

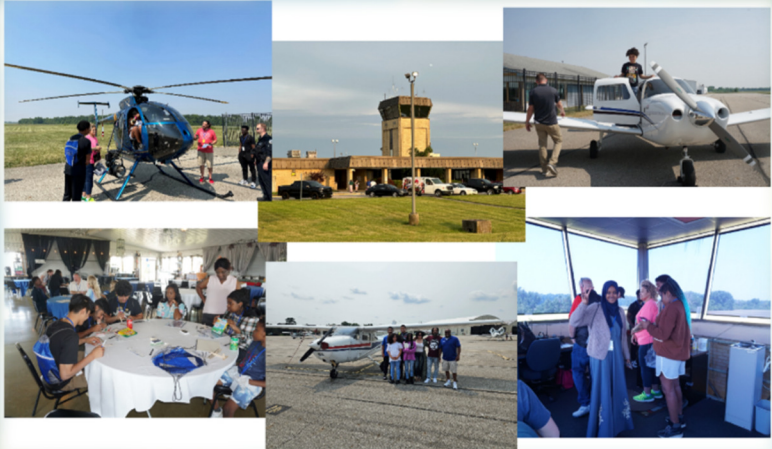
CCYA 2023 Annual Report



**CAPITAL CITY
YOUNG AVIATORS**

Together We Can.

*Helping local youth
who are at risk succeed
through aviation
based experiences.*



**Annual Report - Capital City Young Aviators (CCYA)
Year Ending December 31, 2023**

2023 CCYA Young Aviator Photos



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Welcome to Capital City Young Aviators (CCYA)

A central Ohio based non-profit organization, CCYA's purpose is to raise funds and to manage the community resources needed to provide this exciting opportunity to central Ohio youth. Our hope is that through flight, we can help send a message that all students, regardless of their circumstances or resources, can dream big and accomplish their goals in life, including flying and controlling a small plane over the Columbus area at over 3,000 feet. Through this program, students will gain a new perspective and the confidence needed to be successful in school, develop personal responsibility, focus on graduating high school and learn of other possible education or careers. Our program is for students ages 12-18 with an emphasis on developing career awareness, community service and opportunities outside their normal day to day environment.

Approved CCYA Young Flyers Students are nominated by pre-approved community partner organizations and the program runs primarily throughout the summer months. The program consists of:

- **Two Ground School education sessions** that includes exposure to aviation & general career development opportunities, college and technical education opportunities, testimonials from pilots and other expert volunteers and the development of a community service mindset. Students are also required to complete an education book to qualify for their flight.
- **Airport Fun Day** that includes special tours of airport tower, planes, education and additional discussion on careers and community service.
- **Personal flight** in small airplane with an FAA approved flight instructor. Flights are typically 45 minutes with the student participating in actual pre-flight planning, safety checklists, taxi, takeoff, flight and landing.
- **Special Trips** to additional locations including Columbus State Community College Aviation Mechanics School.
- **Year-End Recognition Event** to recognize each student for their accomplishments.

CCYA's Mission Statement

Capital City Young Aviators' mission is to provide encouragement, hope and mentoring to local middle and high school students through a unique and exciting life changing experience in aviation, organized mentoring and aviation-based scholarships.

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**Message from CCYA President & Founder,
James Lindner, CFP®, CLU®, ChFC®
President and CEO of Retirement Strategies, Ltd**

As every private pilot knows, one of the true joys about being able to fly an airplane is to be able to share that unique experience with others and see the true enjoyment on their faces, kids and adults alike.

After serving the youth of our community for over 30 years through numerous organizations as well as being a private pilot for 25 years, I had the opportunity to create a truly unique program for community youth called the CCYA Young Aviators Program. In addition to offering flying as a fun and unique experience to local youth, we believe this opportunity can also act as an impactful life changing catalyst providing the drive needed to each student to not only get through school, but to help them dream about what they might want to do after school as a career.

With our relationship with Capital City Aviation pilot training school, Columbus State Community College, United Way of Central Ohio and many other partners, we are able to work together to provide the experience needed to give each student the chance to not only gain a new experience but also build on their community network & career opportunities. To top it all off, after multiple class situations and airport visits, each student will get to fly in a small airplane (for nearly 45 minutes) and actually take the wheel (yoke) and fly it themselves. A true hands-on experience and feeling of accomplishment to say the least. In addition to the actual flying experience, the CCYA program provides education opportunities, career discussions, and a strong focus on community service, which we believe is a cornerstone to holistic growth as a young adult.

CCYA is a 501C3 non-profit organization and at no cost to the students or their families. We provide our special youth program by partnering with other great youth organizations in the area that nominate students they feel will benefit from an experience like this. To fund this great program, we partner with other great local businesses and donors who make this all happen. It is to all of them that I am truly appreciative. Going forward and for us to continue to grow and have as much impact as possible, I humbly ask you to please look into our program further and consider supporting us through donations or company sponsorship opportunities.

James Lindner

James Lindner, CFP®, CLU®, ChFC®
CCYA President & Founder

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2022 & 2023 Program Year Accomplishments

2022	501C3 Filed and Establishment of CCYA Working Board - Relationships built with community members, Board created and 501C3 application filed.
2022	100% Board Donation Participation - 100% of our board members donate to the CCYA mission and volunteer their time to our long-term success.
2023	501C3 Approved by IRS – 501C3 application approved
2023	Inaugural Diamond Event Fundraiser Held - CCYA’s first annual “Diamond Event Fundraiser” was held to great success providing enough funding required to host 18 students in 2023.
2023	Establishment of CCYA Advisory Panel – In addition to a working board of passionate community service minded professionals, an additional panel of influential advisors was created as a guide and support to CCYA Board Executive team. Members of CCYA Advisory Panel include those influential in the business community and experienced in working with organizations similar to CCYA
2023	Inaugural Student Program Kick-Off - CCYA begins inaugural “Young Aviators Club” program with 18 student applicants from ages 13 to 17 years old. Students are nominated through relationships that include United Way, Festa, KIPP Columbus, United Schools Network, Boy & Girls Club of Central Ohio, and others.
2023	CCYA Fun Day Airport Experience - CCYA Group celebration and educational experience event held at Bolton Field. This event kicks off the student flight experience with visiting an active airport, seeing & sitting in actual airplanes, visiting the control tower and hands-on education sessions. 15 of 18 Student Applicants in attendance.
2023	CCYA Ground School - CCYA programming includes a deeper dive in aviation education including possible career opportunities as well as the importance of community service.
2023	CCYA Community Organization Partnerships Developed - In creating the “Young Aviators” program, CCYA has developed relationships with other respected local organizations already working with students that are at-risk and great candidates for our flying program. These organizations act as a filtering and nominating process to help us find and work with the students that need it most. Organization already involved include United Way of Central Ohio, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Ohio, My Project USA, KIPP Columbus, United Schools Network, FESTA, and others.
2023	CCYA Business Sponsorship Platform Created - To successfully grow over time to serve as many children as possible, we have also created a fundraising effort from donors and businesses to help us reach our long-term goals. While already having met our financial budgetary needs to serve 30 students in 2024, we will be actively looking to grow dramatically over the next several years to include more children. Funding sponsors, in addition to a successful 2024 fundraising event, include: United Way of Central Ohio, Retirement Strategies, LLC., and several other local companies
2023	Implement On-Going Winter Education – Another part of our ongoing student engagement includes additional special trips throughout the school year to unique locations including aviation mechanic schools, FAA career development, community service events and many others.
2023	100% Board Donation Participation - 100% of our board members donate to the CCYA mission and volunteer their time to our long-term success.

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2023 Board of Directors Roster

Central Ohio Professional Education Council Board of Directors and Officers 2023:



James Lindner
CCYA Founder / President
President, Retirement Strategies, Ltd.



Thomas Backus
CCYA Vice President
Worthington Industries



Lynn McNabb
CCYA Secretary
HR Director, Sarnova



Jill Spradlin
CCYA Treasurer
President, RS Tax & Accounting, Inc



Thomas Miller
CCYA Compliance
Ashland, Inc.



Shreekanth, Chutkay
CCYA Marketing Chair
College Advantage



John Collins
CCYA Program Chair
Yachiyo of America



Ethan Peterson
CCYA Business Chair
Hub International



Jessica Collins
Board Member
Golowin Legal, LLC



Holli Houseworth
Board Member
Dir of Opps, Cloud Cover



Heather Backus
Board Member
Capital City Aviation

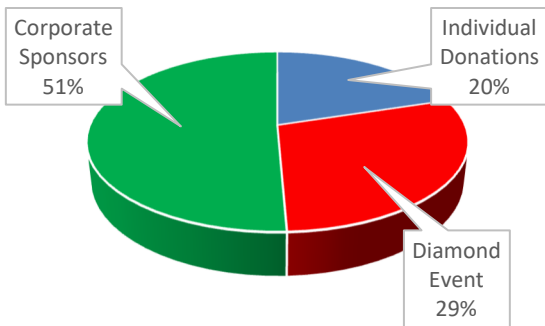
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2024 Budget Goals

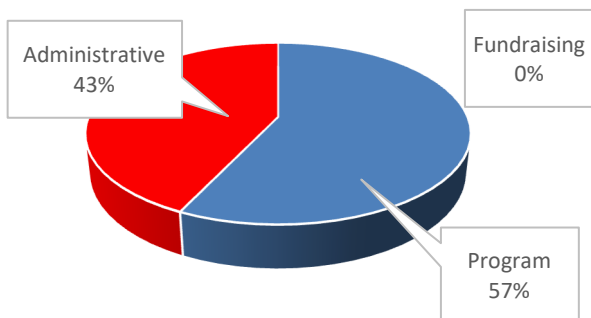
Capital City Young Aviators relies on the financial support of the community. Through fundraisers, donations and company sponsorship, CCYA is able to fund each student at a cost of approximately \$325 per student. This cost is kept low due to the volunteerism of our board and others committed to this effort. Donors and companies interested in supporting CCYA will know that the majority of all financial support will go directly to the students.

- **We continue to have 100% Board financial donation support**
- **Cost per student projections for 2024 is expected to be \$325 per student**
- **At close of fiscal year 2023, our net assets were \$11,584.**
- **Our 5-year income and programming goal** includes building a long-term fundraising campaign, adding new company sponsorships and applying for grants to bring in ~\$140,000 of income. This will provide the resources needed to serve over 120 students as well as hire a full-time Program Manager



2023 INCOME = \$19,737

● Individual Donations . . .	\$3,982	[21%]
● Diamond Event	\$5,755	[29%]
● Corporate Sponsors	\$10,000	[50%]



2023 EXPENSES = \$8,153

● Program	\$4,653	[57%]
● Administrative	\$3,499	[43%]
● Fundraising	\$0	[0%]

THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS



CCYA Advisory Panel

- **Lisa Courtice** – President, United Way of Central Ohio
- **Judy Dollison** – President, BBB of Central Ohio
- **Doug Hammon** – Chair, Columbus State Community College, Transportation Maintenance Technology
- **Tony Laska** – EVP & CIO, Encova Insurance
- **Rick Rieser** – Attorney at Davitz & Rieser, LLC and past CEO of the Buckeye Ranch
- **Jay Lindner** – Retirement Strategies, Ltd.
- **Lynn McNabb** – Sarnova, Inc.
- **Ethan Peterson** – Hub international
- **Tom Miller** – Ashland, Inc.

CCYA Community Partners

- Retirement Strategies, Ltd.
- United Way of Central Ohio
- Worthington Jewelers
- JPs BBQ
- Columbus State Community College
- Capital City Aviation
- Yabos Tacos

CCYA Student Sponsor Community Partners

- **FESTA**
www.wearefesta.org
- **All-THAT / Teens Hopeful About Tomorrow**
www.all-that.org
- **Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Ohio**
www.bgca.org
- **KIPP Columbus**
www.kippcolumbus.org
- **My Project USA**
www.myprojectusa.org
- **United Schools Network**
www.unitedschoolsnetwork.org

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Testimonials



Steve Kinsey
Vice President & Assistant Chief Flight Instructor – Capital City Aviation Flight Club
City of Columbus Police – Helicopter Pilot & CCYA - Youth Flight Instructor

I am incredibly grateful for the transformative impact that the Capital City Young Aviators Initiative has had on some of the lives of our local youth that are at-risk, and it's an honor to be part of this empowering program as an instructor and volunteer. As someone who personally navigated the challenges of my youth without the guidance of such a remarkable initiative, I truly wish something like this had existed for me. Watching these young minds flourish with newfound confidence, skills, and career development ideas has been nothing short of inspiring. The program's commitment to providing a supportive environment for these youths to explore their potential and discover meaningful career paths is commendable. It's not just about teaching; it's about instilling hope, fostering growth, and opening doors to a brighter future.

As a police officer, I have been faced with and observed many things. One of those things that is evident is that these young individuals face unique challenges that warrant our attention. Without sufficient guidance, many of these youths exhibit signs of frustration, aimlessness, and a lack of direction. The absence of positive role models and mentorship contributes to a sense of disconnect from societal norms. This not only places them at risk of engaging in undesirable activities but also impedes their overall development.

Being part of Capital City Young Aviators has not only allowed me to contribute to the success stories of these incredible individuals but has also given me a profound sense of fulfillment in knowing that we are shaping the leaders and changemakers of tomorrow. This initiative is not just a program; it's a beacon of hope, resilience, and opportunity for those who need it the most.



Doug Hammon
Chair – Transportation Maintenance Technology,
Columbus State Community College

I have over thirty years of experience in the transportation industry, a majority of that time in the aviation field. During that time, youth outreach and engagement was a priority of mine. The outreach programs I've implemented and those with which I am currently involved focus primarily on underrepresented youth, underemployed individuals, and minority recruitment.

At Columbus State, we welcome and engage all students in creating pathways that allow them to pursue their life goals. We recognize that more can be accomplished collaboratively than individually, and we seek like-minded partners to advance our shared goals. Of the many programs with which I have been involved, CCYA is one that is best poised to help our region's at-risk youth achieve life-defining dreams. The organization shares many of the same values that we do here at Columbus State Community College: Inclusion and Diversity; Quality Programs and Instructors; and learning a wide array of skills that will help individuals succeed not only in the classroom and at work, but also in life.

Join with us to strengthen the future of Central Ohio by supporting meaningful engagement of our region's youth.

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Kim Emch
Founder and Executive Director of Festa

I am the founder and Executive Director of Festa. Since 2007 while serving our neighbors, we have been connecting children and their families to resources. We care deeply about building connections that change lives. One such connection is with Capital City Young Aviators (CCYA). In January 2023, a High School Senior shared with us his dream of becoming a pilot after spending 11 years in a refugee camp and watching one plane fly overhead per month wondering who was flying it and where they were going.

This spring, I had a meeting with Festa’s longtime partner, Central Ohio United Way, and I shared the story of this young man’s dream and how Festa was working to help him navigate his education options. After hearing my story, they said, “You won’t believe this, but right before we got on this meeting”, our executive director told us there was a new organization called Capital City Young Aviators, and they were looking for young people who want to experience flying and possibly becoming a pilot. The program includes aviation education opportunities, hands-on exposure to airports, airplanes, and control towers as well as culminating in an actual 45-minute flight around Columbus.

I was able to connect this high school student with CCYA. He joined in 2023 where he had a fantastic experience and ultimately was able to take control and fly a plane, with me as a proud passenger (with an expert trainer of course)! His road to becoming a pilot will be long, but his experience with CCYA was so motivating it gave him the motivation to keep pursuing his dream. This whole experience was at no cost for this young man due to the generous donations supporting CCYA. I hope many other young people get this wonderful experience!



John Collins
Assistant Manager at Yachiyo of America Inc.

As a ward of the court, I felt as though I was just lost in the system and going through the motions. After I had made enough poor decisions, my social worker sat me down and let me know the work she was trying to do on my behalf was being undone by my poor decisions. This was the wakeup call I needed. Her interest in my wellbeing was motivating...and I wanted to prove to her that her interest was not in vain. I was able to take on my 1st Volunteer position, working at a Retirement Home at the age of 11, and that further opened my eyes to the value of giving back to the community. Over the years I have Volunteered with the Salvation Army, Youth Sports Programs, YMCA, Future Possibilities, and am now a CASA Guardian Ad Litem for FCCS. These experiences have had a profound impact on me and I only hope each volunteer and child gain the same enlightenment I have received over the years.

Now a CCYA Board member, CCYA encourages our young participants and volunteers to lean into their own experiences and discuss their career paths as well. Our program is officially off the ground, with clear skies ahead, but we are always looking to bring in partners to enrich our program and make sure we don’t get stuck in the same flight pattern. If this sounds like a place you’d like to be, whether to help mentor, teach, learn, or grow, come join us, who knows you just might help someone achieve their dreams...that someone could even be you!

“It’s not where you’re from, it’s where you’re going...” ~J.Collins A little nugget I like to throw out to the youth I work with...so the question is, “Where are you going?”

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Lynn McNabb
Director of Human Resources of Sarnova, CCYA Board Member

Working with kids has always been near and dear to my heart. I have coached youth and high school soccer, taught Sunday school, been a girl scout troop leader, and engaged in several other community service opportunities. There are so many worthwhile opportunities to give back, but I am particularly excited about the work CCYA is doing.

I was fortunate to grow up with a truly supportive family who always encouraged me that I could accomplish anything and that the sky was the limit. I realize however that this is not everyone's story. Some may feel limited by their personal circumstances, may not have strong mentors in their lives, or may not have ready access to opportunities to grow and develop. This is what I love about CCYA. It can be a game changer by showing youth that the sky really IS possible. Whether it is opening their eyes through an experience to go up in an airplane, or broadening their horizons on what a career could potentially look like outside of what they typically see in their everyday lives, CCYA can open doors to many new opportunities. While this program provides a unique insight into aviation and experiences around that industry, the children do not have to exclusively want a career in this field to benefit from involvement. It is about empowering young people to invest in themselves, learn about what can await them in the future, and through the generosity of caring companies and individuals, any child's narrative can truly change.

To me, this program is about cultivating each child's hope and showing them that they can strive for their dreams. I am so proud to be able to serve on the board of CCYA as acting Secretary and to be part of positively impacting others. It is an honor to be involved with this type of organization and we would love for you to consider individually or corporately becoming a sponsor of this worthwhile program.

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