

# WELCOME!



**THE MAGIC  
OF ROTARY**

**Rotary**  
District 6630



DISTRICT 6630 CONFERENCE OF CLUBS  
& DISTRICT LEARNING ASSEMBLY

**APRIL 25 - 26, 2025**

**CLEVELAND MARRIOTT EAST  
WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS**

**MAGIC WAND SPONSORS**



# WELCOME FROM OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR



Thank you for spending your time with us this weekend at the Cleveland Marriott East in Warrensville Heights. We're thrilled to have you join us as we celebrate the connection, collaboration, and community that come from Rotary's spirit of fellowship and service. This weekend is always a special time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, discovering shared passions through Rotary - and beyond - as we experience The Magic of Rotary.

Through this Rotary year, I have been so impressed and inspired by all that you do. The impact that our clubs continue to have to our local communities and the world is amazing! Our Rotarians of Northeast Ohio are proven People of Action! This weekend is an opportunity to share your projects and ideas, learn about the successes of other clubs and enjoy fellowship with Rotarians from across Northeast Ohio.

In addition, DLA sessions will address important topics such as mental health, youth exchange, companion clubs, membership growth and club development—equipping all of us to live out our Service Above Self with even greater intention and impact. Our speaker for Friday lunch will tell us that we need to Scare Our Souls - the path to reduced anxiety is by stepping out of our comfort zone and serving others! Friday evening will focus on fellowship with the addition of Rick Smith Jr. visiting your table and showing you the Magic of Rotary up close! Our Saturday lunch will be our traditional Celebration of Youth. Our Four Way Test speech contest winners will amaze you. On Saturday evening we will have a panel discussion that will include Britta Latz, Executive Director MedWish Medworks, Karen Hrdlicka, Director, The Center for Family Philanthropy at the Akron Community Foundation, Brenda Cummins, Director, Philanthropic Services at the Cleveland Foundation and Penny Forster, Director, Community Impact, Cleveland Guardians. We will talk about how we can work together to synergize our service to make Northeast Ohio even better!

I look forward to welcoming you to Warrensville Heights and the Greater Cleveland area. The Cleveland Marriott East has graciously opened its doors to us, and we're grateful to the City for its warm hospitality.

Here's to a weekend of learning, laughter, and leadership. Let's make memories, build connections, and continue expanding the Magic of Rotary - together.

## ABOUT 2024-25 DISTRICT GOVERNOR DALE SMITH



Dale Smith grew up in southeastern Ohio, graduating from Barnesville High School. Dale received a B.Sc. in Ceramic Engineering from the Ohio State University. He has a Six Sigma Black Belt from Sigma Breakthrough Technologies and is facilitator and practitioner of Kepner-Tregoe problem solving and decision analysis. His career began as a process engineer in ceramic tile manufacture and progressed to a very successful career in leading process and quality improvement in manufacturing, including lighting, automotive, building products, label materials and undersea telecommunication systems. Achievements include leading cost projects with significant financial impact including one saving \$2,000,000 per year, solving several “intractable” industry issues, developing and successfully implementing a new manufacturing process for lighting products, leading multiple organizations through the development and certification of quality systems, improving spark plug manufacture to meet the voltage demands of electronic ignitions and other projects that remain proprietary to the organizations involved. Dale retired from Avery Dennison in Mentor, OH in 2021.

Dale’s service career began with a brief but impactful stint in town government while residing in Epping, New Hampshire, serving on the planning board and budget committee and as chair of the board of fire wards. He also chaired a new high school site selection committee.

He joined the Rotary Club of Cambridge (OH) in 2003 where he served as Club President in 2005/2006. As Dale’s career caused moves around the eastern US, he also was a member of the Downtown Macon (GA), Kent, and Camden (SC) Rotary Clubs.

Dale joined the Mentor Rotary Club in 2014 and served as president of that club in 2019/2020. Dale has served many roles in those clubs including leading many service and matching grant projects while also chairing Literacy, Foundation, and Public Image Committees.

He initiated and facilitated the Lake County Sunrise Satellite Rotary Club and is a member of the District 6630 Membership Steering Committee. Dale was twice named Rotarian of the Year and received a District Service Above Self Award. He is a Paul Harris Fellow +3 and a Bequest Society (Level 4) Member.

In addition to Rotary, Dale served as a director of the Family Counseling Center of Central Georgia. He serves on the Barnesville High School Class of 1979 Scholarship Committee which provides a full scholarship to a single annual graduate of the Barnesville High School who attends one to the top universities in the US.

Dale is married to Jeri Ann, a native of Bath, NY. They reside in Newbury, OH on Raccoon Ridge. Dale is an avid gardener and seasonal winemaker and enjoys daily hikes in retirement with Murphy, Quinn and Keeva - the yellow labs that seem to run the household. Dale and Jeri Ann enjoy travel - especially visiting New York’s Finger Lakes.



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APRIL 25 & 26, 2025



Rotary  
District 6630

CR ClubRunner

Talk all things **ClubRunner**  
with Lead Product Specialist

**Zach Woods**

at

SATURDAY, 2:30 PM - 3:20 PM  
MEDINA ROOM

& IN THE HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP  
THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE

## HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP! VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE

Visiting the House of Friendship is always a must-do at the District Conference. See what fellow clubs are doing as well as community organizations they support. You can get to know our RYE Inbound students and even meet with vendors like ClubRunner. It's a great place to visit and get inspired!



Have a favorite? Vote for the best, as one winner will be selected as the "Best in Show" of the House of Friendship. Turn in your ballot to Registration.



**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

## RAFFLE TICKETS TO END POLIO NOW!

Once again, we have gorgeous raffle baskets to help raise money to End Polio Now! You can purchase your tickets at the Registration Desk, or find one of our volunteer ticket sellers throughout the Conference. This year, all raffle ticket proceeds will go to:

**End Polio Now –  
In Memory of Dan Sazima,  
PDG District 6630,  
Rotary Club of Hillcrest  
& Hillcrest Sunrise.**



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PROUD MEMBER OF:

Rotary   
Club of Hillcrest Sunrise

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS • ROTARY DISTRICT 6630 CONFERENCE

## FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

- 8:00 AM                    **Registration Open**
- All Day                    **House of Friendship**  
*Located in the Atrium*
- 9:30 AM                    **Celebration of Life Memorial Service**  
*Salons V & VI*
- 10:30 AM                   **District 6630 Annual Business Meeting**  
*Salons I & II - Bring Your Credentials*
- 12 PM Noon                **Magic of Rotary Luncheon**  
*Ballroom*  
**MC:** Joey Tomsick, RC of Mentor
- National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Inspiration  
Official Proclamations  
Honoring 50 & 60-Year Members and Recognition  
of 1 and 5-year Rotarians  
On to Calgary - 2025 Rotary International Convention  
Remarks by District 6630 Governor Dale Smith

### **Keynote Address:**

Scott Simon, Happiness Entrepreneur & Founder, Scare Your Soul  
"Scare Your Soul"

### **District Learning Sessions (50 min. each)**

- 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM      **Re-Imagine Your Club: Amplify & Expand Your Reach**  
Panelists: DGE Bob Oborn, PDG Jim McKee, Paul Qua, Steve Warren  
Spotlight on the first two elements of the Rotary Action Plan, which drive significant progress when focused on programs and offerings that increase clubs' flexibility and appeal.  
*Salons I & II*
- 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM      **Shaping Perception: The Art of Public Image**  
Moderator: Tina Ingraham, District 6630 Public Image Coordinator  
Panelists:  
Annie Hanson, RC of Stow-Munroe Falls  
Lisa Hebert, RC of Westlake-Bay Village  
Elena Koh, Rotaract PLUS Northeast Ohio  
Kim Polatas, RC of Tallmadge  
Join our panel discussion as we exchange new ideas on how clubs can maximize Public Image efforts in driving event attendance and membership.  
*Salons V & VI*

*All Welcome!*

*To attend these Educational Sessions:*

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS • ROTARY DISTRICT 6630 CONFERENCE

## FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

- 3:30 PM - 4:20 PM **Engage and Evolve: Strategies for Dynamic Participation**  
Panelists:  
PDG Jim McKee, Paul Qua, Steve Warren  
This discussion will target the last two elements of the Rotary Action Plan, pivotal to offering new opportunities, fostering more diverse perspectives in the club.  
*Salons I & II*
- 3:30 PM - 4:20 PM **Breaking the Silence: Conversations on Mental Health & Anxiety**  
Moderator: DGE Bob Oborn  
Panelists:  
Ashley Pippin, Therapeutic Behavioral Support Specialist for Red Oak Behavioral Health  
Keri Deyling, Senior Chief Officer of Mental Health Services, Coleman Health Services  
Catherine Blankenship, Chief Officer of Trumbull/Mahoning Counties for Coleman Health Services  
Pam Crooks, Clinical Site Manager for Child Guidance and Family Solutions (CGFS) and Senior Clinical Consultant for Anxiety  
Join us for a powerful discussion on understanding anxiety in our everyday life. Uncover root causes and gain practical techniques to foster calm and resilience.  
*Salons V & VI*
- 5:30 PM **Magic of Rotary Reception *Ballroom (Cash Bar)***  
**Passport Rotaract Club of Northeast Ohio Chartering Ceremony**
- 6:30 PM **Magic of Rotary Dinner *Ballroom***  
Mix and mingle while enjoying buffet stations and the [Magic of Rick Smith Jr.](#)
- After Dinner **Hospitality Suite, sponsored by RC of Geauga West**  
*Summit Room*

## SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025

- 7:15 AM **Registration Open**
- All Day **House of Friendship**  
*Located in the Atrium*
- 7:30 AM **District Learning Assembly (DLA)**  
7:30 am Meet & Greet with Breakfast (ticketed)  
8:15 am District Leadership Assembly Kick-Off

*All Welcome!*  
To attend these  
Educational Sessions:

- 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM **Re-Imagine Your Club: Amplify & Expand Your Reach**  
Panelists:  
DGE Bob Oborn, PDG Jim McKee, Paul Qua, Steve Warren  
Spotlight on the first two elements of the Rotary Action Plan, which drive significant progress when focused on programs and offerings that increase clubs' flexibility and appeal.  
*Salons I & II*

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS • ROTARY DISTRICT 6630 CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025**

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

## **Expand Your Circle, Expand Your Club**

Speaker: Patrick Longano, Founder of IMPACT, Creator of the Rotary Companion Club Model & Global Membership Growth Expert.

Discover how Companion Clubs can be a catalyst for growth connections!

***Salons V & VI***

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

## **Engage and Evolve: Strategies for Dynamic Participation**

Panelists:

DGE Bob Oborn, PDG Jim McKee, Paul Qua, Steve Warren

This discussion will target the last two elements of the Rotary Action Plan, pivotal to offering new opportunities, fostering more diverse perspectives in the club.

***Salons I & II***

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

## **I Will Take the Magic of Rotary for \$500 - Jeopardy Style**

Test your knowledge in this engaging, interactive Rotary-themed jeopardy style session! Dive into topics like grants, The Rotary Foundation, and other fascinating Rotary Traditions while having a great time with fellow participants.

***Salons V & VI***

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

## **Membership Toolbox: Your Guide to Growth**

This essential discussion introduces a new membership toolbox designed to provide actionable insights and practical tools to attract new members, retain existing ones and strengthen engagement.

***Salons I & II***

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

## **Journeys of a Lifetime: Rotary Youth Exchange Experience**

Gain insights about Rotary Youth Exchange from outgoing students, parents, families, hosting incoming students, and the students themselves as they share experiences, challenges and personal growth.

***Salons V & VI***

12 PM Noon

## **Celebration of Youth Luncheon**

***Ballroom***

**MC:** Chelsea Talty, District 6630 Interact Chair, RC of Geauga West

National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Inspiration

Rotary Youth Exchange Parade of Flags

District 6630 4-Way Test Speech Contest Winners

RYLA Presentation

Interact Service Project Presentation -

*Cancer Comfort Baskets for Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital*

Presentation of Richard C. "Dick" Pitcher Award

House of Friendship Award Winners Announced

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS • ROTARY DISTRICT 6630 CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025**

- 2:30 PM - 4:20 PM **Time to Take the Stage - Presidents-Elect Training (PE's Only)**  
*Salons I & II*
- 2:30 PM - 4:20 PM **Learn, Inspire, Lead: Leadership 6630 Class of 2025**  
*(Open to registered and invited attendees only.)*  
*Salons I & II*
- 2:30 PM - 3:20 PM **ClubRunner Q&A & Interactive Session**  
Speaker: Zach Woods, Lead Product Specialist, ClubRunner  
Join Zach and discuss anything ClubRunner Classic and the new ClubRunner Nova platform. Take advantage of their onsite experience.  
*Medina Room*
- 2:30 PM - 3:20 PM **Youth Protection Q&A**  
Panelists:  
Alexandra Jeanblanc, District Youth Safety & Protection Chair  
Carrie Mallotte, District Youth Safety & Protection Committee  
Learn everything you need to know about Youth Protection - how to register, completing the required testing and reporting. This essential session will provide the knowledge to uphold safety standards effectively.  
*Summit Room*
- 5:30 PM **Magic of Rotary Governor's Reception**  
*Ballroom Foyer (Cash Bar)*
- 7:00 PM **Magic of Rotary Governor's Dinner**  
*Ballroom*  
Visit the Rotary Youth Exchange Tables  
Rotary Youth Exchange Commissioning Ceremony  
Synergy For Service - The Magic of Collaboration Panel  
  
Moderator: DG Dale Smith  
Panelists:  
Brenda Cummins, Director of Philanthropic Services, Cleveland Foundation  
Penny Forster, Director of Community Impact for the Cleveland Guardians  
Karen Hrdlicka, Director, The Center for Family Philanthropy,  
Akron Community Foundation  
Britta Latz, CEO, MedWish Medworks  
  
Presentation of Gary M. Neuman Award
- After Dinner **Hospitality Suite *Summit Room***  
Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mentor



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@RotaryInternationalDistrict6630



# THANK YOU!

Special thanks to our 2025 District Conference Planning Committee for all your work in putting together this wonderful weekend for our Rotarians to connect, engage and celebrate: The Magic of Rotary.

Beverly Ghent-Skrzynski  
Bob Oborn  
Bob Voss  
Carrie Heppner  
Chelsea Talty  
Cheryl Warren  
Dale Smith

David Jones  
Jackie Minotas  
Julie West  
Kim Polatas  
Larry Lohman  
Mike Davanzo  
Randy Rininger

Rich Warfield  
Scott Mills  
Shelia Hedrick  
Steve Warren  
Terri Speck  
Tina Ingraham

## MAGIC WAND PARTNERS



## MAGICIANS ASSISTANTS PARTNERS



## RABBITS IN THE HAT ROTARY CLUB PARTNERS

Bedford, Geauga West, Hillcrest Sunrise, Hudson, Northampton-Cuyahoga Valley,  
Stow-Munroe Falls, Westlake-Bay Village



### 2024-25 Inbound Students:

Elia Escarmelle, Belgium • Host Club: Medina Sunrise  
Henrique Soares, Brazil • Host Club: Aurora  
Martina Valenzuela, Chile • Host Club: Chagrin Valley  
Vale Carpio, Ecuador • Host Club: Chagrin Valley  
Jack Lin, Taiwan • Host Club: Lakewood-Rocky River SR  
Korrawin Wintachai, Thailand • Host Club: Westlake-Bay Village  
Rekik Ashagre, Ethiopia • Host Club: Jefferson

### 2025-26 Outbound Students:

#### Short Term (STEP)

Selena Pintos, Mexico • Host Club: Medina Sunrise

#### Long Term

Madeleine Kelly, Turkey • Host Club: Heights of Greater Cleveland  
Leo Sans, Germany • Host Club: West Shore  
Macy Meilstrup, Italy • Host Club: Stow-Munroe Falls  
Oliver Proxmire, Taiwan • Host Club: D6600 Bryan  
Libery Doctor, Switzerland • Host Club: D6600 Hicksville  
Brynn Reinhart, Belgium • Host Club: D6600 Antwerp  
Kai Toton, India • Host Club: D6600 Elyria

# FRIDAY LUNCHEON KEYNOTE

Friday, April 25th - Luncheon Keynote Address

## **Scott Simon**

Happiness Entrepreneur and Founder, Scare Your Soul

Scott Simon is a preeminent thought leader on courage, a TEDx speaker and founder of the Scare Your Soul movement, which has inspired thousands worldwide to transform their lives through small acts of bravery.

Scott's bestselling book, "Scare Your Soul: 7 Powerful Principles to Harness Fear and Lead Your Most Courageous Life" (Hachette), available in hardcover, paperback, e-book, and Audible audiobook, has earned a 96% five-star Amazon rating and become a cornerstone resource in the field of personal development and organizational courage-building.

His revolutionary S.C.A.R.E. framework — showcased through the prestigious IVY business thinking platform — demonstrates that courage isn't about grand gestures, but rather intentional micro-actions that reshape individuals and organizations from the inside out.

As a sought-after keynote speaker and workshop facilitator, Scott has spoken and catalyzed transformation at Fortune 500 companies and leading organizations including the United Nations Global Compact, Nestle, Cleveland Clinic, Ritz Carlton, Lululemon, and Logitech. His unique approach blends neuroscience, positive psychology, and behavior design to foster workplace courage and innovation.

Scott holds a BA from Skidmore College, MA from Case Western Reserve University, and specialized certificates in Positive Psychology with Harvard professor Tal Ben Shahar and Tiny Habit Behavior Design with Stanford Behavior Design Lab's BJ Fogg.

Through his speaking, writing (through his weekly newsletter, Scott has offered over 500 free courage challenges) and movement building, Scott is devoted to creating a more courageous world by proving that intentional daily acts of bravery are the key to unlocking human flourishing and organizational success.





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***Breaking the Silence: Conversations on Mental Health & Anxiety***  
***Friday, 2:30 - 3:20 PM***  
***Salons V & VI***

Panelists:

Annie Hanson, RC of Stow-Munroe Falls  
Lisa Hebert, RC of Westlake-Bay Village  
Elena Koh, Rotaract PLUS Northeast Ohio  
Kim Polatas, RC of Tallmadge

**ANNIE HANSON**

Annie Hanson serves as the Director of Recruitment and Strategic Engagement at The University of Akron in the College of Health and Human Sciences where she develops and nurtures partnerships with external stakeholders and works with incoming undergraduate and graduate students. For nearly 20 years, Annie has leveraged public-private partnership efforts to support student achievement and build community collaboration, including international engagement and outreach, recruitment and retention, educator professional development and K-12 STEM engagement. Annie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Kent State University and a Master of Applied Politics from The University of Akron. Past President of Stow-Munroe Falls Rotary Club.

**LISA HEBERT**

Keri is a two-time graduate of the University of Akron School of Social Work and a graduate of the renown Leadership of Akron Class 40. Keri has a passion for leadership as it applies to all roles in her life including motherhood, wife, friend, colleague, boss, coach and advocate.

**ELANA KOH**

Elana Koh has empowered local nonprofits to expand their online presence with targeted strategies and creative content. Passionate about storytelling and community service, she's committed to crafting social media spaces where audiences feel engaged and see real, measurable impact. Currently, Elana serves as the President of Rotaract PLUS Northeast Ohio, a community-driven service club for individuals aged 25 to 40.

**KIM POLATAS**

As the Executive Director of the Tallmadge Chamber of Commerce, she is passionate about fostering business growth and creating meaningful opportunities for the local business community. Her mission is to empower businesses, connect leaders, and support initiatives that drive economic development in Tallmadge.

Key areas of focus in her role:

- Strengthening member engagement and providing tangible value
- Organizing events and programs that connect businesses and the community
- Advocating for the needs of local businesses at all levels
- Building partnerships that enhance the economic vitality of Tallmadge



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***Friday, 3:30 - 4:20 PM***  
***Salons V & VI***

Panelists:

Ashley Pippin

Therapeutic Behavioral Support Specialist for Red Oak Behavioral Health

Keri Deyling

Senior Chief Officer of Mental Health Services for Coleman Health Services

Catherine Blankenship

Chief Officer of Trumbull/Mahoning Counties for Coleman Health Services

Pam Crooks

Clinical Site Manager for Child Guidance and Family Solutions and  
Senior Clinical Consultant for Anxiety

**ASHLEY PIPPIN**

Ashley is a seasoned professional with more than 25 years of experience in mental health wellness and theater curricula to assist with effective mental health techniques. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Religion and Counseling and a Masters of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy. She is married to Rev. Dr. Howard Pippin Jr. and a mother of two.

**KERI DEYLING**

Keri is a two-time graduate of the University of Akron School of Social Work and a graduate of the renown Leadership of Akron Class 40. Keri has a passion for leadership as it applies to all roles in her life including motherhood, wife, friend, colleague, boss, coach and advocate.

**CATHERINE BLANKENSHIP**

She has over 15 years experience in the field of social work with 7 years of supervisory/management experience. Catherine started her career as a therapist working with children and their families.

**PAM CROOKS**

Pam has worked for CGFS for 10 years in different positions from Outpatient Therapist to one of her current roles in Senior Clinical Consultant of Anxiety. Pam is certified in Parent-Child Interaction Therapy and is trained in several other modalities.

# SATURDAY- SYNERGY FOR SERVICE PANEL

Synergy for Service - The Magic of Collaboration Panel  
Moderator: DG Dale Smith

Panelists:

Brenda Cummins  
Director of Philanthropic Services, Cleveland Foundation

Penny Forster  
Director of Community Impact for the Cleveland Guardians

Karen Hrdlicka  
Director, The Center for Family Philanthropy, Akron Community Foundation

Britta Latz  
CEO, MedWish Medworks



## BRENDA CUMMINS

Brenda Cummins joined the Cleveland Foundation in 2015 as a philanthropic advisor and most recently, as Director, Philanthropic Services, oversees the team that works with donors and organizational fund partners to help them plan and achieve their philanthropic objectives. Her work includes building relationships with multi-generational families and donors to create their own personal mission statement to elevate their philanthropic giving.

Brenda brings senior level development experience from her previous role as director of Foundation Administration and Community Engagement at Summa Health. In her role, she advanced Summa's priorities through philanthropy and connected the greater community to the work of the organization. Prior work includes her position as a development officer at the Akron Civic Theatre, where she was responsible for all aspects of fundraising for the 1920's atmospheric theatre.

Through her first career path as an Audiologist and her community volunteer work in social services, healthcare and the arts, her strength is connecting people to organizations that make an impact in the lives of our greater community. She holds a master's degree in Audiology from Kent State University and a bachelor's degree in Speech and Hearing from Bowling Green State University.

Brenda is a certified trainer in Family Philanthropy through 21/64. She is a Stokes Fellow through the Advanced Leadership Institute of the Cleveland Leadership Center and a graduate of Leadership Akron. She has served on the boards of many Arts & Culture, Health & Human Services, and Professional organizations and currently serves several area nonprofits, including Northeast Ohio Council on Planned Giving, Friends of 91.3 The Summit, Collide: Cuyahoga Falls and the Nightlight Cinema. She also serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Akron.

# SATURDAY- SYNERGY FOR SERVICE PANEL



**PENNY FORSTER**

Penny Forster is the Director of Community Impact for the Cleveland Guardians. She is entering her 25th season with the team and in her role oversees team community & philanthropic efforts, MLB community initiatives, community partnerships, youth development, and fundraising for Cleveland Guardians Charities. Guardians community programming impacts more than 15,000 youth across our region each year. She spent her first 20 seasons in Corporate Partnerships working with national & regional partners such as Cleveland Clinic, Nike, Medical Mutual, Sugardale and McDonald's on their marketing partnerships with the team. Penny also serves on the board for the National Kidney Foundation, Vice President of the Baldwin-Wallace Alumni Association and volunteers as a True2U Mentor for 8th graders within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.



**KAREN HRDLICKA**

Karen leads The Center for Family Philanthropy, a charitable resource center created by Akron Community Foundation to connect our donor advised fund holders and their families with the charitable knowledge and resources of the foundation. Additionally, she connects our citizens to education, experiences and impact investing opportunities, focusing on non-profits in Summit County. Prior to joining the Akron Community Foundation in July of 2020, she spent her career working and volunteering in the non-profit environment. Most of her career has been spent working with older adults and their families, most recently as the CEO of VANTAGE Aging which provides home and community-based services for older adults. Her undergraduate degree was in Recreational Therapy which is why she fell in love with the Akron Rotary Camp for Children with Special Needs, which led to her joining the Rotary Club of Akron. She also has her Masters of Business Administration. Both of her degrees are from Kent State University. She is a licensed nursing home administrator and is certified as a philanthropic advisor through 21/64. She and her husband, Jeff Jones, enjoy being grandparents, traveling, hiking, and golfing. She enjoys her stress relief of making cards, quilting and wine tasting with friends.

# SATURDAY- SYNERGY FOR SERVICE PANEL



## BRITTA LATZ

Britta Latz is the CEO of MedWish Medworks, a Cleveland-based nonprofit organization. MedWish MedWorks' mission is to advance health equity and environmental sustainability:

"We achieve this by providing essential care, redistributing surplus medical supplies, and connecting medically underserved communities with vital resources in Northeast Ohio and around the world. We bridge the gap between the abundance of supplies in the U.S. healthcare system and the inadequate healthcare access experienced by millions of people around the globe and in Ohio.

Further, we provide critical health services and social service navigation to people in our local communities free of charge with no qualifications for care. Our work and mission are unduplicated anywhere in our region and provide a cost-effective, environmentally friendly solution to medical scarcity and barriers to resource access. MedWish International and Medworks recently merged in September 2024.

Britta has been part of the MedWish staff for almost nine years prior to the merge, serving as Executive Director starting in November 2021 and transitioning to CEO of the combined organization this past fall. Prior to becoming the Executive Director, Britta served as MedWish's Director of Business Operations (2015-2018) and Associate Executive Director (2018-2021). While in these prior roles, Britta oversaw MedWish's financials, human resources, gift recording and acknowledgements, international brigades program, grants program, managed the warehouse team and volunteer team, and was also part of strategic planning and major gift planning. As the CEO, Britta oversees MedWish Medworks' merger, strategic direction, and overall operations. In December 2022, Britta was awarded the 2022 Pillar Award for Community Service as 'Nonprofit Executive Director of the Year' from Smart Business.

Before joining the staff, Britta was a volunteer for MedWish, completing internships in 2009 and 2013. Britta has a Master's degree from the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, with a focus in international development. While at the University of Kentucky she also completed a graduate certificate in global health. She also has a Bachelor's degree in French and Religious Studies from the College of Wooster. While at Wooster she competed for the school's soccer and lacrosse teams, captaining the lacrosse team in her senior year. Britta and her husband have two young children who keep her very active outside of work.

