Western Reserve Historical Society Receives Coveted Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

CLEVELAND, OH—America’s largest independent charity evaluator, Charity Navigator, has awarded “four stars” to Western Reserve Historical Society. This is the highest, most prestigious recognition that can be earned from Charity Navigator. It is based on sound fiscal management, a commitment to accountability, and fiscal transparency.

Since 2002, using data-driven analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added a second dimension of Accountability and Transparency to its rating methodology, and now reviews 17 governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, and providing information on its website, for each of the charities it evaluates. The Accountability and Transparency metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity’s overall rating, reveal which charities have “best practices” that minimize the chance of unethical activities, and whether they freely share basic information about their organization with their donors and other stakeholders.

“We received 70 out of 70 on ‘Accountability and Transparency’” said Gainor B. Davis, PhD., President and CEO of Western Reserve Historical Society. “We are scoring higher than our peer institutions, and perhaps more importantly, we are achieving the highest levels of financial stewardship and professionalism. Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously.”

According to Ken Berger, President and CEO, Charity Navigator, “Supporters of Western Reserve Historical Society should feel confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly since it has achieved such an outstanding ranking on these important financial metrics.”

Dr. Davis said, “In 2017 we will reach a significant milestone, our 150th anniversary. Building on our financial strength, we are boldly inserting WRHS into conversations as people talk about cultural institutions in Northeast Ohio. We must be in the conversations and on people’s minds to accomplish our mission. The Western Reserve has a remarkable history comprised of the tangible material created by families—many of them immigrant families—who settled in Northeast Ohio. Our mission at WRHS is to collect and preserve their artifacts and stories to share them with you. Having our financial house in order allows us to reach out to more people and more organizations for partners and supporters.”
Read more about WRHS on Charity Navigator’s website.

About Charity Navigator:

Charity Navigator is America’s premier independent charity evaluator. It helps charitable givers make intelligent giving decisions by providing in-depth, objective ratings and analysis of the financial health and accountability & transparency of America’s largest charities. Charity Navigator awarded Western Reserve Historical Society four out of a possible four stars indicating that WRHS adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities. Additionally, it indicates that WRHS consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Learn more about the 4-star rating online.

Founded in 1867, Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) is Northeast Ohio’s premier storyteller based on its vast collection of the tangible history of Northeast Ohio—such as: automobiles, airplanes, archives, books, carousel horses, ceramics, decorative arts, diaries, furniture, gardens, garments, genealogical resources, historic buildings, letters, maps, paintings, photographs, shoes, toys, uniforms, and weapons. It is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit regional historical societies in the nation. It presents the lives and activities of 19th-Century settlers through historic Hale Farm & Village in Bath, Ohio, and it presents the glitter and industry of the Gilded Age of through the history of Cleveland’s millionaires and entrepreneurs. WRHS offers a wealth of resources to research your family heritage at the History Center in University Circle, Cleveland. For more information on the Western Reserve Historical Society, 10825 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106 visit: http://www.wrhs.org/ or contact Jane M. Mason, Vice President of Communications and Marketing jmason@wrhs.org, 216-721-5722, x 1501.

WRHS is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga county through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Sponsorships, bequests, grants, admissions, and other funding are used by WRHS to preserve and enrich the region’s artistic and cultural heritage. If you are interested in a funding opportunity for the Western Reserve Historical Society, please contact Amy Shorey, Vice President of Development, ashorey@wrhs.org

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