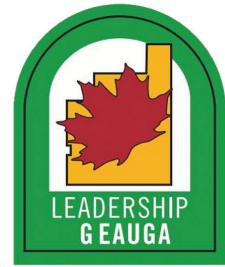


Not only has Leadership Geauga given me the ability to meet and connect with so many new people, learn more about what our beautiful county has to offer, and continue to support local businesses that I wouldn't have heard of otherwise, but I believe it also made me a stronger leader within my personal and professional life. - Jaime Fisher, '18



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Truthfully, I don't think I'd have ever been promoted to VP of Technology or become a team leader had it not been for the skills I acquired from Leadership Geauga. - Nick Goers, '15

LEADERSHIP GEAUGA
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440-286-8115
executivedirector@leadershipgeauga.org
www.leadershipgeauga.org



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ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

For over 25 years, Leadership Geauga County (LGC) has been building bridges between the public, private, and non-profit sectors 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 combine relationship building, leadership development, personal and professional growth, and community education.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Leadership Geauga is governed by a 15-person volunteer board

- Matt Emrick, President
- Susan Kruger, Vice President
- Janice Sugarman, Treasurer
- Alice Munn, Secretary
- Kim Breyley
- Melissa Capretta
- Lisa Crilley-Mallis
- Angi Daugherty
- Dennis Galicki
- Mark Halford
- Jim Heslop
- Rebecca Klein
- Kimm Leininger
- Bridey Matheney
- Denise Toth



MISSION STATEMENT

Leadership Geauga develops and encourages the leader in everyone, through personal growth, leadership development, and community engagement.

STAFF



Meredith Ashkettle, '16
Executive Director



Pam Carson
Heritage Program Director



Amy Murfello, '17
Marketing/Program Coordinator



It has been a thrilling year at Leadership Geauga! I'm thrilled to share the following with you.

Adult Program

I entered my second year as Executive Director with a cross-section of 33 leaders from Geauga County. It was rewarding to observe the class flex their DiSC styles, work as a team to plan their program day, and transform from strangers to lifelong friends, all within 10 months. I look forward to watching the Class of 2023's lasting impact on the community.

Heritage Program

I am thrilled to share that we received an additional grant from the Cleveland Foundation to support the Heritage Program. This year, we witnessed the graduation of two more classes, effectively doubling the number of our Heritage alumni who now make a strong showing at alumni gatherings. With the additional grant and the leadership of Pam Carson, who serves as our Heritage Director, the future of this program is promising.

Youth Program

In the past year, our Youth Institute experienced remarkable growth. We welcomed participants from eight school districts. Over two weeks, we toured numerous businesses across Geauga, providing the youth with insights into various industries and connecting them with local leaders. The program culminated in a mentorship day, where they received guidance in the career field of their choice. I am grateful for our continued partnership with UH Geauga. Their generous sponsorship enables us to provide the Youth Institute to high school students in the community.

Alumni

The alumni committee completely revamped our alumni events this past year. The result was a dynamic and diverse calendar of activities. Events such as the "Meet the Class" dinner, the Cleveland Art mixer, the annual holiday party, the speed networking session, the leadership learning panels, the "Taste of Leadership" event, and our Day of Service were met with enthusiastic participation from our alumni community. I was pleased with the innovative programming the alumni committee developed over the past year, and I look forward to their future plans!

Emerald Ball

The Emerald Ball witnessed a year of exciting "new." New committee members, new sponsorships, and a new location resulted in new records! On March 6 at Landerhaven, a packed room of supporters celebrated our honorary Emerald Leader, Mary Beth O'Neill. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and enthusiasm. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the dedicated committee members, generous donors, and enthusiastic attendees who supported the Emerald Ball, resulting in the best ball ever. I am eagerly looking ahead to next year's event on March 2. Be sure to save the date!

Operations

The team at Leadership Geauga also experienced significant growth. Adding Amy Murfello as our Marketing and Program Coordinator proved transformative, taking the organization to the next level. Additionally, we warmly welcomed new sponsors and board members, strengthening our organization. I am deeply grateful for the support we've received from the community, and it fills me with anticipation for the future of Leadership Geauga. Thank you for being a part of this journey!

Meredith Ashkettle
LG Executive Director



There are so many things that I can say about my sixth and final year on the board, but I will share a few highlights:

The people that I have had the opportunity to work with have been second to none regarding their leadership and wisdom. The ideas and collaboration that came out of meetings opened my eyes to so many "outside the box" thought processes that it moved my dot closer to the center of my DiSC style. I try to find 'center' in my day-to-day managing of Junction Auto Family in Chardon. I am not the same person that started with LG in 2015.

Watching Meredith grow and thrive in the organization as an Executive Director has solidified that we, as a group, absolutely hired the right person for a perfect fit. She has been nothing short of excellent, and I am happy to watch from a distance and see how she continues to lead Geauga County's premier leadership program.

This was my seventh year of co-chairing the Emerald Ball. Being a part of the Emerald Ball Committee inspired creativity I did not know existed. The passion and energy that is put into these events should be bottled! You should know that having Rebecca Klein as your DiSC twin and partner in crime should be just that, a crime—recommendation for anyone thinking about hosting an event of this magnitude. Surround yourself with people that you think or feel are better than you. And lead them!

Looking back, there are so many things that I think I could have done better. Mistakes were made along the way. This is what growth is about. Every situation has taught me the ability to sit back and think before I react. Those who know me will agree that it can also take days for a response I wish I had. The clock is undefeated, and moments pass, but the wisdom taken away is the harvest for the mind.

I owe everything to who I have become to Leadership Geauga. The contacts made, the friendships formed, and the respect given and received are nothing short of incredible. The only way to repay this debt is with heart, drive, determination, vision, and perseverance. If you could serve and are asked to do so, please hop on this bus, just like we all did on Heritage Day.

I always thought hopping off the board on June 30th was a finish line. Life is full of them. The reality is it was merely a baton toss. The next crew is in. The Emerald Ball committee is strong. It is like our county parks that we love so much; there are signs in all of them that say, "Leave it better than you found it." I think I did that somehow, but I could not have done it without all of you! I was proud to be the President last year and once before during the height of COVID-19. I was the guy in 2014 who started in LG and convinced myself quickly, "This is not for me." Truth be told, it was EXACTLY for me. We will cross paths again in time; let's make it sooner rather than later.

For everything you did, for the vote of confidence every time, and for all the times I did not say, Thank you.

Matthew Emrick
LG Board President 2022-23

SIGNATURE ADULT PROGRAM

Thirty-three individuals who live or work in Geauga County participated in learning about theirs and others leadership styles, traveling and exploring eight sectors of the county, and making connections that will last a lifetime.

Individual work at the Orientation



47
organizations visited



109
community leaders met



430
miles traveled



Travels around the county

Preparing personal care kits for NDCL's Labre Ministry



"About Me" poster sharing at Retreat



Fishing at Weslaco Sportsman Club



Cheese grating competition at Great Lakes Cheese



Stop the Bleed training at University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center



Preparing for the mock trial

History Day with local historian Dr. Bari!



CLASS OF 2023

Graduation for this distinguished group of individuals was held on Friday, June 2, at Meadow Ridge Event. Family, friends, board members, and staff gathered to celebrate the participants' growth and reflect on their amazing year.



Jonaathan Dittrich, Grant Thornton | Michael Eiermann, University Hospitals | Rachel Formica, Geauga County Engineer's Office | Charles Grasser, Self-employed | Rachel Hazelwood, Southwest General Healthcare Center | Michael Impullitti, Impullitti Landscaping | Tim Kehres, Geauga Jobs and Family Services | Victoria Margelowsky, Hemly Tool | Danielle Martincic, Kinetico | Dr. Marlea Miano, UH Geauga | Lori Miller, Hartville Hardware | Jarred Miller, Arms Trucking | Nathan Mitchell, Blue Lake Cleaning | Nate Mueller, Tarkett | Julie Munn, Industrial Tapes | Les Murphy, Delta Sales Associates | Lauren O'Neill, Great Lakes Cheese | Pam Palermo, Lake Geauga Habitat for Humanity | Brittain Paul, Ravenwood Health | Blerina Qorri, Geauga County Auditor's Office | William Rice, UH Geauga | Ryan Rodgers, McCaskey Landscaping | Lisa Rome, Taproot Yoga | Denny Safko, Junction Auto Family | Joseph Stepko, Geauga Park District | Matthew Smith, Geauga County Sheriff's Office | Thomas Swaidner, Russell Township Police Dept. | Jim Taylor, Kent State Geauga | Jenni Underwood, Middlefield Bank | Beth Williams, Geauga County Juvenile Court | Sr. Marcia Willkomm, Retired | Beth Wilterdink, Mayfield United Methodist Church | Ruth Zeager, Chagrin Falls Historical Society & Museum |

2023

YOUTH INSTITUTE CLASS OF 2023



Students from seven schools spent two weeks engaging with and traveling around Geauga County. These 18 future leaders were exposed to many career paths available in our own county and spent a one-day mentorship experience with local businesses. They also toured businesses and met many community leaders that left a lasting impact. We proudly celebrated the group over lunch with their friends and family where the students received a certificate of completion. Their future is bright!

Jaxon Cicchella, Homeschool | Molly Fitzmaurice, Walsh Jesuit | Mallorie Flick, Chardon | Michael Humphreys, Andrews Osborne | Joshua Jaeger, Kenston | Madeline Jaroch, Kenston | Holden Kajfasz, NDCL | Troy Krahe, Kenston | Alyssa Leland, NDCL | Addison Martin, NDCL | Colm Matheney, NDCL | Tommy Moores, Kenston | Rachel O'Hair, NDCL | Lucy Rotenbor, Chagrin Falls | Luke Schaedler, Kenston | Caleb Schuetzman, Chardon | Julia Taraska, NDCL | Geneva Turkish, Chardon |



Team work at In Step With Horses



Mini-golf at Chip's Clubhouse



"Stop the Bleed" training at UH Geauga

Presenting marketing plans at Company 119



HERITAGE FALL 2022 AND SPRING 2023 CLASSES



Fall 2022 Class: Richard Bair | Jan Boehler | Frank Lanza | Neal McCormick | William O'Neill | Thomas Rooney | Joe Talty | Jack Zilly |

We are honored that 15 retirees from our community completed our Heritage Program in 2023. These individuals experienced behind-the-scenes access to community leaders and site tours, some customized toward the class interests and passions, such as Veterans Services and Cyber Crime. They enjoyed intergenerational conversations with our Youth Institute participants, and gained life-long friendships along the way. Class participants frequently comment that the program helps them identify and apply their skills to common issues, and many say they had no idea the amount of benefits and services within Geauga County! The Cleveland Foundation awarded an additional \$60,000 grant to continue funding this program; we couldn't be more appreciative of their support!

Yoga with Freia Ramsey of Taproot Yoga



THANK YOU
CLEVELAND
Foundation
for
continued support!



Spring 2023 Class: Bruce Barham | Nancy Cole | Esther Pla | Jeff Scott | Larry Somrack | Mike Warner

EMERALD BALL



Leadership Geauga hosted the 2023 Emerald Ball on Saturday, March 4, which saw an enthusiastic turnout of alumni and community leaders in a fully-booked venue. The event buzzed with mini-reunions among former classmates, eager anticipation of significant announcements, and a sense of pride in commemorating 28 years of successful endeavors in educating, engaging, and creating opportunities for both current and future leaders within our community.

The pinnacle of the night was the bestowal of the 2023 Emerald Leader Award upon Mary Beth O'Neill, recognizing her unwavering commitment to serving the county. A highlight of the evening was the annual Call to the Heart segment, resulting in an impressive fundraising total of over \$22,000. These funds were subsequently divided between Leadership Geauga and Ravenwood Health to further their respective missions. As the evening progressed, attendees enjoyed dancing and entertainment provided by the talented Pieces of Eight band. Enthusiasm is already building for the upcoming 2024 Emerald Ball, where we look forward to reuniting once again!

Join us on March 2, 2024 for our next Emerald Ball!

2023 EMERALD LEADER MARY BETH O'NEILL

The Emerald Leader Award is given annually to an individual, business, and/or nonprofit agency that exemplifies outstanding leadership by positive contributions to Geauga County through volunteer service, philanthropy, or innovation.



Mary Beth O'Neill's strong connection to Leadership Geauga is evident as a 2008 graduate of the Signature Adult Program, alongside her husband Jim, a graduate of the Heritage Program. They have been Geauga County residents since 1991, where Mary Beth worked in retail management for 25 years before obtaining her real estate license in 2001. Her dedication to the community is showcased through nine years of service as a trustee, amongst other volunteer roles with the Foundation for Geauga Parks. Mary Beth's commitment to mental health advocacy is visible through her service on the Ravenwood Mental Health Board since 2013. Her exemplary leadership and numerous nominations earned her the 2023 Emerald Leader Award, which she received at the Emerald Ball on March 4, 2023.

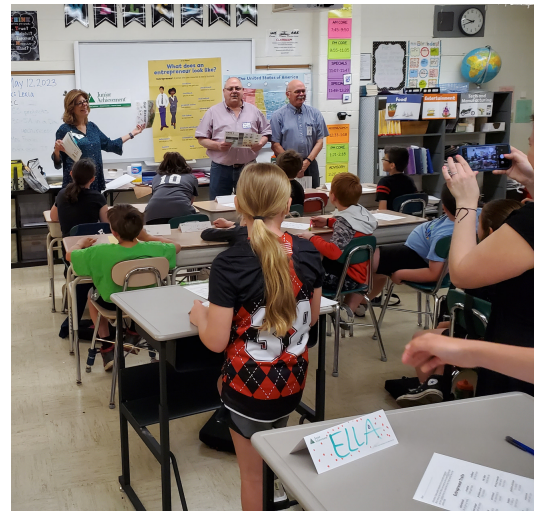




COMMUNITY IMPACT



Staff and board members from Leadership Geauga and Ravenwood Health gather for the Call to the Heart check presentation.



Pam Carson and two Heritage Program alumni participated in a Junior Achievement event at a local school.

Over \$800 in cash donations and an SUV full of food donations was gathered at the Alumni Holiday Party for the Sponsor-a-Family program at Job and Family Services!



Alumni and the Signature Adult Class gathered at separate locations on May 6 to donate their time and talents. Alumni completed a garden installation and cleared flower beds for In Step With Horses. The Adult Class gathered at Doors of Hope to install new playground and meditation areas and weeded and mulched flower beds.



The Signature Adult Class gathered food donations for Job and Family Services and wrapped presents for families at WomenSafe.



SPONSORS

Emerald Ball Sponsors

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University Hospitals
Geauga Medical Center
A Campus of UH Regional Hospitals

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Richard & Christie Frenchie

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A Legal Professional Association

WWM

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Leadership Class of 2013

COLLECTIVE
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DONORS



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

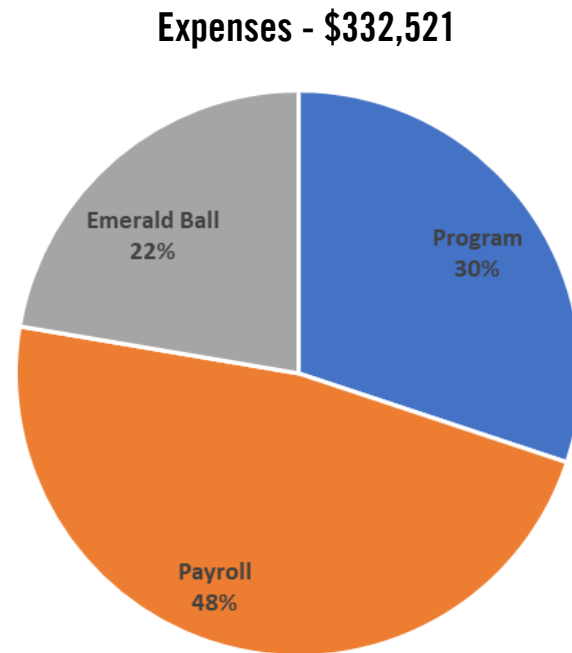
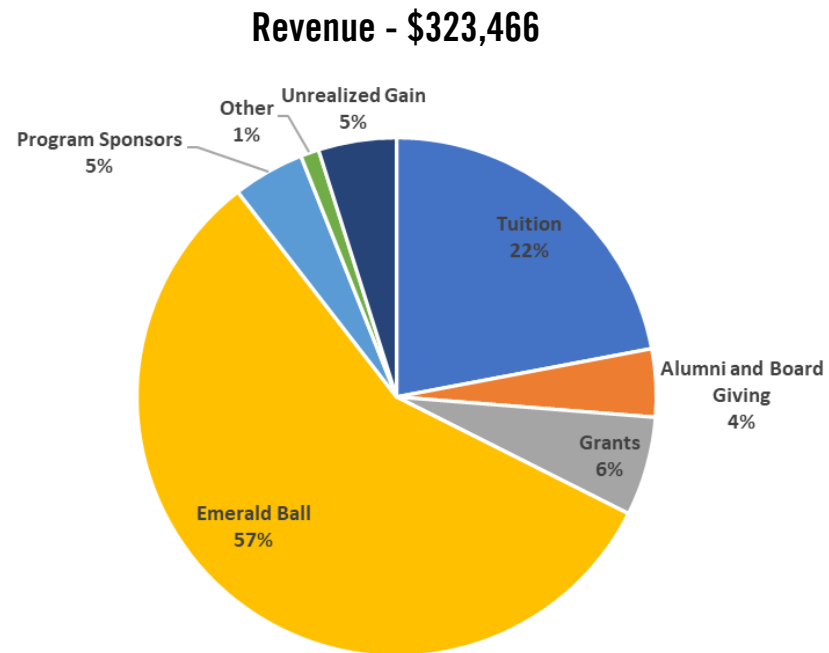
22 Sport Fishing Charters | 8th Day Brewing Company | Jeff Adams | Jill Adams | Advanced Auto Parts | Akron Rubberducks | Aladdin's Eatery – Bainbridge | American Limousine | Arborwear | Arm's Trucking | Arc Hound Welding | Kim Ashkettle | Meredith Ashkettle | Augie's Pizza | Avanti Salon | IB Anthony's Salon | Cliff Babcock | Constance Babcock | Ed Babcock | Back40 | Richard Bair | Mindy Bairel | Andrew Bales | Jim Balogh | Michael Barb | Bass Lake Tavern | Dawn Bates | Howard Bates | Beaches and Dreams Travel | Bean's Coffee Shop | Ashley Bell | Ben Franklin/Debords | Morris Beverage | Sheila Bevington | Blackrock Adventure Park | Ann Blair | Blazin' Bills | Blind Squirrel | Bloom Brothers Supply Co. | Boss Hoss Auto Detailing | Jim Bottger | Monica Bricker-Thompson | Brigg's Family Farm | Brian Brockway | Brown Barn Tavern | Thomas Bruckman | Buckeye Chocolate | Bummin' Beaver Brewery | Beth Bunton | Ted Bunton | Michael Butler | Rachel Byerly | Kevin Campbell | Melissa Capretta | Maggie Carpenter | Pam Carson | Kimberly Carter | Jon Case | CCM Rental | Chagrin Valley Publishing | Chardon Athletic Boosters | Chardon Fire Department | Chesterland News | Chesterland Tavern | Chip's Club House | Izabela Chlad | Stephanie Chlad | Laura Christian | Vicki Clark | Cleveland Art | Cleveland Axe Throwing | Cleveland Browns | Cleveland Cavaliers | Cleveland Metroparks Zoo | Cleveland Monsters | Cleveland Orchestra | Cleveland Soaring | Collective Rose | Shea Cono | Consumer Tire | John Copen | Keith Corkwell | Courtney Crawford | Elaine Cressman | Crooked Pecker | Beth Croup | Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad | Rachel Dean | Debone Vineyards | Deep Springs Trout Club | DeJohn Funeral Home | Todd Demko | Ian Dewalt | Rachel Diehl | Mike Dinallo | John Dittrich | Patra Duangjak | Brian Durham | Jim Dvorak | East Coast Custard | Chris Elko | Dr. Julie Evey | Bob Faehnle | Fairmount Center for the Arts | Farmer and the Deli | Pat Fauver | Fig Tree Bulk Foods | Jaime Fisher | Jan Fitts | Ken Fogle | Lisa Formica | Foundation for Geauga Parks | Fowler's Mill Golf Course | Fowler's Milling Company | Jennifer Freeman | Richard Frenchie | Gloria Freno | Nick Funstinn | Dennis Galicki | Leslie Galicki | Geauga County Maple Leaf | Geauga Feed | Geauga Park District | Geauga Vision | Kate Gehlfuss | Robyn Gillet | Jason Glowczewski | Golf Dome | Chris Goodall | Julie Gorenc | Mark Gorenc | Margaret Gorman | Lori Gorrell | Graeter's Ice Cream | Grand River Cellars | Great Lakes Theater | Guido's | Halstead's Furniture | Hardwood Lumber Company | Marilyn Harman | John Harris | That Hawaiian Guys BBQ | Anna Hayes | Heinen's | Hemly Tool and Supply | Adam Henry | Ashley Henry | Jim Heslop | Todd Hicks | His Daughter | Holden Forests & Gardens | Madelon Horvath | Mark Horvath | Kathleen Hostutler | Howard Bates | Kevin Hudson | Pauline Hylton | Lee Imhof | Michael Impullitti | Tommy Impullitti | INKcarceration Music Festival | Interstate Towing | Samantha Jackson | JC's Restaurant | Tracy Jemison | Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream | John Anthony of Novelty | John Lafler | John Weaver | Lisa Johnson | Sue Juhasz | Just for Fun Honda | Kalahari | Randolph Kaser | Sonya Kaser | Ken Ganley Kia Mentor | Charmaine Kepesl Alyssa Kettering | Kia Motors Corporate | Kinetico Inc. | King Kone | D'arcy Kirkland | James Kirkland | Kathleen Kirkland | Patricia Kirkland | Lynn Kitko | Christian Klein | Rebecca Klein | Janna Klein | James Knapp | Keven Krajnak | Beth Krause | Scott Kuboff | Alex Lakatos | Lake County Captains | Lake-Geauga Habitat for Humanity ReStore | Brian Langlotz | Judy Lasco | Legend Lakes Golf Club | Kimm Leininger | Lerebourn | Lora Lewis | Deby Lexow | Paul Lexow | Life Safety Systems, LLC | Anthony Lignetta | Victoria Liptak | Lisa Crilley-Mallis | LoCLE Box | Erica Lohan | Marie Lovas | Lowes Greenhouse | LuLu Tru Burton | Danialle Lynce | Dave Macek | Megan Mackura | Judi Maloney | Mangia Mangia | Noreen Marlowe | Sheila Marous | Jim Martincic | Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen | Lori Mavarakis | Mazzulo's | Jim McCaskey | McCaskey Landscape and Design | Sylvia McGee | Terri McIntee | Pam McMahan | Mahli Mechenbier | Steve Merlene | Jeff Merritt | Brian Milks | Nate Mitchell | MJM Industries | Patty Molnar | Jenifer More | Robin Motta | Celesta Mullins | Amy Murfello | Music Box Supper Club | My Thai | Janice Myers | Jeff Myers | Nathan's Automotive Detailing | NDS Orthodontics | NEO Electric Supply | Jane Neubauer | Scott Niehus | Noce Pizza | Terri Nolan | Northfield Park | Northwoods Cabin Co. | Dennis Nowacki | Deborah O'Connor | Ohio Wine Producers Association | Becky Ohlsen | Becky Oliver | Lauren O'Neill | Mary Beth O'Neill | Sue O'Neill | Kevin O'Reilly | Nancy O'Reilly | Paul O'Reilly | O'Reilly Equipment | John Oros | Paige Orvis | Marcia Owen | Panini's - Chagrin Falls | Susan Parker | Carolyn Paschke | Victoria Pate | Ian Patterson | Patterson Fruit Farm | Paul Hederstrom | Mike Payne Jr. | Diane Pearce | Peek'n Peak | Mark Pelsozy | Karen Perko | Catherine Peters | Petitti Garden Center | Marsha Pettus | Chris Phillips | Janis Pinzone | Pittsburgh Steelers | Nicole Plate | Abigail Pleso | Andrea Pollock | Kristina Port | Precious Cargo | Punderson Manor House | Kathleen Quinn | Rabbit Run Theater | RadioActive Electronics | Wendy Radtke | Ramble Inn | Julie Ramos | Freia Ramsey | Martha Rapinz-Miller | Mary Ray | Todd Ray | Jennifer Reihner | Diana Rezaee | Dr. Rod Rezaee | Lana Rezaee | Ric Blamer | Jennifer Rice | Jeff Richard | Karli Richards | Richards Maple Products | Rick Weikart | Mike Ritz | Rogish Farms | Roll House Solon | David Ronyak | Ronyak Paving | Brad Rosselot | Thomas Rowan | Teresa Runion | Matthew Rus | Judith Anne Sabau | Salty Salt Cave | Michael Scanlon | Scavenger Hunts by Lets Roam | Scene 75 | Jennifer Scerbo | Constance Scheanon | Stephanie Scheiber | Terry Searles | Melinda Seem | Linton Sharpnack | Alex Shelton | Sheoga Hardwood Flooring | Scott Hildenbrand | Ned Sherry | John Shiffer | Ryan Silbaugh | Elizabeth Simeral | Nora Sindelar | Sirna's | Sleepy Rooster | Edward Slusarski | Matt Smith | Molly Smith | Natalie Smith | Brian Snowden | Tracy Solan | St. Denis Golf & Party Center | St. Mary's Banquet Hall | Robert Starrett | Polly Steffen | Terri Stupica | Sugar Pines Farm | Eric Sukalac | Todd Sulzbach | Brittany Sustar | Julianne Tanner | Tap Root Yoga | The Pond | The Well | Cassandra Thompson | Judy Thrasher | Topsy Bull Restaurant | Barbara Titus | Tom Bond | Tom's Foolery | Mary Jane Trapp | Jesse Trgo | Urban Vintner | Versare | Vinny's Italian Kitchen | Eric Wachob | Warren's Spirited Kitchen | Lori Weber | Gregory Welch | Gretchen Wells | Lisa Welsh | White House Chocolates | Wickliffe Lanes | John Wild | Patricia Willson | Jonathan Wilterdink | Shaun Woolard | Nate Wynveen | Minna Zelch | Casey Zulantd | Joe Zulantd | Marla Zwinggi | Zwinggi Creative |

FINANCIALS

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, support for Leadership Geauga continued the positive trend of recent years. Key among the factors for this growth was an exceptionally strong Emerald Ball, our signature event. Significant strides were also made by increasing the number of program participants, soliciting additional sponsorships, and gaining an additional grant from the Cleveland Foundation.

Stronger than expected, Leadership Geauga's FY2023 results were \$47,433 above budget. For this, we are appreciative of the support from all sectors of our community.

Financial management of Leadership Geauga is provided by the Board of Directors and its Finance Committee.



ALUMNI EVENTS

The Alumni Committee and LG staff collaborated to organize a captivating year of alumni events! These gatherings brought together diverse groups of alumni, offering an array of engaging activities such as an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour, an enlightening leadership learning breakfast, community service initiatives to give back, a festive holiday celebration, and unparalleled networking opportunities.



Taste of Leadership



Day of Service



Cleveland Art Exclusive Tour and Networking



Holiday Party



Emotional Intelligence Panel Discussion



Alumni Dinner