



GLOBAL CLEVELAND

WE STRENGTHEN OUR CITY -  
BY WELCOMING OUR WORLD.

# ANNUAL 2024 REPORT



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# A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

To Our Supporters and Friends,

Global Cleveland is proud to present to you our 2024 Annual Report, a reflection of the hard work and collaboration that fueled our success last year. None of this would be possible without the incredible individuals and organizations that supported our mission to ‘Strengthen Our City, By Welcoming Our World.’

Global Cleveland was established by the sons and daughters of immigrants with the mission of connecting our international community to the resources necessary to live, study, work, and thrive in Northeast Ohio. Our organization is built on the foundational belief that welcoming individuals from around the world strengthens our region and fosters growth and opportunity.

As we compile this report at the beginning of 2025, we must recognize the new administration’s impact on immigration policy. The promised actions, some of which we have already seen take place, will have far-reaching effects. They will endanger a newcomer’s livelihood, opportunities, sense of security, and well-being. This climate of fear is not beneficial to our community or our economy.

Global Cleveland is dedicated to maintaining a welcoming environment for immigrants to pursue an education, raise a family, own a home, contribute their talents to our workforce and economy, and diversify the culture of our region. Immigrating is entrepreneurial, it is courageous; and right now, it is driving the population growth in Ohio.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to our mission and will continue to strengthen our region by embracing and welcoming the world. We invite you to join us in this important endeavor.



*Joe Cimperman*

**Joe Cimperman**

*President & CEO*



*Joe Marinucci*

**Joe Marinucci**

*Chairman of the Board*





GLOBAL CLEVELAND



## 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.







# GLOBAL RISING

## INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

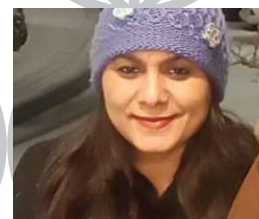
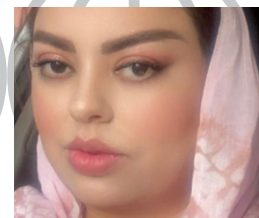
The Global Rising International Leadership Program connects international newcomers with valuable networking opportunities. Each year, foreign-born residents looking to engage with the local community, build new relationships, and grow their professional network in Northeast Ohio are invited to join a Global Rising Cohort.

### 2024-25 COHORT

- Temitope Adeniyi
- Maria Anaya
- Rabab Anttar
- Konrad Dolega
- Rita Gallardo-Wolnik
- Dana Harary
- Jaysing Jagtap
- Olesia Kolodiichuk
- Keesha Orlene Ngombo Mouelet
- Roberta Oscar
- Ivan Prodanyk
- Vivek Saraswat
- Tanu Seth
- Natalie Sin
- Veronica Tomaschek
- Edona Vajushi

This nine-month program, running from fall to spring, pairs participants with mentors who share their professional interests. Mentors offer guidance on both personal and career development while helping participants expand their connections within the region.

Global Rising also hosts workforce development sessions, as well as a speaker series, where participants attend intimate discussions with Northeast Ohio leaders.







~3,500

Individuals  
Naturalized  
in 2024

## NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

Since its founding, Global Cleveland has been proud to participate in Naturalization Ceremonies, celebrating the momentous step of immigrants and refugees becoming U.S. citizens.

On the first and third Friday of each month, we bring volunteers to ceremonies at the Carl B. Stokes Federal Courthouse and other locations. Volunteers hand out welcome packets, share resources, and hold our welcome banner for photos, offering a warm and inclusive welcome to new citizens from all walks of life.



# 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. Every year, Global Cleveland celebrates by hosting a week of events that celebrate our region's global diversity.

## WELCOMING WEEK SPONSORS

### Kick-Off Party Presenting Sponsor

- One Hope NEO

### Gold Sponsors

- City of Cleveland
- CAVS
- Cleveland Dept. of Public Utilities
- Cleveland Hungarian Development Center
- Cuyahoga County
- K&D Group
- Kaplan Trucking Company
- RPM International Inc.
- Swagelok
- United Church of Christ

### Silver Sponsors

- Dealer Tire

### Bronze Sponsors

- Brown Immigration Law
- The Cleveland Guardians
- City of Cleveland Heights
- Cuyahoga Community College
- DiGeronimo Companies
- Fit Technologies
- Margaret W. Wong & Associates LLC
- Medical Mutual
- The NRP Group
- Taft Advisors LLC





## KICK-OFF PARTY

We began Welcoming Week with a special Kick-Off Party Presented by One Hope NEO. Hosted outdoors at the new Cuyahoga County Welcome Center, we celebrated our region's diversity with a mural presentation, speeches, chalk, face painting, bubbles, food, and a performance by the African diaspora dance and music group Djapo.



## SISTER CITIES FLAG DEDICATION

Global Cleveland and the Cleveland Public Library partnered together to honor our city's cultural and diplomatic connections around the world. Flags representing Cleveland's Sister Cities now hang in the Louis Stokes Wing Atrium in the Cleveland Public Library.



## NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

For the second year in a row, we hosted a special naturalization ceremony at St. Martin de Porres High School. Global Cleveland Board Member Judge Dan Polster presided over the ceremony that welcomed dozens of new American citizens. Select classes from St. Martin de Porres joined us for the ceremony.



## INTERNATIONAL JOB FAIR

Our team hosted an International Job Fair at the Cuyahoga County Public Library, Parma-Snow Branch to bring international job seekers and employers together. Hundreds of attendees explored potential opportunities with dozens of employers and resource providers.



## VOLUNTEER DAY

To round out Welcoming Week, Global Cleveland wanted to give back to some of the refugee resettlement organizations in our area. We gathered volunteers at May Dugan Center and One Hope NEO to help us pack food for newly settled families.







## NEWCOMER HOUSING

Global Cleveland has expanded its reach over the previous year to support international newcomers looking for affordable, high-quality, and long-term housing. We've deepened our engagement with community partners to advance scalable housing solutions that benefit newcomers' adjustment to our region. We've explored Ohio Housing Finance Agency guidelines and helped developers access Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) for new construction where a partnership with resettlement can be made. Developers gain a competitive advantage in their proposals and resettlement agencies get confidence that their referrals will be accepted and some of our community's most vulnerable can secure dignified housing in a win-win.

Our Newcomer Housing Guide educates private landlords and developers alike by clarifying the difference between various immigrant statuses, their eligibility for different forms of assistance, and special considerations in creating spaces that serve their cultural and economic inclusion. By clearly presenting a broad overview of how newcomers access housing and begin their lives here, we level the playing field to develop understanding and bring additional cultural competency to our work.

**Global Cleveland connects newcomers to essential services, and we're proud to include affordable, high-quality housing to our repertoire.**

One supported LIHTC project, a collaboration between NRP Development and The May Dugan Center, has been approved and will open in University Circle in 2025. Two more projects are in progress with developers Fairfax Development and Wallick Communities, alongside resettlement agencies Catholic Charities and USCRI.

Looking ahead, we aim to continue building momentum for this urgent need. We're establishing a Global Cleveland Housing Committee, continuing to promote LIHTC opportunities, working with private landlords to provide much-needed capacity immediately, and setting our sights on developing training programs in the building trades so newcomers themselves can share in the benefit our region's growth.





# POST-ELECTION IMMIGRATION SYMPOSIUM

## ADDRESSING LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COMMUNITY DYNAMICS

In December 2024, Global Cleveland, in partnership with Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland, and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, hosted a Post-Election Immigration Symposium. The event brought together immigration and policy experts, lawmakers, and local residents to discuss how the 2024 election results will shape the future of immigration law and affect recently arrived immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers. During the three sessions, which focused on Federal, State, and Local impact, our experts discussed the following topics:

- What Does Immigration Legislation Look Like During the New Presidency?
- The Economic Impact of Immigrants on State and Regional Economies
- Immigration on the Ground: A Lens from our Backyard







## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH



Global Cleveland hosted our first International Women's Month Panel in March, 2024. The event, *Overcoming Adversity: How International Women Paved Their Path In Cleveland*, inspired attendees by showcasing the lives and achievements of international women who have forged their own paths in Cleveland.

Our diverse panel, and companion podcast episodes, featured women from various backgrounds, cultures, and professions, each sharing their unique and compelling stories. From challenging societal norms to breaking barriers in their fields, these women spoke candidly about the struggles they faced and how they emerged as powerful voices of change and resilience.

## VOLUNTEER WEBINAR

In the last month of 2024, the refugee resettlement community in Northeast Ohio was in desperate need of volunteers. In response, the team at Global Cleveland hosted a Volunteer Webinar, using our network to rally volunteers across Northeast Ohio to support our resettlement agencies.

Hundreds of community members joined our webinar to hear from Catholic Charities, May Dugan Center, One Hope NEO, and the U.S. Committee for Immigrants and Refugees. During the meeting, potential volunteers learned how they could donate their time and services to support incoming refugees.





# WELCOMING WORKFORCE

At Global Cleveland, we are dedicated to harnessing and expanding Cleveland's dynamic economic ecosystem to create pathways for international newcomers to thrive. Our mission is to ensure that immigrants and refugees have the resources and support they need to not only integrate into our community but to also play an active role in its growth and success.

International newcomers are not just powerful contributors to our workforce and economy; they are essential to its success.

Our team works tirelessly to bridge the gap between employers and job seekers. We engage with employers at job fairs and through direct outreach, highlighting the immense value that international talent brings to the workforce. At the same time, we educate newcomers about the wide range of career opportunities available to them and the steps they can take to successfully navigate the local job market. By fostering these connections, we help ensure that both employers and international job seekers are equipped with the knowledge they need to build successful, long-term partnerships.

This dual approach of educating employers on the benefits of hiring internationally and empowering newcomers to seize opportunities is key to creating a more inclusive and robust economic future for Cleveland. Together, we can build a city where everyone, regardless of origin, has the opportunity to grow, contribute, and thrive.

# 180

**JOB  
SEEKERS  
SUPPORTED**

# 1,000+

**REACHED  
THROUGH  
EDUCATION &  
ADVOCACY  
EFFORTS**

# 28

**SPEAKING  
ENGAGEMENTS**





# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## GLOBAL CLEVELAND MEMBERS

- 911 Celluar
- American Friction Technologies LLC
- Clark-Reliance
- Cleveland Bar Association
- Cleveland Jewish Publication Company
- Cleveland State University
- Engage! Cleveland
- Engelke Construction Solutions
- Greater Cleveland Partnership
- Greater Cleveland Regional
- Transit Authority
- Medical Mutual
- Reserve Millwork
- Swagelok
- United Nations Assoc-USA - Cleveland Chapter
- University of Akron

## SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

- Anonymous
- The Cleveland Foundation
- The Callahan Foundation
- City of Cleveland
- Citizen's Bank
- Codrington Foundation
- Cuyahoga County
- Cyrus Eaton Foundation
- The George Gund Foundation
- Jewish Federation of Cleveland
- Junaid Family Foundation
- Fred A. Lennon Charitable Trust
- Maltz Family Foundation
- Richmond Brothers Foundation
- Sears-Swetland Foundation
- TEGNA Foundation
- Third Federal Foundation

## PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Eaton Charitable Fund
- Enbridge Charitable Foundation
- FirstEnergy Foundation
- Huntington
- JumpStart Inc.
- Lubrizol Foundation

## EVENT SUPPORT

- Albert Ratner
- Allison & Jason Wuliger
- AlphaMicron
- Ann Zoller
- Bober Markey Fedorovich
- Brown Immigration Law
- CAVS
- Cleveland International Film Festival
- CLE Water Department
- Cleveland Clinic
- Cleveland Guardians
- City of Cleveland Heights
- Cleveland Hungarian Development Panel
- Cuyahoga Community College
- Dan Zelman
- Dave's Supermarket
- Dealer Tire
- Dee & Jimmy Haslam
- DiGeronimo Companies
- Eaton
- Engelke Construction Solutions
- FIT Technologies
- Greater Cleveland Partnership
- Gries Financial
- Ilana & Chuck Ratner
- Jones Day
- Junaid Family Foundation
- K&D
- Kaplan Trucking
- Karen Moss
- Legal Aid Society
- Little Italy Redevelopment Corporation
- Mansour Gavin LPA
- Margaret W. Wong & Associates, LLC
- Matt Carroll
- May Dugan
- Medical Mutual
- Michael Murphy
- MJB Immigration
- Niniek Sulandari
- The NRP Group
- OneHope NEO/Mejor Via Foundation
- Peter & India Pierce Lee
- Playhouse Square
- Rotary Club of Cleveland
- RPM International
- Salaam Cleveland
- Snavely Group
- Stella Maris
- Swagelok
- Taft Law
- Taras Szmagala
- The Cleveland Marathon
- Thompson Hine LLP
- United Church of Christ
- Urban Orchid
- Watson Immigration
- Welcome House





# OUR 2024 BOARD MEMBERS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Joe Marinucci | Chairman of the Board
- Jim Cavoli | Vice Chairman of the Board
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- Mayor Annette Blackwell | Policy Committee Co-Chair
- Matt Carroll | Policy Committee Co-Chair
- Keith Libman | Finance Committee Chair
- Mark Owens | Marketing Committee Chair
- Albert Ratner | Founder
- Megan Wilson | Governance Committee Chair

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- |                      |                     |                         |
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| • Abbie Levin        | • Chad Salahshour   |                         |

## EMERITUS

- |                       |                 |                |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
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| • Dr. Hiroyuki Fujita | • Baiju Shah    |                |





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