



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



Mission Statement

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

Staff



Meredith Ashkettle
Executive Director



Amy Murfello
Marketing and
Outreach Manager



Pam Carson
Heritage Program
Director

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Denise Toth
Marla Zwinggi



Message from the Executive Director and President

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2023-2024 Leadership Geauga Annual Report. This past year was a period of remarkable growth for our organization, with 74 individuals participating in our leadership programs and 614 attendees at our events. Thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers and the community's support, Leadership Geauga impacted more individuals in Geauga County than ever before.

Over the past year, we have expanded our reach, building new relationships and partnerships that will continue to strengthen our mission of inspiring leadership through personal growth, professional development, and civic engagement.

We are incredibly grateful for your support and involvement. Whether you are a donor, committee member, board member, class participant, program day sponsor, or an active alumnus, thank you for helping us bring Geauga County residents together and shape the future leaders of our community.

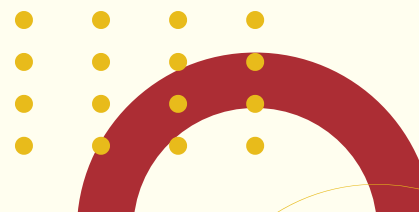
Sincerely,



Meredith Ashkettle
Executive Director



Janice Sugarman
President, Board of Trustees



Signature Adult Program



The Leadership Geauga Signature Adult Class of 2024 consisted of thirty-nine individuals who live or work in Geauga County. Throughout the program, they explored leadership styles via the DiSC assessment, gaining insights into personal and professional growth. They traveled across the county, delving into key sectors of History, Education, Human Services, Health & Safety, Government, Business, Agriculture, and Arts & Leisure. Along the way, they forged lasting connections and developed a deeper understanding of the community they serve.



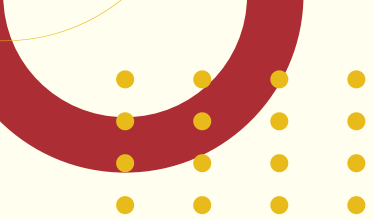
381
miles traveled



134
community leaders met



69
organizations visited



Class of 2024



Jill Adams | Stephanie Anderson, Anderson Legal Services LLC | Sue Aveni | Kelly Baeslach, Geauga County Engineer's Office | Blaine Becker, Junction Auto Family | Kathleen Bergansky, Bergansky Team Realtors | Alex Berman, Geauga Mechanical | Tania Bertolone, The Learning Cafe | Angel Burton, WomenSafe, Inc. the Green House | Deanna Cutlip, Dee Bakes | Heidi Delaney, City of Chardon | Sr. Carol Dikovitsky, Sisters of Notre Dame | Chris Elko, Thrasher Dinsmore & Dolan | Courtney Erminio, The Middlefield Banking Company | Christie Foran, Kinetico | Valerie Gonzalez, Kent State University Geauga | Lori Kaplan, Eagle Strategies, LLC | Adam Krisby, University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center | Scott Lillash, Russell Township Police Department | Larry Lopez, U.S. Coast Guard | Jim McCaskey, McCaskey Landscape & Design | Sylvia McGee, Bean's Coffee Shop | Megan McMasters, Arms Trucking | Dawn Mighton, Smylies Commercial Cleaning | Crist Miller, Shawnee Wood Products Inc. | Heather Mountsier, Geauga County Juvenile Court | Cory Nutter, BDS Financial Network | Megan Patton, ODA Strategy, LLC | Christopher Popely, Hemly Tool Supply Inc. | Melissa Ricco, Chardon Area Chamber of Commerce | Terry Rose, Bainbridge Township | Holly Sauder, Geauga Park District | Trey Simpson, Great Lakes Cheese | Jake Smith, Geauga County Sheriff's Office | Natalie Smith, Ravenwood Health | Bart Steigerwald III | Scott Taylor, Company 119 | Michael Tomc, Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Department of Information Technology/Geauga County Auditor's Office | Ellie Tuohey, Gatto Group, Inc.



Youth Institute Class of 2024

2024 Youth Institute Sponsor



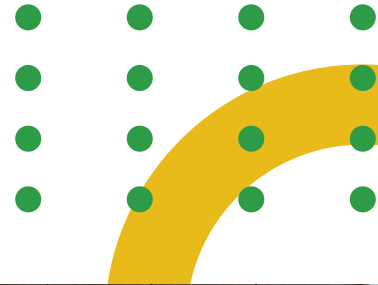
Macey Beers, NDCL | Meredith Bors, Berkshire | Kathleen Brooks, NDCL | Sean Butler, NDCL | Ava Cavelli, West Geauga |
Aerowyn Dacek, Berkshire | Brendan Donnelly, NDCL | Aubrey Fetchik, Chardon | Lucas Gajda, Chardon |
Presley Goble, West Geauga | Mark Humphreys, Andrews Osborne | Peyton Kitzmiller, Berkshire | Will Klein, Homeschool |
Rosemarie McDonald, Chardon | Katelyn Miller, Berkshire | Laney Morgan, NDCL | Campbell Reese, West Geauga |
Thomas Seifried, Kenston | Carter Sindelar, Cardinal | John Slattery, Berkshire | Andrew St. James, Chardon |
Rachel Suszynski, Chardon | Henry Sweet, Chardon | Walter Sweet, Chardon | Grayson Yoder, Cardinal

The Youth Institute Class of 2024 was our largest yet, with 25 participants from eight school districts. These future leaders explored career pathways, took behind-the-scenes tours, engaged in leadership development, and had a one-day mentorship in their chosen field. They connected with over 55 leaders and visited 20 businesses. Congratulations to all!



Heritage Program for Retirees

Spring 2024



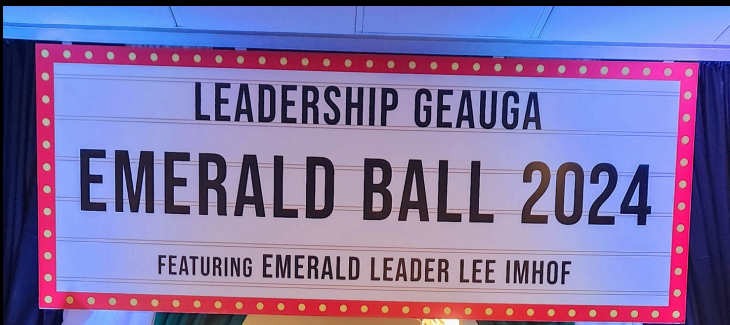
Dale Diemer | Steve Kinnett | Paul Lexow |
Gary Mynchenberg | Gustavo Pla |
Beth Ann Raymond | Elizabeth Simeral |
Nancy Taylor | Dawn Tolchinsky |
Kimberly Voelker-LaRicca



The Spring 2024 Heritage Program Class was lively and engaging, actively participating in discussions and tours with over 25 speakers and businesses. Some have since volunteered in the county, applying their strengths to make a difference. A big thank you to the Cleveland Foundation for making this possible!

Emerald Ball 2024

The 2024 Emerald Ball was nothing short of extraordinary! This year, we debuted a VIP pre-party for sponsors and welcomed over 360 guests to Landerhaven in Mayfield Heights, where they enjoyed a variety of activities, including silent and live auctions, grid games, Plinko, and more. We were also thrilled to honor Lee Imhof as the 2024 Emerald Leader. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Emerald Ball committee—John Lateulere, Becky Klein, Danielle Martincic, Becky Ohlsen, Charmaine Kepes, Sam Dreslinski, Jen Wachob, Eric Wachob, and Melissa Capretta. Their support, creativity, and dedication were instrumental in making our biggest event of the year a success! Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 1, 2025, when we will celebrate 30 years of serving the Geauga County community at our next Emerald Ball!

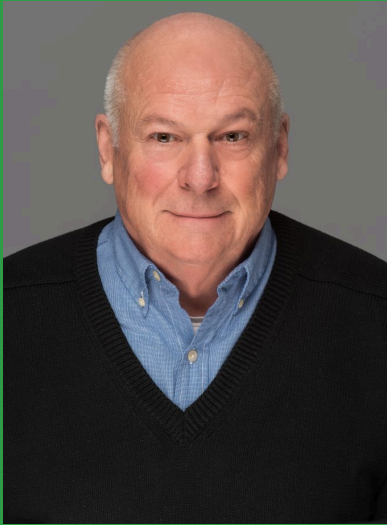


Emerald Leader

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



Lee Imhof



Lee Imhof was the recipient of the 2024 Emerald Leader Award for his exceptional contributions to Geauga County. This award honors individuals, businesses, or nonprofits that demonstrate outstanding leadership through volunteer service, philanthropy, or innovation.

Imhof's 13 years on the Berkshire Board of Education, where he shaped educational policies and mentored others, highlights his dedication to education. His leadership extends to founding and chairing the Steering Committee of Leadership Geauga, developing local leaders, and strengthening community ties.

As a founding member and Board Member of Geauga Growth Partnership, Imhof has driven economic growth, notably through the Summer Internship Program. His ability to unite people with differing views and his innovative approaches, such as the Bridges@Work program at his former company and Troy Chemical Industries, further demonstrates his commitment to community well-being and progress.

Imhof's influence in Geauga County is profound, fostering positive change, innovation, and strong community relationships.

Community Impact



Non-Profit Support

During the 2023 Holiday Party, the alumni committee chooses to support a local non-profit by asking attendees to bring donations. NextStep was chosen as the benefactor.

Community Support

One of the stops during the Signature Adult Program Human Services Day included having the class create holiday centerpieces with greenery. In partnership with the Geauga Park District, these arrangements were then delivered to senior citizens throughout the county.



Fundraising Support



Each year, Leadership Geauga names an Emerald Leader at the annual Emerald Ball. This year, the 2024 Emerald Leader was Lee Imhof. Lee chose the Foundation for Geauga Parks as the beneficiary.

Read more about the donation by scanning:



Community Impact

Scan the QR code to read more about these projects!



2024 Service Day

Leadership Geauga Alumni Service Day Project - NextStep

At Next Step, a community-based program that empowers victimized youth on their path to self-sufficiency, Leadership Geauga alumni demonstrated their commitment to improving lives by undertaking a project to spruce up its facilities. The alumni team fixed drawers, removed wallpaper borders, scrubbed and painted walls and windows, patched drywall, and installed a new microwave.



Leadership Geauga Adult Class of 2024 Class Project - Century Village

The Signature Adult Class of 2024 embarked on a mission to preserve history and enhance community spaces at Century Village in Burton. With twenty-two enthusiastic members, the class engaged in activities such as cleaning artifacts, dusting and vacuuming historic houses, revitalizing wood furniture, and staging artifacts at various locations within the village.



Sponsors

Emerald Ball



Program Day



Alumni Event



Wickliffe Lanes

MJM Industries

Sisters of Notre Dame

Mapledale Farm Inc.

AQUA DOC Lake and Pond Management

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.



Abbey King | Akron Rubberducks | Al Van Zeeland | Alice Munn | Alpine Valley | Alvord's Yard & Garden Equipment, LLC | American Limo | Amy Murfello | Andrea Gutka | Andrea Pollock | Angi Daugherty | Ann Blair - Remax Rising | Anthony Lignetta | Aqua Doc Lake & Pond Management | Arbonne | Arborwear | Arms Trucking | Augie's Pizza | Avanti Salon | Avonlea Gardens & Inn | B Anthony's Salon | Back40 | Bart Steigerwald | BB Farms, LLC | Beaches & Dreams Travel Co. | Becky Ohlsen | Becky Oliver | Ben Reed | Beth Bunton | Beth Croup | Beth Krause | Beth Wilterdink | Black Rock Adventure Park | Blackline Car Care - Jon McKnight | Blaine Becker | Blaine McKelvey | Blazin' Bills | Breezewood Gardens and Gifts | Brian Brockway | Brian Langlotz | Bridey Matheny | Brittain Paul | Brittany Sustar | Buckeye Chocolates | Burr Funeral Home | Burton Chamber of Commerce | Burton Floral & Garden | Camp Whitewood | Carriage Trade Boutique | Catherine Peters | CCM Rental | Chagrin Valley Auto Parts | Chagrin Valley Times | Chardon Athletic Boosters | Chardon Fire Department | Chardon Rotary | Chardon Smile Center | Charles Grasser | Charmaine Kepes | Chris Duffas - Reel Kaos | Christie Foran | Christine Davidson | Christine Goodall | Christine Kloski | Christine Steigerwald | Christine Ward | Christopher Elko | Christopher Popely | Class Axe Throwing | Cleveland Art | Cleveland Browns | Cleveland Monsters | Cleveland Museum of Natural History | Cleveland Soaring Society | Cliff Babcock | Coach Outlet | Coffee Corners | Collective Rose | Company 119 | COSI | Courtney Erminio | Cowboy Creamery | Crist Miller | Crooked Pecker | Crushr | D is for Delicious | D.S. Cakes & Sweet Café | Dale's Auto Service & Tire Mart Inc. | Dan Culliton | Danielle Martincic | Dave Johnson | Dawn Damante | Dawn Mighton | Deborah O'Connor | Dee Bakes | Deep Springs Trout Club | DeJohn Funeral Home | Denise Toth | Dennis Galicki | Diana Rezaee | Dr. Rod Rezaee | Dr. Marlea Miano | East Coast Custard | Edward Slusarski | El Patron | Emeth Gymnastics | Eric Wachob | Erick Allen | Essentials of Life Wellness Spa | Eugene McCune | Fairmount Center for the Arts | Fairport Harbor Creamery | Family Pride of Northeast Ohio, Inc. | Farmer and the Deli | Ferroni's Allegro Coffee | Fig Tree Bulk Foods | Fireside Bookshop | Fisher Integrated Care | Foundation for Geauga Parks | Fount | Fowler's Mill Golf Course | Geauga County Farm Bureau | Geauga County Maple Leaf | Geauga Growth Partnership | Geauga Mechanical | Geauga Park District | Geauga Pawn Shop | Geauga Vision | George Dubic | Gervasi Vineyards | Glen Peck | Golf Dome | Goodtime III | Great Lakes Cheese | Great Lakes Growers | Great Lakes Science Center | Guido's Restaurant | Hardwood Lumber Company | Heinen's | Hemly Tool | Heritage Meats | Holden Forests & Gardens | Holly Sauder | Howard Bates | Industrial Tapes, Inc. | James Knapp | James Laudato | Jane Neubauer | Janice and Pete Sugarman | Jarred Miller | Jason Glowczewski | JC's Restaurant | Jeff Adams | Jenni Underwood | Jennifer Dorka | Jennifer Scerbo | Jill Adams | Jim Bottger | Jim Dvorak | Jim Taylor | JMAR Contracting | Joe Zulantz | John Anthony of Novelty | John Epprecht | John Lafler | John Lateulere | John Oros | John Wilson | John's Country Nursery | Jon Dittrich | Joseph Slepko | Joyce Piteo | Judith Bucco | Judy Lasco | Junction Auto Family | Kalahari | Katie Imhof | Keith Corkwell | Keven Krajnak | Keylan Management Group | Kia Corporate/Ken Ganley | Kim Breyley | Kimberly Gibson | Kinetico Inc. | Kristine Frankenberry | Kuhnle Motorsports Park | Kurt Updegraff | Laura Bartchak | Laura Spencer | Lauren O'Neill | League of Women Voters | Lee Imhof | Lets Roam | Life Safety Systems, LLC | Lisa and Rick Briggs | Lisa Crilley Mallis | Lori Gorrell | Lori Kaplan | Lori Miller | Lori Weber | Lowe's Greenhouse | Lulu Tru Holistic Beauty & Wellness | Ma and Pa's Gift Shack | Maggie's Doughnut Shop & Café | Mangia Mangia | Mapledale Farm Inc. | Marcia Owen | Marcia Willkomm | Mark Halford | Marla Zwinggi | Mary Beth O'Neill - Keller Williams GCNE | Matt Smith | Matthew Rambo | McCaskey Family | McCaskey Landscape & Design | McCune Family Apiaries | Megan Mackura | Megan Patton | Melissa Capretta | Melissa Ricco | Meredith Ashkettle | Michael Eiermann | Michael Impullitti | Michael Scanlon | Michael Stefanek | Middlefield Banking Company | Mike Butt | Mike Cheravitch | Mike's Automotive Center | Mission 440 | MJM Industries | Molly Smith | Monica Bricker-Thompson | Muvel | My Thai | Nathan's Automotive Detailing | Nauvoo Family Market | NDCL | NDS Orthodontics | Ned Sherry | NEO Electric Supply | Noce | Nolan Maintenance Inc. | Nora Sindelar | Oak & Embers Tavern | OhioMeansJobs Geauga County | Olive Scene Chagrin | O'Reilly Equipment | Paige Orvis | Pam McMahan | Patrick Culliton | Patterson Fruit Farm | Paul and Judy Hederstrom | Payne & Payne Custom Builders, Inc. | Payne and Tompkins Design-Renovations | Petitti Garden Center | Pinecraft Storage Barns | Precious Cargo | Rachel Dean | RadioActive Electronics | Ramble Inn | Randolph Kaser | Ravenwood Health | Rescue Village | Ric Blamer | Richard & Christie Frenchie | Richard Markwardt | Richards Maple Products | Rick Weikart | Robert Johnson | Robert Shumaker | Rogish Farms | Ross DeJohn | Salty Salt Cave | Samantha Dreslinski | Scott Taylor | Sharon James Cellars | Shaun Woolard | Shelia Bevington | Sheoga Hardwood Flooring | Sheriff Scott Hildebrand | Sirna's Farm & Market | Sisters of Notre Dame | Somrack Roofing and Construction | Sonya Kaser | Sophie Boutique | Soul of the Rose Inc. | Square Bistro | Square Up Barber Shop | Carol Dikovitsky | St. Denis Golf & Party Center | St. Mary's Banquet Hall | Stan Hywet | Stephanie Anderson Legal Services, LLC | Steve Kinnett | Steven Gajda | Sugar Pines Farm | Susan Kruger | Susan Parker | Tania Bertolone | Tap Root Yoga | Tara Sarver | Ten10 Design | Terri Stupica | Terry Holland | Terry Searles | That Hawaiian Guy BBQ | The Gourmet Olive | The Ohio State Reformatory | Theresa Rose | Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan LPA | Tim Kehres | Tim Munn | Tracy Jemison | Trey Simpson | Troy Chemical Industries, Inc. | Turney's Ace Hardware | Undercover Charm | University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center | Urban Vintner | Valerie Sweeney | Versare | Veterans of Foreign Wars of Ohio Charities VFW Post 6519 | Victoria Liptak | Victoria Margelowsky | Video Dept. | Vinecourt Landscaping & Gas Line Service Inc. | Warren's Spirited Kitchen | Waste Management | White House Chocolates | Wickliffe Lanes Inc. | William Rice | Zapped by Whitney | Zeppe's Tavern and Pizzeria | Zwinggi Creative, LLC |

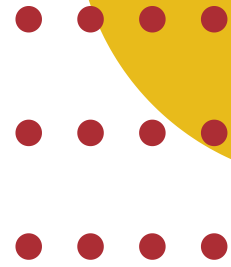
Alumni Events

Our alumni events offer growth, networking, and community engagement. They included a leadership breakfast on AI, a mixer at vino_type, speed networking, an alumni dinner, a holiday party, a service day, and the annual recruitment event Taste of Leadership. With over 1,200 alumni, these events help maintain a strong leadership network in Geauga County.

Special thanks to our Alumni Committee: Angi Daugherty, Kim Breyley, Kristine Frankenberry, Al VanZeeland, Judy Paternite, Becki Gierman, Victoria Margelowsky, and Susan Kruger who helped organize the 2023-24 events!



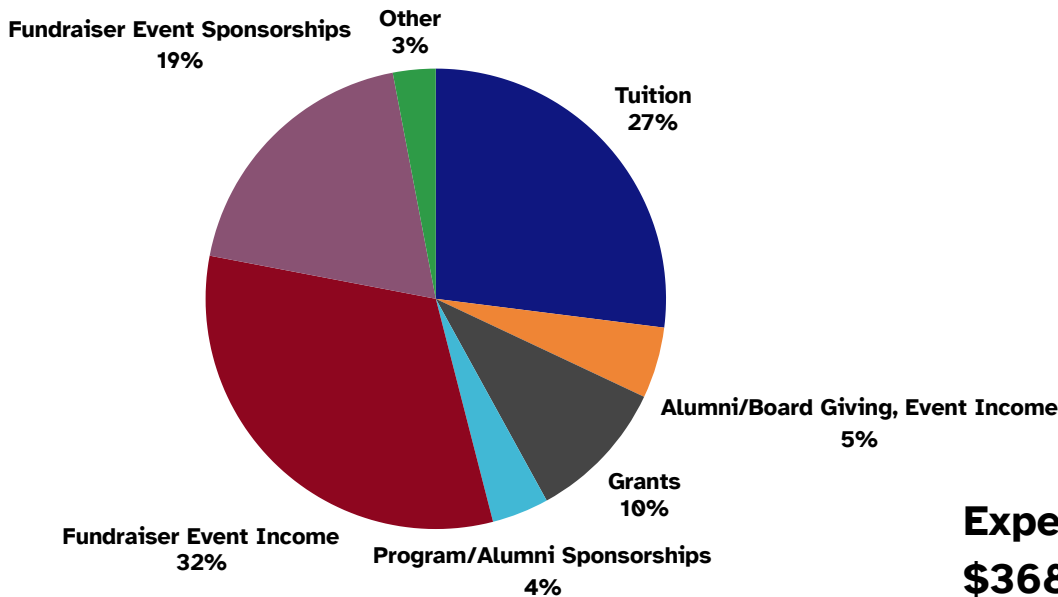
Financials



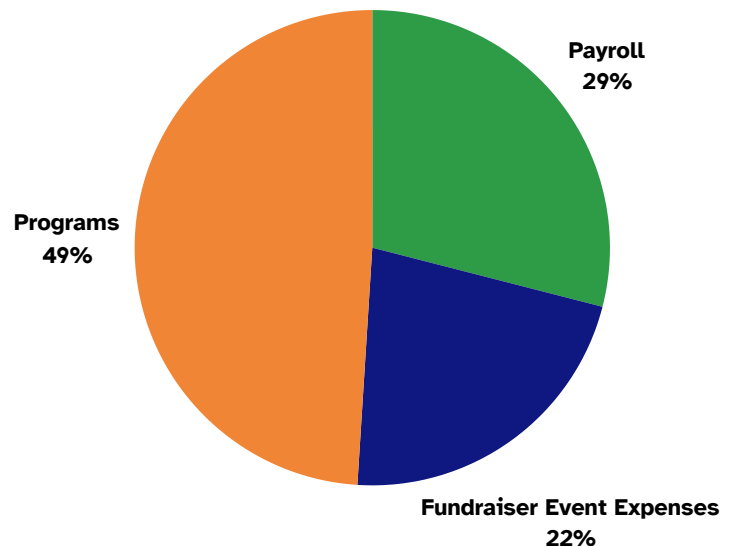
For our fiscal year ending June 30th, 2024, Leadership Geauga remains financially strong. Key drivers of this growth include the launch of a golf outing, an increase in program participation, alumni event sponsorship efforts, and a grant from the Cleveland Foundation. We are truly thankful for the continued support from our community.

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

Revenue \$387,824



Expenses \$368,493



**Leadership Geauga is a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization.
Federal EIN: 34-1794467.**



“ Leadership Geauga Youth Institute helped me to expand and explore my leadership strengths and career opportunities. Connecting with members of our community and other youth from across the county was invaluable.

Campbell Reese
West Geauga High School
Youth Institute 2024

“ Leadership Geauga was a great opportunity! It forced me out of my comfort zone, allowed me to meet incredible people, and find ways to give back to the community! I will cherish the knowledge and friendships this experience has given me.

Alex Berman
Signature Adult Program
Class of 2024

“ I cannot adequately describe the amazing 10 months I spent with my Leadership Geauga class. From learning about every aspect of the county to learning more about myself and my new colleagues, I absolutely recommend this program

Jill Adams
Signature Adult Program
Class of 2024

“ No matter what your level of knowledge about Geauga county... be prepared to broaden it considerably... be ready to be a small part of a great organization and meet more folks for business contact or just to meet new friends.

Anonymous
Heritage Program for Retirees
Class of 2024