Leadership Geauga 2020-2021 Annual Report

Heritage focus group participants building the future program = 100+

Youth Institute participants introduced to 45 local leaders in 6 days.

Virtual Connections—Hundreds of coffee break conversations, coaching and support.

I have the power to make change already in myself.

You don't know what you don't try.

Learn from leaders so you can grow into a leader too.

Learning about all the different career paths people have taken.

Learning about all the opportunities for service within Geauga County.

LEADERSHIP GEAUGA
2020-2021 • ANNUAL REPORT
This past year has been a year of resilience for Leadership Geauga. I am in awe of how our team took on the challenges that were presented daily, skillfully adapting plans to further Leadership Geauga’s mission of developing leaders through personal growth, civic engagement and leadership development.

Pam Carson stepped in as the interim Executive Director in January. Board members assumed extra responsibilities and a search committee of current and former board members was convened to hire the next Executive Director. It was with great pleasure that I accepted the position at the end of May.

Because of a determined committee and staff, generous donors, and community and alumni support, we hosted a successful virtual Emerald Ball.

The Signature Adult Class of 2021 shifted from one full day per month to classes held two hours weekly. When Covid restrictions began to lift, the class assembled in person, changed to provide as much in-person experience as possible. We even loaded a bus and toured the county for the first time since the pandemic started!

This past year has been a year of leadership and the synergy that results from that. Partnership support the development of a broader outlook and the introduction of new skills and opportunities. During the past year, we collaborated with the following organizations on programs, planning, supporting each other, and the general state of our community.

A TIME OF COLLABORATION

Leadership Geauga believes in the power of working together and the synergy that results from that. Partnerships support the development of a broader outlook and the introduction of new skills and opportunities.

The Board of Leadership Geauga completed another successful year of promoting leadership in Geauga County through the Youth Leadership Institute and Signature Adult class. We overcame the challenges of losing and replacing our Executive Director and the effect of COVID restrictions on our activities. We continued to engage participants in meaningful learning activities, hosted our first virtual Emerald Ball, and finalized development of the Heritage Program. Our Board has been nothing short of amazing.

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Adaptability skills reappeared in planning the Youth Institute. With restrictions lifting, plans changed to provide as much in-person experience as possible. We even loaded a bus and toured the county for the first time since the pandemic started!

I am honored to be leading a team with such determination, adaptability and passion for the mission of Leadership Geauga. Thank you to the board, staff, class participants, donors, alumni and community leaders for such versatility and support. I am truly inspired and driven to grow our organization to the next level.

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ADULT CLASS OF 2021
by Pam Carson

What an incredible learning experience it was for me to host the 19 weekly classes plus graduation for the Signature Class of 2021. Although I was not an LG Alumni prior to my role as Interim Executive Director, the tasks necessary to design content, confirm speakers, script theme days, and implement weekly classes gave me a deeper understanding of the Signature Class experience as we prepare to roll-out the Retiree Heritage Program this August. The use of Zoom during those months had the benefit of good attendance. By the time our first in-person classes met in May and the class began to design their theme days, it was clear that, while a challenge, the Class of 2021 had a great experience and finished strong. While every year is different, the Class of 2021 was like no other. The highlight of my experience as Interim ED was realizing the value of the community leaders who support LG and work behind the scenes, especially our board, committee members and guest speakers. Their countless contributions ensured the success of the Class of 2021.

THE SIGNATURE CLASS OF 2021
Melissa DeJohn Capretta, DeJohn Funeral Homes • Tracy Dennis, Lake Health
David Hesse, Payne & Payne Custom Builders • Kelly Humphrey, Geauga Co. Prosecutor’s Office
Chris Hyatt, Nemy Tool Supply • Sonya Kaser, KeyBank NA • Mary Kolcum, Geauga Co. Auditor’s Office
Melissa Light, Junior-Auto Family • Vicky Lipata, Geauga Park District
Judi Maloney, Claridon Community Helps • Karen Peters, United Way Geauga • Freya Ramsey, Taproot Yoga
Christina Seamon, Geauga Co. Sheriff’s Office • Joy Stang, Ronyak Paving Co.
Brittany Suster, University Hospitals Geauga • Carolynn Theheme, Sisters of Mt. St. Mary • Candice Zimmer, Sally

“We thoroughly enjoyed this experience and meeting new people. It helped me come out of my shell.”

“The Class of 2021 Recreation Day team planned a surprise for classmate Judi Maloney on graduation day. Their basket raffle raised $800, with all proceeds going to Claridon Community Helps. An anonymous donor pledged to match the amount raised, dollar-for-dollar, making the total for kids’ lunches $1,600!”

THE SOCIAL RESTRICTIONS OF THIS PAST YEAR IMPRESSED ON ALL OF US THE NEED TO LIVE IN THE MOMENT. FOR LEADERSHIP GEOUGA ALUMNI, THAT WAS REFLECTED IN GREATER SUPPORT OF FELLOW ALUMNI, WHILE DEVELOPING A KEENER APPRECIATION FOR OUR LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY.
Leadership Geauga’s Youth Institute expanded its reach by welcoming participants from two new schools this year, St. Ignatius and Solon High School. Fifteen rising juniors and seniors participated this past June.

Some highlights of the Youth Institute include a mock trial with Judge Stupica, a behind the scenes tour of the sawmill at Sheoga Flooring, and joining in a boxing class with individuals with Parkinson’s disease. In addition to their behind-the-scenes look at the county, students were taught StrengthsQuest to help them to better understand their unique strengths and talents. On the final day of the Youth Institute, students were partnered with a mentor for coaching and job shadowing, followed by a graduation celebration.

**“The Youth Institute exposes you to so many leaders in Geauga County that you will be able to find something useful for your future, even if you don’t think it will.”**

**2021 YOUTH INSTITUTE GRADUATES**

Victor Como, Kenston
Andy Yuan, Solon
Luke Smith, Kenston
Margaret Ruggeri, NDCL
Elia Cimperman, Chagrin Falls
Julianne Swett, Chardon
Shane O’Brien, St. Ignatius
Rosaria Betton, Kenston
Luke Smith, Kenston
Julianne Sweet, Chardon
Shane O’Brien, St. Ignatius
Juliana Stupica, Kenston
Eric Remchick, NDCL
Paige Fisher, NDCL
Mercedes Sustar, NDCL
Sarah Breland, NDCL
Shane O’Brien, St. Ignatius
Nicholas Miller, NDCL
Nate Schaeider, Kenston

The Cleveland Foundation’s multi-year support of Leadership Geauga’s new Heritage Program was spent in research and meetings as Pam Carson identified the ideas and people whose interest and energy toward this new effort would help it take off. The launch metaphor is fitting as we approach the first class meeting in August!

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**THE HERITAGE PROGRAM**

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With sessions held for 7 weeks in Spring and Fall to accommodate snowbird schedules, the Heritage Program will leverage the experience, practical wisdom and connections of participants who are finding the time and interest to learn more about Geauga County and become involved, perhaps for the first time, in the community.

Retired lawyer John Fitts is already involved in many organizations where he volunteers. He said, “since retiring, I continue to dedicate significant time to company boards and non-profits, but … the Heritage Program is an opportunity I would work hard to find time for!”

“As a business owner planning my own retirement, I believe the Heritage Program will be a great resource for meeting people outside of my industry. It will also support the mapping of my goals with my skills and interests, while benefiting my community!”

– Alice Munn, Industrial Tapes

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St. Ignatius
Chagrin Falls
Kenston
Solon

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THE 2021 EMERALD BALL
– A VIRTUAL TRIUMPH!

On Saturday, March 6, Leadership Geauga leaped into new territory with a virtual Emerald Ball, produced in conjunction with Rock the House Entertainment. So many things were fresh and exciting – studio production and live stream of the event, satellite locations for those who wanted an in-person experience, and online bidding to reach a wider audience than ever before. The warm response of our alumni family and the greater community clearly showed their ongoing commitment to Leadership Geauga’s mission of educating, involving and opening doors to current and future leaders for the benefit of our community.

Generous response to the Call to the Heart portion of the auction raised over $11,000 – with half donated by Leadership Geauga to the Geauga County Veteran Food Pantry in recognition of 2021 Emerald Leader Barbara Titus’ commitment to the welfare of our veterans.

The Emerald Ball has always been a crowd-pleasing success. Hosted by Matt Emrick and Jamie Kravitz of RTH, the evening flew by. Highlights included the Emerald Leader presentation and the rollicking fun of the Chardon Polka Band, smooth Latin Jazz of Justo Saborit, and Paul Borger’s one of a kind sound. A virtual event was certainly different, but its core values of friends working together to enhance our community were on the front line all night.

CONGRATULATIONS!
BARBARA TITUS NAMED 2021 EMERALD LEADER

In recognition of her many years of outstanding leadership and volunteer service for our local community and U.S. veterans, Leadership Geauga is honored to present its prestigious Emerald Leader Award to Barbara Titus.

Barbara is the Vice President of Operations/International Sales and Director of Sheoga Hardwood Flooring headquartered in Middlefield. She is a respected national business leader and non-profit organization volunteer. She currently serves as the President/Chairwoman of the Geauga Credit Union and serves on the University Hospitals Leadership Council. Barbara brings her business acumen and deep commitment to public service to charitable organizations focused on the needs of our military veterans. Barbara is currently Vice President of the new Valor Retreat in Hocking Hills and also serves on the board of the Gary Sinise Foundation, whose mission is the welfare of our most critically injured military veterans.

Barbara exemplifies the highest leadership values through her servant’s heart focused on others.
Leadership Geauga 2020-2021 Annual Report

FINANCIALS

REVENUE: $207,081

EXPENSES: $195,523

THANK YOU!

Leadership Geauga 2020-2021 Annual Report

OUR SMALL BUSINESS SPONSORS

Auburn Bainbridge Excavating

AUBURN BAINBRIDGE

Leadership Geauga's expenses for the year 2020-2021 reflect a decrease due to a smaller Emerald Ball and lower class expenses. Income occurred as a result of the development and launch of the Heritages Program.

OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

Leadership Geauga is a 501(c)(3) organization. Our Federal EIN 34-1754467

Financial management is provided by the Board of Trustees Finance Committee, chaired by Treasurer Andy Bushman.
Through my participation, I experienced valuable PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Leadership Geauga was WORTH THE TUITION.

Due to my participation, I developed STRONGER CONNECTIONS in the community.

Due to my participation, I will be a BETTER EMPLOYEE at my work.

Leadership Geauga was WORTH THE TIME invested.

I am PROUD TO SAY I AM A GRADUATE OF Leadership Geauga.

Due to my participation, I developed STRONGER CONNECTIONS in the community.

I WOULD RECOMMEND Leadership Geauga to friends, colleagues or relatives.

Due to my participation, I plan to be involved in the community in a NEW OR DIFFERENT WAY.

100% of Leadership Geauga Participants Agree!