NEXUS

THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

FALL 2026



PICTURED:
Caamp. From left: Matt Vinson, Joe Kavalec, Taylor Meier, Nick Falk, and Evan Westfall. Photo by CJ Harvey Photo.

REACHING GREAT HEIGHTS

For Caamp, Success Starts with Community

IT'S BEEN A REMARKABLE JOURNEY for musicians and longtime friends Evan Westfall and Taylor Meier. From their first show at Woodlands Tavern in Columbus, to sold-out venues with their band, Caamp, the Upper Arlington natives have built a devoted following that stretches far beyond their home state.

Westfall and Meier first met in middle school, where they quickly bonded over the *Remember the Titans* soundtrack—an early indication of how music would shape their lives. It wasn't until high school, however, that the two began playing and writing music together. While they mostly played for fun, it was during this period that Westfall and Meier began to discover the unique musical style that would come to define Caamp.

In 2016, Westfall and Meier independently released their debut album. The self-titled album has been streamed hundreds of millions of times and features fan favorites like "All the Debts I Owe," "Ohio," and "Vagabond."

Even as the American-indie folk band continues to gain notoriety on the international stage, central Ohio remains the place that Westfall and Meier, along with bassist Matt Vinson, call home.

"We just love it here," said Westfall, who lives in Upper Arlington with his wife and son.

Caamp recently wrapped up the 2026 stretch of their nationwide tour, which included an energetic performance at the Schottenstein Center in

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OPENING DOORS TO EDUCATION
A historic gift from the late Mary "Betsy" E. Rueb has resulted in more than $1.6 million in scholarships for students since 2025.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Douglas F. Kridler
PRESIDENT AND CEO

IT'S TIME TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH. Time to pivot from the din of the political campaign season to join together in honoring our veterans and look forward to the joy and meaning that giving thanks can provide.

And, of course, even in times of high-volume division, there is joy to be found in so many ways and places. But, there is no doubt we have to work to find it, and to savor it where and when we find it; as, like everything, joy is temporal.

In light of that, what is it that we can do and build that can expand your joy and fulfillment? This is a centering challenge we have given ourselves at The Columbus Foundation for years now. We believe philanthropy, the investment in the well-being and individual progress of others, is a way you can expand the value of the resources you have, with fulfilling results.

But that takes expanding philanthropy into a multi-dimensional practice, something we, for years now, have been putting into place. In addition to our commitment to excelling at our core business practice of service to you in your generosity, we also have expanded our work to include initiatives like The Big Table®, fostering community connection, and the Center for HumanKindness® and the Gifts of Kindness program, fostering care for others. Our many awards, like *The Spirit of Columbus® Award*, celebrate exceptional contributions to our community. All the while, our groundbreaking Designing for Community Well-Being practice uses human-centered design to build enduring solutions to complex community challenges.

We believe this further deepens the community impact and purpose of The Columbus Foundation, this place of exceptional community care created in the midst of World War II, when our veterans were laying their lives on the line for our country. The importance of this expansion of the scope of our philanthropy finds company in these recent words from the CEO of the Community Foundations of Canada, Andrew Chunilall: "The next horizon may be rebuilding the conditions in which generosity flourishes—trust, reciprocity, relationships, agency, belonging, a sense of mutual obligation… These are not soft concepts sitting at the margins of economic life. They are part of the invisible infrastructure that allows communities and democracies to function."

Fortunately, The Columbus Foundation saw that need, that opportunity, on the horizon years ago, and we have shaped our work to include an array of programs, awards, connections, and investments that help our community and the people in it flourish through times of challenge and times of clanging rancor. In doing so, we amplify the impact of the trust you have placed in us.

We embrace the reality that life is temporal as a motivation to make the most of the time and treasure we have, and we do so in thanksgiving.

THE WINNING SPIRIT OF Community Cup

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE GATHERED at Fortress Obetz in September for the 2026 Community Cup. Organized by the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, the annual event brings local companies together for a day of connection, camaraderie, and playful rivalry through activities like the Wiffle Ball Home Run Derby, Relay Race, and Tug of War. Teams also participate in a Charity Challenge, earning points through volunteering or donating to local causes.

This year's event was bigger than ever, welcoming 49 teams across four divisions for the friendly competition. Since 2018, The Columbus Foundation has been the presenting sponsor of Community Cup and once again joined fellow participants in celebrating the community spirit that defines the event.



PICTURED:
Columbus Foundation staff participate in the 2026 Community Cup

Fall 2026

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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‘Reaching Great Heights’ [*continued from cover*]

August. Westfall admitted that playing before a hometown crowd is nerve-wracking, in part because of the sense of responsibility he feels toward the community that raised him.

“It can be overwhelming. So many of the friends and family I grew up with are here. We want to prove that success hasn’t gone to our heads,” explained Westfall. “I want everyone to be proud of what we’re doing.”

The band’s commitment to central Ohio extends far beyond the stage. In 2022, Caamp established the *Great Heights Movement*, a Donor Advised Fund at The Columbus Foundation, to support organizations in Columbus and in the communities they tour nationally. During the band’s recent tours, $1 of every ticket sale has supported the Great Heights Movement and Caamp’s charitable activities.

> “With kids, music and the arts can give them hope. That’s why I connect with it so much.”
>
> **— EVAN WESTFALL**

Through the fund, the bandmates are focused on lifting up initiatives that resonate with them: arts and education, housing affordability and stability, and land protection and restoration. The Great Heights Movement has supported BalletMet, We Amplify Voices, Harmony Project, the Kirk Horn Music Fund, and Sam’s Fans, among many other organizations locally and across the country.

With the 2026 tour officially over, Westfall says the bandmates look forward to focusing more energy on their philanthropy. “If there’s an opportunity for us to be able to help our community, that’s a no-brainer,” said Westfall.

For Westfall, expanding opportunities for youth to experience the joy and creativity of music is deeply personal. Self-taught on the guitar and banjo, he has learned that music can open many doors.

“I didn’t do well in the classroom setting. I needed other ways to learn,” said Westfall. “I didn’t know what I was doing at the time. I just knew that I felt good playing. It gave me a sense of purpose and identity.”

“With kids, music and the arts can give them hope,” he added. “That’s why I connect with it so much.”



PICTURED:
Caamp performs at the Schottenstein Center on August 29. On stage, from left to right, are Matt Vinson, Joe Kavalec, Evan Westfall, Nick Falk, and Taylor Meier. Photo by Will Wark.

SCHOLARSHIPS

OPENING DOORS TO EDUCATION

MORE THAN THREE DECADES AGO, Upper Arlington resident Mary “Betsy” E. Rueb approached The Columbus Foundation with a planned gift commitment. Rueb, who deeply loved children, wanted to open the door to educational opportunities for young people.

Described as generous, modest, charming, and intelligent, Rueb quietly built her wealth through wise investments over the course of many years. After passing away in 2023, Rueb left her estate to The Columbus Foundation to establish a permanent scholarship fund. It remains the largest endowed gift the Foundation has ever received, totaling $55 million. In 2024, the Foundation honored Rueb with *The Harrison M. Sayre Award*, which recognizes leadership in philanthropy in central Ohio.

> “Year after year, because of Betsy’s generous heart and historic gift, students will have access to opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach.”
>
> **— ALICIA SZEMPRUCH, MPA, CAP®, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION**

Today, the *Betsy Rueb Scholarship Fund* supports promising students in our region who may lack the financial resources needed to continue their education. Since the first scholarship was awarded from the fund in 2025, Rueb’s remarkable generosity has resulted in more than **$1.6 million in scholarships** to students.

“What makes Betsy’s gift so extraordinary is that its impact will continue far into the future,” said Alicia Szempruch, MPA, CAP®, Associate Director for Scholarships at The Columbus Foundation. “Year after year, because of Betsy’s generous heart and historic gift, students will have access to opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach.”

Rueb’s foresight more than 30 years ago demonstrates how a planned gift can create lasting change, transforming a personal commitment to education and young people into a legacy that will benefit students for generations to come.



PICTURED:
Betsy Rueb. Courtesy of the Betsy Rueb estate.



PICTURED:
Thomas A. Orchard, far left, joined by Jane Wert Oman, wife of Richard H. Oman, and Douglas F. Kridler, President and CEO of The Columbus Foundation

HONORING A **PARTNER IN PHILANTHROPY**

WHEN INDIVIDUALS begin thinking about the charitable legacy they want to create, they often turn to trusted professional advisors for guidance. The Columbus Foundation regularly partners with members of its Professional Council, more than 200 attorneys, financial advisors, and other professionals who help clients align their values with their giving.

To recognize the important role these advisors play in strengthening our community today and for future generations, The Columbus Foundation established the *Richard H. Oman Partner in Philanthropy Award*. Named in honor of Richard “Dick” H. Oman, the Foundation’s former longtime director and counsel, the award celebrates professional advisors whose commitment to clients, community, and philanthropy reflects the highest standards of the profession.

In September, **Thomas A. Orchard, CFP Board Emeritus®**, was named the inaugural recipient of the award. Throughout his more than 40-year career, Orchard helped individuals and families achieve their financial goals while encouraging thoughtful philanthropy. Beyond his leadership in philanthropic advising, Orchard has also generously shared his time, talent, and resources to support nonprofits in central Ohio and his native northwest Ohio.

Serving the Central Ohio Community for Generations

Each September at its **Celebration of Philanthropy**, The Columbus Foundation recognizes those whose service and generosity have left a lasting mark on central Ohio. This year, two longstanding Columbus institutions were recognized for their enduring commitment to strengthening the community.



THE HARRISON M. SAYRE AWARD
Huntington National Bank

The Harrison M. Sayre Award *recognizes leadership in philanthropy in central Ohio.*

FOR 160 YEARS, Huntington National Bank has been a cornerstone of the central Ohio community, building a legacy of leadership, innovation, and service. Founded in Columbus in 1866, Huntington remains one of the region's most enduring institutions.

Huntington has long believed that investing in local nonprofits, through both charitable giving and volunteerism, helps build a healthy and vibrant community. Through its philanthropic investments, the company supports initiatives that expand opportunities and improve the quality of life.

Huntington has also been a trusted partner of The Columbus Foundation since the Foundation's inception in 1943, serving as a founding trustee bank. Built on a shared commitment to community impact and thoughtful stewardship, this partnership has flourished for more than 80 years.

In recognition of its exceptional service to the community, Huntington National Bank was named the 2026 honoree of *The Harrison M. Sayre Award*.

PICTURED ABOVE (L-R):
Tanny Crane, Executive Chair of Crane Group and Huntington Bancshares Incorporated board member; Brant Standridge, President of Huntington Bancshares Incorporated, and Jessica Standridge; Patti Steinour and Steve Steinour, Chairman and CEO of Huntington Bancshares Incorporated



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION AWARD
Columbus Early Learning Centers

The Columbus Foundation Award *recognizes nonprofit organizations that have made a difference in the quality of life in our community.*

DURING THE EARLIEST years of a child's life, critical foundations for learning, health, and emotional well-being are established, shaping a child's future for years to come. Since 1887, Columbus Early Learning Centers has worked to ensure children and their families have the support they need during these formative years of development.

Operating six centers across the city, Columbus Early Learning Centers provides year-round care and education to more than 300 children annually, helping them build the skills, curiosity, and confidence needed to thrive. The organization also supports parents through wraparound services, such as developmental screenings, food distribution, and home visits.

In recognition of its commitment to enriching the lives of young learners, Columbus Early Learning Centers was selected as the 2026 honoree of *The Columbus Foundation Award*. As part of the award, the organization received a $100,000 unrestricted grant from the Foundation.

PICTURED ABOVE (L-R):
Amanda Bundy, PhD, Columbus Early Learning Centers board member; Gina Ginn, PhD, CEO of Columbus Early Learning Centers; and Jessica Cano, Columbus Early Learning Centers board member



NONPROFIT FEATURE

Providing a Network of Support

No one is prepared to hear the words, “You have cancer.” In an instant, routines are upended. Suddenly, there are appointments to schedule, decisions to make, and questions that don’t always have clear answers. People touched by cancer, including patients, caregivers, family, and friends, find themselves navigating medical, financial, and emotional challenges as they try to regain a sense of stability amid profound uncertainty.

PICTURED:
Jess Sparks, LPCC, CEO of Cancer Support Community Central Ohio

CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY CENTRAL OHIO provides programs, resources, and a compassionate support network for individuals in treatment, as well as survivors, caregivers, and patients’ loved ones, all at no cost. According to Jess Sparks, LPCC, CEO of Cancer Support Community Central Ohio, the organization strives to uplift everyone affected by cancer, reduce barriers to care, and foster community.

“When folks come here, they have an immediate familiarity and understanding with one another. That familiarity builds community,” said Sparks. “You don’t have to explain yourself, because other people will understand what you’re going through.”

Following a diagnosis, individuals and families work with Cancer Support Community Central Ohio to develop a personalized care plan that addresses their unique needs. Program offerings include individual counseling, support groups, nutrition and cooking lessons, educational workshops, art courses, and exercise and stress management classes. The organization also hosts symposiums for oncology professionals, bringing together local healthcare providers to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Beyond the physical and emotional toll of treatment, cancer can also create significant financial hardship. Through its Empower program, Cancer Support Community Central Ohio helps people overcome financial barriers to treatment through short-term financial assistance. Participants also meet regularly with a board-certified community health worker who connects them to additional resources throughout their treatment.

When the Empower program lost a critical source of public funding last year, Cancer Support Community Central Ohio became a nonprofit partner of The Columbus Foundation’s Gifts of Kindness program. Since 2014, the *Gifts of Kindness Fund* has helped community members facing unexpected financial challenges through emergency grants. Through this partnership and support from Gifts of Kindness donors, Cancer Support Community Central Ohio continues to provide financial relief to individuals in its Empower program.

“Empower serves folks who otherwise get left behind, especially in the world of oncology care,” said Sparks. “Gifts of Kindness has been absolutely critical in meeting needs like housing, utilities, and transportation.”

In one instance, the Gifts of Kindness program helped Michelle, who is undergoing treatment for stage IV breast cancer, cover her rent so that she could remain in her home. In a letter shared with The Columbus Foundation, Michelle said the support enabled her to concentrate fully on her health.

> “When folks come here, they have an immediate familiarity and understanding with one another. That familiarity builds community. You don’t have to explain yourself, because other people will understand what you’re going through.”
>
> — **JESS SPARKS, LPCC, CEO OF CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY CENTRAL OHIO**

“What you are doing has an impact far beyond the dollar amount of a grant,” Michelle wrote. “You are creating stability when it is desperately needed and giving people an opportunity to move forward.”

In addition to being a Gifts of Kindness partner, Cancer Support Community Central Ohio has received several grants from The Columbus Foundation in support of various programs. In July, the organization received a $20,000 grant to support its Distress Screening program, which helps identify social and emotional needs and connect participants with appropriate support. The grant was made possible by the *Richard C. and Nanciann Kaufman Ninde Fund*, a Field of Interest Fund at the Foundation.

For Sparks, cancer care comes in many forms. While medical treatment addresses the disease itself, healing also requires emotional support and a community that understands the challenges people face along the way.

“It can be so isolating to be a caregiver, to be the diagnosed person, to be the friend of someone with cancer,” said Sparks. “That’s the beauty of the Cancer Support Community—it’s meant to feel like home. You’re welcome here.”

CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY CENTRAL OHIO

CAPACITY BUILDING

INVESTING IN **Nonprofit Development**

From fundraising and development to human resources and board engagement, The Columbus Foundation has, for nearly 20 years, offered a range of programs for central Ohio nonprofits that help organizations build capacity and improve services. Through these programs, nonprofit leaders gain practical skills and valuable opportunities to learn from subject-matter experts and peers.

ONE SUCH PROGRAM, the Fundraising Leadership Academy, brings together nonprofit development professionals and executive directors to explore fundraising best practices. Offered in partnership with Time, Talent, & Treasure—a Columbus-based consulting, coaching, and training organization for nonprofit and public leaders—this three-month course features a robust curriculum that connects participants with other development professionals and potential funding partners.

By the end of the program, which is offered annually, participants create a personalized toolkit they can immediately apply to their fundraising strategies, using data and materials from their own organizations.

"The funding landscape is constantly evolving, and nonprofit leaders need the knowledge, skills, and relationships to adapt effectively," said Erin Scott, Director of Capacity Building and Community Knowledge at The Columbus Foundation. "The Fundraising Leadership Academy gives professionals the tools, trusted connections, and confidence to approach fundraising in a more intentional and sustainable way."

Since 2018, more than 190 professionals have graduated from the Fundraising Leadership Academy. Erin West, Executive Director of Hilliard Food Pantry Plus and a 2025 graduate of the program, said the experience has helped strengthen her organization's fundraising efforts—especially following a devastating fire that destroyed the pantry's warehouse and inventory in 2024.

"The Fundraising Leadership Academy has helped me think about fundraising as more than just raising money. It's about building relationships, sharing our story, and helping people connect with the mission in a meaningful way," said West. "I came away with new ideas, a stronger network, and a greater appreciation for the impact we can have."

The Fundraising Leadership Academy is made possible thanks to the generosity of a consortium of funding organizations: Bank of America, Bath & Body Works, Columbia Gas of Ohio, The Columbus Foundation, Grange Insurance, Huntington National Bank, Installed Building Products, and Nationwide. In-kind support is also provided by LIT Life + Yoga and PENZONE Salons + Spas.

For more information, or to be added to the list of interested organizations for a future cohort, scan the QR code.



PICTURED:
The 2025 Fundraising Leadership Academy cohort.
Photo courtesy of Time, Talent, & Treasure.

A Special Milestone for **Pickaway County**

For 25 years, the Pickaway County Community Foundation has connected generosity with community needs to help improve the quality of life in Pickaway County. Founded in 2001 by a group of dedicated community leaders and public servants, the Pickaway County Community Foundation awards grants and scholarships that support nonprofit organizations, students, families, and communities throughout the county.



PICTURED:
The board of the Pickaway County Community Foundation.
Photo by Keegan Riffle Photography.

TODAY, the Pickaway County Community Foundation manages more than 100 charitable funds that support a wide variety of local and regional causes. These funds help strengthen education, health and human services, parks and recreation, historic preservation, agriculture, leadership, and other community priorities through organizations such as the Pickaway County Community Action Organization, Pickaway County Parks District, Pickaway County Historical Society, Haven House, YMCA of Central Ohio, and others.

The Columbus Foundation has served as a trusted partner of the Pickaway County Community Foundation from the beginning and has provided technical support and investment services since 2002. In recognition of this longstanding collaboration, the Pickaway County Community Foundation presented The Columbus Foundation with its 2026 Partner in Philanthropy Award this past summer.

Congratulations to the Pickaway County Community Foundation for 25 years of turning generosity into lasting impact across Pickaway County!

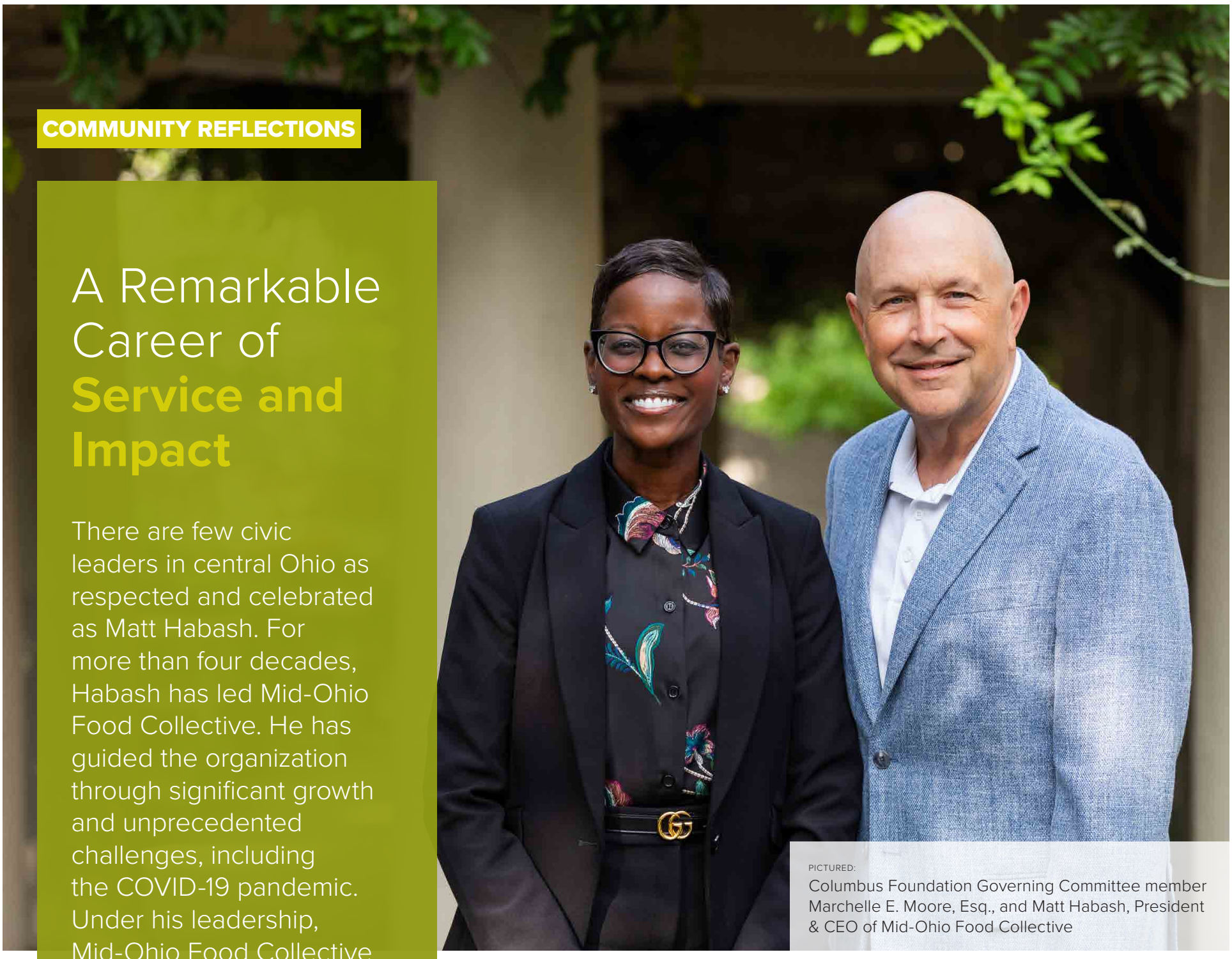


PICTURED:
Steven Moore, Chief of Staff at The Columbus Foundation, at the Pickaway County Community Foundation's 25th anniversary event. The Columbus Foundation was presented with the Partner in Philanthropy Award in recognition of its longstanding partnership with the Pickaway County Community Foundation. Photo by Keegan Riffle Photography.

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS

A Remarkable Career of **Service and Impact**

There are few civic leaders in central Ohio as respected and celebrated as Matt Habash. For more than four decades, Habash has led Mid-Ohio Food Collective. He has guided the organization through significant growth and unprecedented challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his leadership, Mid-Ohio Food Collective has earned national recognition for its innovative approaches to alleviating hunger.



PICTURED:
Columbus Foundation Governing Committee member Marchelle E. Moore, Esq., and Matt Habash, President & CEO of Mid-Ohio Food Collective

HABASH'S DISTINGUISHED NONPROFIT CAREER began at St. Stephen's Community House, now known as the Greater Columbus Community House. He also served on Columbus City Council from 1993 to 2006, including seven years as council president.

Earlier this year, Habash announced his retirement from Mid-Ohio Food Collective. As he prepares to close this chapter of his remarkable career, Marchelle E. Moore, Esq., member of The Columbus Foundation's Governing Committee, sat down with Habash to discuss leadership, service, and what gives him hope for the future.

Q: Looking back, what set you on a path to a career in public service?

I had two amazing parents who taught all six of their children the power of giving back and getting involved. I've also had amazing mentors who have helped shape my path. John Maloney taught me how to bridge the gap between the soup kitchen and the boardroom. Judy Stattmiller taught me everything about nonprofit administration.

Then there are the folks that I had the privilege of working with over the years: Greg Lashutka, Cindy Lazarus, John Kennedy, and Mayor Michael Coleman, to name a few. Dr. Phil Cass introduced me to the Shambhala Institute for Authentic Leadership. They convene systems-change leaders from around the world, and I had the opportunity to interact with and learn from those leaders.

Q: What lessons have you learned over the course of your career that might resonate with today's nonprofit leaders?

This may sound cliché, but find really good people who are smarter than you, who complement what you do. I inspire them and then get out of their way.

I'm not worried about retiring from Mid-Ohio Food Collective because I have a team and board who are very passionate about human services work and taking care of people. Surround yourself with people who care about the mission and trust them to lead.

Q: Columbus is often described as an optimistic and collaborative community. At the same time, nonprofit leaders are navigating significant challenges and changes. As you look ahead, what gives you confidence in our community's ability to meet those challenges?

We believe in strength-based work, in leading from a position of strength and positivity. Columbus has many strengths. We're a growing community. But we must also recognize that many people are struggling. They are one bad day away from falling off the cliff. We have to bridge those gaps because we're all in this together.

In his book *The World is Flat*, Thomas Friedman said that the rate of change is happening faster than our ability to comprehend it. That's a challenge we all face. We have to embrace optimism, hope, and the strength of this community so we can ensure that those who are struggling are, in fact, being lifted up.

Q: What advice or reflection would you most like to leave with the next generation of civic and nonprofit leaders?

I'm a firm believer that the leadership is already here. Too often, we look elsewhere for leaders, and we bring them to us. So how do we build up the leaders who are already in this community, leaders who are ready to step up?

I've also learned the power of asking questions. Holding ambiguity is a hard thing for people to do. But if there's anything that I've learned, it's to be curious. Ask the questions. Continue to raise tough issues. Change happens when we reach the edge of our comfort zone. That's how we become better and do better.



PICTURED:
Mid-Ohio Food Collective

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FALL 2026

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THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

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NEXUS

Celebrating 10 Years of The Big Table®

THE BIG TABLE®

Since 2016, The Columbus Foundation has invited community members to pull up a chair and join The Big Table, a day of conversation, connection, and civic engagement. This year, around 6,400 people gathered at hundreds of tables throughout central Ohio to talk, listen, learn, and imagine what's possible through conversation and collaboration.

More voices joined The Big Table this year than ever before to discuss topics such as health, education, housing, neighboring, and kindness. Thank you for making this an inspiring day of connection and community.



We asked, you shared. Scan the QR code to read more about what participants had to say about this year's Big Table!