

NEXUS

THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION

SPRING
2018



NEX·US (něk'səs) 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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Douglas F. Kridler
President and CEO

PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE



ON THE SURFACE, Eddie Rickenbacker, Damon Runyon, Tibetan monks, and The Columbus Foundation wouldn’t seem to have a lot in common. Lo and behold, they offer some overlapping messages and opportunities for us to reflect on.

Columbus-born hero Eddie Rickenbacker was distinguished for his unmatched reputation as a fighter pilot who flew more successful missions than anyone else in WWI, and many other accomplishments, including owning Indianapolis Motor Speedway for almost a decade and a half, and being CEO and Chairman of Eastern Airlines. Author and sportswriter Damon Runyon probably had someone like Rickenbacker in mind when he evoked but revised a well-known passage from Ecclesiastes to read, “The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but that’s how the smart money bets.”

Rickenbacker’s will to survive was never more evident than in October 1942, when, on a mission to deliver General MacArthur a note of rebuke from the President of the United States, his plane crash landed into the Pacific Ocean, leaving him adrift in the sea for twenty-four days. He and his crewmates somehow avoided detection from enemy patrols in those waters, and all but one survived, despite having no food for twenty-one of those twenty-four days. Rickenbacker noted in his autobiography his “having an overwhelming sensation of calm and pleasure” even as his destiny was at its most uncertain.

Enter the Tibetan monks, who offer this question for us to ponder in this realm of surviving and thriving, “Death is certain; its time is uncertain: What should I do?” Can we, even in uncertain times, approach our daily lives with a sense

of wonder and appreciation of what and who surrounds us, or, as British author and teacher Steve Batchelor once hoped aloud, with “a sense of possibility, a sense of responsibility—that what you say, think, do, will be your final legacy on this earth?”

That’s what my colleagues and I are here to help you do, in whatever way we can—to help you animate your sense of possibility and responsibility, and to support the preservation of your legacy. In doing so, The Columbus Foundation’s almost 75-year history of stewardship and community memory transcends generations, even in the face of ever-changing community needs.

For those facing those challenges, and those working to help them, the going is often very tough, requiring calm determination and stamina. As Runyon often wrote about gamblers, bookies, and racetrack denizens, he was comfortable with extending the world of odds making to life writ large: “I long ago came to the conclusion that all life is 6-5 against.” To make progress, it’s a bet we must take every day, despite the odds.

Runyon was a colorful personality (the Broadway hit “Guys and Dolls” was based on his writing), but he was no hero, no Eddie Rickenbacker. Even so, when Runyon passed away in 1946, his body was cremated, and his ashes were scattered—illegally—from a DC-3 airplane over Broadway—by Captain Eddie Rickenbacker.

From perilous seas to battle-torn skies, from faraway lands to our community’s neighborhoods, there are as many paths to wonder and appreciation for those around us as there are obstacles. Against all odds, we celebrate and seek to strengthen our common humanity, throughout our community.

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Natalie Parscher
Lynsey Harris
Kate Clements

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.

Want to share NEXUS with a friend? Find our digital version online at columbusfoundation.org/spring2018nexus

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



Photos by Lynsey Harris, unless noted.



Confirmed in compliance with national standards for U.S. community foundations.



SAVE THE DATE! The Big Table—August 29, 2018

Mark your calendars now to participate in The Columbus Foundation’s third Big Table event on Wednesday, August 29. We invite you to host or attend one of the hundreds of conversations that will take place around central Ohio on this day of dialogue, inspiration, and community building. Stay tuned for more details this summer at columbusfoundation.org.

Girl Power!

GIRLS ON THE RUN PROGRAM OFFERS MUCH MORE THAN PHYSICAL EXERCISE

THIS SPRING, over 1,400 girls from more than 100 teams across the central Ohio region will descend onto Columbus Commons downtown for a 5K unlike any other, with a happy hair tent, face painting, temporary tattoos, and more.

“Every single little person has an entourage that comes. It’s a family-friendly, non-competitive event that is open to the public, so community runners are welcome,” said Jess Sparks, Executive Director of Girls on the Run Central Ohio.

Just as the organization’s name implies, it’s about girls first, then running.

Founded in 1996 in Charlotte, North Carolina, Girls on the Run has grown to include councils in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The local council, Girls on the Run Central Ohio, was formed in 2008 and expects the total number of girls served locally during the past decade to top 10,000 this year.

“We teach girls how to take care of themselves, each other, and be active participants in the well-being of their community through life skills, learning, and physical activities.”

—JESS SPARKS, GIRLS ON THE RUN



Photo courtesy of Girls on the Run Central Ohio

In central Ohio, there are two programming seasons, spring and fall. Each season lasts 10 weeks, with two meetings a week, and includes a community impact project as well as the 5K at the end. Two volunteer coaches oversee each team, which is primarily school-based. With schools all over central Ohio participating, part of the beauty is the ability to bring a diverse group of young women together.

“There’s a huge need in the community for girls programming that covers mind, body, and spirit. I think that gap has existed in girl-focused



Photo courtesy of Girls on the Run Central Ohio

programming for quite some time. With the focus on youth and wellness, especially with the obesity rates for children in America, that really spurred it,” Sparks said.

The community impact projects, which are selected democratically by each team, have ranged from cleaning up a metro park and holding donation drives of personal care and baby care items for the YWCA Family Center, to writing cards for kids at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

“Overwhelmingly, they select a vulnerable population to support,” Sparks said.

In 2017, Girls on the Run Central Ohio established an endowment fund with The Columbus Foundation.

“We knew we were heading in a direction where we needed to invest our reserve,” Sparks said. “We had built that reserve over those early years, and we need to have two seasons of all expenses should we hit a hard time, like a natural disaster or teacher strike.”

“The Columbus Foundation was a natural fit. There were so many positives that we just knew it was the right choice,” said Kate Brunner Quinn, Development Director for Girls on the Run Central Ohio. “Having trusted advisors, people who have a strong reputation in the community for serving the best interests of nonprofits, has been great.”

With a staff of three, the organization relies heavily on the volunteer coaches who oversee each team.

“We are so lucky to have the incredibly dedicated, passionate people that we do,” Brunner Quinn said. “These are women and men who give 30–40 hours during a 10-week time period. It’s not only physically demanding, but emotionally demanding as well. A lot of these lessons stir up emotions for the girls and the adults.”

To learn more about Girls on the Run, visit girlsontheruncentralohio.org.

GEORGE S. BARRETT ELECTED TO THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE

THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION WELCOMED

George S. Barrett as a new member to its nine-member Governing Committee of volunteers who provide stewardship for the Foundation and its charitable activities.

Barrett is currently serving as the Executive Chairman of Cardinal Health, having previously served as CEO and Chairman from 2009–2017. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, the Board of Trustees of the Corporation of Brown University, and the Board of Directors for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He is also chairman of the Healthcare Leadership Council.

In Columbus, Barrett co-chaired the City of Columbus Mayor’s Education Commission; he is co-chair of Future Ready Columbus, serves on the board of Nationwide Children’s Hospital and the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation and is on the executive committee of the Columbus Partnership. Barrett initiated the Columbus Performing Arts Prize and serves as a mentor for the Bright Fellowship to develop education leaders.



Photo courtesy of George S. Barrett

“The opportunity to serve The Columbus Foundation in this capacity is an honor,” said Barrett. “The Foundation and its donors have long been known for a tradition of generosity that enables a wide range of strategic investments that move our community forward.”

Matthew D. Walter, Founder and Managing Partner of Talisman Capital Partners, is serving a second year as Chairman of the Governing Committee. Nancy Kramer, Chief Evangelist of IBM iX, as well as the Founder of Resource/Ammirati, is also serving a second term as Vice Chairman.

Governing Committee Members continuing to serve in 2018 are Joseph A. Chlapaty, Michael P. Glimcher, Lisa A. Hinson, C. Robert Kidder, Dwight E. Smith, and Katie Wolfe Lloyd.

Retiring from the Committee is David P. Blom, who completed six years of service at the end of 2017.



Books that Inspired Me



“

Reading has been both a refuge for me when times were tough, and a time of discovery and joy at other times in my life.”

—JUDY GAREL

COLUMBUS FOUNDATION DONOR JUDY GAREL'S LIFE is a fantastic story of its own. The mother of two and grandmother of five is a world traveler who has also given greatly of her time and treasure to many organizations throughout central Ohio—and has received numerous awards throughout her life for her dedication and passion for championing literacy.

While not a writer herself, Judy and her late husband, Jules, would write poems to one another on birthdays and anniversaries. The poems now serve as a permanent reminder of a love that spanned more than 60 years. We sat down with Judy to learn more about some of her favorite books.

What books are you currently reading? What's next?

I'm reading *Leonardo da Vinci* by Walter Isaacson and *The World's Largest Man: A Memoir* by Harrison Scott Key, who won the Thurber Prize for American Humor in 2016, and spoke in Columbus last year. I do read more than one book at a time. Partly because I'm home more now than I ever was before, and if I get a couple hours in the afternoon, I want to read something different at night. I've gotten into mysteries lately. I love Louise Penny and Jacqueline Winspear. Penny's books take place in a little French village in the New York-Canada area and the same characters are in all her books so you get to know them. Winspear's Maisie Dobbs series begins in post-World War I and continues through troubled war years in Europe.

Is there a book that inspired you and you now recommend to others? If so, which one and why?

I love to get recommendations, and I am very selective about giving them. There are two right now that I recommend. One is *Anything is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout. The messages are so clear and positive. The other one, which I would like to re-read, is a wonderful book called *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. I recommend this book to just about anyone. It's just such a positive story of a good life in bad times.

Is there a book you've read and have come back to during different points in your life to re-read? If so, which one and why?

I love *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It was such an inspiring book for so many people. I also love the Greek tragedies, like *Antigone* and *Electra*. They contain universal messages and restore your faith in the kind of democracy and values that we want to think we live by.

BOOKS I'VE LOVED READING:

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End

Atul Gawande

A Prayer for Owen Meany

John Irving

A Lesson Before Dying

Ernest J. Gaines

The Housekeeper and the Professor

Yoko Ogawa

The Last Gift of Time:

Life Beyond Sixty

Carolyn G. Heilbrun

Cry, the Beloved Country

Alan Paton

Beowulf: A New Verse Translation

Seamus Heaney

Night

Elie Wiesel

The Bluest Eye

Toni Morrison

Update

Better Together

These Better Together projects reached their goals during the first three months of 2018! Better Together is a crowdfunding platform in The Giving Store that promotes time-sensitive opportunities to improve our community, together.

Community Development For All People

TOTAL RAISED: \$19,684

140% of original \$14,000 goal through its Better Together project, All People's Fresh Market

“Thank you for helping us make our fresh market a success—because you're not just helping us, you're helping our community. We all have to come together as one. This helps us help them.”

—PAUL PARKER, FRESH MARKET ASSOCIATE



Those who supported this project helped transform a blighted drive-through liquor store into a vibrant hub of health and wellness on the South Side. The All People's Fresh Market features an entire wall of refrigeration units, previously used for beer and wine, which will now cool fruits and vegetables. The surrounding lot is being

transformed into a community plaza that offers raised garden beds, affordable healthy meals, health education, and fun activities for the whole family. Best of all, the market will reduce food insecurity for more than 2,000 families per year, providing over 900,000 pounds of produce to the community.

Kaleidoscope Youth Center

TOTAL RAISED: \$11,008

110% of its \$10,000 goal through its Better Together project, Empowering Central Ohio's Trans Youth

“We are beyond grateful and humbled by the outpouring of support from our community. Thank you! Together we're making central Ohio a safe, affirming, and empowering place for LGBTQ youth!”

—JEN KUHN, DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING MANAGER



Thanks to this generous support, the Genderscope program will continue offering twice-weekly meetings, resources, and programming through 2018 to trans and gender-nonconforming youth—

providing a safe place for these young people to build community, receive support from peers and mentors, connect to affirming resources, and establish life-skills that will stick with them into adulthood.

St. Vincent Family Center

TOTAL RAISED: \$6,310

100% of its goal of \$6,310 through its Better Together project, Loads of Love and Laundry

“I thank you for your generous contributions towards our Residential Laundry Remodel at St. Vincent Family Center. Your support has directly impacted the lives of the little ones living here in our care, and of all future children who will find their way to our door. We promise each child a warm, safe, clean, temporary home, and you've helped us achieve that. Thank you!”

—LORI ANN FEIBEL, IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR, ST. VINCENT FAMILY CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS



St. Vincent Family Center provides each child in its Residential Program with the care and safety they so deserve, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as any home might: cooking meals, cleaning rooms, practicing self-care, and laundering clothing and linens. Now, thanks to the completion of this project, commercial grade washers and dryers are being installed to meet the continuous, everyday needs of the program.



TAKE ACTION: Every dollar makes a difference! Check out new Better Together projects at columbusfoundation.org/bettertogether.



Announcing the 5 Nonprofits to Watch in 2018



Photo by Rick Buchanan

On March 19, donors, civic leaders, and friends gathered at The Columbus Foundation to honor the 5 Nonprofits to Watch in 2018, recognizing central Ohio organizations poised for an exceptional year of growth and progress. Each recipient awardee received a \$5,000 grant.

The organizations selected for 2018 are: City Year Columbus, Columbus Humane, CompDrug, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and Per Scholas Columbus.

“These nonprofits are doing remarkable work to address challenges, offer hope, and build future leaders,” said Douglas F. Kridler, President and CEO of The Columbus Foundation. “Collectively, these five organizations offer a bright future for our community today, tomorrow, and beyond.”

5 Nonprofits to Watch debuted in 2014 as an annual program of the Foundation, and honors remarkable nonprofit organizations working to strengthen and improve our community.

More about this year’s honorees:

City Year Columbus

City Year Columbus is an education-focused nonprofit organization that partners with Columbus City Schools to keep students in school and on track to graduate. City Year Columbus was recently selected by the Search Institute to co-create and participate in a national research study focused on understanding and strengthening the relationships of young people in high-need communities. The results of the study will benefit many organizations for years to come. City Year Columbus is part of City Year, Inc., a national organization founded in Boston in 1988 with the mission of bringing young people together for a year of service in their city. City Year Columbus, founded in 1994, is one of 28 City Year sites in the United States.

Columbus Humane

For 135 years, Columbus Humane, formerly known as Capital Area Humane Society, has been sheltering homeless animals, fighting animal cruelty and neglect, and offering programs to address the needs of animals in our community. The organization is undergoing a dramatic transformation at its shelter, improving the living conditions for its cats, expanding the number of spaces where dogs can meet with potential adopters, and creating a state-of-the-art medical facility.

Leaders of the 5 Nonprofits to Watch took part in a panel during the event moderated by Dan Sharpe, Vice President for Community Research and Grants Management at The Columbus Foundation. Panel participants, pictured (l–r): Rita Soronen, President and CEO, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption; Toni Cunningham, Managing Director, Per Scholas Columbus; Tasha Booker, Executive Director, City Year Columbus; Rachel Finney, CEO, Columbus Humane; and Dustin Mets, CEO, CompDrug.

CompDrug


Serving on the front lines of a community-wide crisis as one of central Ohio’s Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs, CompDrug is a federally recognized Opioid Treatment Program licensed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS), and nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Approaching 40 years of service, CompDrug’s mission is to be a leader in developing, promoting, and providing a fully responsive range of research-based programs and services to assist in the prevention, treatment, recovery, and wellness of those affected by the disease of addiction.

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Nationally, more than 20,000 youth age out of foster care each year without the love and support of a forever family. For more than 25 years, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has been advocating for children in the foster care system to help every child find a loving, permanent family through adoption. Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy’s, was a national advocate for foster care adoption and established the Foundation to raise awareness about the issue and as a grantmaking organization. Today, the Foundation supports more than 330 recruiters across North America through its signature program, Wendy’s Wonderful Kids, resulting in more than 7,700 children who have been adopted or are in pre-adoptive foster care placements.

Per Scholas Columbus

Per Scholas collaborates with businesses to design industry- and job-specific courses based on employers’ information technology needs, and teaches technology skills training and professional development tailored to those needs to highly motivated students. Then, the organization matches talented graduates to employers, providing career support throughout the process. The organization was founded more than 20 years ago with a mission to open doors to transformative technology careers for individuals from often overlooked communities. Launched in New York, Per Scholas expanded to Columbus in 2012 and has been an important partner in central Ohio’s workforce development and Opportunity Youth landscape.



TAKE ACTION: Visit [The Giving Store at columbusfoundation.org](https://columbusfoundation.org) to learn more and support these exceptional organizations today!

ON A ROLL

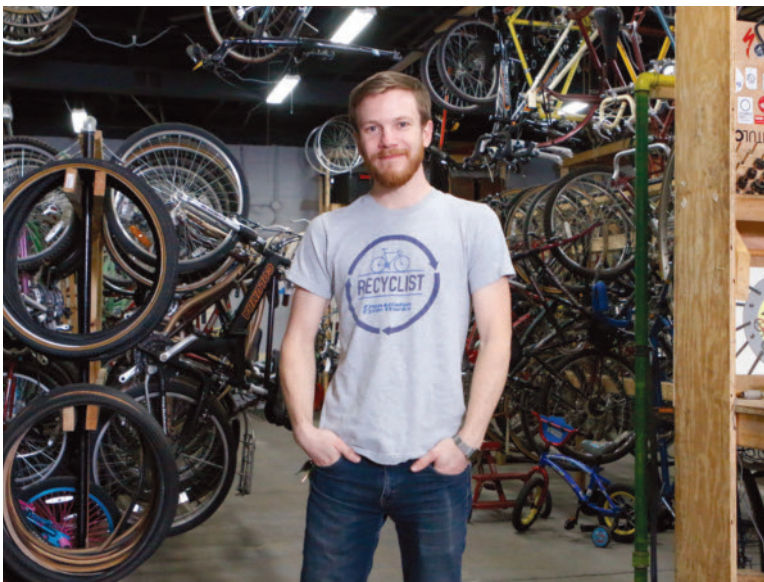
Franklinton bike co-op provides space for education and comradery

FRANKLINTON CYCLE WORKS was abuzz on a recent Thursday morning. The energetic music playing complemented the shop’s activity, while people moved in and out, some chatting and working on bikes in an area lined with tools, bike diagrams, and professional-grade bike stands, and others checking out the bikes for sale at the front of the store.

In the midst of it all was Executive Director Jonathan Youngman. He’s the visionary behind the organization, which started as a community project and has since received its 501(c)(3) status and moved into a corner space facing West Broad Street in the heart of Franklinton. Launched in 2008 when Youngman was new to the Franklinton neighborhood, he was hoping it would be a way to connect with friends and neighbors that he also noted were bike commuters like him.

“There wasn’t a bike shop in the neighborhood,” Youngman explained. In the beginning he and a few others were just helping people from the sidewalk—then they took tools to St. John’s Street Church. It just kept growing. By 2010 there was a fair amount of community interest in creating a co-op.

“We’re a nonprofit bicycle cooperative. We provide a space for people to work on their bikes, provide professional-grade stands and tools,” Youngman said. “Members can come in and work on their bikes. If they need help, they can come in on a Saturday and we have volunteer mechanics on hand to coach people through the process.”



He loves that the co-op addresses both community building and transportation needs at the same time. Membership dues are \$25 a year, but that fee is waived if the household makes less than 200 percent of the poverty level. Volunteers can also earn shop credit, which helps pay for bikes, parts, and classes.

Franklinton Cycle Works is also a business. They receive bike donations from all over the city, hundreds of bikes every year. After fixing them up, they sell them to the community, at an average price of \$75. In addition, they sell bike parts and host bike maintenance and repair classes. These proceeds help keep the lights on.

Between 2011–2016, it was a completely volunteer-run organization.

In 2017, Franklinton Cycle Works received a \$40,300 grant payable over two years. The grant, made possible through the *Abigail Simpson*, *Herman R. Wilharm*, and *Robert B. Hurst* funds at The Columbus Foundation, allowed Youngman to hire a shop manager, improve lighting, and purchase more tools.


“We had a lot of potential and very little capacity. The Columbus Foundation’s grant allowed us to begin to approach our full potential,” Youngman said. “It allowed us to more than double our accessibility to the neighborhood through increased hours, moving from 2016 when we were open less than 10 hours a week to 2017 when we were open more than 20 hours a week.”

Youngman left his desk job last year and is now overseeing his passion full time.

In addition to the work inside the shop, Franklinton Cycle Works provides bikes to kids through partner organizations. During the Foundation’s Big Give in 2017, Franklinton Cycle Works received more than \$6,000, allowing them to provide approximately 150 bikes to kids in Columbus.

What does the progress to date mean to Youngman, and what are his plans for the future?

“It’s very exciting. This is a huge part of my identity at this point in my life,” he said. “We want to be better connected and more responsive to our members and volunteers going forward. We’re also working on developing more formal youth programs with Gladden Community House and The Homeless Families Foundation. Being able to devote my full time and attention is very meaningful to me and fills me with purpose.”



TAKE ACTION: Check out Franklinton Cycle Works' Directory Listing in The Giving Store at columbusfoundation.org to learn more and give.



CELEBRATING OUR NATIONAL NUMBER ONES

The Columbus Foundation celebrates the outstanding work of those who were named the best in the United States in the past year. The skills and dedication of these National Number Ones bring great distinction to our community.



★ OUR NATIONAL NUMBER ONES	
Peggy Kriha Dye, General and Artistic Director, Opera Columbus 30 Professionals of the Year: Movers and Shapers Musical America	Robbie Banks / Experience Columbus Largest Certified Tourism Ambassador” program Certified Tourism Ambassador Network
Kenny McDonald / Columbus2020 “Best in Class” Regional Economic Development Group Development Counsellors International Most Valuable Economic Development Brand Atlas Advertising	Michael Florile, Dispatch Printing Company and Dispatch Broadcast Group Honoree, Giants of Broadcasting and Electronic Arts Library of American Broadcasting
Tiffany Tynes Curry, Weinland Park Elementary School Milken Educator Award Milken Family Foundation	Eric Gnezda, producer, Songs at the Center Public Television Music Entertainment Series, Ohio product American Public Television
Elizabeth Davidson / The Ohio State University synchronized swimming team National champions U.S. Collegiate Championships	Cleve Ricksecker / Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District Best Policy Decision in the U.S. – Columbus Downtown CPass program StreetsBlog
Malcolm Cochran, professor emeritus, The Ohio State University Outstanding Educator Award International Sculpture Center	Stephanie Lorenz / New Albany Classic Invitational Grand Prix and Family Day, in support of The Center for Family Safety and Healing #1 Specialty Equestrian Event, 4th consecutive year North American Riders Group
Rita Soronen / Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Premier Foster Care Investment Blue Meridian Partners	Edwaard Liang, Artistic Director, BalletMet Top Ballet Performance of the Year, “Romeo and Juliet” Pointe Magazine
Brandon Bishop & Dr. Shawn Midlam-Mohler / The Ohio State University Center for Automotive Research Winner, national EcoCar3 competition U.S. Department of Energy	<div>Pictured, seated (l–r): Columbus Foundation Governing Committee Chairman Matt Walter, Peggy Kriha Dye. First row (l–r): George Barrett, Rita Soronen, Robbie Banks, Elizabeth Davidson, Jo Dee Davis; Second Row (l–r): Cleve Ricksecker, Dominique Alexander, Eric Gnezda, Michael Florile, Stephanie Lorenz; Third Row (l–r): Brandon Bishop, Kenny McDonald, Tiffany Tynes Curry, Malcolm Cochran, Edwaard Liang.</div> <div>Photo by: Eclipse Studios</div>
George Barrett, Executive Chairman, Cardinal Health Inc. Exceptional Businesses and Leaders Business Committee for the Arts Awards Americans for the Arts	
Brian Ciccone, Dominique Alexander & Brett Malamud / The Ohio Machine 2017 National Champions Major League Lacrosse	
Jo Dee Davis, Healing Broken Circles KIND People Foundation Award The KIND Foundation 2017 Model of Leadership and Service Award CF Learning	

The Columbus Foundation Awards Besa Two Significant Grants

THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION AWARDED BESA, a Columbus nonprofit dedicated to supporting those who need it most by connecting people and businesses to community service, two catalytic grants that are helping the organization in its quest to transform philanthropic engagement in our community.

One grant is an unrestricted donation of \$100,000, generously given by an anonymous donor who gifted the money through a fund at The Columbus Foundation. The second grant is a continuous improvement grant. It is a multi-year commitment from The Columbus Foundation to support Besa's growth. In 2018, the grant will provide Besa with \$100,000.

Besa Executive Director Matthew Goldstein said he is honored and energized by the commitment from The Columbus Foundation.

"I couldn't ask for better partners. Not only do they value the work we do, but we also have a shared vision of how to rally people to uplift the community," Goldstein said. "That said, we've only scratched the surface. There's so much more we want to do. And this kind of investment is setting the stage for Besa to grow its impact here in Columbus and beyond."



TAKE ACTION: Check out Besa's Directory Listing in The Giving Store at columbusfoundation.org to learn more and give.

Jeopardy Contestant Donates Winnings to Help Fight Infant Mortality

ROD SWAIN GREW UP watching Jeopardy with his grandparents, and then started watching it regularly a couple years back when he didn't have cable TV. When Jeopardy posted information about the contestant exam on one of its shows, Swain, a native of Huron who now works as a recruiter for City Year Columbus, started an 18-month vetting process that eventually landed him as a contestant on the show in August 2017.

"I got the call that I was going to be on the show in early July and the taping was in early August, so I didn't have much time to prepare," Swain explained. "I wasn't practicing, but I would watch pretty regularly. And, considering that Jeopardy encompasses all known human knowledge, it's hard to try to study. I focused on being calm."

With five shows being taped per day, his favorite part about the experience was connecting with fellow contestants, many of whom he still keeps in contact with today.

After leading for most of the game, he missed the Final Jeopardy question on etymology (as did the other two contestants) and came in second. His final winnings after taxes totaled \$1,860. He sent his check with a letter to The Columbus Foundation asking the Foundation to use his donation to help fight infant mortality. His gift will support Celebrate One's effort to ensure that every baby born in central Ohio has a chance to celebrate his or her first birthday.

While he always had plans to donate the money, he landed on supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality after reading a *Columbus Dispatch* article and having a strong personal reaction to the issue.

"I think the gesture of giving my winnings to support something was way more compelling to folks than just being on the show in the first place. I think that was really cool."



Photo courtesy of Jeopardy Productions, Inc.

KINDNESS—HOW SWEET IT IS!



ON FEBRUARY 3, for the third time, The Columbus Foundation's Kind Columbus initiative celebrated kindness at Columbus Underground's Sweet Treats event. Along with sampling bites from some of the tastiest shops and restaurants, attendees wrote thoughtful messages of kindness to community members experiencing challenges in their lives. The notecards will be distributed to individuals who receive a one-time Gifts of Kindness grant that lifts up individuals and families who have experienced an unexpected setback. Additionally, a portion of the event's ticket sales benefited the *Gifts of Kindness Fund* to further extend kindness in our community.



STAFF NEWS—COLUMBUS FOUNDATION WELCOMES TWO NEW TEAM MEMBERS



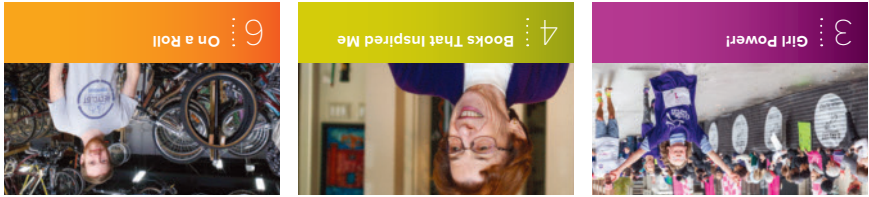
Pictured (l-r) Kelly Schleppi and Natalie Parscher

Two new faces have joined The Columbus Foundation team! Natalie Parscher and Kelly Schleppi both started work at the Foundation earlier this year. Parscher serves as the Director of the Communications and Marketing department, and Schleppi serves as the Senior Financial Reporting Accountant for the Finance department.

"Natalie and Kelly bring a breadth of knowledge and expertise to the Foundation that supports our strategic efforts," said Douglas F. Kridler, President and CEO of The Columbus Foundation. "We look forward to their contributions as they help strengthen and improve central Ohio."

Previously, Parscher served the University Marketing division at The Ohio State University since 2015, first as a senior project manager and then as a marketing strategist. She has more than a decade of experience in developing and executing marketing communications in both the higher education and nonprofit sectors, using her talents to engage audiences across different media channels. She holds a bachelor's degree in speech communication and rhetoric from Saint Louis University, and a master's degree in communication and media studies from Northern Illinois University.

Schleppi brings eight years of reporting and analysis to her current role after holding previous financial positions at American Signature Inc. and the Ohio Hospital Association. In addition, she was a copy editor for *The Columbus Dispatch* from 2004 to 2008. Schleppi holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University, a master's degree in accounting from The Ohio State University, and earned her CPA license in 2011.



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SPIRIT OF COLUMBUS AWARD CELEBRATES MOMENTUM AND ENERGY IN THE BLACK ARTS COMMUNITY

The *Spirit of Columbus Award*, affectionately known as “The Jerries” in honor of aviatrix Jerrie Mock, was established in 2013. It recognizes individuals who exhibit exemplary community spirit through their accomplishments.

On April 17, a group of 10 individuals were celebrated for the contributions they are making to the central Ohio arts scene, and beyond.

Those receiving the 2018 Spirit of Columbus

Award: **Suzan Bradford Kounta, Queen Brooks, Duarte Brown, William Evans, Corey Favor, Sheri Neale, Marshall Shorts, Cristyn Steward, Carnell Willoughby, and Scott Woods.**

“As leaders in the black arts community, these individuals have demonstrated a tremendous ability to bring people together on a local, national, and international level. We honor them as they enrich

Columbus through their respective art forms while creating opportunities for others to grow and collaborate in their own artistic endeavors,” said Douglas F. Kridler, President and CEO of The Columbus Foundation.

Mock was named the first recipient of the award in 2013. Past recipients include Jeni Britton Bauer, David Brown, Denny Griffith, Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Jane Grote Abell, Tanny Crane, and Michelle Alexander.

In 1964, Mock 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.



Past and present Spirit of Columbus Award honorees gathered at The Columbus Foundation: First row (l–r): Barbara Fant (staff), Tanny Crane (2016), Michelle Alexander (2017), Suzan Bradford Kounta, Scott Woods, Sheri Neale, Cristyn Steward, and Duarte Brown. Second row (l–r): Michael B. Coleman (2015), Mark Lomax (staff), Carnell Willoughby, William Evans, Jane Grote Abell (2016), Corey Favor, Jeni Britton Bauer (2013), Marshall Shorts, and David Brown (2013).

Photo by Rick Buchanan