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NEXUS
The Columbus Foundation
FALL 2014

2014 CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY
Record-breaking results and philanthropy award winners
PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Douglas F. Kridler
President and CEO

Just as the world’s greatest singers are about to take the stage for performances at The Metropolitan Opera, there is a phrase they often say to one another. The reciting of these words is designed to help them summon the courage and confidence to perform, together, at the highest level possible in front of some of the world’s most discerning audiences. The phrase is in Italian, and goes like this: “In bocca al lupo.” The translation? “Into the mouth of the wolf.”

The Columbus Foundation was created during World War II, while battles raged and lives were being lost in Europe, Russia, Africa, and the Pacific. Worry, peril, and loss were an unwelcome part of everyday life in the United States.

It seems counterintuitive that at such a time, concerns for the well-being of one’s neighbors and the future of one’s community would be so present as to inspire the creation of The Columbus Foundation. Perhaps the sacrifices our soldiers were making for a higher purpose and for the collective well-being of our country inspired our community’s leaders to act in this thoughtful, caring, and local way.

New forms of conflict, volatility, and threats to democracy and freedom continue to shake the globe today, challenging old ways of finding a way forward. Timothy Shriver, the chairman of Special Olympics, has recently written a book titled, Fully Alive: Discovering What Matters Most, in which he wrote the following: “We’re all looking for ways to make sense of a world without a center, but we’ll only find that in people who lead with authentic humility and reckless generosity.”

Similar words were on my mind when I was asked to consider the position of president and CEO of The Columbus Foundation 13 years ago—five weeks after the devastating losses and violation of our sense of security on 9/11. In my case, my thought was if The Columbus Foundation could be a place that could help hold the center during volatile times, then I needed to do what I could to help this vital community asset, resource, and collective expression of conscience realize its potential, as well as to bolster its ability to endure through the ages.

Success here takes more than vision, conviction, and inspiring words, however. As Walter Isaacson said about his research for his new book, The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution, “It was clear to me that vision without execution is hallucination.” Rest assured, we are committed to best-of-breed execution of our responsibilities to you and our community in ever-evolving ways.

What binds us together is a vision of a country and a community with opportunity, growth, and values that can respond quickly to and withstand mighty forces of change and challenge. We will continue to summon the courage our founders showed to pursue the things that matter most, and we will be steadfast in pursuit of progress for our community and the people in it, no matter how daunting those challenges. In bocca al lupo, indeed.
A Donor’s Quest to Give Back

FAMILY FOCUSES ON GIVING LOCAL RESIDENTS A HAND UP

DAN LONGO’S PHILOSOPHY on giving is simple—stay local and help people who need a hand up. By creating both a fund and a planned gift at The Columbus Foundation, he and his family are doing just that—through their current giving, as well as establishing a lasting legacy to ensure the continuation of their philanthropic intent in perpetuity.

Dan, a Westerville resident, and his late wife, Anne, founded Geotechnical Consultants, Inc. (GCI) in the late 1970s. As the company grew, so did their charitable giving, both personally and from a corporate standpoint.

In 2006, Dan and Anne established the Danny Joseph Longo Memorial Fund, a Donor Advised Fund, to honor their son who passed away in 2001 at age 11. Over the past eight years, the fund has supported a number of local organizations important to the family, including LifeCare Alliance, St. Paul School, and the OhioHealth Foundation. In addition to Danny, the couple has three adult children and 11 grandchildren.

For many years, as well as being an RN and raising her family, Anne was also responsible for directing charitable giving through their business.

“I THINK A COMMUNITY IS A FAMILY, AND WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO HELP OTHERS.” —DAN LONGO

“Anne is probably the one who pushed me into being generous. As the company started to succeed, we established the philosophy that the company would annually give 10 percent of its profit to some form of charity,” said Dan. “And that’s what we had done until a year ago.”

Anne passed away in February 2014. In June, GCI established a Donor Advised Fund to manage its charitable giving. The fund, the Geotechnical Consultants, Inc./Anne Longo Memorial Fund, has already awarded a number of grants to organizations including the National Parkinson Foundation Central & Southeast Ohio and the Alzheimer’s Association Central Ohio Chapter.

“We were honored the company decided to establish a fund at The Columbus Foundation and include her name,” Dan said.

While Dan has transitioned out of the business, his daughter, Cindy Brass, serves as treasurer.

“The company really likes to support causes our employees are involved in, as well as those my mom felt close to or had a desire to help,” Cindy said. “When we decided to set up the corporate fund, it really made sense to have it in her name and in the company’s name because she was the one who had always directed the company donations.”

The Longos also established a planned gift with the Foundation, which will allow Danny’s fund to continue on in perpetuity.

“Losing a child is very difficult, but I think it gave us the belief that we could help other children and other people,” Dan said.

Dan is excited to involve his children in his future giving.

“They will have an opportunity, through their brother, to donate to organizations they feel close to.”

Columbus Foundation donor Dan Longo and his daughter, Cindy Brass.

GIVE THE GIFT OF GIVING!

This holiday season, give the gift of giving with The Columbus Foundation’s Charitable Gift Card. Your choice of a physical or electronic gift card offers flexible, efficient options for sharing with the recipient through email, Facebook, or a traditional gift card.

Recipients can support one of 600 central Ohio nonprofits featured in PowerPhilanthropy®, the Foundation’s online marketplace.

YEAR END REMINDERS

YEAR END IS A GREAT TIME to give gifts of appreciated securities to avoid the capital gains tax and get a full charitable deduction!

All gifts must be received at The Columbus Foundation or postmarked by December 31, 2014 to be eligible for a 2014 tax deduction.

Donor Advised grants must be received by Monday, December 15, in order for grant checks to mail by December 31. However, there is no tax reason grants need to be made before this date.

Available in denominations of $20, $50, and $100, it is a terrific idea for those who want to inspire the gift of generosity. Makes a thoughtful gift for family and friends—as well as a great corporate gift to clients and staff!

To learn more, visit TCFGiftCardPurchase.org or contact Ann at adodson@columbusfoundation.org or 614/251-4000.

RESULTS ARE IN!

IN AUGUST, The Columbus Foundation launched a Critical Need Alert, Essentials for Yearlong School Success: A Pressing Need of Homeless Children—an initiative developed to provide Foundation donors and community members with an efficient and immediate way to supply school items and clothing to local children who are homeless.

The Governing Committee kicked off the effort with a $100,000 grant.

In all, $400,821 was raised through the initiative—$50,821 more than the original goal of $350,000!

“Homelessness is destabilizing for families and is especially traumatic for children. Essentials like school supplies and backpacks are things most of us take for granted, but they can stand in the way of a child’s success in school,” said Michelle Heritage, executive director of Community Shelter Board. “We are deeply grateful to The Columbus Foundation and this caring Columbus community for supporting families and children in need.”

The number of homeless families, in central Ohio and across the nation, has increased steadily for several years. In 2014, area shelter providers are dealing with record numbers of homeless families. Between mid-2009 and mid-2013, family homelessness in central Ohio increased by 65 percent.

Our Community Research and Grants Management team identified four local organizations on the front lines of homelessness in the community—theYWCA Family Center, The Homeless Families Foundation, The Salvation Army, and Volunteers of America. This one-time effort helped bridge a gap during a period when resources are especially limited as nonprofits work to address long-term issues and to support the new permanent Von Buren Shelter, which opened its first of two phases in July.

The second phase, designated for homeless families, is slated to open in summer 2015.
Grants awarded in a single year by the Foundation, donors, and Supporting Foundations reached a historic all-time high in 2013, totaling $160.6 million, which was nearly 66 percent greater than 2012.

More than $1.7 million in scholarships was awarded to 759 students attending colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Since grantmaking began in 1944, The Columbus Foundation and its donors have awarded more than half a million grants totaling $1.53 billion to benefit the community.

The total amount of new planned gifts communicated to the Foundation in 2013 was $411.9 million, bringing the total of future planned gift expectations to $878.8 million.

**2014 PHILANTHROPY AWARD WINNERS**

**THE CRANE FAMILY** received the Harrison M. Sayre Award for outstanding philanthropic leadership in central Ohio. The award is given in honor of The Columbus Foundation’s founder and 25-year volunteer director.

The Crane family’s relationship with The Columbus Foundation started 40 years ago when Jameson (Jim) Crane and his late wife, Ann, established the Mr. and Mrs. Jameson Crane Fund. In 1976, Jim’s brother, the late Robert (Bob) Crane, and his wife, Loann, established the Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crane, Jr. Family Fund. Since then, many of their children have established funds at the Foundation, as well.

Currently, there are five planned gifts and 15 active funds from which Crane individuals and families support a wide variety of organizations.

In 2009, Jim and Loann established the Crane Family Foundation, a Supporting Foundation, from which to oversee the family’s collective philanthropy. Through this giving vehicle, the family has provided valuable support to nonprofit organizations including Community Shelter Board, the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, United Way of Central Ohio, and Local Matters, just to name a few.

Nearly every area of life in central Ohio has benefited from the generosity of the Crane Family—from educational opportunities and the arts to basic needs. Grants to the community from Crane funds at the Foundation exceed $20 million.

“Many of our family members are interested in so many causes and organizations in the community. It’s very gratifying for all of us to be able to give back.”

—Loann Crane

**THE WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS** (The Wex) received The Columbus Foundation Award for making a significant difference in our community. Founded in 1989 as a “research laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art,” the Wex has presented acclaimed exhibitions, performances, and films, as well as conversations with world-renowned visual artists, filmmakers, musicians, dancers, theater producers, and designers.

The building, made possible thanks to a generous gift from L Brands Founder and Chairman Leslie H. Wexner in memory of his father, features four exhibition galleries, a dedicated 300-seat film/video theater, black box theater, intimate video exhibition space, café, and bookstore, in addition to the 2,400-seat Mershon Auditorium, which it oversees.

Over the past 25 years, the center has attracted about five million visitors to 250 exhibitions, 4,600 film screenings, and nearly 1,000 performances.

In celebration of the Wex’s 25th anniversary, it is presenting Transfigurations: Modern Masters from the Wexner Family Collection, the first-ever exhibition of Leslie and Abigail Wexner’s personal collection that features masterworks by Pablo Picasso, Alberto Giacometti, and Jean Dubuffet, among others. It will be on view until December 31, 2014.

“While we are artist-centric, we are also audience-focused. We seek to offer a wide array of programs where audiences can encounter contemporary art in all of its fascinating guises.”

—Sherri Geldin, Director, Wexner Center for The Arts
IN SEPTEMBER, thanks to the passion of an anonymous donor, The Columbus Foundation announced the Gifts of Kindness Fund to help individuals and families living in the central Ohio community who are experiencing an unexpected setback and have an immediate financial need.

“This fund was established by a donor with the understanding that acts of kindness and generosity can be transformational for people in need,” said Douglas F. Kridler, president and CEO of The Columbus Foundation. The Foundation is working with 10 nonprofit partner agencies to identify individuals to receive one-time grants. The grants, estimated to be from $500 to $3,000 each, help with things like rent, utility assistance, transportation, and basic household necessities. Current nonprofit partners are the YMCA, LifeCare Alliance, Homeport, Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center, The Homeless Families Foundation, The Salvation Army, Volunteers of America, Goodwill Columbus, OSU Extension-University District, and YWCA Columbus.

Additional nonprofit partners will be added to reach a representative cross-section of people in need throughout central Ohio. In the first two months, 30 grants were made.

Anyone can make a gift to the Gifts of Kindness Fund using a credit card through PowerPhilanthropy,® the Foundation’s online marketplace. Columbus Foundation donors can make a grant from their Donor Advised Funds, as well. For more details about Gifts of Kindness, visit columbusfoundation.org.

GIFTS OF KINDNESS Q&A

Charles W. Gehring, President and CEO, LifeCare Alliance

“I am convinced that this financial assistance has even saved lives.”

What have the Gifts of Kindness grants meant to the clients of LifeCare Alliance?

The Gifts of Kindness grants have meant everything to the clients of LifeCare Alliance. These grants assist individuals and families most in need—the poorest, often at their most critical and desperate time. The grants keep our clients out of homeless shelters, maintain critical medications, and allow families to remain together. It is important to note that Gifts of Kindness grants allow LifeCare Alliance clients to conquer their problems and eventually return to a normal life. Gifts of Kindness grants do not just provide temporary support; the funding provides permanent answers. I am convinced that this financial assistance has even saved lives. Our clients suffering from cancer, HIV/AIDS, and other severe illnesses have been able to purchase needed medications.

Why are grants like this necessary for individuals and families? What types of challenges do you see them facing?

Grants like Gifts of Kindness are critical for individuals and families as they provide the most basic needs at a time of greatest desperation. And, there is nothing else like the Gifts of Kindness grants. Nonprofit agencies simply do not have the resources to assist with some needs. These grants provide what needs to be done for the client, whereas many grants fund what the funder wants done.

Applicants are facing financial and life devastation. Life circumstances, often no fault of the client, cause the client to face homelessness, utility shut-offs, lack of food, the inability to purchase needed medications, the inability to access healthcare, and the inability to take care of their families. However, these desperate circumstances can often be overcome with assistance at the right time. Gifts of Kindness grants provide the ability to stabilize lives and help individuals and families recover their lives.

AS A CHILD, Chicago native John Lowe, CEO of Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams, was intrigued by race relations and President Kennedy. Fast forward 30 years and he still enjoys learning through books, and has a specific fondness for historical biographies.

If you had to name a favorite author, who would it be?

Walter Isaacson. I’ve always been drawn to historical biographies. I found his Henry Kissinger book fascinating. He has since done Benjamin Franklin, and of course Steve Jobs. Isaacson does a great job of finding the stones that, at least for me, resonate and capture the trials and tribulations of one’s life and the issues they were dealing with. Looking back, we see the headlines, but I love to understand the real issues they were wrestling with at the time.

Which book has had the biggest impact on you, and why?

China, Inc.: How the Rise of the Next Superpower Challenges America and the World by Ted Fishman really opened my eyes in a way I’m almost embarrassed to admit. I didn’t understand exactly what was going on in that country and the enormous boom that is nearly incomprehensible. I remember reading the back cover and then diving in.

What book(s) are you currently reading?

Zero to One: Notes on Startups, or How to Build the Future by Peter Thiel. It was given to me by a good friend as a thank you. I opened it up and couldn’t put it down. Jen’s birthday was coming up, and I got her a copy because I knew she would love it. It’s about the difficulty of getting from nothing to something, but the importance of that—and the importance of innovation and entrepreneurs in our society. There are ways to marginally affect the world with the growth of large companies, but the game changers are those who innovate and create something from nothing.

You’ve had a very diverse career. Any business or leadership books that you feel have helped shape you as a leader?

Jack Welch’s autobiographies—Jack: Straight from the Gut and Winning certainly shaped me. Frankly, in a way that I haven’t emulated but wish that I did more. One of his big teachings is that you have to stop and celebrate the wins. And I do a really lousy job of that as a leader. We’ve had tremendous victories at Jeni’s over the last five years, and I don’t do a good enough job of pulling the team together and celebrating. I think it reflects that I want to be on to the next thing, and I need to work harder at stopping to celebrate.

What’s next on your reading list?

I have a habit of reading multiple books at once, rarely finishing any of them. They sit on my nightstand and taunt me to pick them back up. At the moment, it’s Arguably by Christopher Hitchens and Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth by Reza Aslan. Those happen to be related to religion which isn’t typical for me, but they are both fascinating books in their own right, and I hope to make additional time to get back into those.

Finally, we have to ask, what is your favorite Jeni’s flavor?

Sweet corn with black raspberries. It reflects so well what makes Jeni, and our team at Jeni’s, special. Putting flavors together is something she does better than anyone else in the world. Lots of people can come up with flavors that sound like Jeni’s, but no one can make them with the quality and texture of Jeni and our team.
On October 13, 2014, the late Jerrie Mock was inducted into the Columbus Hall of Fame. Ms. Mock was an incredible inspiration not only to the Columbus community, but to communities around the world. Her great legacy is an inspiration to us all.

JERRIE MOCK INDUCTED INTO COLUMBUS HALL OF FAME

On October 13, 2014, the late Jerrie Mock was inducted into the Columbus Hall of Fame. Jerrie Mock was a Bexley native and Ohio State University graduate. She was also known for her contributions to aviation, including her historic solo transatlantic flight in 1964.

In July, The Columbus Foundation welcomed Colleen Durbin Mitchell as the new senior vice president for Donor Services and Development. Colleen’s service has spanned nearly three decades throughout the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Her corporate experience includes the management of two publicly traded corporations’ foundations, Imcera Group, Inc. and Whirlpool Corporation, as well as brand and product management and consumer marketing for KitchenAid and Bose Corporation.

In the nonprofit and philanthropic realms, Colleen served as president of NorthShore University HealthSystem Foundation in Evanston, Illinois. She also founded her own firm, VENTURE3Philanthropy LLC, through which she provided philanthropic advice to numerous leading CEOs and prominent, multi-generational families, national grantmaking institutions, as well as social entrepreneurs.

Colleen is responsible for assisting donors, families, businesses, and professional advisors to help them achieve their charitable goals. Colleen succeeds Beth Fisher, who retired in May.

THE FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Teresa Long, M.D., MPH, and Columbus Foundation donor, leads Columbus Public Health, which has a mission to protect health and improve lives in our community. Dr. Long has a pulse on ever-changing health-related challenges, and is championing major efforts to improve the wellness of our city.

In 2002, you were appointed the first female Health Commissioner for Columbus, but you’ve worked with Columbus Public Health since 1986. What changes have you seen? When I first came to Columbus, there was a huge focus on infectious diseases—and a great interest in me coming was to establish the very first HIV and AIDS program at Columbus Public Health. Before coming to Columbus, I worked in San Francisco, my hometown, on the front lines of the emerging AIDS epidemic. The other area that was a big focus then was environmental health issues. While these are both still key areas of focus, we now have the chronic disease epidemics that are so connected to our human behavior and social conditions. Today, we also focus on emergency preparedness and response to bioterrorism, a role that really came our way through the late 1990s and clearly during the 2000s. Another significant change is the public. There is a far greater understanding in our community, and across the nation, of public health and its value.

As part of the Greater Columbus Infant Mortality Task Force, you are tackling a tough issue. What steps are being taken to address this situation? We are taking on this key issue of too many babies who die before their first birthday and putting it right at the top of our community’s agenda. I’m proud to have been part of establishing the task force. It has been, and will continue to be, a key community leadership vehicle to share understanding, commitment, and accountability around an issue that relates to many other aspects of community life. After meeting and examining the issue earlier this year, the task force put forth a bold plan with eight key areas of recommendation. We are committed to not having a plan that just sits on a shelf, but is based in good practice and good science—one that is actionable and will make a difference.

I believe this community is absolutely committed to the actions that are required of us to improve the health and well-being of women, families, and our infants.

What do you feel are some of the biggest health challenges facing our community today? Columbus just had a very large mumps outbreak, which speaks to the critical importance of immunizations. We are just entering influenza season. Influenza is a clear community and national issue, and kills 25,000–40,000 people every year. We’re very appreciative of the challenges that Ebola is presenting in three nations in West Africa and also the fears that are being raised in all parts of our community and across the country. We are best served by following science and following the evidence and not stigmatizing. Other big health challenges include chronic disease, which manifests in things like diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and cancer. The issues around obesity are very concerning. There are disparities by neighborhood and by race that are also really challenging. I think a real opportunity is to think about how we design and build our community to support active living.

As a Columbus Foundation donor, do you and your family have specific things you choose to support? Yes! My family and I are very committed to addressing the health and well-being of people, both here in Columbus and all around the world. We have a special interest and a passion for our environment. We will not be healthy unless we have healthy rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans. Water is a key area of interest for me and my family.

What does The Spirit of Columbus mean to you? A personal phrase I use is “Do the right thing right.” Let’s not do it halfway; let’s not do it so-so; let’s not do it okay; if we’re going to do it, let’s do it right. I think part of The Spirit of Columbus is about working together—and doing things right. I think this spirit is contagious because there is something very captivating about this city.
Ingram-White Castle Foundation

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE FOR 25 YEARS

THE INGRAM-WHITE CASTLE FOUNDATION (IWCF), a Supporting Foundation at The Columbus Foundation since 1981, has a long history of providing funding to nonprofit organizations throughout central Ohio, especially those with ties to education.

One effort, the Ingram-White Castle Team Members Scholarship Program, is celebrating 25 years of helping White Castle’s own team members and their families succeed. Created in 1989, the program allows team members who have been employed full-time for at least two consecutive years, their spouses, and dependent children to apply for scholarships that typically range from $2,500–$3,500.

Scholarships can be used for full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate study, and used to defray the cost of any educational expenses at any for-profit or nonprofit college or university in the United States.

“These scholarships offer people opportunities,” said Erin Shannon, corporate relations manager for White Castle and great-granddaughter of White Castle founder Billy Ingram. “We’ve always had the philosophy of helping others.”

Since the program began, more than 850 scholarships have been approved, totaling more than $1.3 million. This represents 240 schools in 26 states.

To celebrate the scholarship program’s 25th anniversary, in addition to its traditional awards, IWCF offered one $40,000 scholarship. The recipient, Kayla Hisel of Williamstown, Kentucky, is attending Campbellsville University in Kentucky and double majoring in social work and Christian missions. Her father, Robert Hisel, has worked for White Castle Distributing for 22 years in the frozen food division.

In addition to the scholarship program, the Ingram-White Castle Foundation generously supports a wide range of local nonprofit organizations. In 2001, it introduced the GROW (Giving Renews Our World) Award. This award provides a three-year commitment of unrestricted operating support to a local nonprofit. The first recipient selected by the Ingram-White Castle Foundation Board was the Community of Holy Rosary and St. John the Evangelist in Franklin County. Since then, six organizations have received a GROW Award over the past 13 years, including the 2014 recipient, NNEMAP, Inc. One of the largest food pantries in Franklin County, NNEMAP will receive a $100,000 grant payable over three years.

“This grant does not have restrictions, so it can be used however an organization would like,” Erin explained. “The nonprofit can use it toward funding a new program, or whatever its needs are.”

Through their Supporting Foundation, the Ingram family and White Castle System truly enjoy helping others through initiatives like the scholarship program and GROW Award, as well as a robust competitive grantmaking program. It’s part of their history, and continues to be an important part of their present and future.

“Columbus is our home base,” Erin said. “We hang our signs in the neighborhood. We live here, too. We want to be part of the community.”
The Columbus Foundation’s Charitable Gift Card is a personal and meaningful gift idea. It can inspire generosity and strengthen our community.

The recipient can support one of 600 central Ohio nonprofits featured in PowerPhilanthropy, the Foundation’s online marketplace.

- Purchase physical or electronic gift cards online in denominations of $20, $50, and $100 using a major credit card.
- Columbus Foundation donors with a Donor Advised Fund can utilize their fund for purchases of $100 or more. Contact your Donor Services Officer for more details.
- The cards never expire, and 100 percent goes to the nonprofit selected.

A terrific idea for family members, friends, and colleagues who want to make a difference in our community. Makes a great corporate gift to clients and staff!

To purchase online, visit TCFGiftCardPurchase.org.

Need help getting started or have questions about Charitable Gift Cards?
Contact Ann at adodson@columbusfoundation.org or 614/251-4000.