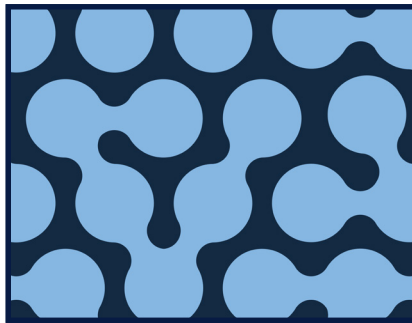




15th annual

Grit, Gratitude & You

Wednesday, October 21, 7:30–9:00 AM

Windows on the River | Downtown Cleveland

Dream Big!

Join us for **Grit, Gratitude & You** on **October 21** at Windows on the River as we highlight our positive impact on local kids and teens.

First Tee – Cleveland enables kids to build the strength of character. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a proven life skills curriculum, we create learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence and resilience.

- In 2026, we'll serve more than 2,500 kids and teens ages 7–18 through our **Program Locations** and **Community Partners**
- Another 20,000 kids have access to First Tee experiences through our **School Program**

Agenda:

7:30–8:00 AM – **Registration, Breakfast & Networking**

8:00–9:00 AM – **Highlights:**

- Program focused on the theme **“Dream Big”**
- 2026 Del de Windt Leadership Award for Civic Engagement presented to **Christopher M. Connor** – Followed by his Keynote Address
- Presentation of the **Doris A. Evans, M.D. THRIVE Award** to First Tee participants

Participant fees contribute **only 7%** of the annual revenue necessary to deliver impactful programs. **Please help us reach more kids in need of social, emotional and physical support.**

Honorary Chairs: Rick Buoncore and Pat LoPresti

Event Chairs: Lynne Lawrence, Ryan Puente, Linda Sherman and Jamie Venorsky

To register or sponsor, visit:
<https://2026GGY.givesmart.com>
Or, scan the QR code.



2026 Del de Windt Leadership Award for Civic Engagement

Christopher M. Connor



Christopher M. Connor is the retired Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer of The Sherwin-Williams Company, a 160-year-old global leader in the paints and coatings industry. Chris joined Sherwin-Williams in 1983 as Director of Advertising for the Paint Stores Group. Over his 34-year career, he held leadership roles across most of the company's operating divisions. He was privileged to work with talented men and women as they prospered and grew the company together. Chris retired from the company in December of 2016 after 17 years at the helm.

Chris and Sherwin-Williams were consistently recognized by publications for financial excellence, integrity of business practices, environmental stewardship, outstanding innovation, powerful marketing and a strong record of creating shareholder wealth. *Business Week* frequently included Sherwin-Williams among their top 50 performing companies in America, *Fortune* Magazine recognized the company as one of the top 100 companies to work for, and *Harvard Business Review* identified Chris as one of the top 100 performing CEO's in the world on three separate occasions. Shareholders have been richly rewarded for their confidence in the company.

Chris currently serves on the Board of Directors of International Paper as the lead director. He is an active community leader, having been involved on many civic, industry and not-for-profit organizations. He currently serves on the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame & Museum board.

His past board engagements have included Keep America Beautiful, Greater Cleveland Partnership, University Hospitals of Cleveland, Playhouse Square Foundation, Cleveland Catholic Diocese Foundation, Walsh Jesuit High School, Team NEO, United Way, Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trails Forever, as well as a number of corporate boards, including Eaton Corporation, National City Bank and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Chris has been conferred with honorary doctorate degrees from Baldwin Wallace College and Cleveland State University.

Today, Chris is embracing retirement and pursuing new pastimes. He is actively involved with his family's philanthropic foundation, the Connor Foundation. He enjoys kayaking, hiking, boating, biking, working on the farm, hanging with his nine grandchildren and enjoying the company of his college sweetheart and wife of 50 years, Sara.

Chris is a 1974 graduate of Walsh Jesuit High School and a 1978 graduate of The Ohio State University. He and his wife have three adult children, and the entire family continues to reside in Northeastern Ohio.

Company / Sponsor Name: _____

Contact Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: (Street) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Company or Name to be recognized in program: _____

Forms and checks (payable to **First Tee - Cleveland**) can be mailed to:
3883 Washington Park Blvd., Newburgh Heights, OH 44105

Questions? Contact Paula Domzalski: 216.641.7799; pdomzalski@firstteecleveland.org

Tickets & Sponsorships Opportunities

Sponsorship deadline October 6; Select from the following:

Presenting Sponsor / \$25,000

- Title Sponsor: Grit, Gratitude & You presented by (your company name)
- Full page ad (inside or back cover) in Program Book
- Logo on First Tee - Cleveland website through 12/31/26
- Acknowledgement during Welcome; logo in social media
- Logo recognition on invitation and presentation slides
- Reserved Sponsor Table with 8 Event Tickets

Gold Sponsor / \$5,000

- Half page ad in Program Book with priority placement
- Logo on First Tee - Cleveland website through 12/31/26
- Acknowledgement during Welcome and in social media
- Logo recognition on presentation slides
- Reserved Sponsor Table with 8 Event Tickets

Silver Sponsor / \$2,500

- Quarter page ad in Program Book
- Name on First Tee - Cleveland website
- Recognition on presentation slides
- Reserved Sponsor Table with 8 Event Tickets

Bronze Sponsor / \$1,500

- Logo or name in program
- Name recognition in presentation slides
- 8 Event Tickets

 \$500 Patron • Name in program • 2 Event Tickets

 \$250 Patron • Name in program • 1 Event Ticket

 \$150 • 1 Individual Ticket

 We will not be able to participate but wish to support the event with a fully tax-deductible gift of:

\$2,500 **\$1,000** **\$500** **\$250** **Other**

Program Book Ads: Email ads in PDF format by **October 6** to Mary Patton at mpatton@firstteecleveland.org

 Full page ad (5" wide x 8" tall): \$1,500

 Half page ad (5" wide x 4" tall): \$1,000

 Quarter page ad (2.4" wide x 4" tall): \$500

Payment Options:

 Enclosed, please find my check.

 Pay online at <https://2026GGY.givesmart.com>

First Tee - Cleveland Leadership Team

Board of Directors: Craig Glazier, *Chair*; Joe Boehm IV, *Vice Chair*; Sonia Mintun, *Treasurer*; Adam Zangerle, *Secretary*; Nick Accordino, Mark Bellantoni, Albert Castillo, Lindsey Cutright, Nick D'Angelo, Pete Franz, Bill Horvath, Matt Hricko, Jason Jones, Julie Lamb, Lynne Lawrence, Ryan Marrie, Troy Martzall, Jim Neff, Alex Park, Brent Pietrafese, Ryan Puente, Steve Putt, Linda Sherman, Dawn Swit, Tina Tamburro, Jamie Venorsky, Robert Walker, Lorna Wisham

Past Board Chairs: Rick Buoncore, Whitt Butler, Daryl Deckard, Mike de Windt, Craig Donnan, Ann Harlan, Kurt B. McMaken, Ronna McNair, Trent Meyerhoefer, Robert "Brit" Stenson, Andre Thornton

Events Committee: Lynne Lawrence & Jamie Venorsky, *Co-Chairs* Joe Boehm IV, Albert Castillo, Nick D'Angelo, Paula Domzalski, Denise Farrell, Craig Glazier, Katelyn Greear, Bill Horvath, Katie Kelly, Jane Kemer, Leslie Kleinman, Julie Lamb, Pat LoPresti, Germaine Martin, Brian McFarland, Jim Neff, Mary Patton, Ryan Puente, Veronica Savage, Debbie Schoonover, Linda Sherman, Jim Wilcosky

Chief Executive Officer: Brian McFarland

Thanks to our Annual Partners & Sponsors

Ancora, CIBC, Deckard Family, Deloitte, EY, Journey Wealth, KeyBank, MAI Capital Management, Marcus Thomas, Jim & Julia Neff, North Point Portfolio Managers, Ohio Real Title, Provider Real Estate Partners, Stout, T3 Performance, Turner Construction Company, Adam & Claire Zangerle

