



**GLOBAL CLEVELAND**

**WE STRENGTHEN OUR CITY -  
BY WELCOMING OUR WORLD.**

# **ANNUAL 2023 REPORT**

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## A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

To Our Supporters and Friends,

Global Cleveland is proud to present to you our 2023 Annual Report. As we compiled this report, we were reminded again and again of all the individuals and organizations that helped make our work in 2023 possible.

We cannot thank you enough for your support of our mission, as well as your dedication to 'Strengthening Our City, By Welcoming Our World.'

Our year saw the continuation of vital programming, such as our Global Rising International Leadership Program, Global Entrepreneur In Residence Program, and Naturalization Ceremony outreach efforts. It also saw the expansion of our free Legal Clinic and Resource Fair, Sister Cities, Welcoming Workforce Program, Policy and Advocacy work, and Welcoming Week. These are just a few examples of our work that you will explore in our Annual Report.

Every year, we strive to serve the members of our international community more thoroughly by providing access to resources, events, and support that connect them with opportunities. While we are exceptionally proud of 2023's accomplishments, we cannot step on the brakes, or even start to coast. Global Cleveland is stepping on the gas, entering each year with an appreciation for the past, but a strong vision for the future.

Together, we can make Northeast Ohio the most welcoming region in the country. Onwards and upwards!



*Joe Cimperman*  
**Joe Cimperman**  
President & CEO



*Joe Marinucci*  
**Joe Marinucci**  
Chairman of the Board



# OUR MISSION

Global Cleveland is a non-profit organization dedicated to growing Northeast Ohio's economy by welcoming and connecting international people to opportunities and fostering a more inviting community for those seeking a place to call home.



## Transform Cleveland Into an International Hub of Innovation

Growing and tapping into Cleveland's powerful economic ecosystem provides opportunities for individuals from around the world to learn, build, grow, and flourish.



## Embrace and Cultivate a Culture of Inclusion and Shared Prosperity

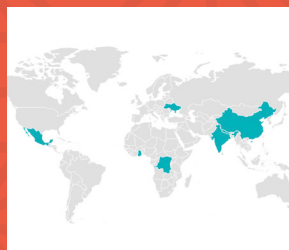
Cleveland boasts a rich cultural heritage and Global Cleveland will foster collaboration and support between all cultures and Greater Cleveland residents.



## Set the Table for Internationalization and Economic Growth

Promote globalization and regional prosperity through the active engagement of individuals, civic, cultural, corporate, faith-based, nonprofit, and educational institutions.





**~2,662**  
Individuals Naturalized  
in 2023

## GLOBAL RISING INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Global Rising International Leadership Program provides networking opportunities for international newcomers. Every year, foreign-born residents eager to engage with the community, meet new peers, and expand their professional network in Northeast Ohio can join a Global Rising Cohort.

This nine month program runs from fall to spring, and pairs each participant with a mentor in their field of interest. Mentors serve as a resource for professional and personal development, as well as a way for program participants to network with professionals in the region.

Global Rising also hosts a speaker series, where participants attend intimate discussions with Northeast Ohio leaders. This year's cohort attended speaker sessions with Dr. Airica Steed, Oren Baratz, Patrick Espinosa, Sean Richardson, and more.

## 2023-24 COHORT

- Sahil Angdembe
- Olesia Dupliak
- Hongyu Chen
- MK Gamaliel
- Chuchu Jin
- Sheilly Khandelwal
- Junyao Liu
- Monserrat Monterrubio Ruiz
- Ankit Nagdeve
- Nana Ama Osei
- Sanjana Pandit
- Kedar Patil
- Manish Sarkar
- Shubhankar Sinha
- Soumya Trivedi
- Henjyi Zhu

## NATURALIZATIONS

Global Cleveland has proudly participated in Naturalization Ceremonies since the founding of our organization. We recognize the absolute importance and significance in the Naturalization Ceremony and want to ensure that our newest American citizens feel properly welcomed and supported in our community.

On the first and third Friday of every month, Global Cleveland attends Naturalization Ceremonies held at the Carl B. Stokes Federal Courthouse and other special sites. We gather groups of volunteers to help us celebrate one of the most important days in an immigrant or refugee's life. Our volunteers help us celebrate new citizens by distributing welcome packets, sharing information about available resources, and holding our welcome banner for newly naturalized photo ops.

Our volunteers span all walks of life, and we are so proud to show naturalizing citizens a diverse, friendly welcome from fellow Americans.



**50+**  
**UKRAINIAN FAMILIES SERVED**

## UKRAINIAN LEGAL CLINIC & RESOURCE FAIR

The team at Global Cleveland hosted our second legal clinic and resource fair for Ukrainians in the summer of 2023. This event allowed Ukrainian refugees and their families to receive free legal advice, learn about different resources available in their community, and even apply for employment. The event was a great success thanks to our many volunteers and partners.

### 5 LEGAL VOLUNTEERS

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Tanya M. Kinetsky & Associates LLC | Taft and Holister    |
| Brown Immigration Law              | Sus Abogados Latinos |
| Dobronos & Dyrda Law LLC           |                      |



### 16 VOLUNTEERS & INTERPRETERS

- |                   |                 |                  |                  |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Arisandy          | Liliya Leskiv   | Tatyana Pishnyak | Vita Svydenyuk   |
| Michael Dollacker | Perlyana Mannix | Mariana Rokitska | Solomiya Verner  |
| Renata Harmatij   | Anna Messerly   | Scott            | Kateryna Zaginey |
| Galina Kononets   | Oksana Petric   | Mariya Snizhko   | Evgenia Zanina   |

### 19 RESOURCE FAIR PARTICIPANTS

- |                                       |                         |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Catholic Charities                    | Legal Aid Society       | SMART Development |
| CCPL Aspire Program                   | Medwish                 | Sprinly           |
| Cleveland Maidan Association          | MetroHealth             | USCRI Cleveland   |
| Cuyahoga County Job & Family Services | MJ Morgan Group         | Welcome Home      |
| Donna Smallwood Senior Center         | National Safety Apparel | Wraptite          |
| Generations Health Behavior           | Parma Schools           |                   |
| Greater Cleveland Food Bank           | Refugee Response        |                   |

## UKRAINIAN SPONSOR CIRCLES

In 2023, Global Cleveland received a grant to hire a Ukrainian Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator. Dr. Anastasia Lakhtikova, a Ukrainian immigrant herself, joined our team for a one-year-contract with the goal of helping resettle Ukrainian families in Northeast Ohio.

It is with this support that Global Cleveland began facilitating the formation of over a dozen Sponsor Circles through the United for Ukraine Program.

Sponsor Circle programs are the chance for a group of Americans to welcome international newcomers to the United States. A Sponsor Circle consists of a group of at least five adults who join together and commit to supporting a newcomer into their home community. Collaborating as a group gives Sponsor Circle participants the chance to share the responsibilities of welcoming a newcomer while still making a real difference in a refugee family's lives.

We're proud to have helped over forty Ukrainian refugees settle in Northeast Ohio.



**13**

**SPONSOR CIRCLES FORMED**

**41**

**UKRAINIANS SETTLED IN NEO**

**120**

**UKRAINIAN REFUGEES SUPPORTED**



## SISTER CITIES

Global Cleveland works to help the city of Cleveland maintain, strengthen, and expand its Sister City relationships around the world. Sister Cities International was created in 1956 by Dwight D. Eisenhower as a way to foster bonds around the world. Sister city relationships are formed when two locations enter into a legal or social agreement that is designed to create commercial and cultural ties.

At the beginning of 2023, the city had 23 Sister City relationships, spanning across Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Out of all those 23 cities, only four were located in Africa. Because Cleveland is made up of a majority of African-American citizens, we recognized that our Sister Cities should better reflect the demographics of our own city. This spurred our organization to begin seeking out new African Sister Cities.

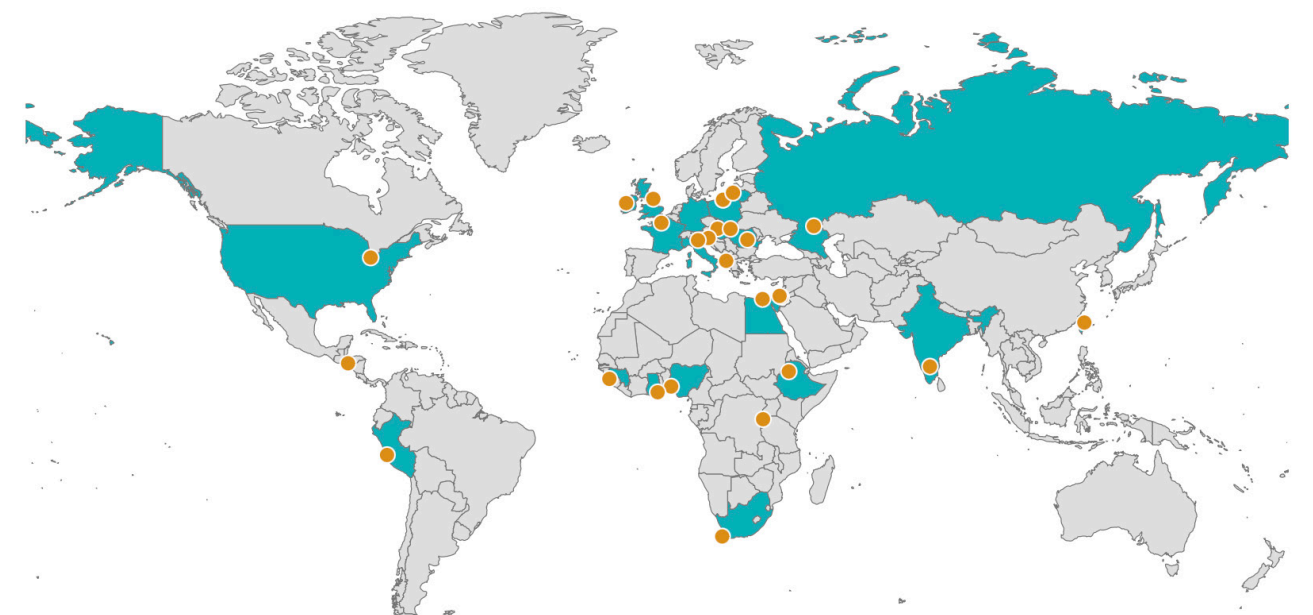
**WELCOMING OUR NEW SISTER CITIES:** KIGALI, RWANDA CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA TEMA, GHANA

Crystal Bryant, William Gary, and Kwame Botchway helped Global Cleveland establish connections with Tema, Ghana. Brian Hall and Rwandan businessman Emery Rubagenda aided in establishing Cleveland's connections with Kigali, Rwanda, and Kevin Clayton helped Global Cleveland enter talks with Cape Town, South Africa.

The partners above were invaluable assets when it came to establishing global connections and proposing the new Sister Cities to the City of Cleveland government. Our new Sister Cities became official in December of 2023 during a special signing ceremony with Cleveland City Council President Blaine Griffin and Mayor Justin Bibb, among others.

## CLEVELAND'S SISTER CITIES

- |                           |                     |                             |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alexandria, Egypt         | Fier, Albania       | Miskolc, Hungary            |
| Bahir-Dar, Ethiopia       | Gdansk, Poland      | Rouen, France               |
| Bangalore, India          | Heidenheim, Germany | Segundo Montes, El Salvador |
| Beit She'an, Israel       | Holon, Israel       | Taipei City, Taiwan         |
| Brasov, Romania           | Ibadan, Nigeria     | Tema, Ghana                 |
| Bratislava, Slovakia      | Kigali, Rwanda      | Vicenza, Italy              |
| Cape Town, South Africa   | Klaipeda, Lithuania | Volgograd, Russia           |
| Cleveland, United Kingdom | Lima, Peru          | West Mayo, Ireland          |
| Conakry, Guinea           | Ljubljana, Slovenia |                             |





# REFUGEE SERVICES RETENTION

In 2023, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland made Global Cleveland aware that the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) needed a new, local organization to partner with in order to continue providing their refugee resettlement services in Cleveland. If HIAS were unable to find a suitable partner organization, Cleveland would lose up to 500 refugees resettling in our region each year.

“I believe it’s in the DNA of Global Cleveland to be able identify community problems and come up with meaningful solutions.”

- Abbie Levin | The Jewish Federation of Cleveland

Global Cleveland immediately went to work looking for a partnering organization and identified the May Dugan Center as the perfect partner for HIAS. The May Dugan Center is a non-profit organization that serves over 20,000 individuals and families who need effective and meaningful programs that will improve their lives and their communities.

Next, Global Cleveland worked to raise the proper funds to support May Dugan in this new partnership. Our team raised \$450,000 for May Dugan, allowing HIAS to continue refugee resettlement in Cleveland.

## WELCOMING WEEK

Welcoming Week is a national event that brings together neighbors of all backgrounds to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity. Global Cleveland celebrated Welcoming Week with days of welcoming events, including: UCC Interfaith Service, a Special Naturalization Ceremony at St. Martin DePorres, International Networking & Trivia Night, Palestinian Center Groundbreaking Ceremony, GEIR Webinar, Cuyahoga County Welcoming Initiatives Announcement, and an International Community Forum.

## WELCOMING CITIES & NON-PROFITS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Gold Sponsors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Cleveland, Ohio</li> <li>• City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio</li> <li>• Cuyahoga County</li> <li>• Junaid Family Foundation</li> </ul> | <p><b>Silver Sponsors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of North Olmsted, Ohio</li> <li>• City of Lakewood, Ohio</li> <li>• City of Solon, Ohio</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

## WELCOMING COMPANIES

- |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Gold Sponsors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleveland Cavaliers</li> <li>• Cleveland Water</li> <li>• Kaplan Trucking Company</li> </ul> | <p><b>Silver Sponsors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K&amp;D Group</li> <li>• Swagelok</li> <li>• United Church of Christ</li> </ul> | <p><b>Bronze Sponsors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown Immigration Law</li> <li>• Case Western Reserve University</li> <li>• The City Club of Cleveland</li> <li>• Cleveland Guardians</li> </ul> | <p><b>Bronze Sponsors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downtown Cleveland</li> <li>• Medical Mutual</li> <li>• Team NEO</li> </ul> | <p><b>Bronze Sponsors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleveland Marathon</li> <li>• Fit Technologies</li> <li>• JOANN</li> <li>• John Carroll University</li> <li>• Margaret W. Wong &amp; Associates LLC</li> </ul> | <p><b>Bronze Sponsors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOPEC</li> <li>• The NRP Group</li> <li>• RPM International Inc.</li> <li>• Specialized Construction Inc.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

- Anonymous
- Bank of America Foundation
- The Cleveland Foundation
- The Callahan Foundation
- City of Cleveland
- The Codrington Foundation
- Cuyahoga County
- Cuyahoga County (ARPA)
- Cyrus Eaton Foundation
- The Fowler Family Foundation
- The George Gund Foundation
- Jewish Federation of Cleveland
- JobsOhio
- Junaid Foundation
- Fred A. Lennon Charitable Trust
- Maltz Family Foundation
- Parker Foundation
- PNC Foundation
- Sears-Swetland Foundation
- TEGNA Foundation
- Third Federal Foundation

## PROGRAM SUPPORT

- David Fleshler Scholarship
- Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
- Huntington Bank
- Jewish Federation of Cleveland
- Jumpstart
- Ringen Fund

## EVENT SUPPORT

- AlphaMicron
- Baldwin Wallace University
- Brown Immigration Law
- Case Western Reserve University
- The Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation
- The City Club of Cleveland
- City of Cleveland
- City of Cleveland Heights
- City of Lakewood
- City of North Olmsted
- City of Solon
- Cleveland Cavaliers
- Cleveland Guardians
- Cleveland Marathon
- Cleveland Pro Soccer
- Cleveland Public Library
- Cleveland State University
- Cleveland Water Department
- Clockwork 9
- County of Cuyahoga
- Cuyahoga County Public Library
- Cuyahoga Land Bank
- Dave's Markets
- Dealer Tire
- Downtown Cleveland
- Esperanza
- FIT Technologies
- Greater Cleveland Partnership
- Gries Financial Partners
- JOANN
- John Carroll University
- Junaid Family Foundation
- K & D Group
- Kaplan Trucking Company
- The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
- Margaret W. Wong & Associates LLC
- May Dugan Center
- Medical Mutual
- NOPEC
- The NRP Group
- Refugee Response
- Rotary Club of Cleveland
- RPM International Inc.
- Specialized Construction Incorporated
- Swagelok
- Team NEO
- Tom & Joanie Adler
- Ukrainian Museum-Archives
- United Church of Christ

**Thank you to all the corporations and individuals that support our mission!**



## OUR 2023 BOARD MEMBERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Joe Marinucci | Chairman of the Board
- Ed Bell | Development Committee Chair
- Mayor Annette Blackwell | Policy Committee Co-Chair
- Matt Carroll | Policy Committee Co-Chair
- Keith Libman | Finance Committee Chair
- Albert Ratner | Founder
- Megan Wilson | Governance Committee Chair

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- Norman Steiner
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