

THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

CELEBRATION of HUMAN SERVICES

NOVEMBER 21, 2025



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Friday, November 21, 2025
Tinkham Veale University Center

Welcome from The Center for Community Solutions

Heather Stoll, Board President

Emily Campbell, President and CEO

Master of Ceremonies

Mike McIntyre, Executive Director, Ideastream Public Media

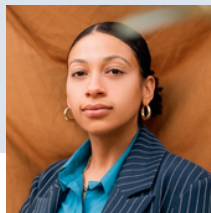
Award Presentations

Jill Paulsen | Community Solutions Board of Directors

- High 5 Awards

Kortney Morrow | Program Director, Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards

- \$25K Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award



William T. McCullough Lecture

Kevin Clayton, Executive VP, Chief Impact and Equity Officer,
Rock Entertainment Group

Concluding remarks

Emily Campbell, President and CEO

Afterparty: The Jolly Scholar 2:00 - 4:00 pm

**We rise to
meet the
moment—
because the
moment
always comes.**



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre spent 30 years as a reporter, feature writer, and columnist.

He was the host of the Sound of Ideas for 10 years and became Executive Editor in 2020, where he continues to host the Friday Reporters Roundtable.

Mike was elected by the Press Club of Cleveland into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame in 2016 and was in the Leadership Cleveland class of 2022.

He's a West side lifer and the Ledges Trail in Cuyahoga Valley National Park is his favorite spot in Northeast Ohio.

One fan described Mike's approach to radio like this: he didn't turn it into a soapbox, he made it a front porch.



SPECIAL PRESENTER

Kortney Morrow

Kortney Morrow is the Program Director with the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards.

She is a poet, writer, and co-founder of Studio Reciprocity Consulting Collective. Kortney also serves on the Literary Cleveland board.



W.T. McCULLOUGH LECTURE

Kevin Clayton



Kevin Clayton is the Executive Vice President, Chief Impact and Equity Officer for Rock Entertainment Group. This is the parent-company of the Cavaliers, Rocket Arena, Cleveland Charge, and the Monsters.

He oversees the Community Impact and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion teams, Cavaliers Legends, the Cavaliers Community Foundation, and handles government affairs. By focusing the advancement of the organization's social impact and responsibility, Kevin has significantly impacted team member representation, workplace culture, fan engagement, and community relations.

Kevin was among the first four of the 30 teams in the NBA with diversity officers. He serves as Board Chair for the Urban League of Greater Cleveland.

About the annual endowed lecture

The William T. McCollough lecture is named in honor of the Community Solutions executive director who helped build Cleveland's network of social service agencies.



HIGH 5 AWARDS

The High 5 Awards, expanding the mission of our Most Treasured Volunteer Awards, serve as a way to recognize contributions of excellence of **volunteers** and **employees** serving Greater Cleveland's human services organizations.



Lydia Bailey is the Coordinator of Volunteer Services at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Men's Shelter, where she's been quietly changing lives for 18 years—one volunteer, one program, and one listening ear at a time.



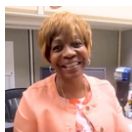
Bill Higgins is the kind of person who brings cookies to class. When he started tutoring at Seeds of Literacy, it was with one firm rule: he'd help with reading, writing, anything—just not math. Until a student needed math help.



Nakia Hudson is the Board Chair of 1000 Ties and the kind of leader who makes excellence look effortless while staying incredibly humble about it all. Most people call her "Auntie Buffy."



Alfonso Sanchez is a former Vice President of Turner Construction, and a long-time Magnolia Clubhouse volunteer. Since 2005, Al has volunteered as the owner's representative for Magnolia Clubhouse's ambitious capital projects.



Stella Shepard is a Career Readiness Facilitator at Towards Employment, where she's been transforming lives for 17 years. She's at work in a classroom managing 30-40 participants while grading papers, counseling individuals, and keeping everyone balanced and productive.

ANISFIELD-WOLF MEMORIAL AWARD

The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless

Founded in 1987, NEOCH is admired for a compassionate, trauma-informed approach to homelessness.



Chris Knestrick
Executive Director

Through daily street outreach, NEOCH serves 6,150 people annually with a staff of 18 and variable volunteers, addressing Cleveland's most vulnerable populations living in forgotten corners of the city. Outreach workers extend an outstretched hand, listen first, and build relationships of trust.

This method has led to measurable improvements: fewer deaths from overdose and hypothermia, reduced ER visits, fewer tent encampments, and decreased calls to police and City Council. Their work has earned them recognition as a trusted partner for Cleveland's civil servants and first responders.

With 75% of Cleveland shelter users being BIPOC (despite comprising only half the city's population), NEOCH directly confronts systemic racism rooted in redlining, eviction bias, and ongoing disparities. Their expansion into seasonal shelter services will provide consistent, reliable overflow capacity—closing gaps in Cleveland's safety net with values of justice, compassion, and community.



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