



"Achievements of societal impact." This is an apt summary of the passions and accomplishments of Jay Foran that have directly benefitted the Lakewood Community and Northeast Ohio.

Jay involved himself in the pressing "community" issues of the day right from his start at LHS with his membership on the Student Concerns Committee, Student Council and L Club. His sense of teamwork continued to develop at Miami University where he earned leadership positions in his Beta Theta Pi fraternity and secured a position with Richardson-Vicks after graduation. After Richardson-Vicks was acquired by Procter & Gamble (P & G), Jay rose within the corporation to the position of Director of Corporate Business Development. During his rise, he was named three times as Division Manager of the Year. In 2000, at his twenty-five-year mark with P & G, Jay took early retirement as an opportunity to return home to Lakewood, accepting the vice-president position with LakeWest Group.

It was in 2002 that Jay began to channel his skills into helping improve the Lakewood Community and make significant contributions that continue to this day. In 2002, he took on the chairmanship of the Lakewood schools' Fifty-Year Committee, a fifteen-month effort by over forty community members to provide recommendations to the school district regarding facilities improvements to promote teaching and learning. In addition, he chaired both of the successful Phase I and Phase II Bond Issue campaign committees, which were part of a multiphase, 200+ million-dollar master plan to support the rebuilding of Lakewood Schools, the largest construction effort in Lakewood's history.

In 2003, he jumped right into the controversy around Issue 47, which had arisen under the city's plan to declare areas of Lakewood's west-end blighted, assert eminent domain and permit the bulldozing of existing homes to allow private redevelopment. This initiative was opposed by many residents and ultimately defeated. Jay saw the need to harness the passion Lakewood residents felt for their community and helped to found LakewoodAlive, Lakewood's Community Development Organization, with the mission to channel meaningful community engagement and education on complex issues facing Lakewood's future. Pursuant to his leadership on the board until 2014, LakewoodAlive has grown in size and scope, becoming an integral component of the Lakewood Community, stimulating ever-greater community involvement, engagement and pride.

From there, Jay continued with a wide variety of contributions to the community as a committee member on the Grow Lakewood Strategy Taskforce (2005), Trustee for the Lakewood Hospital Foundation (2004-2018) which he then helped redirect into the Three Arches Foundation (2018-2021), Trustee and President of the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation (2003-2009), Co-founder of the Lakewood Community Baseball Association, and Chair of the City of Lakewood Active Living Task Force (2015-2016).

In 2007, Jay took on the position of Sr. Vice President of Industry & Innovation at Team Northeast Ohio (Team NEO), successfully working with leaders in major industries, medicine, technology and commerce to attract and expand significant long-term investment in NEO, resulting in collective commitments for thousands of new jobs and an increased quality of life to the region.

Jay is a graduate of the 2011 Leadership Cleveland Class as well as a 2023-2024 Stokes Senior Fellow, as part of Leadership Cleveland's Advanced Leadership Institute. His professional and community work on behalf of Lakewood and Northeast Ohio have been recognized with several awards including being named one of the Top 50 Economic Developers - North America by Consultant Connect, and receiving the 2005 State of Ohio NPRSA "Friend of Education" Award and inaugural LakewoodAlive Founder's Award in 2020.

Jay continues to be involved in his 1972 LHS class by helping plan reunions. He and his wife, Lynn, have four adult children, three of whom are Lakewood Alumni, and three grandchildren. They continue to reside in Lakewood.