

role
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 SKILL
 MISSION
 EDUCATE
 TRUST
 project

TEAMWORK



LEADERSHIP GEAUGA
 2021-2022 • ANNUAL REPORT





FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Board, Executive Director and staff of Leadership Geauga had another busy year. Even with the continued challenges of COVID, our strong leadership allowed us to successfully hold our Signature Adult, Youth and Heritage programs, develop new relationships with local leaders and businesses, and raise funds to insure we can continue our mission.

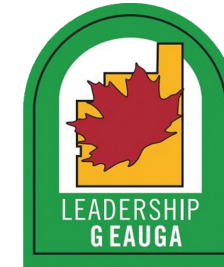
Our new Executive Director, Meredith Ashkettle, has proven she was the best choice we could have made. She kept our programs running, helped us strengthen our business operations and expanded our outreach to the community and our 900+ alumni.

Our annual fundraiser, The Emerald Ball, was our most successful ever. The funds raised enable us to continue providing leadership education across three stages of life. We are grateful for all those who support our efforts through donations and sponsorship.

In addition to having Meredith on board, we are most excited about holding two Heritage Program classes, led by Pam Carson, that engaged 18 retirees. These retirees developed a greater understanding of the challenges in our county through exposure to businesses and non-profits. We are confident they will use their new knowledge and relationships to benefit our community.

We are proud of our work and humbled by the testimonials of graduates who share the positive effect our programs have had on their personal and professional lives. It has been my pleasure to serve alongside the fine individuals who share a strong commitment to Leadership Geauga.

Susan Kruger
Board President, 2020 – 2022



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

For over 25 years, Leadership Geauga County (LGC) has been building bridges between the public, private, and non-profit sector with programs that inform, educate, connect, and inspire seasoned and future decision-makers of Geauga County. Program graduates serve as catalysts in building stronger organizations and vibrant communities. LGC programs are a unique combination of relationship building, leadership development, personal and professional growth, and community education.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Heritage Program launched its first actual year of operation, successfully creating and graduating two complete classes – Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.
- The 2022 Emerald Ball (EB) sold out three weeks in advance. It was the most successful Ball Leadership Geauga has ever hosted.
- It's a record! The "Call to the Heart" portion of the EB auction raised \$38,000! Leadership Geauga proudly presented Next Step with a check for \$19,000, 50% of the proceeds from Call to the Heart.
- Alumni Class Baskets operated with a new twist. Instead of asking businesses to donate an item for the Emerald Ball, alumni donations of almost \$5,000 were spent to support businesses who had suffered losses due to Covid.
- An in-person Day of Service was held on May 7, with alumni sprucing up the grounds at Century Village in Burton while a "Stuff the Truck" event organized by the Class of 2022 benefited Chagrin Falls Park and Community Center.

LEADERSHIP GEUGA STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Meredith Ashkettle

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – Rosaria Betton

HERITAGE PROGRAM – Pamela Carson

ALUMNI RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS
Liz McMahon

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Leadership Geauga is governed by
a 15-person volunteer board

PRESIDENT
Susan Kruger,
Kruger Consulting

VICE PRESIDENT
Glen Peck, *Kinetico*

SECRETARY
Alice Munn, *Industrial Tapes, retired*

TREASURER
Janice Sugarman, *Bainbridge Township*

PAST PRESIDENT
Matthew Emrick, *Junction Auto Family*
Angela Daugherty
Family Pride

Dennis Galicki
*U.S. Naval Officer (retired) and
South Russell Village Council Member*

Mark Halford
Medical Mutual of Ohio

Rebecca Klein
Geauga Co. Sheriff's Office

Kimm Leininger
Geauga Growth Partnership

Lisa Crilley Mallis
Impactive Strategies

Bridey Matheney
Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan LPA

Sharon Roediger
912 Team Builder

Denise Toth
UH Geauga Medical Center

Eric Wachob
MJM Industries



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Leadership Geauga is all about connections. Looking back on my first year as Executive Director, I am overwhelmed by the amount of support and excitement alumni and local businesses have towards Leadership Geauga. I am grateful we were able to resume in-person alumni events, where I was able to meet past alumni and watch them reconnect with members from their class. It was heartening to see these connections result in new donors, volunteers, supporters, board members, and class members. These connections were made at some of the following events:

- After two years of a virtual Adult Program, this year's class was able to meet in-person. The Class of 2022 loaded onto the bus and toured the community, building long-lasting relationships throughout the year.
- After being held virtually in 2021, we were able to resume the best party of the year with an in-person Emerald Ball. We welcomed a sold-out crowd of 325 people to honor Andrea Pollock and were able to raise record breaking funds for Leadership Geauga and Next Step.
- Alumni events resumed, including a holiday party, cookout, and Service Day.
- We expanded our programming and launched the new Heritage Program in August. We were thrilled to grow our Leadership Geauga family with two classes of Heritage graduates in nine months.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of working for Leadership Geauga is the ability to drive an organization that connects individuals to improve the community as a whole. In addition to the connections I made, I witnessed many new relationships and partnerships being made throughout the year. Just think of what the next year will bring from these new relationships and what that means for our community. I hope this year you will join me and continue to foster relationships within our amazing Geauga County. Thank you for your support. I look forward to connecting with you soon!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meredith Ashkettle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meredith Ashkettle
Executive Director



ADULT CLASS IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR

- Met with 109 leaders in Geauga County
- Visited 41 locations
- Class of 30 individuals



THE SIGNATURE CLASS OF 2022

- Laura Bartchak, *Harriet Tubman Movement* • Ashley Bell, *Kinetico*
- Amy Bevan, *Department of Defense, Marine Corps Installations Command*
- Sheila Bevington, *Geauga County (Elected Official)* • Ric Blamer, *Geauga Airport* • Sr. Judy Bucco, *Recently Retired*
- Ted Bunton, *Troy Chemical* • Kim Carter, *NAMI Geauga* • Don Corsaro, *BARTH Industries*
- Patrick Culliton, *Geauga County Public Library* • Dawn Damante, *UH* • Dr. Julie Evey, *Kent State University Geauga*
- Robyn Gillett, *Hemly Tool Supply Inc* • Chris Goodall, *Hopewell* • Abbey King, *Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court*
- Janna Klein, *Company 119* • John Lateulere, *Redwood Living* • Shelley Lewis, *League of Women's Voters*
- Pam McMahan, *Geauga County Auditor* • Lisa Milgate, *Geauga County Job and Family Services*
- Brandon Moore, *Junction Buick GMC* • Tyler Moses, *The Arms Trucking Co.* • Becky Ohlsen, *Lake Health*
- Susan Parker, *Artemis Property Ventures LLC & HomeSmart Real Estate Momentum*
- Martha Rapinz-Miller, *Middlefield Care Center* • Constance Scheanon, *DeJohn Funeral Home*
- Nora Sindelar, *Geauga Park District* • Rick Weikart, *Geauga County Engineers Office* • Minna Zelch, *Self*
- Marla Zwinggi, *Zwinggi Creative*

ALUMNI ACTION

This was a year of reconnecting after too much distance caused by public health concerns. We sought opportunities to highlight the valuable lessons learned during the class experience: collaboration, listening and supporting each other, and that invaluable sense of connection between each other and the greater community.

Fall activities started slowly as the community began to shake off the fear of Covid. The Fall Cookout offered an outdoor opportunity to mingle safely while enjoying our beautiful Geauga Parks. How great it was to be together, in person again! The holidays came soon after this, bringing the ever-popular Holiday Mixer. This is always a welcome blast of energy and color just before winter's darkness descends. The special collection at the mixer, combined with the collection driven by the Class of 2022, benefited the non-profit Geauga Faith Rescue Mission in the amount of \$2,479.

The May 7 Day of Service found alumni teams working together at Century Village on special outdoor projects to prepare for summer visitors. Finally, the Alumni Committee and Leadership staff spent time discussing the coming year's activities to determine what experiences would be valuable and relevant to our alumni family. Thanks to Sharon Roediger '05, committee chairman, and committee members Al Van Zeeland '19, Angi Daugherty '14, Becki Gierman '20, Kristine Frankenberg '19, Judy Paternite '20, Michele Niehus '08, and Susan Kruger '09 for their leadership and support.



"I so enjoyed meeting many fine people really involved in making Geauga County a good place to live and work. I couldn't believe all that is taking place, all the good that is being done for others, all the creative ways of being productive. What a storied past and present Geauga County has. This makes for a great future!"

"The connections keep on giving. This was an experience that will last a lifetime."



2022 YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The 2022 Youth Leadership Institute consisted of 13 rising junior and senior students from area high schools. Days were full of intensive activities, intending to develop leadership and team skills, increase self-confidence, gain community leader contacts, and understand Geauga County's inner workings. Students were matched with a mentor in a career path they were interested in and gained real-life experience in that field. The two-week program ended with a celebratory graduation day and recognized these students' future potential as Leadership Geauga alumni.

- Mary Lucy Currier, *NDCL*
- Skylar Duval-Lewis, *Chardon* •
 - Leo Fonash, *NDCL* • Emerson Gruly, *West Geauga*
 - Annalise Klein, *Homeschool* •
 - Josephine LoCoco, *Chardon* • Finn Matheney, *NDCL*
 - McKenna Morgan, *NDCL* • Aidan Murthy, *Chardon* •
 - Alexandria Nevison, *NDCL* • Grace Ostrosky, *NDCL*
 - Joseph Sensibello, *Chardon* •
 - Brianna Weaver, *West Geauga*



THE HERITAGE PROGRAM

Sponsored by
CLEVELAND
Foundation

After months of planning, the inaugural Heritage Program Class of 2021 graduated October 5. This was followed by the second class, the spring Class of 2022, which graduated June 1. Members of both Classes joined the greater Leadership Geauga Alumni network upon graduation.

**“I’ve been here 52 years
 and never knew there was so
 much in Geauga County”**



FALL 2021 HERITAGE GRADUATES

Front row: Left to right: Madelon Horvath, Robbie Halford, Laurie Hildebrand, Nancy Gallagher
 Back row: Left to right: Sharon Gingerich, Marta Stome, James O’Neill, Doris Malone, Susan Kruger

Heritage Program classes enjoyed seven weeks of behind the scenes access to community leaders and site tours during Theme Days such as Agriculture Day, Economic Development Day, Social Services Day, and History Day. While similar in design and scope to the Signature Adult Program, the lens through which Heritage class participants viewed their Theme Days was that of deeper understanding of the current opportunities and challenges in our communities. Heritage participants already have a lifetime of leadership skills and experiences that make these retirees tremendous community assets. Following graduation, class members applied their collective skills and experiences by volunteering on beneficial community projects. Thanks to the Cleveland Foundation for its multi-year support!



SPRING 2022 HERITAGE GRADUATES

Left to right: Gloria Freno, John Lafler, Ralph Burr, Charlie McGibony, Carole Drabek, Terry Holland, Ruth Cavanaugh



“One person, or a small group, can make a big impact”



THE 2022 EMERALD BALL



On Saturday, March 5, Leadership Geauga welcomed a soldout venue of alumni and community leaders to the 2022 Emerald Ball. The evening was filled with mini-reunions of classmates, anticipation of special announcements, and pride in a 27-year celebration of success in educating, involving, and opening doors to benefit our community's current and future leaders. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2022 Emerald Leader Award to Andrea Pollock, Director of Next Step, for her dedicated service to the county and its children. During the Call to the Heart portion of the Live Auction, generous bidding raised over \$38,000 – the largest response to Call to the Heart in the history of the Emerald Ball! These funds were split between Leadership Geauga and Next Step. The evening concluded with dancing and fun provided by the Pieces of Eight band. We can't wait to see everyone again at the 2023 Emerald Ball – at Landerhaven!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Andrea Pollock
2022 Emerald Leader



Leadership Geauga was honored to present its 2022 Emerald Leader Award to Next Step Director Andrea Pollock. She joins an elite group of leaders whose commitment to Geauga County has resulted in positive differences to so many lives.

Andrea has been active in Geauga County for more than forty years – as a township trustee, educator, and leader in local non-profit social services organizations. Under Andrea's vision and leadership, The Next Step program has helped teens and young adults in Geauga and Portage Counties become self-sufficient, confident, and responsible community members. The organization is a lifeline on the road to healthy independence for young adults where the belief in possibility shines through Andrea's commitment to each individual.

Andrea was instrumental in creating, with Sara Shiningier, 100 Women of East Geauga, an organization that brings together 100 women every quarter to collectively support a designated local charity. That collaboration has donated, as of May 2021, over \$52,000 to smaller, less well-known non-profit organizations in Geauga County.

Those who know her acknowledge that Andrea prefers to make things happen without fanfare. And she does. For more than 25 years, Andrea has volunteered to coordinate efforts to provide food and clothing to homeless and low-income people in downtown Cleveland and on its near west side. Through her quiet, behind-the-scenes philanthropy, Andrea has inspired countless others to volunteer, too.



Emeralds are believed to bring goodness into one's life. What a very fitting title and tribute to this year's Emerald Award recipient, who continues to bring so much goodness into the lives of others.

The \$19,000 donated to Next Step represented 50% of the proceeds from "Call to the Heart" at the 2022 Emerald Ball

PAST EMERALD LEADERS

2021 Barbara Titus • **2020** John Epprecht • **2019** Susan Juhasz & Geauga Hunger Task Force
2018 Geauga County 4-H • **2017** Scott Hildenbrand • **2016** Kevin O'Reilly, Sr.
2015 Geauga Humane Society / Rescue Village • **2014** Daniel McClelland • **2013** Kathy Leavenworth
2012 Jim Patterson & Tracy Jemison • **2011** Thomas Benda & Fieldstone Therapeutic Riding Center
2010 Kimm Leininger & the Interact Club of Chardon • **2009** Chuck Fowler & Paul Newman
2008 Deborah O'Connor & Richard Frenchie • **2007** Howard Bates & The Burton-Middlefield Rotary
2006 Junction Auto Family & Dick Moss • **2005** Alice Sems • **2004** Sr. Sandy Nativio, SND
2003 Gordon Safran • **2002** Bill Prior • **2001** Jeff Keener

Thank you 2022 to our Emerald Ball Sponsors!



THANK YOU!

Leadership Geauga extends our deepest appreciation to the individuals, alumni, businesses and community partners whose many contributions provided valuable support in reaching our annual goals.

- 22 Sport Fishing Charters • 8th Day Brewing Co. • Edina Adilovic • Advance Auto Parts • Akron Rubberducks • Aqua Doc • AQUA DOC Lake & Pond Management • Arms Trucking • Meredith Ashkettle • Auburn Career Center • Avanti Salon • B Anthony's Salon • Clifford Babcock • Constance Babcock • Ed Babcock • Andrew Bales • Adam Beach • Beaches & Dreams Travel • Richard Bell • Bella's Homemade Dog Biscuits • Lorri Benza • Blazin' Bills • Bloom Brothers Supply Co. • Breezewood Gardens & Gifts • Monica Bricker-Thompson • Brigg's Family Farms • Brian Brockway • Brown Barn Tavern • Brrrrr Frozen • Buckeye Chocolate • Burr Funeral Home • Burton Chamber of Commerce • Cain Park/City of Cleveland Heights • Camp Whitewood • Kris Carroll • Pam Carson • CCM Rental • Chagrin Documentary Film Festival • Chagrin Valley Auto Parts • Chagrin Valley Publishing • Chardon Athletic Boosters • Chardon Family Eyecare • Chardon High School • Chardon Smile Center • Chardon Welding • Chesterland Tavern • Chuck Walder - Geauga County Auditor • City of Chardon Recreation Dept. • Cleveland Art • Cleveland Guardians baseball • Cleveland Monsters • Bruce Corson • Beth Croup • Patrick Culliton • Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad • D is for Delicious • D.S. Cakes & Sweet Café • Victoria Dailey • Angi Daugherty • Rachel Dean • Deep Springs Trout Club • DeJohn Funeral Home • Todd Demko • Tracy Dennis • Diane Grendell • Dale Diemer • Samantha Dreslinski • Jim Dvorak • Fairmount Center for the Arts • Family & Community Services • Family Pride • Farmer and the Deli • Fat Daddy's • Fig Tree Bulk Foods • Jaime Fisher • Foundation for Geauga Parks • Fowler's Mill Golf Course • Fowler's Milling Company • Kristine Frankenberry • Jen Freeman • Steven Gajda • Leslie Galicki • Dennis Galicki • Nancy Gallagher • Geauga County Maple Leaf • Geauga Growth Partnership • Geauga Park District • Geauga Pawn • Geauga Vision • Gervasi Vineyard • Becki Gierman • Jay Giles • Sharon Gingerich • Goodtime Cruise • Lori Gorrell • Graeter's Ice Cream • Great Lakes Cheese • Jon Green • Mary Lynn Griff • Andrea Gutka • Mark Halford • Paul Hederstrom • Heinen's • Hemly Tool and Supply • David Hesse • Laurel Hildenbrand • Hilton Garden Inn • His Daughter • Holden Forests & Gardens • Terry Holland • Kathleen Hostutler • Hutter Performance • Ibold and O'Brien • Lee Imhof • Interstate Towing • JC's Restaurant • Tracy Jemison • Jim Heighway • Joe Matson • John Anthony of Novelty • Famore LLC-Lisa M Johnson • Judge Carolyn Paschke • Judge Terri Stupica • Junction Auto Family • Just for the Fun Honda • Randolph Kaser • Sonya Kaser • Kent State University Ashtabula • Kent State University Geauga • Charmaine Kepes • Kia Motors Corporate • King Kone • Christine Kloski • James Knapp • Mary Lynn Kolcum • Keven Krajnak • Beth Krause • Susan Kruger • Scott Kuboff • Lake Erie Monsters • Lakeland Community College • Laleure Vineyards • Brian Langlotz • Judy Lasco • Legend Lakes Golf Club • Kimm Leininger • Life Safety Systems, LLC • Anthony Lignetta • LOCLE Box • Thomas Lombardo • Lowe's Greenhouse • LuLu Tru Burton • Ma and Pa's Gift Shack • Megan Mackura • Lisa Crilley Mallis • Doris Malone • Judi Maloney • Mangia Mangia • Maple City Taps & Eatery • Mary Beth O'Neill • Mary Kay Cosmetics • Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen • Matco Tool • Bridey Matheney • Mayfield Curling Club • Mazzulo's & Buckeye • McCaskey Landscape & Design • Beverly McClelland • Mclvor Insurance Agency • Jeff Merritt • MJM Industries • Alice Munn • Amy Murfello • Karen Murphy • Music Box Supper Club • NDS Orthodontics • Jane Neubauer • Noce Pizza • Nolan Maintenance • Julie Novak • Lisa Novak SND • Deborah O'Connor • Olive Scene Chagrin • Steven Oluic • O'Reilly Equipment • Paige Orvis • Marcia Owen • Vicki Pate • Judy Paternite • Patterson Fruit Farm • Paul Davis Restoration • Eric Payne • Payne & Payne Builders • Glen Peck • Karen Perko • Perrydise Alpaca Farm • Cathy Peters • Michelle Piscopo • Jan Pitts • Pam Plott • Andrea Pollock • Precious Cargo • Preston Superstore • Rabbit Run Theater • Ramble Inn • Redwood Living • Regarding Your Systems • Rescue Village • Richards Maple Products, Inc • Roediger Chiropractic • Ronyak Paving • Thomas Rowan • Teresa Runion • Deborah Sabo • Salty • Michael Scanlon • Jen Scerbo • Schreiber Real Estate • Terry Searles • Randal Sharpe • Shaun and Lynn Woolard Sheoga Hardwood Flooring • John Shiffer • Kathy Shimer • Sara Shiningier • Elizabeth Simeral • Sima's Farm & Market • Ed Slusarski • Matt Smith • Molly Smith • Laura Spencer • Square Bistro • St. Denis Golf & Party Center • St. Mary's Banquet Hall • Mary Jo Stark • Chris Steigerwald • Marta Stone • Lynnette Stuart • Sugar Pines Farm • Janice Sugarman • Brittany Sustar • Valerie Sweeney • Mary Sweeney • Ten10 Design • The Cleveland Orchestra • Judith Thrasher • Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan • Tim Frank Septic Cleaning Co. • Denise Toth • Troy Chemical Industries • Tamee Tucker • Two Cafe and Boutique • United Gymnastics School LLC • University Hospital Geauga Medical Center • Urban Vintner • Valley Art Center • Al Van Zeeland • Versare • Vinny's Italian Kitchen • Eric Wachob • Mallory Wachob • Jennifer Wachob • Jamie Ward • Warren's Spirited Kitchen • Waste Management of Ohio, Inc. • Welshfield Inn • White House Chocolates • Patty Willson • Patricia Wilson • Sandy Wood • Zwinggi Creative



RICHARD J. & CHRISTIE FRENCHIE



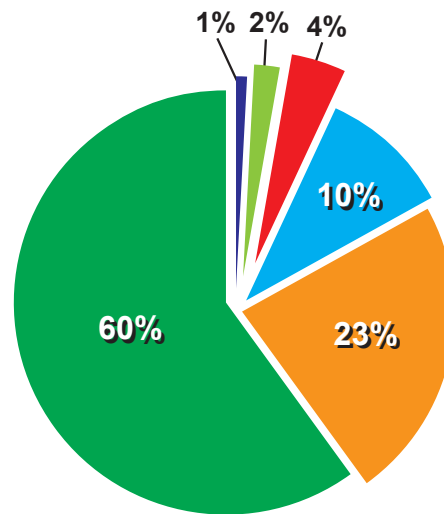
FINANCIALS

The financial position of Leadership Geauga remained solid for the 2022 Fiscal Year. Revenues exceeded the budget by \$3,186 as our stakeholders and donors continued to generously support the program. Expenses also exceeded budget, primarily due to inflation, investment losses of \$18,222, and expected costs associated with the new Heritage Program.

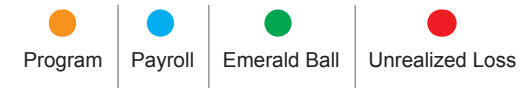
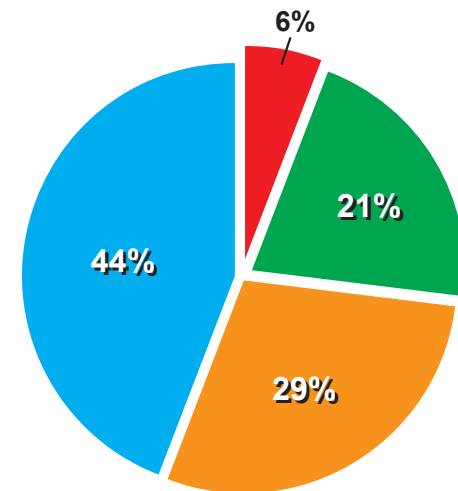
While we are reporting a net loss of \$34,598, it is important to note that Leadership Geauga did receive Heritage Program funding from the Cleveland Foundation in the amount of \$121,966, the majority of which was recognized as income in the fiscal year of 2020 and 2021. These Cleveland Foundation funds were restricted to the Heritage Program and were allocated to Program expenses during the 2020, 2021, and 2022 fiscal years. The amount allocated for the year ending June 2022 was \$66,403

Financial management is provided by the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee, chaired by Treasurer Janice Sugarman.

REVENUE



EXPENSES



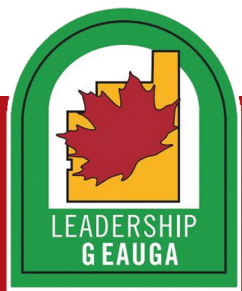
Leadership Geauga County is a 501(c)3 organization. Our Federal EIN is 34-1794467.

Reflections from the 2022 Adult Class...

Leadership Geauga was the best career development program I have ever participated in and was very timely for where I am currently to open new doors and network within the Geauga community.

Leadership Geauga provides the opportunity for you to learn about the county and become a positive leader at work and within the county. With this newfound information and skills, you can help the county grow and succeed with you.

Leadership Geauga gave me a renewed and deeper understanding of Geauga and how our strengths come together to build a resilient community.



LEADERSHIP GEAUGA | 103 SOUTH STREET | SUITE 1 | CHARDON, OH 44024

440-286-8115 | executivedirector@leadershipgeauga.org | www.leadershipgeauga.org



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