

As Crane Group succeeds, so does community

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The Crane Group has played a key role in making Columbus a great place to live and work. The privately held, family-owned holding and management company — still known to many by its previous name of Crane Plastics — has been dedicated to its employees and community for nearly 70 years.

The company traces its roots to 1947, the year Robert Crane Sr. started a modest plastics manufacturing company called Taytec Corp.

An entrepreneur at heart, Crane made many smart decisions that helped his little company grow steadily into a successful manufacturer of building products.

For example, he took a chance on the latest toy craze in 1958 to benefit his company. Taytec sold hula hoops to help finance the purchase of additional equipment. The decision paid off, as the company turned a profit in an otherwise bad year for the plastics extrusion industry.

It hopes that the family business would endure, Crane's sons, Bob and Jim, recruited a third generation of Cranes to join the company in the late 1980s.

Under the leadership of Bob's daughter, Tanny, and Jim's son, Mike, Crane Plastics became the Crane Group, and the company began to

diversify. Today, the Crane Group has its own investment company as well as five businesses involved in everything from roofing to shore protection systems to gas monitoring, crushing and screening equipment, and even upscale pet boarding.

Huntington National Bank has served as the Crane Group's financial partner since the 1990s, and Tanny Crane has overseen the growth of Huntington as a member of its board of directors since 2010.

"We are all about relationships, both personal and professional," Tanny Crane said. "We value the partnership we have with Huntington in growing our business and our shared commitment to doing the right thing for our customers, colleagues and communities."

While the Crane Group's holdings have changed, its core philosophies haven't. As a family-run business, the company believes in encouraging a sense of family in the workplace, sharing success with associates, and giving back through philanthropic commitments to educational excel-



lence, health and wellness, and the arts. These philosophies help explain why the Crane Group has become such a high-performing business, respected employer and valued corporate citizen.

Indeed, the company has a strong track record of neighborhood stewardship, mentoring and convening others to join in supporting the communities where it operates. Its industry-leading "Crane on Board" program recently celebrated 12 years of empowering all associates who are managers to actively serve on local nonprofit boards benefiting more than 100 organizations and the citizens they serve.

Crane Group has also served as a philanthropic innovator and lead investor. It has created pioneering organizations like the Crane Center for Early Education, Research & Policy; Reeb Avenue Center; Ann Burba Crane



IMAGES COURTESY THE CRANE FAMILY AND REEB AVENUE CENTER

At left, generations of the Crane Family at Ohio Stadium. Above, Tanny Crane at the Reeb Avenue Center ribbon cutting in September 2015.

Center for Woman and Babies; Jameson Crane Sports Medicine Institute and the Loann Crane Center for Design at Columbus College of Art & Design.

In 2014, the Columbus Foundation honored the entire Crane family with the Harrison M. Sayre Award recognizing their philanthropic leadership, heralding the family's multigenerational commitment and the difference it has made in the lives of so many.

With two fourth-generation family members involved in the business, the future of the Crane Group is brighter than ever. And if the past 70 years is any indication, that bodes well for all of Columbus.

This is the 16th in a series of stories celebrating Columbus to mark Huntington's 150th anniversary. Learn more at huntington150years.com.