

30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION



CORPORATE SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



State &  
Federal  
COMMUNICATIONS

GUIDING YOU ALONG THE  
★ ROAD TO COMPLIANCE ★

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# A MESSAGE FROM ELIZABETH BARTZ

The 30th Anniversary of State and Federal Communications has been not just a milestone, but an extraordinary year in every way. I had a vision for this company, and the reality has followed and has been exceeded. Looking back, we established a legacy of expertise and unrivalled service to our clients. We also have a legacy of caring for our community and supporting it in real ways through corporate philanthropy and community engagement. We continue to build upon our efforts in the areas of sustainability and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

In this special edition of our CSR Annual Report, we included a section showcasing our 30th anniversary. I am humbled by the amazing people who showed up to help us celebrate. Another way we honored this year is with our corporate social responsibility. The staff increased its philanthropy and has taken part in crucial community projects. Our support for national government relations organizations and local organizations is unwavering.



In 2023, we moved to a new location on South Main Street in the heart of downtown Akron. The move itself was an act of corporate citizenship. We believe in Akron and want to support it and be a part of the life here.

Thank you for your interest in our CSR program. The story of our CSR path is united with the story of our 30 years of business excellence. Here's to the future!

*Elizabeth Bartz*

Thank you.  
Elizabeth Bartz



# AND, JUST LIKE THAT, WE ARE 30 YEARS OLD.

I am fortunate. I do remember 30 years ago when I signed my name on an agreement where I would pay my former employer more money than I ever thought I would have. It has been an unbelievable journey to where we are now.

I would never have believed I would have a GREAT staff of more than 40 people working in Akron, Ohio and Washington, DC. I would have never believed we would expand outside of the 50 states and the federal government to include cities, counties, and international countries. I would have never believed our fabulous clients would include top Fortune 500 companies along with the biggest and the brightest trade associations.

We have survived so much, including a recession and the pandemic, and my senior team managed to get through them without ever laying off any staff member.

In 2023 we moved our Akron office to larger quarters where we are all on the same floor. Plans were put in action, paint colors were chosen, carpets were picked out, and we moved in mid-October. This photo includes me signing the lease with Nola Werren, Esq. as our notary public along with my fabulous broker and realtor Patrick and Stephen Powers who were very patient with me. Also pictured on the front cover is our ribbon cutting in our new lobby with my new property owner, George Sarkis from R&A Properties, LLC, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro, Akron Mayor Shammas Malik, and Greater Akron Chamber President Steve Millard. It is definitely one of the nicest buildings in downtown Akron.

I thank our clients and colleagues for always counting on the staff for compliance services and the thousands of folks who subscribe to our website. It would not be the same without you.

*This article by Elizabeth Bartz first appeared in the July 2023 edition of Compliance Now.*





# CELEBRATING THE 30th ANNIVERSARY



We kicked off our 30th anniversary celebration on July 5. We created a photo wall with anniversary highlights and celebrated with red, white, and blue cookies.



▶ Scan the QR code here to link to see the proclamations.



# 30 YEARS IN REVIEW

**State & Federal COMMUNICATIONS**  
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www.stateandfed.com

**HIGHLIGHTS 2023**  
**30 YEARS IN REVIEW**

**30 YEARS**  
ESTABLISHED 1993

**We are INTERNATIONAL!** **51** COUNTRIES

**204** Compliance Clients/Service Partners 2022

**13,673** Compliance Reports 2022

**1,724** COMPLIANCE Registrations for Client Lobbyists Filed in 2022

**64** College Student Internship Program  
We have hired and paid 64 interns over the course of 18 years.

**17** Employees with more than 10 years tenure!

**5** Employees with more than 20 years tenure!

**ANNIVERSARY**

**Recycling Advocate**  
**1,141** Pounds of eWaste  
**6,233** Pounds of Paper

**2,450** Guidebook Subscribers

**Blog Posts 2023**  
We have posted **10,216** times.  
www.lobbycomply.com

**10,295** State and Federal Communications, Inc. social media followers

**United Way**

**United Way Awards**

- 5 Years** Excellence Awards
- 13 Years** Highest per capita Giving Awards
- 3 Years** Chairman's Awards

► Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and more than 30 wonderful people offered their congratulations by video.



◀ See who has joined us in celebrating our 30th anniversary by scanning the QR code.





# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS EVENTS RECOGNITION

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of State and Federal Communications, Elizabeth Bartz, President & CEO, was honored at events held by stakeholder groups throughout 2023. The first was during an opening night reception held April 24 at the State Government Affairs Council's (SGAC) National Summit in San Diego. SGAC's National Summit convenes leading state government relations professionals for professional development training, including deep dive sessions and networking opportunities among peers. During the opening night reception, SGAC posted signage in the room congratulating



State and Federal Communications for its 30 years in business as the leading government relations compliance firm. Several SGAC members remarked on Elizabeth's leadership role in SGAC, where she served as President in 2011 and all raised a glass to toast for this important 30-year milestone.

Attendees at the Women in Government's Leadership and Innovation Summit honored State and Federal Communications at its opening night reception on November 2, in San Antonio, Texas. Minority Leader Lauren Matsumoto (HI) and Women in Government's executive director and current chairperson, Meredith Martino, recognized Elizabeth for the company's 30th anniversary. The reception's theme was Denim and Dazzle with more than 200 women legislators and private sector government affairs professionals in attendance.



# THE MOVE



On January 3, 2024, State and Federal Communications celebrated moving into a new office space in downtown Akron with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and press conference. The company relocated its headquarters to 222 S. Main St., Suite 300 in downtown Akron from Courtyard Square at 80 S. Summit St. The move to bigger office space accommodates the company's growing team as they continue to serve clients and the community.

## 222 SOUTH MAIN STREET

"As a woman-owned business for 30 years, we are excited to be staying in Akron, a great All-American City," said Elizabeth Bartz. "We believe this move will enable us to continue providing a high level of service to our clients while deepening our relationship and support of the downtown community."

Distinguished guests at the ribbon-cutting included George Sarkis of Roetzel and Andress, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro, Akron Mayor Shammass Malik, and Greater Akron Chamber President and CEO Steve Millard.

"We are excited to welcome State and Federal Communications to the downtown Akron neighborhood! With a 30-year track record of success, State and Federal choosing Main Street as its new location demonstrates a commitment to our community that will give confidence to other businesses looking to relocate to the downtown area," said Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro.



# CREATING THE SPACE FOR GOOD TO HAPPEN

## EVENTS

The overall health and well-being of our staff continues to be our focus. We provide health and wellness information in our monthly HR Newsletter highlighting the importance of mental health, annual exams, and more. State and Federal Communications encouraged staff throughout the year to fully utilize their PTO and not let it go to waste, especially to avoid burnout. We offer the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) as part of our benefits package. The EAP provides a variety of services including emotional support, counseling, financial planning, stress management, and addiction recovery resources. State and Federal Communications continues to stress the importance of this benefit to its employees.



During the company's Benefits Day, State and Federal Communications hosted on-site flu shots provided by Sand Run Pharmacy.

## VOTING

State and Federal Communications encouraged all staff to vote. We allow employees to take one hour prior to or on Election Day to vote.



## HEALTHY WORKPLACE

State and Federal Communications was recognized by the Healthy Business Council of Ohio (HBCO) as a healthy worksite in 2023. The Healthy Worksite Recognition Program recognizes Ohio employers who demonstrate a commitment to employee wellness through comprehensive worksite health promotion and wellness programs.

The HBCO has announced that 91 Ohio employers have been recognized for healthy worksite practices in 2023.





# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development is the key to a great organization. State and Federal Communications offers exceptional professional development to its staff to help them excel in their profession, to maintain the highest standards in government relations compliance, and to set goals for advancement. The following conferences and events were offered to employees throughout 2023:

- ACES: The Society for Editing National Conference
- Content Marketing World
- The Council of State Governments National Conference
- National Black Lobbyist Annual Conference
- Practising Law Institute – Supreme Court 2022 Term
- Public Affairs Institute
- Public Affairs Council Advocacy Conference
- Public Affairs Council Leaders Summit
- Public Affairs Council National PAC Conference
- Public Affairs Council Spring Executive Meeting
- Public Affairs Council Government Relations & Policy Conference
- Public Affairs Council STRIDE Social Impact Summit
- Council on Governmental Ethics Laws National Conference
- National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit
- National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Leaders International Symposium
- 13th Annual International Women’s Day Forum: Powering Potential Through Changing Times
- Professional Women in Advocacy Conference
- Public Affairs Council Digital Media and Advocacy Summit
- Society for Human Resource Management National Conference
- State Government Affairs Council Leaders Policy Conference
- State Government Affairs Council National Summit
- State Government Affairs Council Professional Certificate Session
- Women in Government National Legislative Conference
- Women in Government Leadership and Innovation Summit

## NATIONAL



# CONNECTING AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES



▲ In January 2023, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager Joe May completed the three-year Public Affairs Institute, held in Laguna Beach, California. Joe is the fifth member of the State and Federal Communications team to complete the program.



▲ Joe Wasser, Joanna Kamvouris, Tony Didion, and Jon Spontarelli attended the Public Affairs Council Advocacy Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



▲ Jon Spontarelli, Joe Wasser, Elizabeth Bartz, Nola Werren, and Tony Didion at the National PAC Conference in West Palm Beach, Florida.



▲ Nola Werren speaking on the panel discussion "State PAC Involvement" at the National PAC Conference.



◀ Nate Adams, Joe Wasser, Mark Gerberich, Ryan Silvestro, Jon Spontarelli, Allyson Smith, and Antoinette Bowen attended the PAC Government Relations and Policy Conference in Washington, DC.



▶ John Cetor, Amber Fish Linke, Mario Dalessandro, and Matt Gehring at the Conference on Governmental Ethics Laws in Kansas City, Missouri.



# CONNECTING AT LOCAL EVENTS AND WEBINARS

- Akron Roundtable
- Akron Press Club
- ATHENA Akron Annual Dinner
- Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce Morning Buzz
- Health Action Council's IN-VALUE-ABLE National Conference & Expo
- National Sales and Marketing Executives

## LOCAL EVENTS



◀ On June 15, the State and Federal Communications team attended the Akron Roundtable featuring Brent Leggs, Senior Vice President of the National Trust.



▲ Elizabeth Bartz [second from right] appeared on a panel with community leaders at the United Way of Summit and Medina's Knight at the Civic event.



◀ Mark Gerberich, Anthony Didion, and Ren Koozer attending the Greater Akron Chamber's Morning Buzz.

## WEBINARS

- Public Affairs Council ESG Communications Boot Camp
- Public Affairs Council Masterclass: Unlocking Behavioral Science for Public Affairs





# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

State and Federal Communications works to create, implement, and sustain a culture of DEI by incorporating practices into the company's leadership activity, dialogue, hiring, policies, and communications. The focus in 2023 was continuing to communicate DEI-related knowledge, giving staff the opportunity to think about new and timely issues through a DEI lens. We participated in DEI-related committees and working groups, attended DEI trainings and events, and Gamble Hayden continued a series of DEI-related articles in the company's various channels: Compliance Now, digital media, and our internal CSR newsletter, Engage.

## GOALS FOR 2024

Goals for the coming year include continuing to create an ongoing forum with employees to have supportive, welcoming, and open conversations about DEI, and cultivating a wider participation by the staff.

## DEI LEADERSHIP



We foster DEI leadership. Gamble Hayden, Coordinator, Federal Compliance Services, was appointed to the Women in Government Relations' (WGR) Board of Directors in February 2023. Gamble had been serving as the Chair of WGR's DEI committee. In July of 2023, Gamble was elected by the membership to serve after successfully running for her own board seat.

Also in 2023, Gamble served as the Vice Chair of WGR's Professional Women in Advocacy (PWIA) Conference. She also joined the Diversity in Government Relations Coalition and agreed to serve as the Chair of the Coalition's newly created External Engagement Committee. Gamble, along with Elizabeth Bartz, served on the Greater Akron Chamber's Equity and Inclusion committee, as well as the Great Akron Chamber's Diversity Professionals Council. State and Federal Communications was also a sponsor of the WGR DEI Summit from 2020-2023.

► Each month, Gamble Hayden wrote thought-provoking DEI articles for State and Federal Communications' Compliance Now newsletter. Scan the QR code to read them on our DEI page.



# DEI

## EVENTS AND TRAINING

# DEI 2023

- January 16  
Akron Urban League MLK Breakfast
- June 22  
Akron Roundtable Bringing It Home Sojourner Truth Project
- September 20-24  
Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Forum
- December 7  
Practising Law Institute - Disability, Inclusion, and Accessibility webinar
- August 29  
Greater Cleveland Partnership - Equity and Inclusion Conference
- June 11-14  
Society for Human Resource Management  
2023 Annual Conference, DEI track
- June 27-28  
Women in Government Relations (WGR)  
—Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit
- December 6  
Public Affairs Council - STRIDE Social Impact Summit
- Monthly  
WGR DEI Committee Meetings and Open Forums



▲ HR Director Beth Knowles Mullen and Joseph May, Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility, attended the Greater Cleveland Partnership Equity and Inclusion Conference. They connected with other leaders to learn how to grow equity and inclusion efforts and foster sustainable progress.





# STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

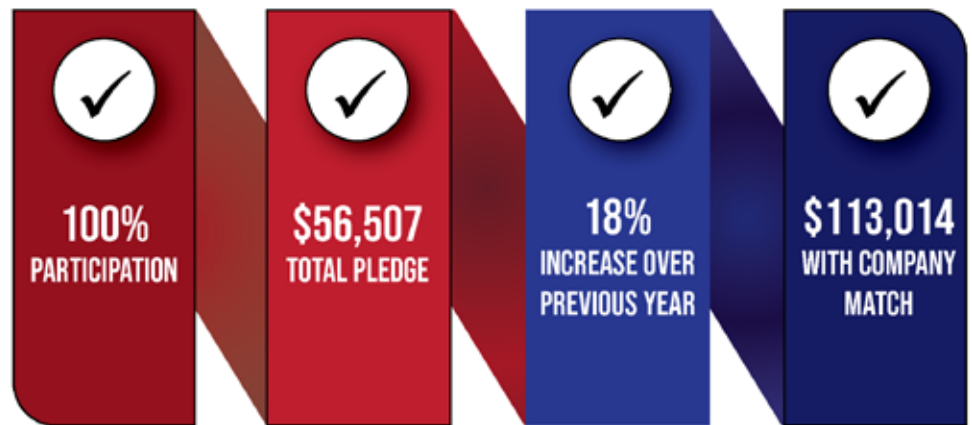


State and Federal Communications remains committed to creating a strong, healthy, and vibrant community through corporate philanthropy and community engagement. Smart partnerships are critical to the success of our CSR strategy. State and Federal Communications works with area organizations to provide significant benefit to the community beyond what our individual contributions could do.

## OUR UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

In September 2023, State and Federal Communications held its 24th United Way Campaign and once again reached 100% participation. The company matches every dollar donated by its employees. With great philanthropy, the staff pledged a goal-breaking \$56,507, plus the company's matching funds, bringing us to a grand total of \$113,014! The 2023 campaign increase was more than 18% over the 2022 campaign. The staff of State and Federal Communications enjoyed a PTO bonus day on November 22 in recognition of reaching 100% participation and the stretch goal.

Out of the 41 staff who pledged in 2023, 15 people gave at Fair Share Plus levels. The 15 members of the staff who pledged United Way's Fair Share plus received a United Way Day Off on December 29.



◀ Jim Mullen, president and CEO of United Way of Summit and Medina, gave an inspiring presentation at our United Way Campaign Kick-Off.





# PARTICIPATION BENEFITTING UNITED WAY

On October 31, State and Federal Communications held its 13th Annual Donut and Cider Sale. Our team sold 75 dozen donuts and 21 gallons of cider. Along with some donations, we raised \$1,000 for the United Way of Summit and Medina. It was great to see our friends in the community.

Many of the donuts benefited organizations working with people facing great need. The organizations included Safe Landing Youth Shelter, a Shelter Care facility that provides crisis and emergency services to youth ages 11-17, and People First, a day program for adults with diverse developmental and intellectual abilities. Donuts also went far and wide via the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Good Samaritan program and the Peter Maurin Center hot meal program.



**United Way Bold Glow Sponsorship**  
▲ State and Federal Communications was a sponsor for the United Way Bold Glow golf event on June 2. Eight members of the staff were in attendance.

**Sojourner Truth Memorial donation**  
► In support of the historic Sojourner Truth Memorial Plaza next door to the United Way of Summit and Medina headquarters, Elizabeth presented Jim Mullen, Malorie Kormos, and Keri Stephen with a check for \$10,000. This took place at State and Federal Communications' United Way campaign kickoff.



**Donut and Cider Sale**  
▲ Elizabeth Bartz and Joe May with United Way Manager of Corporate Engagement and Outreach, Angela Williams.



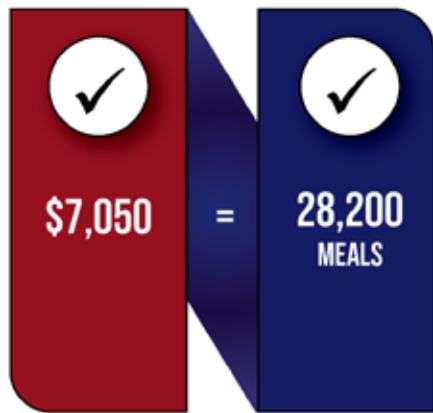
# AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK HARVEST FOR HUNGER

Hunger in our community is a great concern. The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank has been reporting the highest demand for food assistance it has ever seen. State and Federal Communications shares a vision for a community free of hunger and has tangibly worked toward this goal by supporting the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank since 2018.

On February 28, 2023, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank held its 32nd Harvest for Hunger Campaign Kickoff. Through the Foodbank's online Teamraiser platform, State and Federal Communications raised \$2,050 for Harvest for Hunger, as well as the company's \$5,000 sponsorship at the Campaign Kickoff, for a total of \$7,050. This is the equivalent of 28,200 meals provided for families in need.

Since 2018, this company has raised \$42,000, the equivalent of almost 170,000 meals.

## FOODBANK CAMPAIGN



## 170,000 MEALS



# GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTH EAST OHIO

For the fourth year, State and Federal Communications President and CEO Elizabeth Bartz was on a mission to help Girl Scouts by purchasing 1,032 boxes of cookies. What did Elizabeth do with 1,032 boxes of Girl Scout cookies? The cookies were donated to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Good Samaritans program to help families in need. People are taking notice of this extraordinary program. On May 19, 2023, at the InterContinental Hotel in Cleveland, the Girls Scouts of North East Ohio recognized Elizabeth Bartz as the 2023 Woman of Distinction Honoree for her years of extraordinary service.



► The cookie campaign was covered in “Is there a Girl Scout badge for this? Local supporter orders 1,000 boxes of cookies” by April Helms in the Akron Beacon Journal.

▼ Scan the QR code here to link to read the article



## 1,032 BOXES OF COOKIES





## TOOLS FOR SCHOOL DRIVE

State and Federal Communications helps area students have the tools they need for a successful school year. Our Tools for School program supported the United Way Stuff the Bus drive by collecting pens, pencils, pencil boxes, boxes of crayons, markers, scissors, notebooks, folders, rulers, and erasers. United Way offered a school supply “recharge” in December to all 28 Akron Public Schools. On November 30, CSR Manager Joe May participated in the United Way’s Sort-a-Thon.



## BE AN ANGEL FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Every year State and Federal Communications has a holiday service project. Socks, hats, and gloves are the most urgently needed items at shelters and outreach facilities. We collected these items for the Akron Snow Angels with our Be an Angel for the Holidays drive. We collected socks, hats, gloves, and winter coats!



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CHARITABLE SERVICE PROGRAM

State and Federal Communications offers its Charitable Service Program to qualifying staff as an opportunity to get out of the office and help the nonprofit of their choice. Our program allows 12 hours of service time for staff contributing ½% of salary and 30 hours for staff contributing 1% of salary to the United Way Campaign. Those who contribute Fair Share Plus receive 40 hours of Charitable Service. Following the United Way Fair Share Giving Guide, Fair Share Plus is one dollar per paycheck more than Fair Share.

State and Federal Communications staff found many opportunities to get out into the community. Ten employees used a total of 156 hours of Charitable Service. This included serving on the CASA Board of Trustees, working for Annunciation's Good Samaritans Food Distribution, reading to Akron Public School students at Read to Me Day, volunteering at United Way Day of Action at the YMCA in Barberton, mentoring with iCARE at Akron Public Schools, and serving as poll workers on Election Day.

# WE SHOWED UP



### Annunciation's Good Samaritans Food Distribution Program

- ▲ Food distribution set up at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.
- ◀ Fr. Dean Kokanos and Joe May checking in guests at the food distribution day.



# CHARITABLE SERVICE HOURS TO VOLUNTEER [CASA]

Research Services Manager Ryan Silvestro uses his Charitable Service hours to volunteer with the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Board. According to the CASA website, its mission is to serve the best interests of abused and neglected children in the Juvenile Court System. CASA volunteers provide quality advocacy for children so that every child can be safe, have a permanent home, and the opportunity to thrive. Ryan is now the third member of our staff to serve on the organization's board.

Ryan shared some thoughts about the opportunity to be on the CASA Board:

**Joe:** Tell me about CASA. Why is this work important to you?

**Ryan:** CASA is a national association that supports and promotes court-appointed advocates for abused and neglected children. The Summit County CASA program is intended to serve the best interests of abused and neglected children within the Juvenile Court System. The program also provides CASA volunteers with the training and resources needed to make sure that every child can have a safe and permanent home. I am passionate that every child deserves a caring and loving home where they can flourish and become the best version of themselves.

**Joe:** When were you appointed to the CASA Board?

**Ryan:** I was officially appointed to the CASA board in early October, with my first board meeting occurring on October 10. A few events have happened since my time on the board, with the most recent being the Fall Fundraiser. My thanks to everyone who attended and especially to Elizabeth, who sponsored our table.

**Joe:** How do you see the CASA Board helping you to develop your leadership in the community?

**Ryan:** Board membership with the CASA program is also a great opportunity for me to better develop my leadership skills. I hope to be able to learn from my fellow board members about how to better focus on a goal and achieve it, while also organizing and guiding others to help achieve their goals as well. I am very honored and excited to be a part of the wonderful CASA board and program.

**Joe:** Thank you, Ryan for your leadership and hard work for this wonderful organization!



▲ Ryan Silvestro, J.D.



▲ On October 26, seven members of our staff attended the CASA Fall Fundraiser breakfast. The event was held at the Firestone Country Club. We have been attending this for many years and each year the speakers underscore the importance of advocating for children.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CHARITABLE SERVICE PROGRAM

## AKRON MARATHON

Director, Business Development Mark Gerberich volunteered with the Akron Marathon. Mark shared his charitable service experience: "I enjoyed volunteering for the Akron Marathon, which contributes a great deal of money to the local economy. Runners from all over the country converge on Akron for the marathon, half marathon, and marathon relay. I am proud to be a volunteer in preparation with distributing packets on Friday, and then assisting in the runner area after the race distributing food and drinks."



## UNITED WAY DAY OF ACTION

On June 9, Mark Gerberich, Jim Warner, Ken Kelewae, and Joe May participated in the United Way Day of Action at the Lake Anna YMCA in Barberton. They painted fences surrounding an outdoor play area for the patrons.



# LEADERSHIP IN OUR COMPANY

For 30 years, leadership has been at the heart of our business model and our corporate social responsibility. Whether we are providing expert service to our clients or help to our community, the State and Federal Communications team takes the lead. This company fosters a culture of leadership and recognizes the difference we can make in our community by working as a team.

## LONGEVITY

State and Federal Communications has a long history of maintaining memberships in the national government affairs organizations. We have been supporting our industry partners for decades through our memberships and significant sponsorships, ensuring the well-being of the industry. Every year we send a team of our staff members to attend all the key national conferences.



### National Organizations

■ Council on Governmental Ethics Laws	24 Years
■ International Orthodox Christian Charities	13 Years
■ National Institute for Lobbying & Ethics	20 Years
■ National Conference of State Legislatures	25 Years
■ Ohio Chamber of Commerce	27 Years
■ Professional Women in Advocacy	9 Years
■ Public Affairs Council	31 Years
■ Public Leadership Education Network	9 Years
■ State Government Affairs Council	24 Years
■ U.S. Chamber of Commerce	19 Years
■ Washington Area State Relations Group	31 Years
■ Women in Government	10 Years
■ Women in Government Relations	14 Years

## TORCHBEARERS

Torchbearers Akron is an organization with the aim of developing the future leaders for our community. Graphic Design and Digital Media Assistant Allyson Smith is a member of the Class of 2023 and currently serving as a co-chair for the Marketing and Communications Committee. Client Relations Coordinator Tony Didion is a member of the Class of 2024. The three pillars of Torchbearers are service, connection, and growth. It's a great honor to support the Greater Akron community in this way.



# LEADERSHIP IN OUR COMPANY

We are fortunate to have amazing organizations bringing about positive change in our community. We partner with them through our membership and sponsorships.

## Local Organizations

■ Summit County ADM Board Recovery Challenge	7 Years
■ Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank	8 Years
■ Akron Community Foundation Women's Endowment Fund	9 Years
■ Akron Press Club	29 Years
■ Akron Roundtable	13 Years
■ American Heart Association	13 Years
■ Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Festival	31 Years
■ Bartz Camp Scholarship	13 Years
■ Boys and Girls Clubs of Summit County	17 Years
■ Go Red for Women	11 Years
■ Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce	22 Years
■ Haven of Rest Ministries	8 Years
■ Heart to Heart Leadership Akron Speaks Out for Values Breakfast	9 Years
■ Howland High School/ Kent State University Trumbull Campus Scholarship	6 Years
■ International Soap Box Derby	5 Years
■ Leadership Akron	17 Years
■ March of Dimes	23 Years
■ Ohio Representative for the National Cherry Blossom Festival	4 Years
■ Papa Gyros Staff Lunches (benefiting Annunciation Philoptochos and GOYA)	6 Years
■ Project GRAD Akron	11 Years
■ United Way of Summit & Medina	23 Years
■ United Way of Summit & Medina Leadership Directory	14 Years
■ WKSU Advisory Council	16 Years





# STAFF LEADERSHIP



## Elizabeth Bartz

Elizabeth Bartz, President and CEO of State and Federal Communications, served on the Board of Directors of the National Institute on Lobbying and Ethics, the Public Affairs Council, the Public Leaders Education Network, the Greater Akron Chamber, the American Hellenic Institute, and the United Way of Summit and Medina. Additionally, she is a Platinum Foundation member of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

## Mark Gerberich

Mark Gerberich, Director, Business Development, served on the Board of Directors of the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame.



## Gamble Hayden

Gamble Hayden, Coordinator, Federal Compliance Services, was appointed to Women in Government Relations' (WGR) Board of Directors in February of 2023. In July of 2023, Gamble was then elected by the membership to serve after successfully running for her own board seat. In 2023, Gamble also served as the Vice Chair of WGR's Professional Women in Advocacy (PWIA) Conference, as well as joining the Diversity in Government Relations (DGR) Coalition and agreeing to serve as the Chair of the Coalition's newly created External Engagement Committee.

## Ryan Silvestro

Ryan Silvestro, J.D., Manager, Research Services, was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Court Appointed Special Advocates.



## Rebecca South

Rebecca South, Associate Director, Federal Compliance Services, was Secretary of Women in Government Relations Toastmasters International.

## Jonathan Spontarelli

Jonathan Spontarelli, Manager, Marketing and Digital Services, served on the Board of Directors for the Washington Area State Relations Group.



# ANNUAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

It is important for college students to gain professional experience and to be paid for it. State and Federal Communications has offered a paid internship to a total of 64 university students in Northeast Ohio since 2002. In 2023, Amanda Hohenshil, Carter Hoskins, Demetri Manousos, and Niko Manousos participated in the program.

We work hard to ensure the internship experience is giving value to the interns and to our organization. The interns learn what it means to function in a professional setting, to work in various departments of the company, and to work with nonprofit organizations helping the community. They are afforded networking and professional development opportunities.

It was a busy summer for the interns as they worked on researching sales prospects, updating a marketing mailing list, recording and editing a podcast, filming and editing a video, as well as IT projects and helping with the company's move to a new location. Team Intern had the opportunity to attend Akron Roundtable, Greater Akron Chamber Business at the Ballpark and Morning Buzz, and the Keith Haring Exhibit Tour at the Akron Art Museum. They also gave back to the community by making spanakopita at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.



▲ The interns joined Mark Gerberich and staff members at the Soap Box Derby parade in downtown Akron.



▲ 2023 interns included Carter Hoskins, Amanda Hohenshil, Demetri Manousos, and Niko Manousos.

► In August, members of the State and Federal Communications team visited the Akron Art Museum to view the exhibit Keith Haring: Against All Odds. This was a great way for our interns to become acquainted with members of our Research and Compliance departments and to learn more about our community.

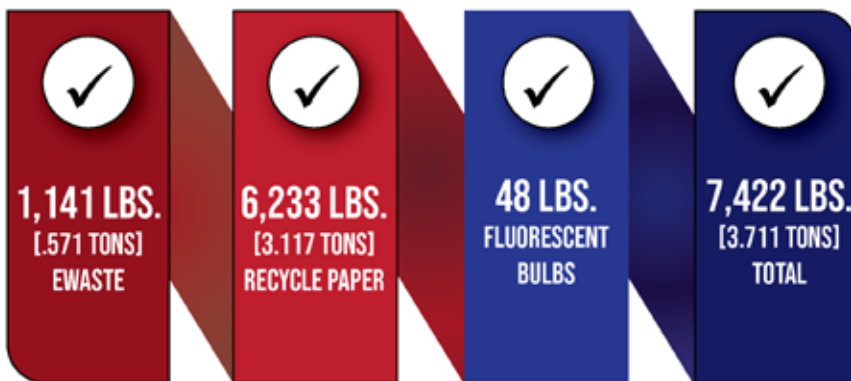


# PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

State and Federal Communications is committed to doing its part to protect the environment. The company focuses on four areas of recycling: single-use packaging, paper and cardboard, electronic waste, and fluorescent bulbs.

The waste generated at the office prompted our commitment to work with the city of Akron's single-stream recycling program for downtown businesses. Single-use containers, such as plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and product boxes are placed in proper recycling bins rather than sent to landfills. In 2014, State and Federal Communications began using a reverse osmosis water dispensing system. State and Federal Communications recycles paper and cardboard waste. SecurShred (Weaver Industries, Akron) shreds and recycles all our business paper. The city of Akron program collects flattened cardboard for processing at its local facility, which is managed by Greenstar Recycling of Houston, Texas. (The city of Akron does not make individual curbside recycling totals available.) Both electronic waste and fluorescent bulbs are toxic when buried in landfills. Our policy is to upgrade all failed fluorescent bulbs or fixtures to LED. All required fluorescent bulbs continue to be processed by Veolia North America. All computers, monitors, cables,

batteries, and small electronic items taken out of service annually are sent to eWaste of Hudson, Ohio, for proper handling and disposal.



### Cans for Corridors

In September 2019, State and Federal Communications began to partner with the Akron Zoo in their Cans for Corridors program. By bringing aluminum cans to their collection center, the Akron Zoo sends the money collected from recycling to the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. This organization works with Instituto De Pesquisas Ecologicas in Brazil to plant trees, reestablishing vital tree corridors in the suffering Brazilian rainforest. By discarding our used aluminum cans, we are now planting trees in Brazil! In 2023, we collected 3,443 cans and planted 68 trees.

### Ronald McDonald House Pull Tab Drive

State and Federal Communications collected 2,400 pull tabs from aluminum cans and donated them to Ronald McDonald House.



# BRAVO! OVATIONS

## **Akron Mayor Shammus Malik**

Mayor of Akron, Ohio

“Congratulations to Elizabeth and the entire State and Federal Team on 30 years in business! State and Federal has been an important partner to the city of Akron and to our entire downtown community for decades. A local, woman-owned business doing work across the nation is a point of pride for us all. I look forward to what the next 30 years will bring!”



## **Meredith Martino**

Executive Director of Women in Government

“State & Federal Communications plays a critical role in the state legislative affairs community. Ensuring that legislators and lobbyists are in compliance with state ethics laws, the team at State & Federal helps make certain that Women In Government events are held with the highest level of integrity and a maximum level of transparency. Bringing years of familiarity with legislative leaders and state government relations professional to the table, Elizabeth Bartz and her staff elevate the work of Women In Government and its mission to empower women state legislators.”



## **Brian Patrick Kennedy**

RI Speaker Pro Tempore

President of the National Conference of State Legislatures

“In 2023, State and Federal Communications and Elizabeth Bartz celebrated the 30th Anniversary celebration of the founding of this woman-owned small business representing over 2,900 clients, and providing up-to-the-minute information on lobbying, procurement and compliance matters in the 50 US States, the US Territories, more than 300 US municipalities and 47 countries around the world. I have had the pleasure of working and interacting with Elizabeth and her team for many years at NCSL and I look forward to seeing what she can accomplish in the next 30 years!”





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