



## Looking Back and Looking Forward

2024 was an incredible year for Progress Grove City! Please check out our first new and improved newsletter to see what we've done in this past year and what our focus will be for the new one!

As we kick off Progress 2025, we reflect on where we've been and where we'd like to go. Our core values are consistently the promotion of truth, inclusivity, equality, collaboration, education, and advocacy - just as they have always been. But in addition to those values, it is also our mindful intention to "lean into community" in 2025.

Community is characterized by a sense of belonging, mutual support, and shared values. Although many of us were incredibly disappointed with our national election results in November, the good news is that we've seen this movie before. But this time around we can navigate our disappointment and next steps together and not in isolation, and that can make all the difference!

Together, we have created in Grove City Area Progress a consistent community - focused on support, inclusivity, and opportunity. We value each and every one of you and look forward to living our principles together in 2025. Stay tuned for lots of friendship, fun, and interesting opportunities to serve others as we move onward and upward.

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"Alone, we can do so little. Together, we can do so much."  
- Helen Keller

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## Our Year In Review

For an all volunteer organization, we accomplished so much in 2024! We officially registered with the state as a club and began collecting memberships. Those dues were spent on things like establishing the group, postcards for community projects, a banner to promote our group, union printed business cards and stickers, fees for voter registration booths and booths at Pridefest, and postage.

We got a lot done on the activism front as well. We sent over 4,000 postcards - supporting Sherrod Brown, Postcards for Swing States, MomsRising, and Southwest Public Libraries. We text banked and reached over 3,000 voters for the Vote Yes campaign. We canvassed, hosted a booth on 7 different occasions to register voters and help them apply for absentee ballots, and held multiple training events on ways to be involved and politically active.

Socially, we held regular weekly events and facilitated ways to build community and held several parties and potlucks. These have included the annual White Elephant party, our first ever Friendsgiving, and our First Annual (Chosen) Family Reunion.

We were also successful in supporting our local community in some really meaningful ways with so much help from our members. We held a coat drive, adopted multiple families from the Head Start center and were able to meet all of their needs, donated household items and gifts for the center's Giving Tree, collected funds for grocery and gas gift cards, and a bulk gift card to serve the center's families going forward. We were able to guarantee that every single child at the center was able to pick out a special toy for themselves. Thank you for making this possible!

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## Community Spotlight



### Spotlight on Kyra Paul: Community Liaison Extraordinaire

Meet Kyra Paul, our shining beacon of positivity and organization in the role of Community Liaison! With her can-do attitude and a genuine desire to make a difference, Kyra has quickly become an invaluable member of our group. Her approach is infused with laughter and warmth, wrapped up in a beautiful package of sunshine and smiles.

Since joining us, Kyra has hit the ground running, bringing forth innovative ideas to connect Progress Grove City with opportunities that strengthen our community. One of her remarkable initiatives involved partnering with Head Start to adopt multiple families during the holidays, ensuring that every child receives toys and care. Her heartfelt commitment to children truly makes a difference in their lives.

Kyra is also a master at resource management, skillfully stretching our dollars to maximize our impact. Thanks to her efforts, we've been able to offer nearly double the assistance through generous donations from our members.

Moreover, she has collaborated with Joy Metzger to provide our group with valuable volunteering opportunities at the free clothing store at Westland High School. Her passion for community service is contagious, inspiring others to join in the effort.

In every endeavor, Kyra exudes positivity and a true commitment to making our community a better place. We are incredibly grateful to have her as our Community Liaison!

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## Five Minute Activism

Indivisible Central Ohio has some great suggestions for meaningful ways to spend your Monday, January 20.

- UAPA Food Drive from 11am-1pm in the Tremont Rd. Library parking lot
- Day of Youth Service from 12pm-3pm at Ohio History Center, 800 E. 17th Ave.
- City of Columbus MLK Day March, 4:30pm at Lincoln Theatre



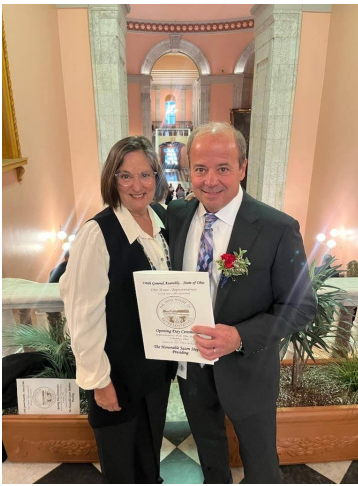
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### Next Up...

Please be sure to register and join us on Monday, January 27th for our 2024 recap and monthly meeting. We will be getting to know some local organizations that are doing great work here, in the "speed dating" format that we've come to love!

[You can register here...](#)



Congratulations to Grove City's own Mark Sigrist, representing Ohio House District 10. Mark has served Grove City faithfully through the years, and we were so proud to support this campaign. We look forward to your contributions in making Ohio the best it can be.



This group consistently enjoys fantastic times together, and the 2024 White Elephant party was no exception! It was a delightful and laughter-filled success! We are truly grateful for the wonderful people who come together to make these events so memorable.



As the new year begins, we will be collecting membership dues for 2025. This is a yearly fee of \$25 per person and gets you one free weather resistant sticker as well as access to our more private conversations. We have listed examples above of what the money goes to and are happy to answer any other questions. You can easily submit your annual dues by clicking the button at the top!



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