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THE

NEW ALBANY LECTURE

SERIES

CHRISTIAN SLATER

Interviewed by
NEDA ULABY

Mental Health & Wellness

May 11, 2026

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MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS DISCUSSION

May 11, 2026

7:00 p.m.

WELCOME BY

DR. MICHAEL W. DENNIS, ESQ.

*Vice President, Chief Science Officer and Chief Legal Officer
 CAS, a division of the American Chemical Society*

PROGRAM

CHRISTIAN SLATER

Award-Winning Actor and Mental Health Advocate

Interviewed by

NEDA ULABY

Reporter, NPR's Arts Desk

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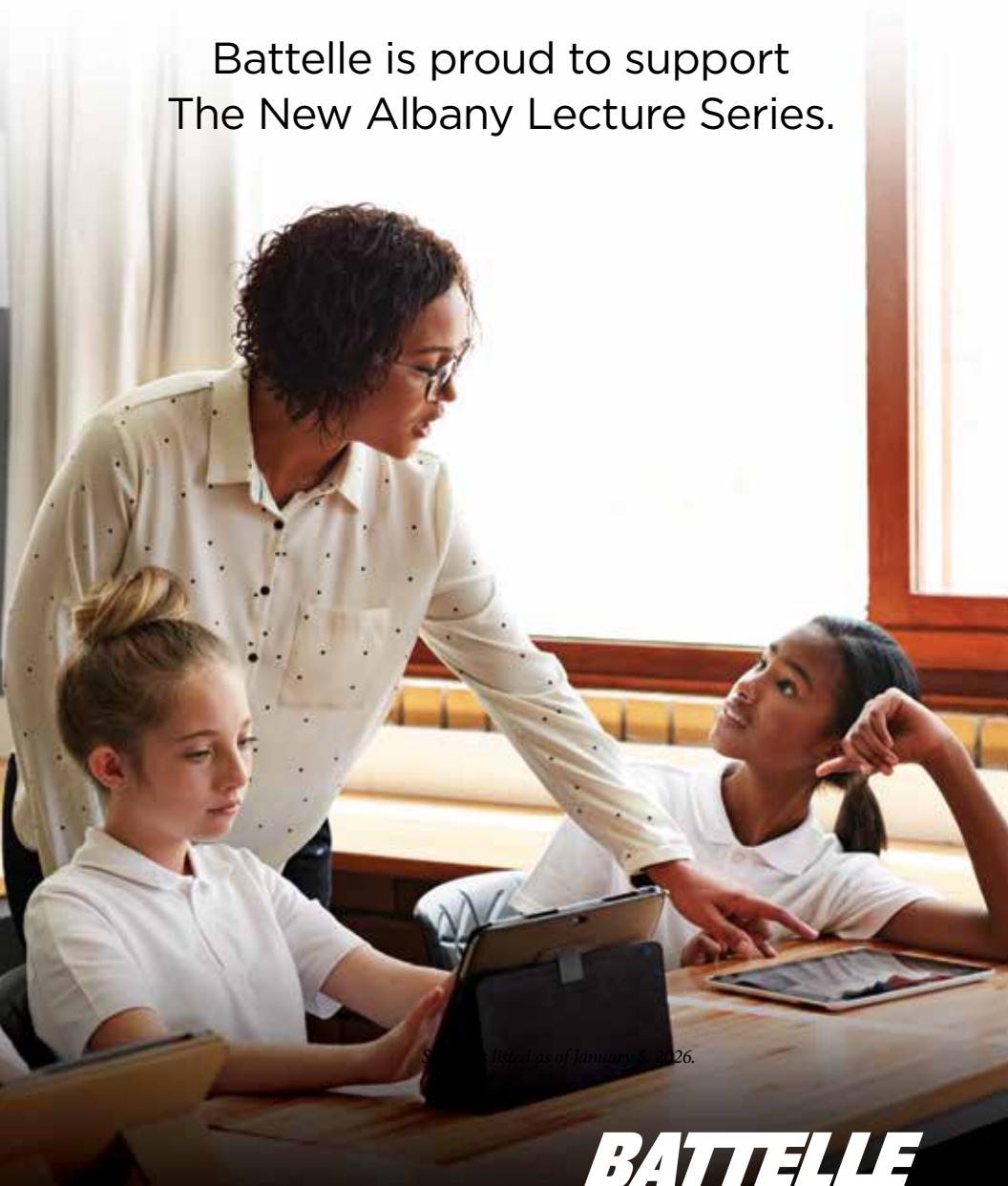
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A limited number of listening devices for the hearing impaired are available for tonight's New Albany Lecture Series program. Devices can be used with headphones or the option of a neck loop to be used with hearing aids. Devices can be retrieved from the box office in exchange for a driver's license or similar form of ID and must be returned to the box office at the end of the program. Please see an usher or visit the box office if you have any questions.

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Dear Friends, Donors and Sponsors:

Tonight marks the close of the 2025–2026 New Albany Lecture Series season. We are honored to welcome accomplished actor and mental health advocate Christian Slater—whose work has entertained millions and whose advocacy continues to spark important conversations.



Mental health and wellness remain pressing concerns, especially for young people. It is our hope that tonight's program helps reduce the stigma around behavioral health and encourages those in need to seek support.

The New Albany Lecture Series and Student Lecture Series are among the nation's most respected, thanks in large part to the generosity of our donors and sponsors. We're proud of the exceptional speakers we've brought to New Albany and central Ohio, and proud that more than 37,000 students from 50 area schools have engaged with thought leaders—Christian Slater included—through our student programming.

Over the years we've hosted Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners, diplomats, military leaders, economists, mental health advocates, and many others who have advanced our mission: to promote lifelong learning and provide a platform for civil discourse on the issues that matter. That mission has never been more vital.

We are deeply grateful to every sponsor and donor who makes this work possible. We're also excited to announce our 2026–2027 speaker lineup—and believe it is the best yet, so please look for an announcement this evening!

With appreciation,

Craig Mohre, President
The New Albany
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Encova Insurance strives to be present in our communities and values fostering strong relationships. By partnering with the New Albany Community Foundation, we hope to leave a lasting impression in the communities we serve. We are proud to support their commitment to educate youth, share knowledge and engage with our community. Programs like The New Albany Lecture Series advance a shared collective responsibility to create something greater than ourselves.



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CHRISTIAN SLATER

Award-Winning Actor and Mental Health Advocate



CHRISTIAN SLATER With humor and sincerity, Christian Slater discusses his life and work, from growing up in New York City as a child actor to achieving worldwide fame at a young age, capturing the extraordinary highs and lows of a remarkable life nearly destroyed by drug addiction and the excruciating, humanizing process of starting over again.

Slater grew up in a subsidized housing project in Hell's Kitchen, raised by a single mother and haunted by an unpredictable, schizophrenic father. He had a professionally printed resumé by age four and debuted on Broadway at age nine, permanently dropping out of traditional school to appear as Winthrop in *The Music Man*

opposite Dick Van Dyke for eight shows a week, plus a national tour.

At fifteen, Slater starred opposite Sean Connery in *The Name of the Rose*, and enjoyed an ascendant stardom for years thereafter, starring in iconic roles in *Heathers*, *Pump up the Volume*, *Robin Hood*, *True Romance*, and *Interview with the Vampire*. His struggles with alcohol and drug addiction grew as his star rose, finally spilling into the public sphere and threatening his life, his family, and his career.

Now twenty years sober, Slater speaks openly about his recovery journey, growing up in the limelight, his approach to maintaining a long and fulfilling career, and his experience as an actor across stage, tv, and film. His story of recovery and taking his life back amidst the wreckage of drug and alcohol abuse is an inspiration to those struggling with addiction and anyone facing seemingly insurmountable circumstances. His willingness to share his story speaks to his dedication to destigmatizing mental illness and championing increased access to robust mental health and recovery support systems.

Slater's experience finding meaning as an artist across decades is an example to anyone looking to build a long-term and resonant career that defies convention. His perspective as an actor and producer who has worked with some of Hollywood's most respected writers and directors—Quentin Tarantino, Francis Ford Coppola, Jean-Jacques Annaud, Tony Scott, John Woo, Lars von Trier, Eric Idle, and Sam Esmail — provides a singular window into a rarefied world, relevant to anyone interested in the hard-won artistic lessons and extraordinary life experiences of a New York kid who achieved the impossible.

As the title character of *Mr. Robot*, Slater won a Golden Globe and a Critics' Choice Award and shared in the show's Peabody, Critics' Choice, Golden Globe, and AFI Award wins as a producer of the series. Since then, he's starred in *Dirty John*, *Dr. Death*, *Blink Twice*, and *Dexter: Original Sin*, Showtime's most viewed show in ten years. His performance in *Dr. Death* also earned him a Critics' Choice Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor. Slater has enjoyed a storied stage career as well, leading a smash-hit West End revival of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, which

Continued next page

CHRISTIAN SLATER *Continued from previous page*

opened to rave reviews and closed after two extensions and 150 sold-out shows. He's also lit up the stage in productions of *The Glass Menagerie*, *Spamalot*, and *Glengarry Glen Ross*. His latest stage credit is as Weston Tate in the off-Broadway revival of Sam Shepard's *Curse of the Starving Class*, starring opposite Calista Flockhart.

From Hell's Kitchen to Broadway, from fan-mail services and MTV Movie Awards to Peabody's and Golden Globes, from studios to streamers, from *Teen Beat* to the *New York Times*, Christian Slater survived child stardom and teen idolatry, addiction and public collapse to forge cultural relevance in a new era. In his fifth decade as a working actor, he is ready to share his story. ~

NEDA ULABY

Reporter, NPR's Arts Desk

NEDA ULABY reports on arts, entertainment, and cultural trends for NPR's Arts Desk.

Scouring the various and often overlapping worlds of art, music, television, film, new media and literature, Ulaby's stories reflect political and economic realities, cultural issues, obsessions and transitions.

A twenty-year veteran of NPR, Ulaby started as a temporary production assistant on the cultural desk, opening mail, booking interviews and cutting tape with razor blades. Over the years, she's also worked as producer and editor and won a Gracie award from the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation for hosting a podcast of NPR's best arts stories.

Ulaby also hosted the Emmy-award winning public television series *Arab American Stories* in 2012 and earned a 2019 Knight-Wallace Fellowship at the University of Michigan. She's also been chosen for fellowships at the Getty Arts Journalism Program at USC Annenberg and the Knight Center for Specialized Journalism.

Before coming to NPR, Ulaby worked as a managing editor of Chicago's *Windy City Times* and co-hosted a local radio program, *What's Coming Out at the Movies*. A former doctoral student in English literature, Ulaby has contributed to academic journals and taught classes in the humanities at the University of Chicago, Northern Illinois University and at high schools serving at-risk students.

Ulaby worked as an intern for the features desk of the *Topeka Capital-Journal* after graduating from Bryn Mawr College. But her first appearance in print was when she was only four days old. She was pictured on the front page of the *New York Times*, as a refugee, when she and her parents were evacuated from Amman, Jordan, during the conflict know as Black September. ~



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cas.org

We are honored to welcome Christian Slater as tonight's special guest. His long career in film and television, combined with his thoughtful advocacy for mental well-being, makes him a powerful voice in this important conversation that affects us all.

At CAS, we believe that science, learning, and community are inextricably linked. Evenings like this spark dialogue, broaden understanding, and create space for topics like mental health that truly matter.

We're grateful you are all here to be part of this important conversation. We hope tonight's program encourages reflection, connection, and inspiration to continue strengthening our communities and the great people who make them special.



Dr. Michael Dennis,
VP & Chief Science Officer

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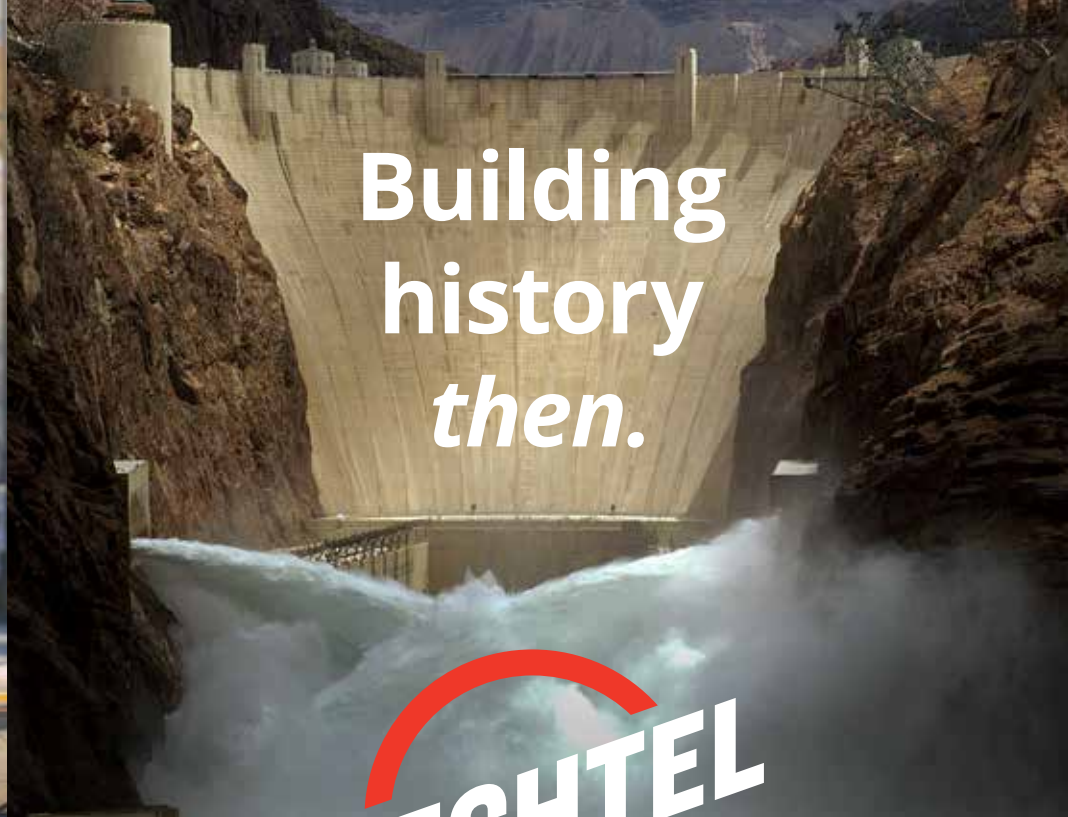
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How you can support THE NEW ALBANY LECTURE SERIES

A priority for the Foundation moving forward is to endow The New Albany Lecture Series. This will enable the Foundation to continue to present high-quality speakers while keeping lectures accessible to the entire community, including students, senior citizens and veterans. Additionally, endowing The New Albany Lecture Series would allow the Foundation to continue to invest in other transformative projects and initiatives in the community. Already, several families have established endowment funds to support the series.

If you are interested in establishing a fund or simply making a contribution to The New Albany Lecture Series Endowment Fund, please contact Craig Mohre at 614-939-8150 or craigmohre@newalbanyfoundation.org to support The New Albany Community Foundation's programming.



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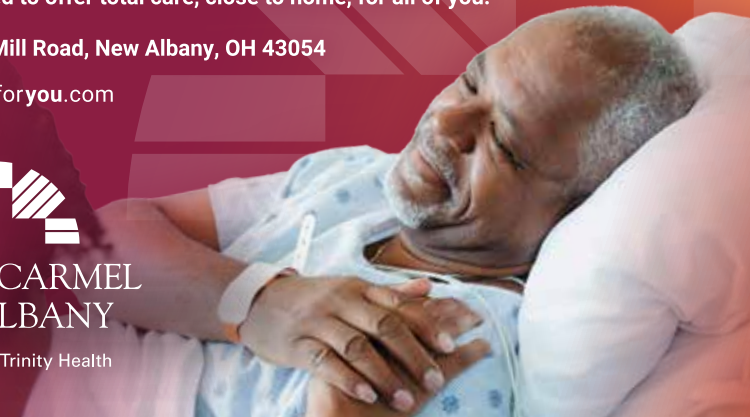
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In response to its donors' desire to support The Student Lecture Series, The New Albany Community Foundation established The Lifelong Learning Circle. Visit newalbanyfoundation.org to become a member of The Lifelong Learning Circle and help the Foundation underwrite the cost of the series so that central Ohio students can benefit from these programs.

This season the Foundation hosted two student lectures and welcomed over a dozen area high schools at the McCoy Center. Today's lecture covered the topic of mental health with award-winning actor and mental health advocate Christian Slater interviewed by two New Albany High School students. In April, the student lecture focused on civil discourse and debate featuring James Carville and Reince Priebus. Both lectures were also live streamed giving central Ohio students the opportunity to participate virtually from their schools.





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-Helen Keller

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Jennifer Doudna 2021, Walter Isaacson 2021, Dr. Mark T. Esper 2022, Dr. Richard Haass 2022, Linsey Davis 2022, George W. Bush 2023, Interviewer 2023, Jon Meacham 2023



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Michael Hayden 2018, Stanley McChrystal 2018, Peter Pace 2018, Fareed Zakaria 2018, Chris Matthews 2018, Elizabeth Vargas 2018, Sanjay Gupta 2018



Stephen Hadley 2018, Michael Hayden 2018, Samantha Power 2018, Fareed Zakaria 2018, Glenn Close 2019, Noah Feldman 2019, Jeffrey Toobin 2019



Madeleine Albright 2019, Colin Powell 2019, Fareed Zakaria 2019, Newt Gingrich 2020, Valerie Jarrett 2020, Eddie S. Glaude Jr. 2020



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David McCullough 2002-03 Wendy Wasserstein 2004 Doris Kearns Goodwin 2006 John Irving 2007 Walter Isaacson 2008 Michael Beschloss 2009



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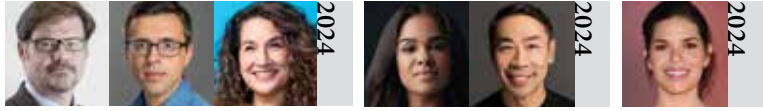
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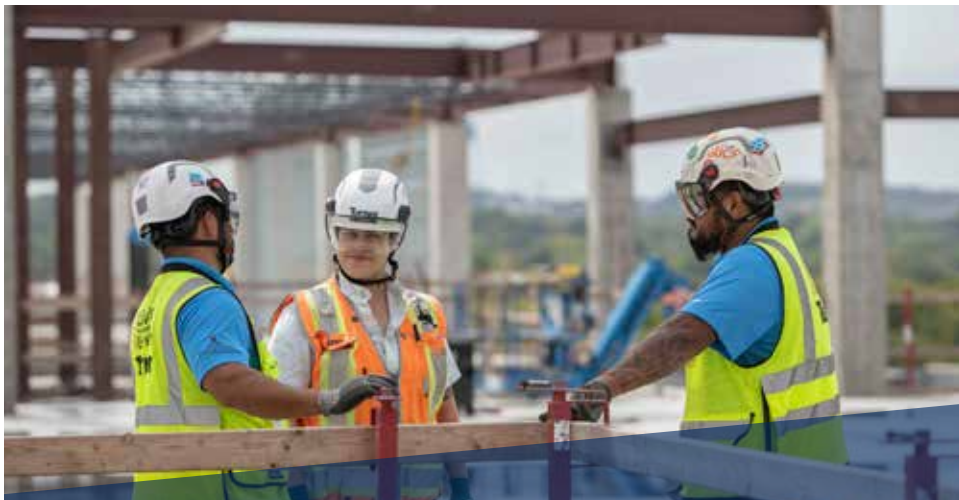
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Grants to the community recently surpassed \$25 million since the Foundation's inception, thanks to generous donors who give annually or have established 94 funds at the Foundation.

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- Buddy Up for Life
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- Dreams on Horseback
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- The Garden For All
- Healthy New Albany Farmers Market/ Food Pantry/Community Garden/CARES Program
- The Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts
- LifeCare Alliance
- LifeTown
- LifeWise Academy
- Mid-Ohio Foodbank
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
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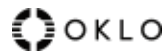
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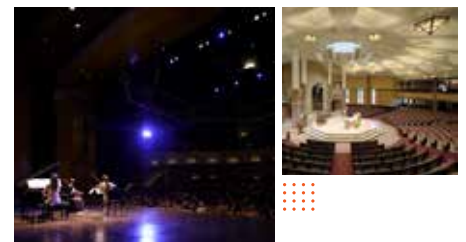
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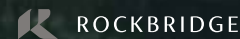


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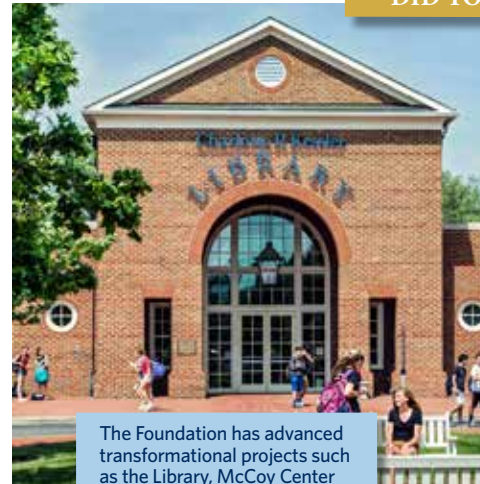
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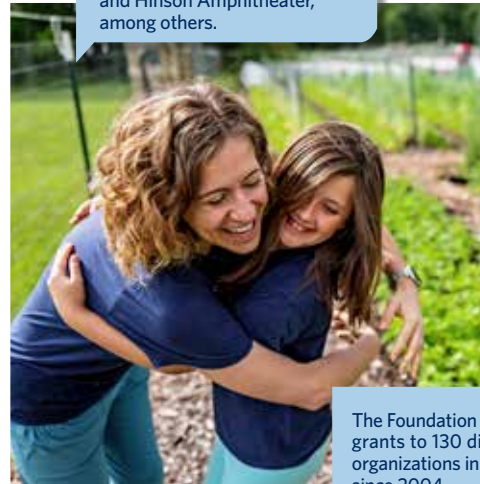
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The Foundation has awarded grants to 130 different organizations in our community since 2004.



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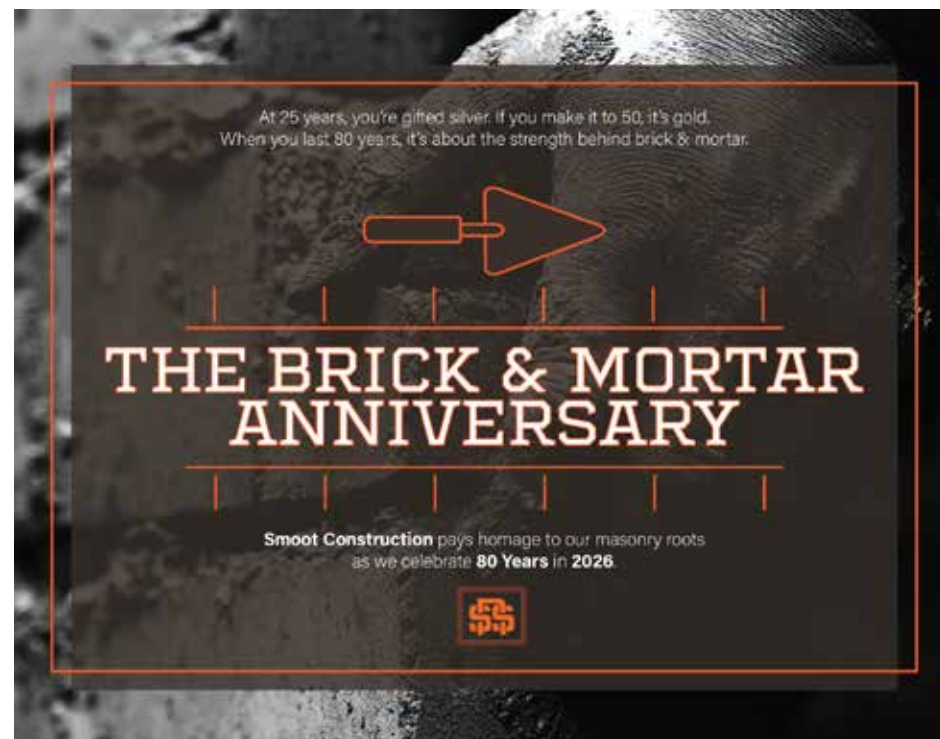
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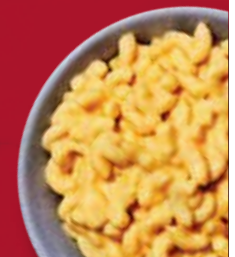
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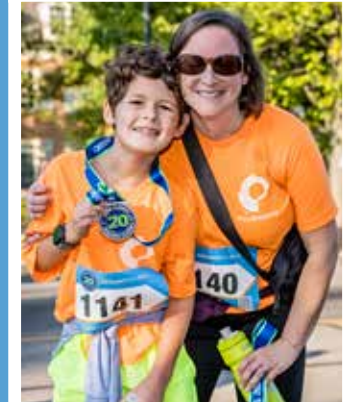
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