



Turning Passion Into Purpose

WITH THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION

THE HIGLEY FAMILY Building for Cleveland's Future

\$23 MILLION GIFT IS THE THIRD-LARGEST IN CLEVELAND FOUNDATION HISTORY AND HONORS BEVERLY AND ALBERT M. HIGLEY JR.'S WISHES OF SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY IN PERPETUITY

For nearly two decades, the Higley Fund of the Cleveland Foundation has granted more than \$8.1 million to 175 nonprofit organizations throughout Greater Cleveland with a focus on basic needs like food, clothing, shelter and medical care. Now, with a recent \$23 million estate gift from Beverly and Albert M. Higley Jr.,—the third-largest gift in the foundation's 101-year history—the fund will substantially increase its capacity to serve those in need and become the single largest supporting organization of the Cleveland Foundation.

The Albert M. Higley Co. was founded in Cleveland's roaring twenties and has been chaired by three generations of Higleys for 90 years. It's one of the most respected family-led businesses in the region, and Northeast Ohio's landscape is filled with construction projects completed by the firm at some of the area's most venerable commercial centers and institutional campuses. With a portfolio of more than 10,000 completed projects, it would be rare if someone living and working in Northeast Ohio had not set foot in a building touched by the Higley Company. Among the publicized ground breakings and celebrated ribbon cuttings, however, has been a family with strong values working diligently to support another essential framework: the social safety net.



Albert M. Higley, Jr. and his wife, Beverly, dedicated their fund to serving those in need in the Cleveland community. With this record-setting gift their legacy will continue to assist future generations.

"Our parents believed in this community and believed in the value of giving back to create opportunities for others," said Bruce G. Higley, Chairman of The Albert M. Higley Co. and president of The Higley Fund. "Their legacy as true champions of the people and places that make Cleveland a great home will now endure permanently through the Cleveland Foundation so future generations can benefit from their passion for our community."

And just as Higley buildings have a sense of permanence and stature among the academic campuses, medical centers and corporate parkways they anchor, The Higley Fund is a concrete representation of the purpose-driven lives of the family.

"Al and Beverly's philanthropy was guided by their humility, compassion and unwavering belief in what is right," said Ronn Richard, President & CEO of the Cleveland Foundation. "We are honored to work with The Higley Fund to ensure that this legacy of kindness and humanity lives

on through impactful grantmaking that meets the needs of our community."

The Higley Fund, established by the couple in 1994, has contributed to organizations ranging from the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army of Greater Cleve-



The Higley Family. (Far left) Clockwise from bottom left, Sharon Higley Watts, Brian Higley, Bruce Higley, Beverly Higley, and Albert Higley, Jr. (Top right) Albert M. Higley, Sr. (Bottom right) His wife, Mildred Higley

land to the Cleveland Sight Center and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, through which the fund has provided more than 800,000 meals. The fund also supports a scholarship program through the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University and recently awarded \$1 million to the school to establish the Albert and Beverly Higley Research Commons.

The Higley family has been an integral part of the Cleveland community for more than 150 years. Its legacy of giving began with Al's father, "Ab," who founded The Albert M. Higley Co. in 1925 and went on to serve on and chair numerous civic and community boards including the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Shaker Heights School Board.

In 1946 Louis Seltzer, editor of the Cleveland Press, described his life as the "story of a builder, but not a builder of bricks and mortar alone... Ab Higley has built character and leadership, and sympathetic consideration for his fellow men, a compassion for those who need the ministrations and understanding of others. He has built himself, and in the doing of that he has helped his city infinitely more than all of the other buildings he has put up, because he is giving to his family, to his community, to his friends, to his associates, at the very time all of us

need it most, the example of a man who lives honestly, and mercifully, and sincerely."

The same words could be used to describe Al Higley, Jr., who followed in his father's footsteps, both in business, and in his commitment to the community.

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After attending Denison University and serving in the Korean War, he joined The Albert M. Higley Co. where he served as chairman and CEO from 1971 to 1998. He, too, served on the board of the Red Cross and Rotary Club of Cleveland as well as The Salvation Army of Greater Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services and the United Way of Greater Cleveland. Seeking a philanthropic partner, Albert and his wife, Beverly, established a fund with the Cleveland Foundation. Together, they spent years enjoying charitable grantmaking and playing an active role in nonprofit organizations and causes throughout the community. Al passed away in 2012, and Beverly in 2014.

"For our family, giving began at home — with our parents and in our community," said Sharon Higley Watts, First Vice President of The Higley Fund. "We are proud to continue our partnership with the Cleveland Foundation to ensure that everyone has access to services and opportunities that can create a better life."