

2019 National Philanthropy Day

CELEBRATE

Association of Fundraising Professionals Central Ohio Chapter

Giving

2019 National Philanthropy Day Honorees

The Columbus Foundation Outstanding Philanthropists –Philip and Barbara Derrow

Native Ohioans, Philip and Barbara Derrow have been generous philanthropists for many years. Nominated by The New Albany Community Foundation, the Derrows have also contributed time, talent and treasure to Flying Horse Farms, Columbus Metropolitan Library, the Columbus Food Pantry and New Albany Schools, among others.

When the Derrows spend their volunteer time, they also make significant philanthropic investments. After being involved with the New Albany Community Foundation for several years, the Derrows recently established a sizeable endowment fund creating the New Albany Center for Civil Discourse and Debate. Their objective is to model to the community and area students that issues of the day can be debated in a civil, respectful manner, based on facts rather than personal attack.

As President and CEO of Ohio Transmission Corp, Phil encouraged his associates to also engage in philanthropy, resulting in more than \$235,000 being donated to Flying Horse Farms through employee giving and matching campaigns since 2010.

Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser –Andrew Levitt

Andrew Levitt, also known as his drag persona Nina West, moved to Columbus in 2001 and has been making his mark on Central Ohio ever since. As Nina West became more famous, Andrew began incorporating philanthropy into his work. Celebrities often are willing to lend their names or images to causes for which they believe, but Andrew takes things to the next level – bringing his passion for giving back into his work.

Whether by encouraging audience members at drag shows to give to a cause, or making personal appearances for non-profits, Andrew -- and Nina -- make an enormous impact. Andrew was so effective at raising funds he started the Nina West Foundation at The Columbus Foundation. To date, more than \$2-million has been raised for local charities. Organizations such as Equitas Health, Stonewall Columbus, Kaleidoscope Youth Center and the HRC have all received support from Andrew and/or the Nina West Fund. In addition to numerous LGBTQ causes, Andrew has also contributed time and/or philanthropy to the Columbus Zoo, Nationwide Children's Hospital and Westerville Public Libraries, where Nina can be found leading story time.

Outstanding Foundation – Ariel Foundation

The mission of The Ariel Foundation is to sustain the philanthropic vision of its founder, Karen Buchwald Wright, toward the quality of life and opportunity in Karen's hometown of Mount Vernon, Ohio. The Foundation partners in promoting arts, culture, education, health and wellbeing while fostering community preservation balanced with revitalization. Since its founding in 2009, the Foundation's impact has been felt far and wide in Mount Vernon and Knox County by service, education and economic development organizations. Each year, the Foundation awards several million dollars in grants to local partner organizations.

A hallmark of the Foundation is seen in its grants process. The Foundation team fosters a collaborative environment, stressing personal interaction, communication and shared vision-building. The Foundation engages regularly with community leaders, helping shape ideas and drive community outcomes. The Foundation works with both non-profits and governmental/civic organizations for the betterment of the people in Mount Vernon, helping with initiatives of the American Red Cross, YMCA, Knox Community Hospital, the City of Mount Vernon, and three local higher education institutions, to name just a few recent grant recipients.

The Foundation is modest about its involvement, choosing not to widely promote grants given, preferring instead to focus on the impact of those gifts and the partnerships created for the betterment of Mount Vernon's citizens.

Big Lots! Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy – Bexley Sleep Out Club

The Bexley Sleep Out Club was initiated in 2014 by Bexley High School student Annalise Phelps who went to her teacher Anna Schottenstein with the idea of helping homeless teens – teens far less fortunate than her classmates. The Sleep Out Club organizes a night of sleeping outside to give students an idea of the hardships faced by homeless teens.

Now in its fifth year, the Bexley Sleep Out program has a core organizing group of 20-25 high school students who organize between 200-250 of their classmates. Parents and teachers join the students to sleep outside in Jeffrey Park in April of each year. Throughout the years, a total of \$25,000 has been raised for the benefit of the YWCA Family Center, Star House and Huckleberry House.

Outstanding Volunteer Fundraising Group – Franklin Park Conservatory Women’s Board

The Women’s Board of Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is comprised of a diverse group of women committed to making a positive impact in the community by supporting programs through volunteering, providing passion and purpose in fundraising, while embracing one another and leading by example.

In 1984 founding members envisioned a group of women who would broaden the base of community support, promote and provide financial support for the Conservatory. The group’s primary philanthropic enterprise is its signature fundraising event, Field to Table. In 2009, the net revenue generated from that event was \$188,000 and last year it grew to \$301,000. Because of the hard work and effort of the Women’s Board, Field to Table has generated proceeds in excess of \$2.6-million since its inception.

Recently, the Women’s Board took a lead role in the Conservatory’s Master Plan 2.0 capital campaign by deploying 2.0 Here We Grow, a philanthropic initiative to engage their more than 300 members in financial support. Through leadership and peer-to-peer fundraising, this initiative has raised over \$1.3-million.

The Women’s Board is an instrumental fundraising force, but the group’s commitment goes above and beyond financial support. These women are not afraid to get their hands dirty – literally. Members of the Women’s Board give of their time and talent as well as their treasure. They lead community gardening work days, host classes and school groups, and providing enriching activities to persons with disabilities. In 2018, the group collectively contributed over 3,000 volunteer hours, or the equivalent of 1.5 full time staff members.

Outstanding Small Corporation – Next Level Trainings

Next Level Trainings is a transformational training organization that supports people in unlocking their power, passion and purpose. Founded in 2014, Next Level Trainings set out to bring extraordinary results in the Columbus community and beyond. The trainings are innovative and have been meticulously designed to create positive impact and lasting results. They draw on theories from psychology, linguistics, neuroscience, sociology, and organizational development to create transformation in individuals and teams. Their Vision and Impact Program is a 3-month habit forming program that incorporates a community service project. The month-long philanthropic project changes the lives of the staff and clients of the chosen organization.

Since the doors opened in 2014, Next Level Trainings has partnered with over 20 local non-profits to make a powerful impact in our local communities. In this time, the Vision and Impact Programs have raised over \$2.75-million for local organizations, including Star House, C.A.T.C.H. Court, YWCA, The Community Shelter Board, Military Veterans Resource Center, Marin’s HOPE, Hope Hollow,

Kaleidoscope Youth Center, Flying Horse Farms, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio, Reeb Avenue Center, NC4K, Alzheimer's Association, Local Matters, Gracehaven, LifeTown, LSS Faith Mission, Maryhaven, Huckleberry House, Seeds of Caring, and Veterans Companion Animal Services.

Leave a Legacy Award – Joe Chlapaty

Selected and Presented by Charitable Gift Planners of Central Ohio

A longtime Columbus resident, Joe Chlapaty has spent a lifetime of philanthropy. Joe is the retired Chairman and CEO of Advanced Drainage Systems and has been a longtime supporter of many nonprofit organizations, including the American Heart Association, CASA, I Know I Can, KIPP Columbus, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Lutheran Social Services and the United Way of Central Ohio. The philanthropic contributions Joe and his wife, Linda, have made during their lifetimes have totaled gifts in the tens of millions of dollars.

Joe is also a very generous donor to The Columbus Foundation, who nominated Joe for this year's Leave a Legacy award. In 2018, The Columbus Foundation celebrated its 75th anniversary by launching *Once In A Generation*, an initiative to grow permanent endowment funds. In response, Joe thoughtfully committed an unprecedented level of support. Joe's eight-figure bequest is the largest unrestricted gift committed in the Foundation's history. His fund will act as an enduring, effective, strategic investment in our community by helping address emerging needs in perpetuity.

Outstanding Fundraising Professional – Donna Zuiderweg

Donna Zuiderweg has dedicated her career in philanthropy to two organizations which embody our great community: the Columbus Metropolitan Library and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Her impact at both of these organizations is enormous.

At the Columbus Metropolitan Library Donna served as the Director of Development and Affinity and was responsible for developing a fundraising plan which included the implementation of a \$20-million campaign supporting ten capital projects. During her tenure she raised over \$25-million for the library through a combination of major and annual giving, planned giving, and events and helped grow the library's endowment from \$800,000 to \$5-million.

In 2015, Donna arrived at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium to lead the Community Relations, Marketing and Sales, and Philanthropy teams. Donna implemented a 10-year fundraising strategy to support the master plan and long term vision of the Zoo. As part of that vision, the Connecting People and Wildlife campaign launched. What started as a \$29-million goal rose to a \$38-million goal, to be raised by 2025. Donna led her team to raise \$27-million in just two years, with a record-breaking \$17-million in 2018 alone. Donna secured the largest gift in the Zoo's history - \$5-million – followed by gifts of \$4.5-million and \$3-million.

Recently, Donna announced she's returned to the Columbus Metropolitan Library as Chief Community Engagement Officer.

Outstanding Large Corporation – American Electric Power (AEP)

The American Electric Power Foundation provides an ongoing resource for charitable initiatives involving higher dollar values and multi-year commitments in the communities served by AEP and initiatives outside of AEP's 11-state service area.

The Foundation focuses on improving lives through education from early childhood through higher education in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and by meeting basic needs for emergency shelter, affordable housing and the elimination of hunger. Other Foundation support may be offered to protect the environment, support healthcare and safety, and enrich life through art, music and cultural heritage. Since 2006, the Foundation has committed nearly \$175 million to serve people and communities.