Ursuline Academy of Cleveland                                   |
| Cuyahoga Community College ESL Aspire Program | Northeast Ohio Friends of Immigrants                    | US Together   |
| Fairmount Presbyterian Church                 |   |   |

## THE AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

|                        |                       |                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Lois Annich            | Jane Gimbel           | Beverly Lund           |
| Joanne Ballis          | Kaela Geschke         | Margaret Misch         |
| Michael Ballis         | Melody Hart           | Mark McDermott         |
| Gary Benjamin          | Kim Hansen            | Louise Ellen Prochaska |
| Pat Boley              | Chris Henry           | Lorraine Ranchod       |
| Kathy Boyle            | Anne Hill             | Bobbi Reichtell        |
| Molly Brudnick         | Brian Hoffman         | Samantha Ryder         |
| Phil Buck              | Katie Holzheimer      | Angie Schmitt          |
| Christina Higgins Buck | Linda Dooley Johaneck | Catherine Schneider    |
| Jennifer Castellano    | Annie Kachurek        | Mary Sickbert          |
| Judy Charlick          | Bob Kachurek          | Anne Smith             |
| Barb Clint             | Patricia Kellner      | Debbie Smith           |
| Drew Compton           | Leah Kirkpatrick      | Jeff Smith             |
| Diana Cynganovich      | Janet Kolesar         | Nonie Stack            |
| Rachael DeGolia        | Emily Koritz          | Chris & Linda Warren   |
| Eric Dicken            | Joan Lederer          | Steve Wertheim         |
| Kathy Flora            | Cynthia Lehman        | Linda Whitman          |
| Laura Fratus           | Deanne Lentz          | Dale Winsberg          |
| Cynthia Freedman       | Tracey Lind           | Steven Wertheim        |

# Recipient's Home Country Map



AMIS has helped individuals and families from all over the world. Those countries are highlighted in blue.



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## AMIS RECIPIENTS – COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FLAGS

AFGHANISTAN



BULGARIA



BURKINA FASO



CAMEROON



CHILE



COLUMBIA



CROATIA



DRC (CONGO)



ECUADOR



EL SALVADOR



GAMBIA



GUATEMALA



HAITI



HONDURAS



ISRAEL





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JAMAICA



JORDAN



MAURITANIA



MEXICO



NICARAGUA



NIGERIA



PERU



SYRIA



SUDAN



TANZANIA



UGANDA



VENEZUELA



# In Memoriam



## **Margaret Murphy** **September 1, 1938 — June 21, 2023**

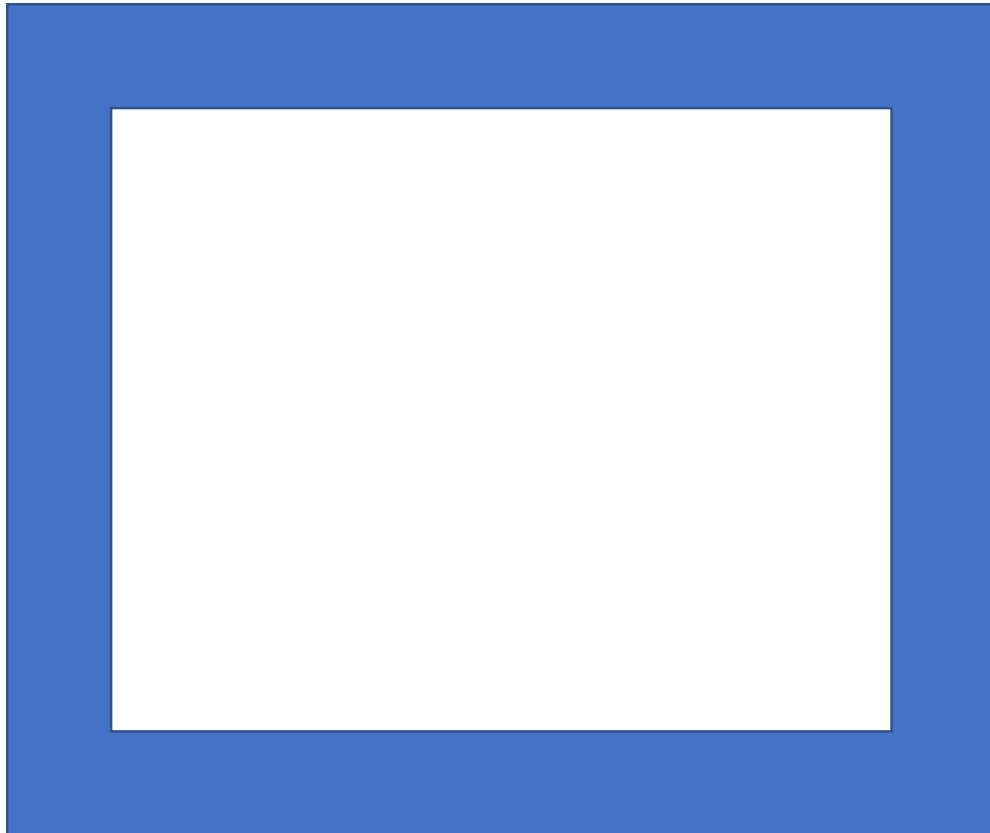
Margaret (Peggy) Louise Murphy, 84, died peacefully Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Born Sept. 1, 1938, in Youngstown, the daughter of Martin and Louise Michaels Dignan, Peggy grew up on the north side and attended Ursuline High School. She received her bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University and later earned her master's from Case Western Reserve University.

An ardent advocate of protecting and enjoying vibrant, livable cities, Peggy enjoyed a career that spanned more than 40 years in economic development, urban planning, and revitalization in Cleveland's Midtown Corridor (now Midtown Cleveland) and near West Side in the St. Ignatius neighborhood, mid-coast Maine and Youngstown's Wick neighborhood. She loved being a part of a shared vision with neighborhoods, industry, thought leaders and elected officials. She also felt strongly about protecting and supporting migrants and refugees, volunteering her time with Northeast Ohio Friends of Immigrants (NEOFI) and was a generous donor to Americans Making Immigrants Safe (AMIS).

Married for 53 years to Michael James Murphy (died July 28, 2016), whom she married April 12, 1963, she said they always found a way to have fun and find a new adventure. A lifelong Steel Valley girl (her words), she did love her times in Maine and New Mexico and the chance to share those places with those she loved. Peggy is survived by people who will miss her. Her children, Michael (Mary) Murphy, Jr., Madeline Murphy (Vincent Schaper), and Maura Murphy (Anthony Traymore); her sisters, Mary Grace Manning and Eileen (Mark Zivkovich) Dignan; brother, Michael Dignan; and six grandchildren, Michael T. Murphy, Quinn and Owen Schaper, Gannon and Neave Traymore, her extended family and many friends.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR BID NUMBER**

A large blue square frame with a white center, intended for a bid number.

P.O. Box 18558, Cleveland Hts., OH 44118  
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