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**MATTHEW HABASH & MID-OHIO FOOD COLLECTIVE HONORED
WITH COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD'S
2021 MEL SCHOTTENSTEIN LEADERSHIP AWARD**

(Columbus, OH) – Matthew Habash and Mid-Ohio Food Collective were recognized with the 2021 Mel Schottenstein Leadership Award. Given by Community Shelter Board, the award honors deep and far-reaching commitment to people facing homelessness, in memory of Melvin Schottenstein's legacy as a founder of Community Shelter Board.

Habash and his team stepped up to provide thousands of meals to people facing homelessness during the pandemic. When soup kitchens and other feeding locations closed during the shut-down, Habash and his team immediately began providing meals for hundreds of hungry people every day. They set up a temporary feeding location in a downtown parking lot, with help from the National Guard, to make sure people didn't go hungry. They also provided food for all the additional shelter facilities that were opened for social distancing, isolation and quarantine.

A breakfast reception was held today at the Boathouse at Confluence Park, where a series of Community Shelter Board's Founder Awards were presented by NBC4.

Mid-Ohio Food Collective works in community to connect hungry neighbors with nutritious food, stabilizing families today while helping them access resources for tomorrow so they can thrive for a lifetime. As President and CEO, Habash takes an active leadership role in the community, having served on numerous boards and has received numerous awards recognizing his commitment and work in serving those most vulnerable.

Habash became the leader of Mid-Ohio Foodbank in 1984. Prior to that, he was with St.



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Stephen's Community House, first as a youth worker and then as the assistant to the executive director. He was a member of Columbus City Council from 1993 to 2006, serving as Council President from 1999 to 2006. Co-Chair with Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Habash led the 21st Century Growth initiative, a plan designed to balance job creation with sustainable neighborhood development. Other efforts spearheaded by Habash in his role as Council President were the 315 Research Corridor, the City's Indoor Clean Air Act, and the City's Bike Path Plan.



VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/VNL603HtF2w>

Community Shelter Board leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home. CSB is the collective impact organization driving strategy, accountability, collaboration, and resources to achieve the best outcomes for people facing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. With the support of a compassionate community, our system of care served 15,000 people last year with homelessness prevention, shelter, street outreach, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.

Community Shelter Board is funded by the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the United Way of Central Ohio, The Columbus Foundation, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Ohio, and many other public and private investors.

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