

## Anthony Spano

*Vehicle Operator, Youngstown State University; Founder/Executive Director, Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley*

**Nominated by:** Chris Jaskiewicz

**Age:** 30 **Education:** B.S. in B.A., Youngstown State University; M.A., American Studies, YSU.

**Professional Background:** Spano founded the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley in 2007 and has worked as a vehicle operator at YSU since 2008. Before that, he served as an intern in the City of Youngstown's economic development office.



### **What led you to your career?**

I was very active and involved outside the classroom setting while attending YSU where I held many positions in student organizations. The organization I worked with the most, however, was my fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau, helping with its philanthropic and community service events. That being said, it led me to become actively involved with both Youngstown State University and fundraising for the actor Paul Newman and his organization – the Hole in the Wall Gang Camps.

### **What is your proudest professional moment?**

It is extremely tough to pick one certain achievement. However, everything that I have done professionally and in the nonprofit sector have been my proudest moments as well as receiving the 2009 YSU Distinguished Service Award.

### **Why work in the Mahoning Valley?**

There are many who attend college with the hopes to further their careers away from the Mahoning Valley. I have always been one to stick around and be a difference-maker in my hometown.

### **What charitable work you do means the most?**

The Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, which raises money for chronically and terminally ill children so they may have the experiences generally afforded healthy children. As its founder and executive director, I started this foundation from the ground up and it has given me the opportunity to meet a large number of tremendous individuals who comprise the Mahoning Valley.

### **What would you like to do if not this?**

I would have liked to become a teacher.

### **Last book you read?**

*Out of This Furnace*, by Thomas Bell.