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# NEXUS

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THE COLUMBUS  
FOUNDATION

SUMMER  
2013



**NEX·US** (něk'sēs) N., **1.** A MEANS OF CONNECTION; A LINK OR TIE. **2.** A CONNECTED SERIES OR GROUP. **3.** THE CORE OR CENTER.

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## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Douglas F. Kridler  
President and CEO

“I feel sorry for you.” These were not exactly the words I came this far to hear. I had taken a Sunday in March to travel deep into the Panhandle of Florida to visit this Columbus heroine, but both computers I had brought with me were failing to function properly.

As hard as it was to hear my host say this to me, the words that followed explained more fully what she meant—and it gave me a glimpse at how ready we can be to deal with what might come at us in life. “I don’t mean I feel sorry just for you, but for everyone dealing with so many complicated gadgets such as mobile phones and computers,” she said. And, then came the clincher: “I prefer to keep things simple. That’s why I always flew with my landing gear down.”

What a useful lesson from the person who flew the Spirit of Columbus into the world’s history books, Jerrie Mock. As the first woman to fly solo around the world, Jerrie was uniquely qualified to speak on the subject of preparation and clarity. Fortunately, I was able to fix the glitches, and show Mrs. Mock the tributes we produced of her accomplishments, but I left her home thankful that my technological tribulations created the opportunity to hear from her this valuable metaphor for life and work.

Tightrope walker Philippe Petit is alive today because of his dedication to complete preparation. I had the privilege to present Philippe Petit at a conference of arts leaders from around the world in New York City in December 2001, just three months after the tragic events of 9/11. His appearance was all the

more poignant because it was taking place next to the dust and ashes that remained of the World Trade Towers, site of his famous 45-minute high-wire walk between the towers just before its completion.

Philippe worked through the emotion in the room in order to communicate to us the technical complexity, and yet the humanity, of his adventures. When asked about how he manages to tackle such daunting challenges, he communicated a message to us just like this one quoted from an interview done later by Marc Myers: “When I start (walking on the highwire), I refuse to feel the negativity—which is to lose your life. I enjoy living, so I make sure I am prepared and rig the wires myself.”

Preparation is what The Columbus Foundation is all about. Preparation that comes from an undistracted focus on understanding the needs and challenges of our community, and on seamless delivery of that which you want and need to be the most effective investor in lives, in opportunity, and in community improvement.

Jerrie Mock reminded me of the value of keeping things simple and being prepared—of “keeping our landing gear down.” Philippe told us that in order to be successful, we must have the will not only to succeed, but more importantly, the will to prepare. These are words to live and work by, and that we will.

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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.



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### CONTACT US!

If you have questions, comments, or want to share your thoughts about NEXUS, we would love to hear from you. E-mail us at [NEXUS@columbusfoundation.org](mailto:NEXUS@columbusfoundation.org) or call 614/251-4000.



# Celebrating Homegrown Success Stories

## JENI’S SPLENDID ICE CREAMS AND e-CYCLE SHARE A PASSION FOR GIVING BACK

Columbus’ **SMART+OPEN** community is home to many businesses who believe strongly in investing in the places and people that have helped fuel their success. Established in 2005, the Foundation’s *Center for Corporate Philanthropy* is proud to help local companies build relationships; respond to community needs; and sustain, strengthen, and improve the quality of life in our community through strategic corporate giving programs.



Pictured (l–r) John Lowe, Jeni Britton Bauer

**AFTER JENI BRITTON BAUER** closed her first venture, Scream Ice Cream, in the North Market, it wasn’t uncommon for people to pick up her tab when they’d see her out and about. The collective community so believed in her product they wanted to see her save her pennies—and get back in the game.

“When I was first dating Charly and we would go out and someone would pick up our drinks after I closed the first business—that was amazing,” Jeni said. “There were a lot of lessons I learned after the first business. We changed when we opened Jeni’s. I put all my focus on the ice cream and customers and their experience.”

This community spirit is a big reason Jeni’s has expanded from the initial shop in the North Market to 12 stores, and a growing online business. Jeni traces the root of the company’s philanthropic spirit to the camaraderie she felt in her early days at the North Market. “I think being a part of the community is always important,” she said.



Jeni’s CEO John Lowe agrees. “I think there’s something special about Columbus—a sense of collaboration that doesn’t exist in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Indianapolis. This is a special time in Columbus and I think we enjoy the benefit of that, sometimes very directly and sometimes just

by being fortunate to live in a place that is growing and improving. There is a sense of everybody working together for a common improvement of the community.”

In 2012, the company gave more than 30 percent of its post-tax proceeds to charity. From school functions and silent auctions to community events, the company supports small groups and organizations with product and gift certificates.

Jeni’s and its 300 employees are deeply committed to two things: making the best ice creams possible, and making a difference in the place that surrounds them.

In January, the company established the *Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams Trust* of The Columbus Foundation to continue its support of nonprofit organizations that are important to it.

“You do what you can in your own community, and then that impacts the bigger world in the end,” Jeni said.

**AS TWO VETERAN TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVES**, Chris and Tonia Irion knew they wanted to branch off and create their own company, they just didn’t know exactly what it would be.



“The message that kept coming back to us was ‘what are you passionate about’ and ‘what do you love to do?’ It ultimately came down to three core passions: charitable giving, environmental stewardship, and love of

technology,” explained Chris.

In 2005, they launched e-Cycle, a wireless asset recovery and recycling company. e-Cycle was the first wireless recycling company in the world to be e-steward certified, the global gold standard for environmental stewardship. e-Cycle purchases nearly 500 types of used mobile phones and tablets that can be reused and recycles all other types at no charge.

In 2011, *Inc.* magazine ranked e-Cycle the fifth fastest growing private environmental services company in the U.S., and *Forbes* ranked it #68 on its annual list of America’s Most Promising Companies.

In keeping with their goal of charitable giving, the Irions help companies maximize the amount of money they raise through mobile buyback and write a check directly to the charity of the company’s choice on its behalf.

“We’ve raised millions for our clients and their charities of choice and kept millions of devices out of landfills. Just this year alone, we’ll keep roughly 4–5 million phones and accessories out of landfills,” Chris said.

In January, the Irions established the *e-Cycle Foundation* of The Columbus Foundation. With its formation, clients can now donate directly to the foundation and then suggest a charity to support with all or some of the money they recoup from the old devices.

In addition, e-Cycle is internally setting aside a percentage of its profit every quarter to give back to several charities of choice



Pictured (l–r) Chris and Tonia Irion

within the company, one of which is the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The couple is very passionate about finding a cure for the disease their daughter was diagnosed with three years ago.

“In our case, we’re so excited because we are able to act as a catalyst for moving others forward, both internal to our organization as well as externally in terms of our clients, for the greater good. It really allows everyone to look at entrepreneurship and giving in a different way.” Tonia said.





# A Gift for the Ages

IT'S A JOY THAT BRINGS  
UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES AND  
OPPORTUNITIES TO THOUSANDS  
OF KIDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY  
EACH YEAR—SUMMER CAMP!



Photos courtesy of YMCA of Central Ohio

**NESTLED DEEP IN THE WOODS** near Bellefontaine, YMCA Camp Willson welcomes hundreds of boys and girls each year for weeklong sessions that allow kids to spend time swimming, hiking, horseback riding, and more. The kids, ages 7–17, come from 20 counties throughout Ohio.

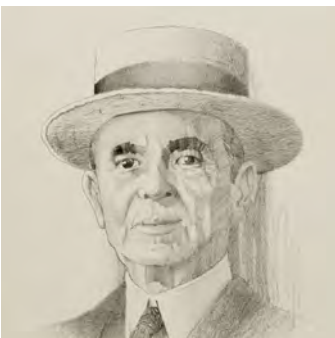
“We have a lot of activities, but the main thing that camp is about is building friends. We design activities so kids have an opportunity to do that,” said Jim Sexstone, executive director of Camp Willson. “Kids make friends for life at camp. They also learn independence. Camp gives kids an opportunity to be themselves and try new things.”

The camp was named after Alfred L. Willson, a successful businessman who was committed to giving back to the community where he lived. In 1920, he created the Alfred L. Willson Charitable Foundation, which supported agencies serving children and other community organizations. He was passionate about providing opportunities for youth. In 1921, thanks to a \$20,000 gift from Mr. Willson, the YMCA was able to purchase the property.

The Alfred L. Willson Charitable Foundation is considered the parent to The Columbus Foundation since, shortly after Mr. Willson’s passing, the trustees voted to provide the financial resources to establish The Columbus Foundation in 1943.

After operating as a private foundation for 50 years, in 1971 the Willson Foundation assets were transferred to The Columbus Foundation to support the creation of the *Alfred L. Willson Charitable Fund*.

Over the past 40 years, this fund has provided critical support for a number of organizations providing programs and services



Alfred L. Willson, 1856–1941

for children, including Boy Scouts of America, Children’s Hunger Alliance, I KNOW I CAN, and ongoing support for Camp Willson. “The number

of families that need financial assistance grows every year. If we didn’t get support from the Alfred L. Willson Charitable Fund, we would not be able to serve as many children with financial need,” explained Linda Day-Mackessy, senior vice president of the YMCA of Central Ohio. “With the recent recession, this is an expense that families can go without, but they don’t want to. When a family is going through a hard time, this is exactly the escape the children need to get away from those adult problems. Children need to play outside, be kids, and make friends.”

In addition to its summer camp, Camp Willson has an outdoor education program that serves schools and church groups. Since 1984, Camp Willson has welcomed a total of more than 27,000 summer campers age 7–17, and since 1994, the outdoor education programs have welcomed more than 87,000 participants.

“Alfred Willson was a remarkable visionary whose legacy continues to provide opportunities for youth around the state,” said Beth Fisher, vice president for Donor Services and Development at the Foundation. “His fund has allowed the Foundation to invest in innovative programs that have made life better for more than 100,000 kids. What an incredible gift to the community.”



# Barbara and Al Siemer Honored with National Philanthropy Award



Pictured (l–r) Janet E. Jackson, Al and Barbara Siemer, and Rob Podlogar.

On April 12, in Washington D.C., longtime Columbus Foundation donors Barbara and Al Siemer were celebrated by United Way Worldwide for outstanding philanthropic achievement. The Siemers received the highest honor awarded by United Way’s Tocqueville Society.

Formed in 1984, the Tocqueville Society “recognizes local philanthropic leaders and volunteer champions around the world who have devoted time, talent, and funds to create long-lasting changes by tackling our communities’ most serious issues.” Previous national Tocqueville Society award winners include Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, as well as philanthropists Melinda and Bill Gates.

The Siemers were recognized for their visionary work with families experiencing financial crisis and children at risk of changing schools due to unstable homes. The couple initially started their work for families in 2003, and in 2011 formed the Siemer Institute for Family Stability (SIFS).

Established by the *Siemer Family Foundation*, a Supporting Foundation of The Columbus Foundation, SIFS was created to focus on addressing the problem of student mobility, which directly affects the ability of schools to deliver quality education. It has expanded from 10 initial cities to 27, and by the end of 2014 SIFS is projected to be in 50 cities nationwide.

“The impact this initiative has had on families is remarkable,” said Tamera Durrence, vice president for Supporting Foundations at The Columbus Foundation. “Barbara and Al identified a pressing community need not just in central Ohio, but across the country. Their program provides concrete solutions to the challenges many at-risk families face. It’s making a real difference in the lives of children around the country.”

Thanks to the couple’s ongoing commitment, over the past decade more than 7,000 at-risk families and 16,000 children have benefited from temporary financial support backed by budget training, family counseling, and assistance finding health and childcare programs.

The Foundation congratulates the Siemers on this distinguished honor!

## Facebook Founder’s Historic Gift to Community Foundation



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY** are receiving more attention since the Silicon Valley Community Foundation accepted its largest single donation ever—an extraordinary \$498 million from the co-founder of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg. The donation was made in the form of 18 million Facebook shares on December 18, 2012, and was the second largest charitable gift made in the United States last year. Zuckerberg’s gift will be used to fund education and health-related programs.

This donation focuses on the value of historically stable community foundations as one of the most effective ways for donors to fund the causes that are important to them. Zuckerberg could have easily contributed these funds to his own foundation, which he started in 2010 with a donation of \$100 million in Facebook stock to benefit Newark, New Jersey schools. Instead, he chose to place it with a trusted community foundation near his home.

By placing the gift with the local community foundation, he gains the benefits associated with a public charity. Community foundations like Silicon Valley and The Columbus Foundation have knowledge of the needs in the communities they serve, and the staff expertise to help donors achieve their goals.

## FOUNDATION WELCOMES GOVERNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### C. ROBERT KIDDER ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN



**MICHAEL J. FIORILE**, president and CEO of The Dispatch Printing Company, is serving his second year as chairman of The Columbus Foundation’s Governing Committee. Mr. Fiorile has been a Committee member since 2008.



**C. ROBERT KIDDER** has been elected vice chairman. He served as chairman of the board of Chrysler Group LLC from June 2009 until September 2011 and was appointed to the Committee last year.

### Two new members were appointed for seven-year terms.



**LISA A. HINSON** is president of Hinson Ltd Public Relations, which she founded in 1999. She currently serves on the boards of Columbus School for Girls, Experience Columbus, and The James Cancer Hospital. She also serves as the vice chair of the *Hinson Family Trust*, a Supporting Foundation of The Columbus Foundation, and as a member of the 2012 Tocqueville Society Committee. Hinson holds a bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University.



**JOSEPH A. CHLAPATY** has served as president and CEO of Advanced Drainage Systems since 1980. Mr. Chlapaty currently serves on the boards of Fifth Third Bank of Central Ohio, KIPP Journey Academy, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges. He also serves as the chairman for the board of the University of Dubuque. He holds two bachelor’s degrees from the University of Dubuque, a master’s degree from DePaul University, and honorary doctorates from the University of Dubuque and from Marietta College.

Additional Committee members are:  
**David P. Blom, Jerry Jurgensen,  
Barbara J. Siemer, Dwight E. Smith,  
and Matthew D. Walter.**





2 MINUTES WITH...

# Dwight Smith

GOVERNING COMMITTEE MEMBER • COLUMBUS FOUNDATION DONOR

Governing Committee member and Columbus Foundation donor Dwight E. Smith wears a number of hats—successful businessman, devoted husband, mountain climber, marathoner, and budding saxophonist—just to name a few. We recently sat down with Dwight, president and CEO of Sophisticated Systems, Inc., to talk about his personal philanthropy, the importance of entrepreneurs, and what *The Spirit of Columbus* means to him.

**Your giving is deeply rooted in education and children’s issues. Are there other areas you are passionate about as well?**

I love entrepreneurs. We’ve got all these young, bright superstars in our community. They seem to be the group of folks that can have the greatest impact because they tend to be innovative, solution-oriented, and understand the necessity to connect to the marketplace. When you take that energy to create things that resonate in the marketplace and you add the desire to do good, that’s a powerful combination.

**We hear that you are an advocate for the Kiva model. What is it that appeals to you about this way of giving?**

It’s not a hand out, it’s a hand up. Kiva, a nonprofit focused on micro lending enterprise, helps empower people who have pride and dignity and want to be self-sufficient. I think

through micro lending and entrepreneurship we can solve problems and innovate our way to a better tomorrow. I’ve been to Africa a couple times. The people that I’ve met aren’t looking for the government to take care of them. They aren’t looking to be wealthy. They are looking for enough cash flow to have a predictable life, have food on the table, clothing, and be able to send their children to school. So many of the things we take for granted here are hard to come by in some of the places Kiva serves.

**“The Spirit of Columbus is the things we do when no one is looking that show the character of our community.” —DWIGHT SMITH**

**Columbus is an American city with a strong young entrepreneurial presence. As a successful businessman, and someone who grew his business locally, what advice do you have for these talented individuals as they are starting out?**

The way it really works is I get more advice than I give! I think Columbus has changed a lot since I started. This whole smart and open concept is a journey that we are on, and Columbus is open today to more new ideas and new approaches. I think one thing we need to figure out is how to learn from the young entrepreneurs. What would I tell these young people? It is okay to be impatient. The world is changing. If we really want to be great, we can’t be

patient. We need these entrepreneurs to bring new ideas to the forefront, push the boundaries, and teach those of us that have been around the block a few times their way of thinking.

**Through your role on central Ohio boards, you have helped recruit leadership to our community. What do you think it is about Columbus that attracts them?**

It used to surprise them what a great city this is. People outside of Columbus seem to know more about us these days. I think one thing they relish is the inviting atmosphere. We have a collaborative nature where our business leaders and community leaders work together.

**What does The Spirit of Columbus mean to you?**

Spirit, by definition, is something that you feel. It’s an intangible thing that moves within. I feel a sense of pride, caring, and inclusion. It’s uplifting and exciting, and there’s a coolness associated with it. But truly, it’s a number of things. It’s the 4th of July fireworks; the 20,000 people at the Columbus Marathon; it’s what I feel when I watch hundreds of kids perform at Momentum, a dance program presented in partnership with BalletMet.

It’s those invisible, unnoticed, unrecorded acts of kindness. This spirit keeps us moving forward—and not all cities have that.

## Nurturing Global Giving

**COLUMBUS FOUNDATION DONORS** Christopher Celeste and Nancy Kramer believe that charity starts at home, which inspired their most recent philanthropic endeavor, Facing West.

“Nancy and I both believe philanthropy isn’t something that is apart from the rest of your life. It’s an approach to the way you live. You bring those generous instincts to the way you run your business and live your daily life with your family,” explained Christopher.

The private corporation, established in 2011, works with builders and architects to restore historically significant homes on Martha’s Vineyard, which are then sold with part of the profit going to fund the establishment of schools and community centers in developing countries.

“Facing West is something Nancy and I talk about,” Christopher said. “The notion that when you’re looking westward you are looking at the horizon and you have a sense that anything is possible. It’s what we say to each other when we need a little inspiration.”

Facing West’s inaugural project was the 1860 Captain Ellsworth House, which was purchased in 2011 and completed late last year. The home is one of many built during the prosperous years of whaling for residents of the island and received its namesake from its owner, Captain Ellsworth West. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this home will go to support the construction of a preschool in Rwanda by Frederick Ndabaramiye, a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Pictured (l–r) Christopher Celeste, Marika Viragh, Eleanor Celeste, Stefan Viragh, Zachary Dusingizimana, Frederick Ndabaramiye, Julia Celeste, Nancy Kramer



Christopher and Nancy met Frederick several years ago, when the young man was visiting Columbus as part of a program that provided him with prosthetic arms. Frederick is passionate about helping the families of other genocide victims, and expects to educate 60 children every year through the new preschool.

The couple is excited about connecting further with the Martha’s Vineyard community—where they create memories with their blended family of six kids, four of whom are pictured in the image above.

“As a family, this was a way of being engaged in the community—instead of just showing up as seasonal residents, it allowed us to show up and be a productive part of the community, putting our creative talents and resources to work,” Christopher said.



To learn more about the Ellsworth House and Facing West, visit [www.captainellsworthhouse.com](http://www.captainellsworthhouse.com).

Photo courtesy of Christopher Celeste and Nancy Kramer





The Columbus Foundation is working to capture **The Spirit of Columbus** through images that showcase the determination, dedication, and commitment of people in our **SMART + OPEN** community. Be sure to check out [columbusfoundation.org](http://columbusfoundation.org) and follow along on our Facebook album as we continue to celebrate The Spirit of Columbus through captivating photography.

[www.facebook.com/TheColumbusFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/TheColumbusFoundation)



★  
◀ During Memorial Day weekend, volunteers set up more than 3,000 flags for the fifth Field of Heroes in Westerville. The installation was created as an inspirational tribute to honor a community of heroes and is organized by the Westerville Sunrise Rotary Club.

Visit The Columbus Foundation's Community Events Calendar at [www.columbusfoundation.org](http://www.columbusfoundation.org) to find out about exciting nonprofit and community events.

▼ 101 youth were honored with the 2013 Columbus Youth Foundation's Best All-Around Student Award on the field at a recent Clippers game. The Whetstone High School Band played The Star-Spangled Banner and much more while Malik Bush of Brookhaven High School won the drawing to throw out the first pitch.



► ProMusica Chamber Orchestra Conductor and Founding Music Director Timothy Russell takes his final bow at the Southern Theatre after 34 amazing years. "May we always continue to trust in the power of music to transform lives and to make our lives more human in a world that really needs more humanity," Russell said.



► Columbus entrepreneur Tanisha Robinson made a field trip to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum to see Jerrie Mock's Spirit of Columbus in person.

Photo courtesy of Tanisha Robinson

★  
"It was a powerful experience to see this tiny plane that represented one Columbus woman's big hope and dream and eventual achievement. Now, it is a symbol of the big hopes and dreams of individuals and our community, and what we can all achieve."

—TANISHA ROBINSON



▲ An 8-foot-tall bronze statue of legendary football coach Woody Hayes was installed at Woody Hayes Athletic Center recently. The statue and other tributes come in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Hayes' birth. Hayes coached at Ohio State for 28 seasons. "You can never pay back, so you should always try to pay forward," Hayes said.



◀ World-renowned artist Maya Lin drew a large crowd to the Wexner Center for a talk on the occasion of the cleaning and reinstallation of her 1993 work, *Groundswell*. The piece was the first site-specific artwork for the Ohio-born artist and is made of tempered safety glass.



## CONNECT + GIVE



## Partnership Highlights Shared Services

### THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

is excited to announce it is now partnering with the Human Service Chamber of Franklin County through its GiveDirectCentralOhio.org site.

Led by Executive Director Yvonne Hunnicutt, the Chamber was established in January 2010 as an association of human service organizations in Franklin County. It is dedicated to improving the quality of human services through collaboration, advocating for the needs of clients, and impacting public policy. In the future, thanks to this new collaboration, the Make a Donation button on the Chamber's site will link directly to each member organization's PowerPhilanthropy® portrait.

**"This partnership is mutually beneficial—selecting PowerPhilanthropy as their online giving vehicle enables the Chamber to focus on member benefits like advocacy and shared services, ultimately advancing safety-net services to reach more families in need, while carrying out the Foundation's mission of strengthening and improving the community."** —Joyce Ray, manager, PowerPhilanthropy and Knowledge Management

This partnership will save the chamber and its 70+ member agencies both staff and financial resources, allowing it to focus on its mission to enhance system efficiencies and effectiveness in order to develop one voice for the human-service system.

The new arrangement, finalized in May, will increase awareness of PowerPhilanthropy and add value to Chamber members with features like our low credit card fee, weekly processing, In Honor of notification, gifts to endowment funds, recurring gifts, gift history, and automatic deposit authorization.



# Innovative Program Turns Students into Grantmakers

**THINGS ARE REALLY COMING INTO FOCUS** for Bexley High School students, thanks to a group of budding young philanthropists at the school.

The Bexley Education Foundation Youth Philanthropy Program (YPP) was created through the Charlene Morgan Emerging Leaders Endowment Fund of the Bexley Education Foundation (BEF), in recognition of BEF’s first executive director. Its purpose is to allow students, as a group, to identify and support projects through grants that positively impact the school.

Approximately 15 juniors and seniors were invited to help develop and manage the first year of the student-led grantmaking program. The group developed the grantmaking guidelines and oversaw the grant application and review process. They were also in charge of getting the word out to faculty members about the opportunity for funding.

**“I THOUGHT IT WAS NICE TO SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PROCESS. WE’RE ALWAYS THE ONES APPLYING FOR THE GRANTS OR RAISING THE MONEY. NOW WE WERE THE ONES WHO WERE ABLE TO CHOOSE WHO GETS THE FUNDING.”**  
**—Zoe Leshner, Bexley High School Class of 2013**

In January, the YPP announced its first grant—\$940 to Bexley High School art teacher Mabi Ponce de Leon to purchase new digital cameras for the art department. The grant will support all high school art students as well as those in AP Studio Art who need to photograph their work as part of the college application process.

“We’ve needed new cameras for a long time. I had 75 students last semester who did photography and I had three aging cameras,” said Mabi.



Pictured (l–r) Jasper Lau, Meg Farrar, Mabi Ponce De Leon, Rebecca Schulman, Zoe Leshner, Jane Addison

“We use them for everything. Even the non-photo classes use cameras because we make digital portfolios. I encourage students to have digital copies of all they do. We can also share with the middle school and the other art teacher.”

For this young group of leaders, raising money came easy. But selecting a project to support was a new challenge.

“To me, it was evident that these students know how to raise money and do community service. They are really pros at that and have been doing it for a long time,” said Pam Glasgow, executive director of the Bexley Education Foundation. “What they didn’t know was how to give money away, and how to go through a philanthropic grantmaking process. For them, it was a huge learning curve. So, we’re really excited about having our own program, our homegrown grantmakers. We have built a foundation for them in grantmaking.”

The process has been beneficial to the students, many of whom were involved in the Leadership Bexley Program, another high school student focused BEF endowment funded program that “leverages the talents and insights of local business and nonprofit leaders to help selected Bexley High School sophomores and juniors develop their skills as future leaders,” according to the BEF.



Photo courtesy of Amy Hanscel

# Never Knew a Stranger

To hear his friends talk, Ronald Cooper (Coop) was the kind of person who seemed to know someone wherever he went. Whether it was out with friends, at an OSU game, at his job, or even out of state, you would hear someone yell, “Coop!” and he’d wave and flash a smile. For more than 10 years, the *Ronald C. Cooper Memorial Fund* has been carrying on Coop’s generous spirit of sharing and giving.

**“HE WAS LARGER THAN LIFE. PEOPLE REMEMBERED HIM. HE MADE AN IMPRESSION ON PEOPLE, AND IT STUCK.”**  
**—Amy Hanscel, Coop’s girlfriend when he passed away**

Born and raised in Lima, Ohio, Coop was a graduate of Bluffton College. As a caseworker with Franklin County Children’s Services for more than 10 years, he had a special connection to kids in need, and would go above and beyond to help make things right for them.

In December 2002, during a fun run organized by a friend, Coop suffered a massive heart attack and collapsed. At 35, he was gone. Devastated friends and family committed to creating a legacy that would honor not only all the things he’d done, but all the things he’d never have the chance to do.

In 2003, friends and family established the Ronald C. Cooper Memorial Fund to support causes he cared about. Over the past 10 years, fundraisers, including an annual golf outing and guest bartender day at Coop’s favorite hangout, Byrne’s Pub in Grandview, have helped his legacy expand.

“Coop just had an incredible presence,” explained friend Brian Byrne. “When we all gather each year at the guest bartender event, I tell people to look around and feel the energy. That energy sums up who Coop was.”

Thanks to these efforts, and the ongoing generosity of friends and strangers alike, the fund has been able to make a difference in the lives of people in central Ohio and beyond—purchasing portable defibrillators for schools and organizations, providing clothing for children in need, and making a dream come true for Ian, a young cancer patient, through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. In all, more than \$66,000 has been granted.

More than a decade after his death, a core group of friends continues to gather at Byrne’s to reminisce and review grant ideas.

“It wouldn’t be important to him that we’re doing it in his name—but the fact that more than 10 years later we’re continuing to work together to do things that are helping others, that would mean a lot to him,” Amy said.

His friends fondly remember his favorite quote by basketball coach Jim Valvano. It’s one they take to heart while carrying on his name. “Don’t give up. Don’t ever give up.”



# FOUNDATION SNAPSHOTS



On March 19, the anniversary of the start of Jerrie Mock’s flight, The Columbus Foundation honored Jerrie as the first recipient of **The Spirit of Columbus Award**. A \$5,000 grant established the *Jerrie Mock Pilot Club Fund* to help support creating a statue of Jerrie to be housed in the soon-to-be-renovated Port Columbus International Airport. Jerrie was the first woman to fly solo around the world, in her 11-year-old Cessna airplane with “Spirit of Columbus” emblazoned on its side. On hand at the luncheon were (l–r) Jerrie’s sister, Susan Reid; Columbus Foundation donor, Shirley Brooks-Jones; and president and CEO of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, Elaine Roberts.

Thanks to the generosity of former Governing Committee chairs John and Ann Wolfe and Columbus Foundation donors Tina and George Skestos, the Foundation held two **Florida events** for donors and friends in February. Pictured (l–r) at the Sarasota event are Belva, Margaux, Elizabeth, and Carl Aschinger.



On April 18, **Your Philanthropy** guests received a special welcome from Columbus Foundation donors Ron and Ann Pizzuti and a sneak peek of the Pizzuti Collection in its new home in Columbus’ Short North. One of America’s finest collections of contemporary art, the collection debuted with shows featuring collection highlights and contemporary art from Cuba.

Pictured (l–r) Columbus Foundation donor Barbara Brandt and Columbus architect Michael Bongiorno.

The first **Spirit of Columbus Award** event, held at the Foundation on the evening of April 17, also included a special birthday wish for Elizabeth Lessner, president and CEO of Betty’s Family of Restaurants. In addition to announcing Jeni Britton Bauer and David Brown as recipients of the award, the event commemorated the 49th anniversary of Jerrie Mock’s around the world flight and return to Columbus.



The Foundation welcomed executive coach and life strategist Jan Allen on May 7, for a **Your Philanthropy** presentation, *Living Vibrantly in the 3rd/3rd*. Joining Jan, far left, to talk about how people are leading vibrant, meaningful lives between the ages of 60–90 and beyond, were panelists Michael Curtin, Ohio’s 17th District State Representative, and former Columbus City Council President Cindy Lazarus.



## Books that Inspired Me

“BOOKS CAN HELP YOU THROUGH  
TRANSITIONS IN LIFE.”

—JANE ABELL



Jane Abell, chairman and founding family member of Donatos, recently shared several of her favorite books with the Foundation—which all have a coveted space on her bookshelf at the company’s headquarters. She purposely focuses her reading on nonfiction because “there is so much to learn and I am a very curious person.”

**THE BOOKS RANGE** from building a better world and succeeding in business, to managing stress and personal growth. They include Eckhart Tolle’s *A New Earth, Awakening to Your Life’s Purpose*; *Think and Grow Rich*, *The Complete Classic Text* by Napoleon Hill; *The Four Agreements* by don Miguel Ruiz, and Jim Collins’ *Good to Great*.

“These books represent the 360 degrees of life,” Jane said. “They helped me through important transitions in life and to learn about myself, too.”

Many of Jane’s books track closely with her career at Donatos—from learning the business from her Dad, Jim Grote, who founded the family business 50 years ago; to the buy-back of Donatos from the McDonald’s Corp. in 2003; and now, Donatos’ continued success.

“During the McDonald’s days, *Good to Great* helped me learn about the value of putting the right people in the right seat on the bus and hiring people smarter than yourself. From *Think and Grow Rich* I learned the value of vision and the tenacity to create your own destiny.”

Jane is quick to add that her background is in the human resources track, which is full of intangibles, but it has a huge impact on a corporation. She calls Ruiz’s *Four Agreements* applicable to all aspects of life: 1. Be impeccable with your words; 2. Don’t make assumptions; 3. Don’t take anything personally; and 4. Always do your best.

She’s currently reading *Conscious Capitalism: Liberating the Heroic Spirit of Business* by John Mackey and Raj Sisodia, and *Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard* by Chip Heath and Dan Heath.

What is next on Jane’s book list? She’s currently working on her own book, scheduled for release in the fall.

### FOUR AGREEMENTS

DON MIGUEL RUIZ

- 1 Be impeccable with your words
- 2 Don’t make assumptions
- 3 Don’t take anything personally
- 4 Always do your best



# Foundation Summer Fellows Get to Work

## 10 FELLOWS EMBARK ON 10-WEEK ADVENTURE WITH AREA NONPROFITS

Now in its fourth year, The Columbus Foundation’s *Summer Fellowship Program* continues to provide college students with an opportunity to work with central Ohio nonprofit organizations for a 10-week period. All Fellows work full-time for their host organization, engaging in programs and projects to support the ongoing efforts of the nonprofits.

“WE’RE EXTREMELY EXCITED ABOUT THIS CLASS OF SUMMER FELLOWS,” said Dan Sharpe, Community Research and Grants Management officer and facilitator of the Fellows program. “The number of applications has continued to increase, as has the impressive quality of the candidates. The host organizations provide a challenging opportunity for the Fellows to learn about the nonprofit sector in a strategic, hands-on manner.”

Caroline Boone, a political science student in the Ohio University Honors Tutorial College and undergraduate research scholar at OU’s Voinovich School of Leadership & Public Affairs, was selected as a Fellow by The Women’s Fund of Central Ohio. During her time at the organization this summer, Caroline will focus on conducting research into philanthropic work targeted at women and girls nationally and within central Ohio.

“I was drawn to the Fellowship’s dual opportunities of doing nonprofit work while learning from and about The Columbus Foundation. Being from central Ohio, I am excited to be a part of the work that the Foundation supports in our community,” said Caroline. “My hope for this summer is that my project will deliver tangible results and advance the goals of The Women’s Fund of Central Ohio in a meaningful way. Personally, I hope this Fellowship will help me to develop new skills and ideas for the future.”

Follow the Foundation Fellows Blog, and learn more about their work this summer, as they support the nonprofits they are matched with at <http://tcfsummerfellows.wordpress.com/>

The following students and organizations were selected to participate in the 2013 Summer Fellows Program:

**Alvis House**

Bridget Lamb

**Cancer Support Community**

Melissa Lester

**Columbus Collegiate Academy**

Nicole Carbonari

**Columbus Early Learning Centers**

Erica Phillips

**Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services**

Hitomi Abe

**INCREASE CDC**

Sean O’Callahan

**Junior Achievement Columbus**

Sarah Kenny

**LifeCare Alliance**

Claire Adams

**Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries**

Ryan Max

**The Women’s Fund of Central Ohio**

Caroline Boone

## Office of Corporate Volunteer Programs Established at the Foundation

IN APRIL, The Columbus Foundation established the *Office of Corporate Volunteer Programs*, in partnership with Limited Brands. The new program, led by Shelly Lewis, longtime manager of Giving Programs at Limited Brands, will focus on connecting associates with Limited Brands’ signature volunteer programs, including Komen Race for the Cure and Pelotonia. Limited Brands has an outstanding track record of associate volunteering, including the largest corporate presence in the country for Komen Race for the Cure.

The Foundation has a long history of providing philanthropic services for corporations. In 2005, the *Center for Corporate Philanthropy* was created to provide enhanced services. This new program is aimed at making it even easier for corporations to pool talent and give back to the community.

The Foundation’s Community Research and Grants Management team is charged with understanding community needs to help inform the strategic investments made by our Governing Committee. It also provides guidance to our donors—individuals and corporations—seeking information about community needs and the best philanthropic investments to meet these needs.

“As a result of having our pulse on community needs, we are made well aware of volunteer opportunities. Connecting the Foundation’s corporate donors to opportunities through Corporate Volunteer Programs is a natural extension of our current work,” said Lisa Courtice, Ph.D., executive



Shelly Lewis, manager of Corporate Volunteer Programs

vice president for Community Research and Grants Management. “The Foundation’s mission is to assist donors and others in strengthening and improving our community for the benefit of all its residents. The gift of time can be as powerful as the gift of treasure.”





**Lisa Schweitzer Courtice, Ph.D.**

Executive Vice President  
for Community Research  
and Grants Management

# PowerPhilanthropy®

## TWO QUICK AND EASY FEATURES SUPPORT YOUR ONLINE GIVING



The Columbus Foundation’s comprehensive online resource, PowerPhilanthropy, was developed to help donors and the public make informed investments in central Ohio nonprofit organizations. It is the premier online giving marketplace in our community, and offers the most comprehensive, verified information available to help you help others through the most effective philanthropy possible.

### USE THESE TWO VALUABLE FEATURES TO HELP MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR GIVING.

The **Grant History** feature offers donors practical insights into their charitable investment portfolios. Use it to view grantmaking history, see illustrated charts of your giving, and utilize advanced search options to filter your grant history by date or organization.

The **Search** feature helps you identify, sort, and compare more than 600 nonprofit organizations in central Ohio. You can search three ways: by organization name, keyword, or program area. You can also indicate if you would like your search to include organizations that have: received a Competitive Grant from The Columbus Foundation during the past three years, and/or created an Endowment Fund through The Columbus Foundation.

Put PowerPhilanthropy to work for you by visiting [www.columbusfoundation.org](http://www.columbusfoundation.org). If you have questions about PowerPhilanthropy, please contact Joyce Ray at [p2@columbusfoundation.org](mailto:p2@columbusfoundation.org).

## Coming Soon— A new way to give!



**BEGINNING THIS SUMMER**, exclusive to The Columbus Foundation, donors will have the opportunity to purchase the first Charitable Gift Card of its kind in central Ohio. These cards will support the 600+ nonprofit organizations in PowerPhilanthropy.®

In denominations of \$50 and \$100, physical and electronic Charitable Gift Cards can be purchased when you log in to PowerPhilanthropy. During this pilot program, you can also use your Donor Advised Fund to purchase cards in increments of \$100.

We hope you will share *The Spirit of Columbus* with those closest to you through this convenient new program.

Stay tuned for more information!

### PowerPhilanthropy: ONE TO WATCH

## Westerville Area Resource Ministry



Photo courtesy of Westerville Area Resource Ministry

**WHILE KIDS ENJOY A BREAK FROM SCHOOL**, many families struggle to provide quality, nutritious foods due to economic instability or other challenges.

In 2011, Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) launched the Westerville Area Kids Lunch Club in collaboration with Mount Carmel/St. Ann’s Hospital. Held in Ridgewood Park, the program provided more than 4,600 free lunches that summer to children from low-income families in Westerville. Initially launched at one location, the successful program was expanded to include four sites in 2012, where more than 162 children attended daily and 20,104 free meals were served. This summer, the program is being offered at six sites.

In addition to lunch, engaging programs of reading, entertainment, sports, and special guest speakers are provided each day. A weekend backpack program was launched in 2012 that provided additional free meals to children in need.

WARM’s services, including a food pantry and programs targeting economic stability, assist families and individuals living at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold. The organization reports that more than 31 percent of Westerville School District students live below this level, and in the past 5 years, the number of families seeking food assistance from WARM has more than doubled.

“When school is not in session, children enrolled in free- or reduced-price meal programs are not assured their nutritional needs will be met,” explained Deb Wallace, operations manager for WARM. “The Kids Lunch Club gives children access to healthy lunches, as well as free activities that will hopefully bring them back regularly throughout the summer.”





## REMARKABLE ACTS OF SELFLESSNESS IGNITE INAUGURAL SPIRIT OF COLUMBUS AWARD



### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2013 SPIRIT OF COLUMBUS AWARD WINNERS

for their exemplary efforts in the betterment of our SMART + OPEN community,  
and their selfless acts of kindness to support central Ohio nonprofits.

"I want the \$5,000 to go to Greater Columbus Community Helping Hands, because that is The Spirit of Columbus, and giving it to my own organization would not be what this award is about."



#### DAVID BROWN

founder and creative director of the Harmony Project, awarded a \$5,000 grant to Greater Columbus Community Helping Hands, Inc.

"I simply cannot describe how proud, shocked, crazy I felt, and still do, to receive The Spirit of Columbus Award. It really and truly is the most meaningful moment of my career."



#### JENI BRITTON BAUER

founder and president, Jeni's Splended Ice Creams, was moved by Brown's selflessness and awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Harmony Project.



Visit our website to view The Spirit of Columbus video and to learn more about the awards and the events.