

THE PLAIN DEALER

Saint Luke's Foundation gives \$1 million grant for Buckeye neighborhood

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Monday, November 19, 2007

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The Saint Luke's Foundation will continue its investment in the Buckeye neighborhood with a \$1 million grant to be announced today.

The grant to ParkWorks, a nonprofit group that promotes civic vitality through parks and public spaces, will be used to create walking trails, an outdoor reading garden, public-art displays and performance areas for community residents.

"We really want this to be a neighborhood hub, a centerpiece," said Denise San Antonio Zeman, the foundation's president. "It's something the people told us they want. That's the most important thing."

Noting that the foundation works with the Buckeye Area Development Corp., she said the grant will complement an array of redevelopment planned for the site of the former Saint Luke's Medical Center on Shaker Boulevard, near East 116th Street.

That includes rebuilding Harvey Rice Elementary School and a public library branch, along with housing construction and repair.

The old hospital building, owned by Neighborhood Progress Inc., has an auditorium that also will become part of what the foundation is billing as a five-acre learning campus.

Neighborhood Progress is converting the old hospital into mixed-use space, but the auditorium would be preserved for the school, library and community at-large to use.

The ParkWorks grant will give the neighborhood a cohesive campus, something that no individual organization involved in the redevelopment had the resources to accomplish, Zeman said. She estimated that the project could be finished within two years.

The foundation was formed 10 years ago with the net proceeds when Saint Luke's Medical Center was sold to a for-profit partnership. Much of the foundation's philanthropic work benefits residents of neighborhoods once served by the hospital, including ongoing support for Buckeye redevelopment.

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