



PICTURED:
Mike Davis, President of Junior Achievement of Central Ohio

HELPING STUDENTS FIND THEIR PATH **Building Career and Financial Skills for Lifelong Success**

NESTLED IN THE HEART OF COLUMBUS' ITALIAN VILLAGE is a town with all the hallmarks of a bustling community: restaurants, storefronts, banks, nonprofits, and even a city hall. The mayor meets with constituents. CEOs make important business decisions. Shoppers browse for the best deals while employees keep operations running smoothly.

But the people running this town aren't seasoned professionals—they're local elementary school students.

This is just one of the immersive experiences offered by **Junior Achievement of Central Ohio** aimed at making learning more relevant and connected to opportunity. Known as JA BizTown, this day-long program welcomes thousands of students, educators, and volunteers each year to help young people apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world financial and career scenarios.

"It's important for young people to connect what they are learning in school and life to their future opportunities," said Mike Davis, President of Junior Achievement of Central Ohio. "Our role is to help students find their individual path to success based on their interests, skills, and values."

For more than 75 years, Junior Achievement of Central Ohio has partnered with employers, educators, and parents to help young people build the confidence and curiosity needed to thrive. Through programs that focus on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and career readiness, the organization equips young people with practical skills—from managing money and making informed financial decisions—to exploring potential career pathways.

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THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

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OUR MISSION

To assist donors and others in strengthening and improving our community for the benefit of all its residents.

OUR PROMISE

To help you help others through the most effective philanthropy possible.

For more information, visit columbusfoundation.org or call 614/251-4000.



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Douglas F. Kridler
PRESIDENT AND CEO

ACTRESS ANNE HATHAWAY recently said in *The New York Times*, “Something happened when I turned 40 and I just realized I was living my life like it was a dress rehearsal,” she added, “and that actually, it was showtime.” I think there’s a good lesson there, whether you are in your 40s or any other decade of age, whether in the arts or not.

This is it. It’s all we have. The courtesy, love, and kindness we share, the courage we show, the smiles we bring, the empathy and understanding we communicate when hearing from others, all are ways we can make the most of our time each day, not treating today as a warm-up for something bigger to come later.

That is why The Columbus Foundation celebrates our community in so many ways through our awards. From Columbus’ True Originals to the 5 Nonprofits to Watch to *The Spirit of Columbus® Award*, to the HumanKindness Prize to *The Harrison M. Sayre Award* and *The Columbus Foundation Award*, all are designed to recognize those who are making the most of their talents and gifts to benefit others.

I am willing to bet that if we analyzed all the honorees of these awards over the years, we would find that there is something akin to an intentional stepping onto the stage, of realizing that it’s showtime in their lives, time to share their talents and gifts to their utmost, even while nurturing their own lives and careers.

We believe philanthropy is one of the most effective ways to share your gifts and your care.

As spoken by Pericles (495-429 BCE) in Ancient Greece, “What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.” Your giving is the thread you are weaving into the lives of others who are helped by your generosity and care.

In this vein I think of Dwight Smith, who served on and was a Chair of our Governing Committee, as a great example of the grace, courage, and will to make the most of each encounter with others. He and his wife Renée were *The Harrison M. Sayre Award* honorees in 2023, but they are not seeking awards—they are seeking the rewards of a life well lived each day, benefitting others. Dwight created My Special Word 10 years ago this year, a vibrant, now worldwide, commitment to help young people realize the wonderful individuals they are through the use of positive words. He and Renée have worked together to help so many people in so many ways. They understand it’s showtime in their lives, and as a result their words and acts are indeed woven into the lives of so many.

There are so many others worthy of great praise, as well—hence the many awards we present each year. This year’s *The Spirit of Columbus® Award* honoree, Bobby Floyd, has woven his inspirations into the lives of others through music, for instance. He is a literal example of what Ralph Ellison once wrote: “...while a complete mastery of life is mere illusion, the real secret of the game is to make life swing.”

It’s showtime. Let’s make this time on this stage count, for now and forever.

You Belong at **The Big Table®** on September 29!

THE BIG TABLE is all about bringing our community together and creating connections through meaningful conversations. Whether you’ve participated in The Big Table before or are getting involved for the very first time, there are many ways to participate on **Tuesday, September 29**.

Registration opens on Thursday, August 13. Learn more at columbusfoundation.org.



'Helping Students' [continued from cover]

Davis said the organization's impact stems from its commitment to reaching students early and reinforcing key concepts as they grow.

"We can't start these lessons in high school and expect young people to have a sophisticated understanding of mindsets, choices, consequences, and persistence when they reach adulthood," said Davis. "We start with basic concepts and guiding principles that students can build on throughout their whole lives."

During the 2024-2025 school year, Junior Achievement of Central Ohio partnered with 71 districts in central and southeastern Ohio, bringing school-based programs into urban, suburban, and rural K-12 classrooms. The organization also operates two learning centers in Columbus and Newark, which are designed to support schools within a one-hour driving radius. In addition to JA BizTown, the Learning Centers house JA Finance Park, a personal finance and career exploration program for grades 6-12.

"Our role is to help students find their individual path to success based on their interests, skills, and values."

— MIKE DAVIS, PRESIDENT OF JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF CENTRAL OHIO

Over the years, Junior Achievement of Central Ohio has received several grants from The Columbus Foundation and its Supporting Foundations, including the *Ingram-White Castle Foundation* and the *Siemer Family Foundation*. These investments have supported educational programming and building renovations to create modern learning spaces.

"Through its creative curriculum and experiential programming, Junior Achievement of Central Ohio is preparing young learners for a lifetime of success," said Dan Sharpe, Vice President for Community Research and Grants Management at The Columbus Foundation. "By making learning fun, engaging, and relevant, Junior Achievement is opening the doors to possibility and empowering students to confidently navigate their futures."

Back at JA BizTown, the storefronts begin to quiet as students board their buses at the end of the day. Tomorrow, a new group of students will arrive, ready to step into their roles and run the town.

For many of these students, it's their first exploration into the worlds of business, government, philanthropy, and personal finance. And while the town may be simulated, the lessons are very real. Through programs like JA BizTown, Junior Achievement of Central Ohio is sparking the imagination of future leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs as they begin to envision the communities they will one day help shape and lead.

New Look, Same Philanthropic Mission

SINCE 2011, The Columbus Foundation has sponsored a storefront in JA BizTown, where students get a first-hand look at how nonprofits and community foundations work to strengthen communities. Last year, the storefront underwent a major renovation, transforming the space into a more vibrant and interactive environment.

"Having The Columbus Foundation in BizTown shows young people that philanthropy helps make the community a better place," said Davis.

To learn more about Junior Achievement of Central Ohio, please visit centralohio.ja.org.



PICTURED:
The Columbus Foundation's renovated space at JA BizTown.

Carrying Forward a Legacy of Stewardship

FOR MORE THAN 80 YEARS, members of The Columbus Foundation's Governing Committee—individuals with extensive knowledge of the community and a deep commitment to its progress—have provided stewardship for the Foundation and its charitable activities. This year, **Jeff Edwards**, President, CEO, and Chairman of Installed Building Products and President of Edwards Companies, will help continue this legacy as Governing Committee Chairperson.

A visionary leader and developer, Edwards has been at the forefront of the revitalization and development of downtown Columbus. He is also active in the community through board service, including as past Chair of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, current Chair of Downtown Columbus, Inc., and current member of The Columbus Partnership's Executive Committee. Additionally, Edwards is an Honorary Trustee of the Columbus Museum of Art, where he served on the board for more than 20 years.

"As a third generation Columbus resident, I cherish this community and all the opportunities it has offered to me and my family," said Edwards. "Consequently, I feel I have an obligation to serve and give back—and what better way than to be involved in the stewardship of one of the community's most treasured assets, The Columbus Foundation."

Edwards, who most recently served as Vice Chairperson of the Governing Committee, first joined the committee in 2019. He is preceded by Clark Kellogg, who served as Chairperson for three years and who remains a valued member of the committee.



PICTURED:
Lisa Ingram
Photo courtesy of Lisa Ingram.

Lisa Ingram, CEO and Board Chair of White Castle System, Inc., has been selected as the Governing Committee's Vice Chairperson. A member of the committee since 2022, Ingram currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for OhioHealth. She has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including United Way of Central Ohio, the National Restaurant Association, the Childhood League Center, and as the Board Director for Action for Children.

In addition to Edwards, Ingram, and Kellogg, Jane Grote Abell, George Barrett, B.J. Hicks, MD, Katie Wolfe Lloyd, Marchelle E. Moore, Esq., and Matthew Scantland continue to serve on the Governing Committee in 2026.



The Columbus Book Festival Returns

FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, The Columbus Foundation will be a major sponsor of the Columbus Book Festival, taking place July 11-12. Hosted by Columbus Metropolitan Library and the Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation, this two-day event brings together book lovers, renowned authors, independent bookstores, community organizations, and local vendors for a celebration of all things literature.

The Columbus Book Festival is held at the Main Library and adjacent Topiary Park in downtown Columbus and is free and open to the public. The event draws more than 40,000 attendees annually for a weekend of community, conversation, and connection.

For more information, visit columbusbookfestival.org.

DONOR FEATURE

Spreading Joy and Generosity

To Nona and Jim Durham, there are no strangers—only friends and neighbors they have yet to meet. Whether they are attending a Columbus Blue Jackets game, suiting up as Mr. and Mrs. Claus for families at the YMCA, or volunteering with local nonprofits, the Durhams find community and connection wherever they go.



PICTURED:
Jim and Nona Durham

“IT’S JUST FUN. WE LOVE TO GIVE,” said Nona. “We get so much joy back.”

Having grown up locally—Nona in Gahanna and Jim in Clintonville—the Durhams share a deep connection to the Columbus region. The couple met while working at State Savings Bank, which later merged with Fifth Third Bank. Nona then went on to work at The Arlington Bank, where she remained until the bank was acquired by another financial institution. Jim continued to work at Fifth Third Bank before joining the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, where he supported housing stabilization efforts following the foreclosure crisis in the late 2000s.

After retiring in 2017, Nona shifted her focus from career to community, dedicating her time to causes close to her heart, especially animal welfare. She now volunteers with Columbus Humane, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium—the goats, she said, are her favorite—and the Worthington Resource Pantry. During the holidays, she and Jim also wrap gifts for families at the Van Buren Center.

Jim, meanwhile, spent more than 20 years on the board of the North YMCA, including serving as its Chair. Today, he is a member of the Annual Giving Campaign committee, helping to ensure that everyone, regardless of income, can take part in the YMCA of Central Ohio’s programs. His connection to the organization began in childhood, when his father brought him and his twin brother to the Downtown YMCA to swim and play racquetball.

Decades later, Jim is known as the “heartbeat” of the North YMCA because of his willingness to go all in—whether that means fundraising, leading an early morning bootcamp class, or dressing as Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, or Spider-Man to surprise neighborhood kids. At a recent produce giveaway at the North YMCA, Jim—disguised as the Easter Bunny—greeted families with warmth and enthusiasm, turning an ordinary

morning into something a little more joyful.

“Through Jim’s creative and energetic approach, he inspires everyone around him to give and engage,” said Tony Collins, CEO and President of YMCA of Central Ohio. “Together, the Durhams strengthen our entire community, expand access to programs, and ensure the YMCA of Central Ohio remains a place where people of all ages can grow in spirit, mind, and body.”

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— **TONY COLLINS, CEO AND PRESIDENT OF YMCA OF CENTRAL OHIO**

In 2018, following the advice of their financial advisor, Jeffrey Hedley of The Hedley Hoeger Group/Robert W. Baird, the Durhams established a Donor Advised Fund at The Columbus Foundation to make their giving more intentional and impactful.

Through the *Jim and Nona Durham Fund*, the couple generously supports organizations that have touched their lives, including the nonprofits they are involved with through their volunteerism. They also give to Jim’s alma mater, the University of Mount Union, as well as organizations serving people throughout central Ohio—Community Shelter Board, LifeCare Alliance, and Mid-Ohio Food Collective, to name a few.

Although the Durhams have always been community-minded, their giving has also been influenced by the generosity of others they’ve met through their service.

“We’ve had so many people as great examples,” said Jim, including the late William (Bill) Wells, whom Jim met through his involvement with the Buckeye Diamond Club,

an organization dedicated to supporting The Ohio State University’s baseball program. Bill also served as President and Chair of the *William H. Davis, Dorothy M. Davis and William C. Davis Foundation*, a Supporting Foundation of The Columbus Foundation.

When it comes to giving back—whether through volunteer service, community building, or charitable giving—the Durhams’ advice is simple.

“If you can do it, do it,” said Nona. “Because it feels good.”



PICTURED, ABOVE:
Jim dressed as the Easter Bunny during a recent produce giveaway at the North YMCA.

PICTURED, BOTTOM:
Nona and Jim as Mrs. and Mr. Claus at a YMCA event for families.

Photo courtesy of the Durham family.



Meet the 5 Nonprofits to Watch in 2026



For more than a decade, The Columbus Foundation's annual **5 Nonprofits to Watch** program has honored innovative and impactful organizations that address critical community needs.



PICTURED:
Back row (l-r): Beth Fetzer-Rice, President & CEO of Home for Families; Elizabeth Brown, President and CEO of YWCA Columbus; Julia Noulin-Mérat, General Director + CEO of Opera Columbus; Habiba Bankston, Executive Director of Dress for Success Columbus; and Kim Emch, Founder and Executive Director of Festa.

Renowned Keyboardist Bobby Floyd Presented with *The Spirit of Columbus*® Award

Long before he toured with Ray Charles or received an Emmy Award or Grammy nomination, critically acclaimed keyboardist Bobby Floyd was a young boy with a natural musical gift. Floyd, who started playing piano at the age of 2 and who regularly performed for his church congregation as a child, has since built a distinguished career as a jazz artist, touring throughout the United States and around the world.

In April, in recognition of his remarkable artistic achievements and contributions to central Ohio's cultural landscape, Floyd was named the 2026 honoree of *The Spirit of Columbus*® Award by The Columbus Foundation. Created in 2013 in honor of Jerrie Mock, the first woman to fly around the world solo, the award celebrates those in our community who exhibit bravery, determination, and inspiration through their actions.

IN MARCH, The Columbus Foundation announced this year's 5 Nonprofits to Watch: **Dress for Success Columbus, Festa, Home for Families, Opera Columbus,** and **YWCA Columbus**. With this distinction, each nonprofit received a \$20,000 unrestricted grant.

"Each of this year's 5 Nonprofits to Watch exemplify strong leadership and a deep commitment to expanding opportunity for people throughout our region," said Doug Kridler, President and CEO of The Columbus Foundation. "The vital services these organizations provide not only transform lives, but also inspire hope, connection, and a brighter future for all."

The 5 Nonprofits to Watch in 2026:



Dress for Success Columbus empowers women to achieve economic mobility by providing a network of support, professional attire, career development, and the tools needed to thrive. The organization serves women from diverse backgrounds, working to expand equity, access, and opportunity so that every woman can build a future of stability, confidence, and growth.



Festa is working to end poverty for the individuals and families it serves through life changing relationships with multigenerational English education. The organization's nationally recognized 3-Generation Family English as a Second Language program serves families from over 90 countries of origin. By mobilizing hundreds of volunteers, Festa is building community across lines of difference that transform neighbors' lives.



Home for Families partners with families and youth to resolve their housing crises, strengthen financial stability, and bridge education gaps to prevent future homelessness. Originally founded as The Homeless Families Foundation in 1986, Home for Families works alongside landlords, government agencies, and community partners to provide safe, secure, and affordable housing solutions to families.

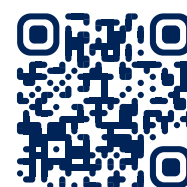
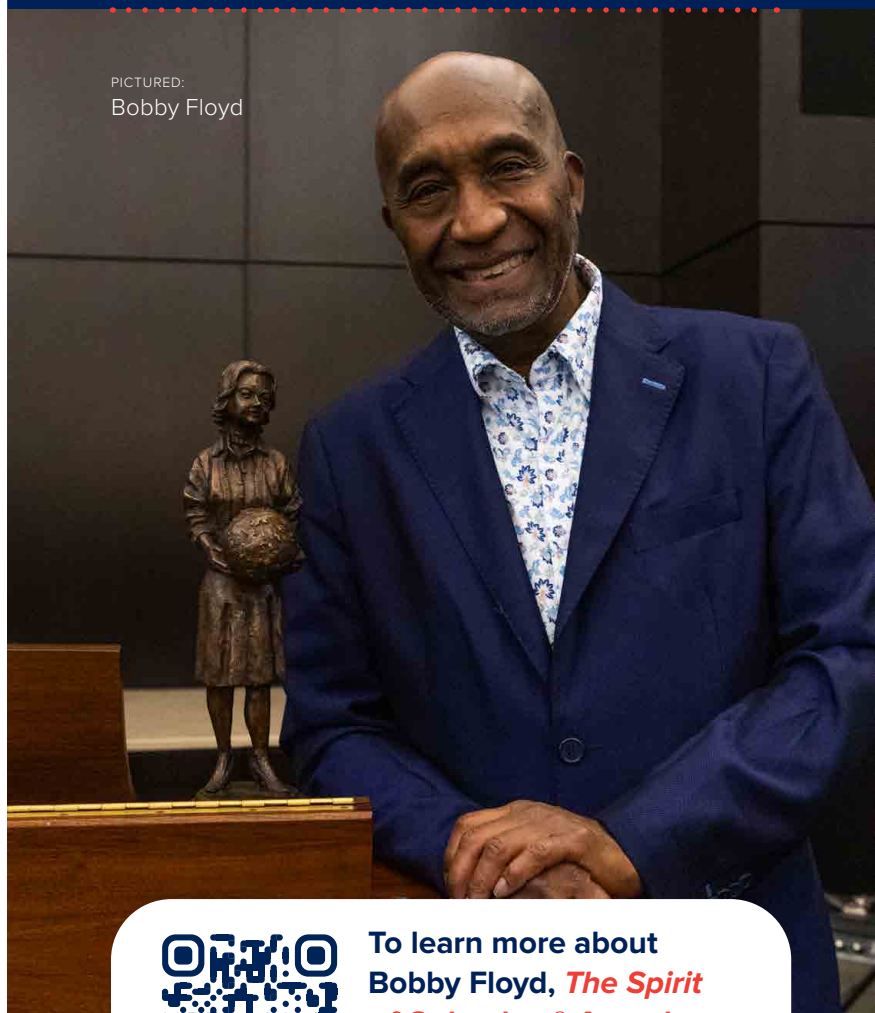


Opera Columbus is redefining and reimagining the concept of regional opera with world-class productions that celebrate extraordinary talent and artistic partnerships, engaging a new, diverse audience for this most magnificent of art forms. From groundbreaking collaborations to innovative and breathtaking productions, Opera Columbus is passionate about creating artistic moments for every patron.



YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Founded in 1886, YWCA Columbus invests in the community by offering housing support and shelter, advancing social justice through education and engagement, supporting the development of children and youth, and answering the evolving needs of our region.

PICTURED:
Bobby Floyd



To learn more about Bobby Floyd, *The Spirit of Columbus*® Award, and Jerrie Mock's historic flight, scan the QR code.

UPDATE

MEETING THE MOMENT

Initiatives Help Nonprofits Navigate Change and Address Community Needs

ACROSS THE REGION, nonprofits are facing mounting pressures, from disruptions in government funding and workforce shortages to rapid technological change. Meanwhile, economic uncertainty and shifting public policy are driving more people to seek help with housing, healthcare, food, and other essential services—forcing organizations to rethink how they operate and serve the community.

Last year, in response to these growing challenges, The Columbus Foundation introduced two initiatives designed to bolster local nonprofits: the *Emergency Response Fund II* and the Center for Change Management.

The **Emergency Response Fund II** at The Columbus Foundation offers individuals and businesses a way to donate to support local nonprofits that are addressing urgent community needs. Through this fund, the Foundation has awarded grants to organizations serving people experiencing homelessness, immigrants and refugees, and youth. Additional funding has helped nonprofits expand food and healthcare access, deliver educational enrichment programs in schools, and support local public radio.

One such grant was awarded to Produce Perks Midwest, a nonprofit dedicated to increasing access to affordable, healthy food in underserved communities. In February, after the unexpected termination of a federal grant, The Columbus Foundation provided \$100,000 to help sustain the organization's match program in central Ohio. This initiative doubles the value of SNAP/EBT dollars spent on fruits and vegetables at participating locations, expanding the purchasing power for low-income households while boosting revenue for local farmers and retailers.

While grants like this provide critical immediate support, many organizations also face longer-term operational challenges. The **Center for Change Management** was developed at The Columbus Foundation as a resource to help nonprofits build capacity and navigate evolving needs. Since launching in September, the Center has become a hub for nonprofits seeking guidance on leadership transitions, financial sustainability, governance challenges, and strategic decision-making.

"In its first several months, the Center for Change Management received more than 90 inquiries from nonprofit leaders across central Ohio—demonstrating the scale of the challenges organizations are facing and the demand for practical, responsive support," said Erin Scott, Director of Capacity Building and Community Knowledge at The Columbus Foundation. "Through individualized advising, peer learning opportunities, and connections to trusted consultants, the Center is helping organizations address issues that can otherwise stall progress or threaten stability."

Together, these efforts reflect The Columbus Foundation's commitment to addressing both the immediate and long-term needs of central Ohio's nonprofit sector. By providing flexible funding and strategic support, the Foundation is helping organizations remain resilient, responsive, and ready to meet the moment.



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

**EMERGENCY
RESPONSE FUND II**



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

**CENTER FOR
CHANGE
MANAGEMENT**

Deepening Our Commitment to Community Health

In February, The Columbus Foundation welcomed Cheryl Graffagnino as the Director of Community Health Grantmaking, a newly focused role that reflects the Foundation's commitment to addressing unmet health needs in central Ohio.

GRAFFAGNINO LEADS The Columbus Foundation's health grantmaking initiatives, with an emphasis on population health, the social determinants of health, infant and maternal health, mental health, emergency food assistance and nutrition, and developmental disabilities.

"Cheryl brings extensive expertise in community health systems, grantmaking strategies, and civic collaboration to her role at The Columbus Foundation," said Dan Sharpe, Vice President for Community Research and Grants Management at the Foundation. "As nonprofits in our region navigate shifting funding streams and increased community needs, Cheryl will drive strategic charitable investments that improve community health indicators throughout central Ohio."

Most recently, Graffagnino served as the Program Officer at the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, where she managed a large portfolio of local, state, and national funding awards in support of the organization's health-focused mission. She also served in various roles at Columbus Public Health.

Graffagnino earned a Bachelor of Science in Medical Dietetics and a Master of Science in Allied Medical Professions from The Ohio State University. She was a 2024 American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Health Policy Fellow.



PICTURED:
Cheryl Graffagnino

SMALL SCRAPS, BIG IMPACT

THROUGH GRANTMAKING AND OTHER STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, The Columbus Foundation is committed to supporting environmental conservation and sustainability. However, one lesser-known way the Foundation is working to improve the environmental health of the community is through its workplace composting program.

Since June 2022, The Columbus Foundation has offered on-site compost collection to staff and guests. In partnership with Compost Clubhouse, a central Ohio organization that provides compost collection services, the Foundation has diverted food scraps and other compostable waste from landfills. Food waste in landfills is a significant source of harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

One bucket of food scraps at a time, the impact has been substantial. Thanks to the dedicated participation of staff, The Columbus Foundation has **diverted more than 18,500 pounds of waste from landfills**—the equivalent

of removing more than 15,800 cars from the road.

"This program is an important reminder that small, individual actions can lead to big, collective impact," said Kate Oliphint, Director of the Center for HumanKindness at The Columbus Foundation, who helps facilitate the compost program. "Importantly, it also gives us the opportunity to put our values into practice and show our environment—and community—a little more kindness."



18,500 lbs

**WASTE DIVERTED FROM
LANDFILLS**



15,800

**CARS REMOVED
FROM THE ROAD**



COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

50 Years of Connecting People and Ideas

In 1976, a group of 13 visionary women wanted to create a space where people from all walks of life could gather, exchange ideas, and discuss the issues shaping the Columbus region. At a time when private lunch clubs and exclusive speaker forums were often gated by power and prestige, their idea challenged the status quo.

FROM THIS VISION, the forward-thinking women formed the Columbus Metropolitan Club. Fifty years later, the organization continues to foster civic dialogue and connect people across the region.

“The Columbus Metropolitan Club provides opportunities for people to discuss community challenges openly, rather than behind closed doors,” said Columbus Foundation donor Mary Lazarus, one of the co-founders of the Columbus Metropolitan Club. “Columbus has an openness about it, a willingness to come together and solve problems. That’s a sign of a healthy community.”

In addition to hosting weekly forums for members and guests on topics impacting central Ohio, the Columbus Metropolitan Club has been a consistent partner in The Columbus Foundation’s Big Table. Launched in 2016, The Big Table® is an annual gathering designed to inspire civic engagement and social connection through community-focused conversations.

As the Columbus Metropolitan Club celebrates its 50th anniversary, The Columbus Foundation sat down with the organization’s President and CEO, Sophia Fifner, to reflect on the role of civic dialogue in strengthening communities.

Q: How does the Columbus Metropolitan Club help build social capital in our region?

The Columbus Metropolitan Club creates space for people to build relationships with others who may not share their background—whether in religion, race, ethnicity, or gender—yet we can come together to talk about community issues that affect us all.

Every week, regardless of the topic, we have leaders talking about what they’re doing to make Columbus a little bit bigger, brighter, and more inclusive. At the CMC, our goal is to help people understand what’s happening in Columbus and how they can get involved in supporting their own education, civic participation, and the region’s growth.

Q: Why is it important to invest in our region’s civic infrastructure?

As a society, we often want to build things that we can directly see, like buildings,



PICTURED: Sophia Fifner, President and CEO of the Columbus Metropolitan Club (CMC), at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, where CMC hosts weekly forums.

bridges, and roads. But those things don’t happen without people. Investing in civic infrastructure means you’re investing in the people who make communities strong and vibrant.

We are the people who live here, who create art here, who create jobs here, who steward the land. Investing in civic infrastructure is ultimately an investment in humanity. It ensures we can work together, see one another, and listen to each other thoughtfully.

Q: How is Columbus Metropolitan Club celebrating its 50th anniversary?

I’m very excited—we’re planning a community celebration on September 10 honoring the conversations and connections we’ve built over the past five decades, while also looking ahead to our future.

Q: Columbus Metropolitan Club’s 50th anniversary coincides with the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding. How does civic dialogue contribute to the health of our democracy?

There’s a quote from Alex de Tocqueville about how Americans see a problem and build a civic association to fix it. Part of our history is being a country of people who do things, who join things, who see problems and find solutions. That’s what we do every week at the CMC—we convene, we talk, and we explore solutions. Dialogue is the starting

point for civic action.

We’re at an interesting point as a society. We can continue down an individualistic path, or we can lean into the collective. To me, leaning into the collective means that we have a civic renaissance—one where all individuals understand what they can do to spread kindness, be a better neighbor, and support their community, whether at work, at home, or in their neighborhoods.

The Columbus Foundation and the Foundation’s Center for HumanKindness are sponsors of the Columbus Metropolitan Club. To learn more about the Columbus Metropolitan Club, including upcoming forums and events, visit columbusmetroclub.org.

COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN CLUB CO-FOUNDERS

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Sally Bloomfield | Mary Lazarus |
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Spark moments of connection in your own backyard!



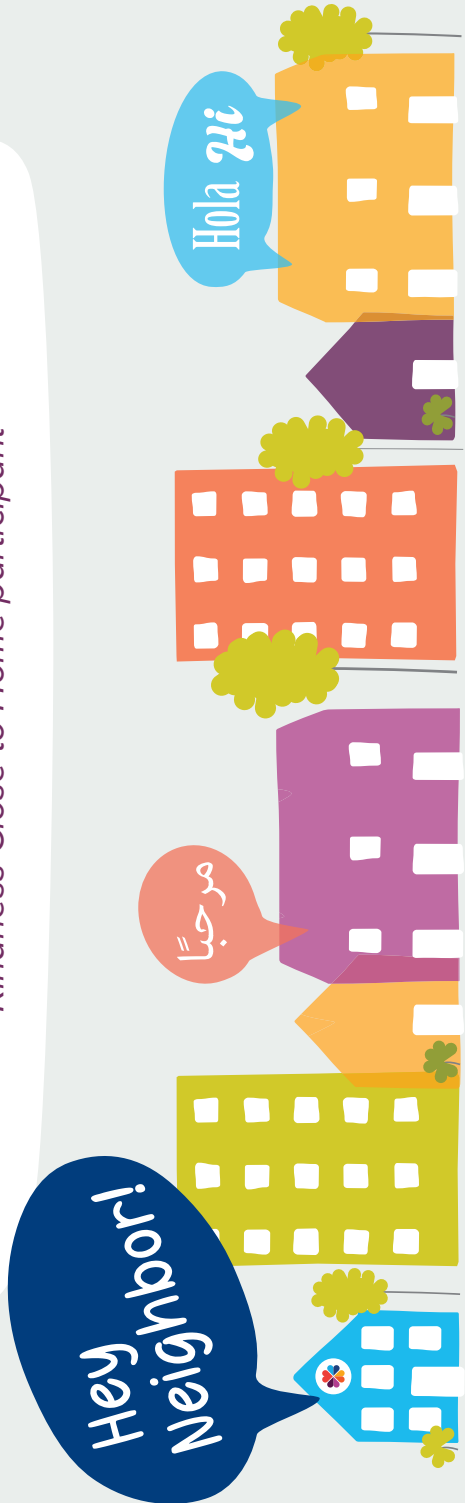
Socially connected communities are healthier, more trusting, and safer. This summer, host a gathering with your neighbors with support from the Center for HumanKindness at The Columbus Foundation.

Inspired by community conversations at The Big Table®, **Kindness Close to Home** seeks to bring neighbors together to create a friendlier community where everyone feels seen and known.



Learn more and register for a **free** neighborliness kit to help host your gathering, while supplies last.

“Almost everyone commented about how nice it was to gather with no other purpose than to get to know each other.”
—Kindness Close to Home participant



- 1 : Helping Students Find Their Path
- 5 : The Spirit of Columbus® Award
- 7 : 50 Years of Big Ideas and Conversations