



***23rd Annual Voices of Giving
Awards Ceremony
June 23, 2021
7:00 pm
YouTube Premier***

***Presented by:
The Greater Cincinnati
Planned Giving Council***

***The 23rd Annual Voices of Giving
Awards Ceremony***

PROGRAM

Welcome

Dan Virzi

2021 President

Greater Cincinnati Planned Giving Council

Introduction to Voices of Giving

John Lomax, Emcee

Local 12 Good Morning Cincinnati Anchor

Recognition of Honorees

John Lomax

Closing Remarks

Dan Virzi

Greater Cincinnati Planned Giving Council

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Greater Cincinnati PLANNED GIVING COUNCIL

Voices of Giving is presented by the Greater Cincinnati Planned Giving Council to encourage people from all walks of life to make a bequest or planned gift to their favorite charity or nonprofit.

The ***Voices of Giving Awards*** pay tribute to those Greater Cincinnatians who -- out of selflessness, generosity, and foresight -- have chosen to make a bequest or planned gift to a favorite charitable organization. These individuals represent the true spirit of giving, which truly enhances the quality of life in our community, both now and far into the future.

Recognizing that a professional advisor frequently plays a pivotal role in bringing these gifts about, advisors are honored, as well, for their work with a donor in developing a planned gift.

It is our privilege to recognize a very special group of individuals who exemplify philanthropic support and service and who have made a dedicated gesture to ensure the long-term welfare of the many local charitable organizations and nonprofits that make Greater Cincinnati so special.

Our grateful thanks!

2021 Voices of Giving Committee

Felicia Zakem & Michelle Zeis – Co-Chairs

**Lauren Copeland, Lillian Derkson, Misty Griesinger,
David Harris, Michelle Mancini, Lisa Roberts-Rosser,
Carol Serrone, Sue Ellen Stuebing and Dan Virzi**

2021 Voices of Giving Honorees

Bruce J. Berno

Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Steve Black

CET

Joyce Ferrell, RN, Med

The Christ Hospital Foundation

Linda Greenberg

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park

David Hoguet

Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati

Edmund W. Jones, MD

Bethesda Foundation

Gary And Janice* Lubin

Cincinnati Public Radio

*Awarded posthumously

2021 Voices of Giving Honorees

Carol A. Bowers Morton

CET

Niehaus Law Office, LLC

Saint Vincent de Paul - Cincinnati

Bob and Connie Reed

Freestore Foodbank

Carol J. Schroeder

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens

Sherry Sheffield

Miami University

Mary Pat and Scott Simmers

Mount St. Joseph University

Stuart and Terry Susskind

Jewish Federation of Cincinnati

Bruce J. Berno
Nominated by Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) connects people with purpose in an eight-county region in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

As a personal financial planner, Bruce Berno is a trusted advisor for his clients and champion for our community. GCF is honored to recognize Bruce for his unwavering commitment to both clients and our non-profit community.

Greater Cincinnati Foundation has the privilege of working with many professionals, including estate planners, financial advisors, tax advisors and others who connect their charitably inclined clients with GCF's resources, and Bruce is among their most committed ambassadors. Not only has Bruce introduced clients to GCF, he and his wife have a donor advised fund at GCF from which they support many local organizations and have done so for more than 30 years!

Throughout his career, Bruce has been involved with several not-for-profit organizations, from participating on investment committees to serving as a board member. His passion for the environment inspired him to start the "Trees in Gratitude" program in which he has partnered with many non-profit organizations to plant over 300 trees (Oak, a strong and slow growing tree, being his favorite). About the program Bruce says, "First of all, I named it 'Trees In Gratitude' because I am grateful for the many gifts I have been given. My trees are gifts that will long outlive me. By the time my favorite oak trees grow to full size, I'll be gone. Nelson Henderson said it best when he wrote: *The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.*"

Like Bruce's Trees in Gratitude program, Greater Cincinnati Foundation donor advised funds help people plant seeds for creating a legacy by providing a structure and resource that will live in perpetuity. Parents can use their donor advised funds to teach their children about philanthropy during their lifetime, and then leave an asset for them to continue distributing or leave a gift to the community in perpetuity. About his philanthropy, Bruce reflects, "I received my passion for philanthropy from my mother and my philanthropy is part of my mother's legacy. I hope to pass it on to my children and grandchildren."

Bruce has full faith and confidence that the Greater Cincinnati Foundation will be successful forever and outlive all of us. "The Greater Cincinnati Foundation knows the community, knows the challenges, knows the agencies that meet needs successfully and serves as a cost-effective steward and conduit to build a stronger community," says

Bruce. “Bruce works with wonderful clients, and GCF is honored that he entrusts them to GCF to help donors amplify their generosity during their lifetime and plant the seeds for their legacy. GCF is grateful for Bruce’s dedication in promoting philanthropy.” says Michele Carey, Director of Professional Advisor Relations at GCF.

Bruce, GCF thanks you for being a shining example for professional advisors on how to help clients bring their charitable dreams to life both during their lives and for generations to follow.

GCF is proud to honor Bruce J. Berno with the 2021 Voices of Giving Award for his sincere commitment to charitable giving and non-profits in our community.

Steve Black Nominated by CET

CET’s mission is to strengthen the communities it serves through programs and services that inspire and inform, educate and engage, fostering citizenship and culture, the joy of learning and the power of diverse perspectives.

Michael Hirschfeld, a past chair of then-WCET’s Board of Trustees, best summarizes the special and remarkable qualities that his colleague and friend, Steve Black, offers the community. “As a past CET board member and law partner of Steve’s, I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition. In addition to his other civic and charitable activities, Steve’s passion for and dedication to public broadcasting and its mission was reflected regularly in his role as a long-term member and chair of the CET Board. Steve comes from a family with a history of deep involvement and impact in our community, and he has carried on that tradition.”

CET is honored to work with Steve, who joined the CET and Think^{TV} Board of Trustees in 2011. As chair, he led the board for two terms, from 2017 to 2019, during a pivotal time in our ever-changing world of television broadcast technology.

As a fourth-generation Cincinnati attorney, Steve earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Harvard College and a law degree from Harvard Law School. At the beginning of his career, he served as a clerk to a federal appeals court judge before moving to the well-known firm of Graydon, Head, and Ritchey, LLP. After nearly four decades of practice in areas that included commercial litigation and estate planning, Steve retired from the active practice of law in 2013.

CET recognizes Steve's humble dedication and perseverance to ensure that a deceased donor's wishes come to fruition as the donor intended. When there were alarming and unexplained delays in the administration of a charitable trust, Steve took it upon himself to assist CET as needed. When the station needed assistance with another donor's out-of-state estate, Steve was the bridge for a resolution between the station and the attorney handling the probate case.

A loyal and generous supporter of public television, Steve currently also gives of his time to a state-appointed position on the board of the Ohio Broadcast Education Media Commission. Locally, Steve holds board positions on the Ohio Innocence Project as well as the Children's Home of Cincinnati Foundation. He has also previously served on several other community and governmental boards throughout the region.

Today, you will find Steve raising Belted Galloway cattle on his small, family farm north of Cincinnati. He also enjoys time with his wife, Susan, a retired psychiatric social worker, their three adult children, and three young grandchildren.

CET's success in solidifying planned gifts is because of the thoughtful guidance from advisors, including Steve who dedicates his time and talent. CET is grateful for the time and dedication that Steve offers to make public television an even more valuable asset to all Greater Cincinnatians, including future generations of viewers.

CET is pleased to honor Steve Black with the 2021 Voices of Giving Award.

Joyce Ferrell, RN, Med
Nominated by The Christ Hospital Foundation

The Christ Hospital Foundation - Supporting exceptional patient care and experiences. Joyce Ferrell has dedicated her life to promoting the health and wellbeing of others, both as a career nurse and into retirement. As a 1962 graduate of The Christ Hospital School of Nursing, Joyce began her nursing career at The Christ Hospital, where she served as a Staff RN, Head Nurse, Nursing Director, and Assistant Vice President of Nursing.

She obtained her Master of Education from Xavier University in 1984, and in 1991, she became Vice President of Clinical Services at Middletown Regional Hospital. She was recruited by Hospice of Dayton to lead them in gaining their first Joint Commission Accreditation and served there as Vice President for Clinical Services and Quality Improvement until her retirement in 2007.

In 2015, Joyce joined The Christ Hospital Foundation Board and gives generously of her time and resources to help raise funds and advocate for the hospital and The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Joyce has generously included a bequest in her estate plans to support nursing scholarships. As a planned giving donor, she shares her story and encourages others to include the College in their estate plans as a way to leave a lasting legacy of support for future students pursuing the nursing profession.

Joyce has been instrumental in making a Christ College of Nursing education accessible to the most deserving nursing students. Even after a house fire destroyed her own home and virtually all her possessions, followed by the death of her husband, Joyce continues to devote a portion of her life to her own special version of “Paying it Forward.” The Christ Hospital Foundation is grateful for Joyce’s continued partnership and unwavering commitment.

Last year, Joyce published her first children’s book, *Daisy’s Adventure*. Half of proceeds from all book sales support the College’s Nursing scholarship fund and Joyce’s dream of supporting the next generation of nurses.

The Christ Hospital Foundation is thrilled to recognize Joyce Ferrell as their 2021 Voices of Giving honoree.

Linda Greenberg
Nominated by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park is a professional, regional theatre committed to producing and presenting for diverse audiences the broadest range of theatre in an inviting theatrical environment. Their mission is accomplished through works of the highest caliber produced onstage in a fiscally responsible manner, and through stimulating education and outreach programs.

Linda fell in love with the magic of live theatre after her mother took her and her sister to see *The Fantasticks* in 1966. “I still recall how magical it was in that small theater,” she says, “with actors performing so close to the audience and the connection we all felt as a community.” Linda has been a fan ever since. Today, Linda and her husband, Gary, have been Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park subscribers since 1978 – 42 years! During this incredible time, she has played a key role in shaping the Playhouse into what it is today.

Linda and Gary regularly participate in the Playhouse's programs and events, and along with their children have made many incredible memories with their family at the Playhouse. Not only does she bring her leadership to the Playhouse as a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees, but she is also a founding member of the Leading Ladies program. She has since led as a Leading Ladies program co-chair, served as an event co-chair, and donated her time as a steering committee member for eight seasons. Linda and Gary have been donors to the Playhouse since 1992; are members of the Playhouse's major gifts society The Artistic Director's Circle; regularly sponsor an annual production as Honorary Producers; take advantage of Red Carpet packages to introduce friends and colleagues to the Playhouse; and have made a significant commitment to the Capital Campaign. In addition to this generosity, service, and leadership, she has also been a member of the Capital Campaign Cabinet for the last three years, helping to lead the effort for a new mainstage theatre complex.

Most importantly, Linda is a member of the Morse Johnson Society, a group of people who have generously included the Playhouse in their estate planning. It is her hope that others will be inspired to make similar commitments and leave their own legacies to the theatre that they, like Linda and her family, love.

The gift was made to support the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park so that it can continue to provide unequalled artistry and masterful live theatre experiences for generations to come.

Through Linda's foresight and generosity, she is making it possible for the Playhouse to continue to produce the highest quality live theatre experiences well into the future.

Linda stated, "I was inspired to make a legacy gift to the Playhouse by my mother, who loved the theater, especially the Playhouse. It is that community experience that only happens with live performances, which I value. I want to ensure that the Playhouse continues to thrill, entertain, and teach generations of audiences to come."

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park is proud to honor Linda Greenberg as their 2021 Voices of Giving Honoree.

David Hoguet

Nominated by Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati (JCGC)

JCGC serves the burial needs of the Greater Cincinnati Jewish community with care and dignity and honors the resting places of our people. JCGC manages 25 Jewish Cemeteries, providing burial services in keeping with the traditions of Judaism, as well as preserving and maintaining the rich history and heritage of the cemeteries and the dearly

departed, through educational programming and through providing genealogy resources.

The breadth of David Hoguet's support and involvement with Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati cannot be overstated. When Jewish Cemeteries was formed in 2008 to merge and collectively manage Cincinnati's Jewish cemeteries, David agreed to be the interim director for 6 months; Just under 9 years later, he retired from the position!

David transformed 24 distinct cemeteries into a consolidated, efficient operation, while still providing a caring agency for all community members. He helped mold the initial board, consisting of representatives of the various cemeteries, into a highly respected community-wide board of leaders from all currents of Judaism. While serving five different presidents and with a continually changing board, he provided steady leadership and ensured financial viability. David also was a tremendous advocate for the staff of the new organization.

David improved maintenance of our cemeteries, ensuring proper respect for all our dearly departed, and helped preserve and promote the rich history and heritage of the Jewish community. He stewarded the initiative to financial sustainability and made the new organization truly the envy of communities around the country and a model that others hope to emulate. David also oversaw the development and dedication of Cincinnati's first new Jewish cemetery in sixty years, which will meet our needs for the next century.

David deftly and passionately helped lead JCGC's Friends campaign and its first and second Legacy campaigns, through the Jewish Federation's Create Your Jewish Legacy initiative. David led by example, establishing his legacy commitment to Jewish Cemeteries, so that he could ask others to join him. Thanks not only to his administrative oversight, but also his sincere and successful legacy conversations with prospective donors, Jewish Cemeteries now has over 70 legacy commitments.

David and his wife, Karen, made a legacy gift to JCGC because they "wanted to give back to help see that the good work done in David's time at JCGC continues, and to honor and preserve the history and memories contained in our cemeteries."

Upon David's retirement as Executive Director, his deep sense of responsibility and desire to serve others led him to agree to serve in a volunteer capacity on two committees, including our Legacy Committee, as well as consult on various issues.

David does everything in a quiet, unassuming, humble manner, belaying the confidence and utter mastery of a diverse skillset, with which he tries to make the world a better

place in several other volunteer roles, as well. He recently completed terms as Talbert House Board Chair and Plum Street Historic Preservation Fund Board Chair and has devoted time to Hebrew Union College, Seven Hills School and GRAD Cincinnati.

He shies away from the public spotlight and from recognition, and works with a belief and feeling of responsibility, which he continues to exhibit in professional retirement. JCGC was incredibly fortunate to have David as an Executive Director and are equally fortunate and grateful to have him continue to stay involved in a volunteer capacity.

David's Legacy Gift will help ensure that Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati can continue to fulfill its mission. Jewish Cemeteries will always work to ensure that David's legacy, in addition to his bequest, endures. They are grateful to be able to recognize David Hoguet as their 2021 Voices of Giving honoree.

Edmund W. Jones, MD
Nominated by Bethesda Foundation

The mission of the Bethesda Foundation is to connect people with their desire to improve the quality of life for patients and families by giving caregivers the resources they need to provide best in class care.

During his more than 40-year career as a highly regarded and well-respected Cincinnati surgeon, Dr. Jones (Ted) has found time to volunteer and serve his community.

Dr. Jones attended Cincinnati Country Day School and graduated from Princeton University. He received his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine after an internship in Chicago and a six-year surgical residency at the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Jones practiced surgery at Bethesda, Christ, Deaconess and Children's Hospitals. In 1970, he and his partner performed the first operation at the newly opened Bethesda North Hospital. He became a pioneer in the use of surgical stapling which was in its infancy at the time and for many years he served as a consultant and advisor to two major stapling companies.

Throughout his distinguished career at Bethesda, Dr. Jones served in many leadership roles. He was an elected officer of the medical staff for 19 years and served as Chair of the Bethesda Foundation Board and the Bethesda Inc. Board. Dr. Jones has also served

as a member of the Bethesda Governance Committee, the Development Committee, the Community Outreach Grant Committee and the Marketing Committee.

Dr. Jones currently serves as a Trustee on the Bethesda Foundation Board, the Hospice of Cincinnati Board and is Founder and Co-Chair of the Retired Physicians Senior Staff Committee. Dr. Jones is a longtime supporter of the Bethesda Foundation and became a member of the Legacy Circle when he let the Foundation know that he has included Bethesda in his estate plans.

According to Dr. Jones, “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Bethesda community throughout my career. By making a Legacy gift to the Foundation, I hope to ensure that the programs and services that I support now and hold dear to my heart, will be available for those who need them well into the future.”

The Foundation is thankful for Dr. Jones’ current and future support, and they are grateful for his dedication and service to the Bethesda community and for his lifelong commitment to improving the lives of patients in the Cincinnati community. Bethesda Foundation is pleased to honor Edmund W. Jones, MD for the 2021 Voices of Giving Award.

Gary and Janice Lubin Nominated by Cincinnati Public Radio

Cincinnati Public Radio’s mission is to engage your mind, enrich your life, and lift your spirit.

Gary and Janice Lubin have been longtime listeners and supporters of Cincinnati Public Radio. “WVXU provides dependable, accurate news, commentary and heartwarming human-interest stories. WGUC is the only source of programmed classical music on our dial. Ninety percent or more of our radio listening time is on WGUC and WVXU,” says Gary.

The Lubins have been contributing to the station since 1988. This past summer, Gary and Janice joined Cincinnati Public Radio’s Legacy Society by informing the station of their decision to include it in their estate plans. Their gift will create a dedicated fund to encourage, support, publicize and promote African American history, culture and accomplishments.

“Janice and I had multiple motivations for making this planned gift. First, we wanted to support public radio and all that it is about. Further to that, though, we are inspired by what Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called ‘becoming beloved community’,” says Gary. Advocates for eradicating continued injustices in our country and members of the Church of the Redeemer in Hyde Park, Janice and Gary spent 47 years together.

“Our gift is a way of paying back, or more optimistically putting it, paying it forward to encourage, support, publicize and promote African American history, culture, and accomplishments,” says Gary.

Cincinnati Public Radio is honored to be a part of Gary and Janice’s benevolence. The organization is saddened that Janice is not able to share in this recognition; she passed away in September 2020. Thanks to the Lubins, the programs on 90.9 WGUC and 91.7 WVXU they appreciate, expect and count-on will continue and be expanded upon for generations to come.

Cincinnati Public Radio is excited that Gary and Janice Lubin are their 2021 Voices of Giving honoree.

Carol A. Bowers Morton Nominated by CET

CET’s mission is to strengthen the communities it serves through programs and services that inspire and inform, educate and engage, fostering citizenship and culture, the joy of learning and the power of diverse perspectives.

Life-long learning and service to others have always been a part of Carol’s life. Carol thrives on learning and looks forward to CET public television’s programs on history, arts, science, culture, news, current events, traveling, gardening and BBC offerings. Carol grew up in Milan, Indiana and then went on to Butler University and graduated from the College of Pharmacy, where she was an annual supporter throughout her career. For forty-two years, Carol was a practicing pharmacist who worked in retail and hospital settings and also served as a consultant for a long-term care facility. During her career, Carol obtained certifications in diabetes management, immunizations and alternative therapies accreditation.

Even with lengthy workdays, Carol found the time to volunteer for hospice as she visited and listened to patients in their final time. With Carol’s love of animals, you could also

find her volunteering at the Louisville Zoo, cleaning giraffe and rhino enclosures. Throughout Carol's life, she has developed a creed of re-use, re-store, and recycle in order to make a difference. This idea extends to her historic home built in 1849, filled with beautiful antiques, and property being willed to Indiana Landmarks in a preservation covenant.

In addition to the legacy that Carol is leaving Indiana Landmarks, she will leave her retirement account to CET. Public television has received Carol's annual support for almost five decades, beginning with KET when she lived in the Louisville area. In 2011, when Carol moved to Brookville, Indiana, she became an annual supporter and friend to CET.

Since her retirement from pharmacy, Carol volunteers at her local library where they saw her talents and offered her a part-time position. Carol's work at the library inspired her to author a children's book, *Odda the Little Viking*, which was published in 2018. In addition to working part-time at the library in her community, Carol enjoys continuing to restore her historic home where she lives happily with her rescued cats. She also has enjoyed traveling the world in her retirement.

With CET as the beneficiary of Carol's retirement account, her future gift will support the important mission of making public media free and accessible to all, as it reaches millions of viewers throughout the region. Carol stated, "Above all, I want public television, CET, and what it offers to all ages, to continue beyond my lifetime. For an ordinary citizen, this is a heartfelt gift and a legacy after my years of labor."

CET appreciates the loyal and dedicated commitment of Carol A. Bowers Morton to public television for more than 50 years, helping public media to achieve its mission on-air, online, and in the community and knowing her gift will help future generations of public television viewers. We value her belief that, according to Carol, "All of my years of work should go beyond supporting my life to benefit organizations that are important to me."

CET is thrilled to honor Carol A. Bowers Morton with the 2021 Voices of Giving Award.

Niehaus Law Office, LLC

Nominated by St. Vincent de Paul - Cincinnati (SVDP)

St. Vincent de Paul is a network of neighbors, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Niehaus Law Office, LLC, has long supported and collaborated with SVDP and through consistent, professional planned giving assistance, they have helped their clients support the charitable missions of SVDP and many other nonprofits.

Specializing in wills, estates, and elder law, Niehaus Law serves many clients who are poised to support local charities with legacy gifts. Introductory estate planning conversations with clients include discussion not only of wills, trusts, and powers of attorney but also clients' charitable inclinations and the most tax-efficient ways to support their favorite non-profits. For Niehaus Law, planned gifts are not an estate planning afterthought but rather powerful tools that leave a legacy of service and strengthen the critical work of local nonprofits.

If Niehaus Law's broad support of our local nonprofit sector has been noteworthy, its support of SVDP has been extraordinary. Its founder, Francis Niehaus, has long been a "Vincentian" (volunteer) at St. Vincent de Paul's Bellarmine Chapel Conference—a church-based group of volunteers who serve neighbors in need in their local community—and even has served as Conference president for four years. Anne Niehaus, another attorney at law for Niehaus Law, is also a Vincentian at the Bellarmine Chapel Conference and a former SVDP Board member.

But Niehaus Law's collaborations with SVDP run even deeper than these family connections. Several current members of SVDP's Legacy of Hope Society—its group of supporters who have committed to making planned gifts to the organization—and many donors who have already passed away and made estate gifts drew up their gift plans at Niehaus Law. Additionally, Niehaus Law has partnered with SVDP to host "Estate Planning 101" sessions as a way to further promote planned giving options. Attorneys Anne Niehaus and Stephen Doyle co-led a virtual session in the fall of 2020 and plan to host additional sessions in the months ahead.

Specifically, about these estate planning sessions, Anne Niehaus says, "We don't mind if Niehaus Law doesn't get any new clients from these sessions. What is most important to us is educating these friends of SVDP about estate planning in general and giving them

ideas for the ways in which they can support, through planned gifts, the essential assistance that St. Vincent de Paul provides.”

Thanks to Niehaus Law, St. Vincent de Paul is well-positioned to achieve its critical mission and to serve future generations of neighbors in need with dignity, compassion, and comprehensive assistance. St. Vincent de Paul is proud to honor Niehaus Law with the 2021 Voices of Giving Award.

Bob & Connie Reed Nominated by Freestore Foodbank

One in seven neighbors in our tristate area is at risk of hunger. Freestore Foodbank’s mission is to improve lives by eliminating hunger in partnership with our community, and our vision is to create a hunger-free, healthy, and thriving region. To achieve this vision, our objectives are to provide nutritious food, connection to support services and hope through a pathway from crisis to stability.

Supporting people who need help has always been part of the Reeds’ lives. Once a week, Connie and Bob cook together as part of their church’s work to prepare hot meals for the hungry. They also support Freestore Foodbank: Bob and Connie have been donors for more than 30 years!

Currently the Reeds contribute to Freestore Foodbank’s eight-week culinary training and job placement program, Cincinnati COOKS! One culinary student particularly impressed Bob. “She was struggling and COOKS! taught her the skills to get on her feet and land a job. That kind of turnaround is what we like to support.”

In the past, the Reeds also have funded Freestore Foodbank’s school pantries which provide low-income middle and high school students and their families with shelf-stable food and distributions of fresh produce.

In addition to being long-time contributors, Bob and Connie recently informed Freestore Foodbank that the organization will be a beneficiary of their estate. “Our children have done well, and we have provided support to the grandchildren for their education. Part of our estate will go to the family, and a large part will benefit organizations we support, like Freestore Foodbank.”

“Our point of view is that we have benefited from our society so in our estate plan, we

want to give back to our community for the good fortune we have had.” The Reeds’ planned gift will help the entirety of Freestore Foodbank operations. This includes building capacity for Freestore Foodbank’s 500+ partner agencies across 20 counties and programs such as those that increase nutritious food distribution (Healthy Harvest Mobile Market, School Pantries and Healthcare Partner Pantries).

Long term, Bob and Connie’s gift will enable Freestore Foodbank to continue its work into the next generation, work that’s led Freestore to become a model for other food banks nationwide. Thank you, Connie and Bob, for making that gift part of your legacy.

Freestore Foodbank is thrilled to recognize Bob & Connie Reed as their 2021 Voice of Giving Honoree.

Carol J. Schroeder

Nominated by Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

For nearly 150 years, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden (CZBG) has been a community treasure, whose legacy is one of excellence in animal care that inspires visitors and supports wildlife beyond its borders. Donors and volunteers, such as Carol Schroeder, have enabled the Zoo to engage millions of children and adults through the years as the Zoo brings people “close enough to care” about wildlife and conservation.

Carol Schroeder, a native Cincinnati, and proud graduate of Woodward High School and University of Cincinnati grew up with a love for nature and animals. “Perhaps it was the influence of Girl Scouts in my early years,” she says.

She retired in 1995, from a professional career at Cincinnati Bell and AT&T in regulatory, finance and rate planning, to be a caretaker for her mother who had suffered a stroke. After her mother’s passing, Carol started to explore volunteer opportunities. Culling on her love of nature, she investigated the CZBG. “I was impressed with all of the different programs that touch all generations. The Zoo is not just about plants and animals. It is about conservation and community.”

Since 2016, Carol has logged over 400+ hours volunteering in such areas as CREW (*THE CARL H. LINDNER JR. FAMILY CENTER FOR CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH OF ENDANGERED WILDLIFE*), Animal Encounters, and Volunteer Educators. That is quite an accomplishment in less than 5 years, especially given the Zoo’s closure/limited volunteer opportunities during for COVID!

Impressed with how well CZBG is run, Carol has made CZBG a beneficiary of her IRA. This generous undesignated gift will benefit the Zoo's greatest needs. "I am pleased to be able to leave a financial legacy to our wonderful zoo, an organization that promotes my personal goals of animal welfare, conservation and bringing people and wildlife closer together."

Additionally, Carol recently created a four-year renewable college scholarship for needs-based Greater Cincinnati high school students who want to major in animal-related sciences. Carol says she was inspired by The Cincinnati Zoo Academy, an affiliate of Hughes STEM High School. This academically challenging four-year college preparatory program is the only high school program in the country that pairs students with zoo professionals for daily hands-on work experience. Students take classes that prepare them for leadership roles in the fields of conservation, environmental science, and plant and animal care.

The Zoo is honored to thank and recognize Carol for her amazing bequest and extend our appreciation for her vote of confidence in our efforts to ensure a world where both wildlife and people can thrive. Her legacy will have meaningful impact on countless Zoo visitors for years to come.

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is thrilled to honor Carol J. Schroeder as their 2021 Voices of Giving honoree.

Sherry Sheffield **Nominated by Miami University**

Miami University, a student-centered public university founded in 1809, has built its success through an unwavering commitment to liberal arts undergraduate education and the active engagement of its students in both curricular and co-curricular life.

Sherry Sheffield graduated from Miami University in 1967 with a bachelor's degree. She is a retired administrator with the Ohio Hotel and Lodging Association and spent half of her career working to grow Ohio's travel industry and the other half in the broadcasting industry. In retirement she is passionate about her work as the archivist for the Wyoming Historical Society.

What else is she passionate about? Her family, and Miami University – two things that are tied very closely together. Sherry has chosen to honor both Miami and her parents by

creating the William T. Sheffield Award of Distinction to recognize those who go above and beyond in contributing to Miami athletics and reflecting positively on the university.

“My love for Miami started with my parents,” Sherry said. “My father was a man of great honor and integrity and being able to offer this award is my way of thanking Miami for the prominent part it played in his life. His award is not about achievement as much as it is about passion.”

The William T. Sheffield Award of Distinction will be presented annually, if warranted, to a coach, staff member or non-student volunteer and will include a monetary award. The William T. Sheffield Student Award of Distinction will be awarded to a Miami student. Both award winners will be recognized during a Miami home football game, and their names will be included on plaques within the Walter L. Gross Family Student-Athlete Development Center.

A former president of the Miami University Alumni Association and the Cincinnati Miami Men’s Club, William and his wife, Jeanette Stockmeier Sheffield ’43, were regular and visible figures at Miami sporting contests, holding season tickets for football and basketball and typically wearing their trademark red and white Miami cowboy hats.

“Dad was 6-foot-4 and mom was 5-foot-11, so you could see those red hats up over the top of a crowd,” Sherry recalled.

William Sheffield left Miami six months short of graduation to serve as a ground school flight instructor in World War II. Following his service, he went on to earn his law degree—which at the time did not require an undergraduate degree—from the University of Cincinnati. Though his legal career was under way, William, out of respect for the opportunities Miami had given him, as well as the guidance he had received from faculty, returned to campus as a commuter student and completed requirements for his bachelor’s degree in 1949—more than a decade after he first set foot on campus.

Sheffield went on to serve as a judge and spent the rest of his life repaying his debt to Miami through dedicated service and unwavering loyalty. Sherry’s gift is her way of continuing her father’s gratitude.

“William T. Sheffield’s story is inspiring, and the awards in his honor will be very meaningful to those we are able to recognize,” said David Saylor, director of Miami's intercollegiate athletics. “Miami athletics is more than coaches and student-athletes. It is truly a family effort involving support staff, faculty and students as well as alumni and friends. We’re grateful to Sherry for this important investment in celebrating those who

make Miami athletics and Miami University great.”

Miami University is thrilled to honor Sherry Sheffield with the 2021 Voices of Giving Award.

Mary Pat & Scott Simmers Nominated by Mount St. Joseph University

Mount St. Joseph University is a Catholic academic community grounded in the spiritual values and vision of its founders, the Sisters of Charity. The University educates its students through interdisciplinary liberal arts and professional curricula emphasizing values, integrity and social responsibility.

Mary Pat (Brennan) Simmers graduated from Mount St. Joseph University in 1983 with a degree in religious education. She has been an active supporter of the University for 38 years, has served as a member of the Alumni Board and has been actively involved in her reunions since graduation. Her connections run deep as her mother, Patricia (Emmons) Brennan, Class of 1949 was also a graduate of the Mount.

To Mary Pat, establishing a planned gift to Mount St. Joseph University was her way of continuing her family’s legacy. Together with her husband, Scott, Mary Pat set up a joint fund in conjunction with the University of Cincinnati (his alma mater)—the Scott and Mary Pat Simmers Endowment Fund—in which they pledged a portion of their life insurance to be donated to the Mount. Additionally, Mary Pat and Scott have started their own scholarship endowment that will be joined later with their life insurance arrangement.

As with all planned giving arrangements with the Mount, the couple designed how they wanted their gift spent, allocating their endowment toward students who are pursuing religious studies and either the child or grandchild of a Mount graduate if possible. “We’re very blessed financially and lucky all the way around,” says Mary Pat. “We’re just trying to pass that on to the next generation.”

Mount St. Joseph University thanks Mary Pat and Scott Simmers for their enduring dedication to educate Mount students and is pleased to honor Mary Pat & Scott Simmers with the 2021 Voices of Giving Award.

Stuart and Terry Susskind **Nominated by the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati**

The Jewish Federation of Cincinnati's (JFC) mission is to develop and connect leaders, contributors, organizations, and ideas to build an inclusive Jewish community that helps people in need, supports Israel, and assures a vibrant Jewish future. JFC brings diverse groups together to build and sustain a Jewish community. Four Core Values drive them as they work to live their mission: Community, Inclusivity, Learning, and Integrity.

Stuart and Terry met in Cincinnati where they were fixed up by a mutual friend and married soon after. For many years, Terry served on many boards and worked assisting with program development for American Jewish Committee, Wise Temple, Jewish Community Relations Council and Jewish Family Service. She appeared on an interfaith Sunday morning television show for 12 years as the representative of the Jewish Community. Stuart is an attorney and has more than 50 years of experience in planning and administration of estates with expertise in income tax planning and compliance.

Stuart and Terry have been involved with the Jewish community and served in numerous leadership roles. They have been active with the JFC for decades. Terry was a recipient of the Clara Graller award for young adult leadership and has served on the allocations committee for many years. She is recognized as a Lion of Judah through her annual giving. Stuart has been an ambassador for the Jewish Federation and has solicited community members for more than 60 years for our annual and planned giving campaigns.

Stuart's commitment to Planned Giving goes back over three decades. He chaired one of the first endowment campaign initiatives at the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, long before this brand of sustainable fundraising was well understood by most organizations. He had the vision to lend his expertise and skills to identify a committee of individuals who would begin legacy conversations in our community. He and Terry have both served on the Board of Trustees of the Federation and led numerous annual campaign efforts. JFC is extremely grateful for all they have done for the community and that they have agreed to be honored tonight, among others who share their commitment to Cincinnati and its future.

Throughout Stuart's career as a tax and estate planning attorney, he practiced what he preached. He never misses an opportunity to encourage his clients to consider the benefits of creating a legacy gift that would ensure their favorite charities would be supported with a lifetime gift.

Stuart and Terry have made a legacy provision for the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, which will perpetuate their more than 25-year history of annual giving. They have also made similar commitments to other organizations for Jewish and non-Jewish community nonprofits.

As their parents taught them, being involved not only meant giving of your time, talent and skills, but also meant giving of whatever little finance you were able to contribute to make your community strong. They also believe you should never forget your heritage and always do the best that you can to sustain your community.

The Susskind's feel strongly that the Jewish Federation is an important organization to support. Terry and Stuart's legacy gift will assure the continuation of their annual giving and enable the Jewish community and other organizations dear to them to benefit from their generosity into the foreseeable future.

This legacy gift will allow the Jewish Federation to continue to provide programs for the community and funding for partner agencies, as well as continue to provide a strong, vibrant, and caring community for future generations. Stuart and Terry's personal and professional devotion to our organization and other organizations is inspiring and fills us with pride.

Terry states, "Our legacy will ultimately be our children's and grandchildren's legacy gifts too. I think they are going to be very proud of us for engaging them in our giving process, knowing that these gifts are to make our community better than it would have been had we not contributed."

Stuart says, "I consider myself a link in a chain and I don't want to be that link that breaks that chain"

The Jewish Federation of Cincinnati is thrilled to honor Stuart and Terry Susskind as their 2021 Voices of Giving Honorees.

**Congratulations to the
2021 Voices of Giving
Honorees!**



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PLANNED GIVING COUNCIL