



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### ***Canfield Fair cuts ribbon on the Michael Kusalaba Fund of the Youngstown Foundation Event Center and auctions 21 Rooster Statues.***

**Canfield, OH:** On Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> the Canfield Fair Board cut the ribbon the Michael Kusalaba Fund of the Youngstown Foundation Event Center and auctioned off 21 Rooster Statues that were part of the Flock to the Fairgrounds public art display.

The evening commenced at 5:30pm with networking and the ribbon was officially cut at 6:30 p.m. Photo attached standing L-R: *Carol Righetti, Anthony Traficanti, Ted Schmidt, Youngstown Foundation Distribution Committee, Marty Bushy, Youngstown Foundation Distribution Committee, Lynnette Forde- President of the Youngstown Foundation, Bob Jarvis – Fair Board President (holding the scissors), Mary Ann (Kusalaba) Huwig, Ray Kusalaba, Dave Mannion – Fair Board Vice President, Ward Campbell – Fair Board Past President, Frank Paden- Fair Board Treasurer*

"We are very excited to honor Michael Kusalaba's legacy with the joy, and the achievement and the memories this landmark building will represent for hundreds of children and families for years to come," said Lynnette Forde, president of the Youngstown Foundation. "We are also so proud to be part of the Canfield Fairgrounds, where the fair board continues to make tremendous investments and improvements."

#### **About the Michael Kusalaba Fund of the Youngstown Foundation Event Center:**

- Phase 1 was completed in 2020, just before the 2020 Fair, at the cost of apx \$3.2 million dollars which built a 35,000 sqft building.
- Phase 2 was completed in 2023 at the cost of apx \$1.3 million dollars and included the lobby, restroom area, and classrooms.

#### **About the Rooster Statues:**

- Flock to the Fairgrounds is a public art project designed to celebrate 175 years of Canfield Fair traditions, promote the arts, and raise money for the Canfield Fair Foundation.
- 21 Rooster Statues were sponsored by local businesses and painted by local artists selected through a jury process.
- The Roosters made their debut at the 2021 Canfield Fair and were to be auctioned off that year, but due to continued COVID community flareups the event was put on hold. As progress continued on the building it made sense to incorporate the auction with the ribbon cutting.

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For more information about the Canfield Fair and Fairgrounds please visit [www.canfieldfair.com](http://www.canfieldfair.com).

For more information about the Youngstown Foundation please visit [www.youngstownfoundation.org](http://www.youngstownfoundation.org)