

About Sally and Bob Gries

Sally and Bob Gries are enthusiastic proponents of Hawken School; its mission, values, faculty, and administration. Bob, an alumnus (Robert D., Class of '44) and Sally, a life trustee, are proud to say that "We are a Hawken family." They believe that Hawken School has been a positive force in the development of their son (Robert D. Gries, Jr., '76), nephews, Thomas R. Cole, '81 (deceased) and David G. Cole, '85, and niece by marriage, Jamie Lapine Cole, '87. Currently, the next generation includes Jacob Gries, '12, Annabelle Gries '14, Lauren Cole, '16, and Elizabeth Cole, '19, who are attending Hawken School and loving it, and Suzie Wager is applying for the class of '15. Their son, Donald, is Coach of Hawken's Men's Varsity Lacrosse, an assistant football coach and a counselor at Hawken Day Camp.

Sally and Bob Gries are long time benefactors, faithfully supporting Hawken's Annual Fund and contributing to capital campaigns for campus improvements and endowment. The Gries Lobby in Hawken's Upper School Athletic Field House is named in honor of their past leadership support.

One of their main areas of interest has always been community service. Over the years they have directed contributions to such programs at Hawken as Bright Horizons that increase student awareness of community service, instill in students the value of community involvement and empower students to make a difference that positively impacts others. In addition to their philanthropic support of these programs, they oftentimes attend the programs, including the theatrical production performed by Citizens' Academy students in conjunction with Hawken Upper School Bright Horizons participants, and the Mini Olympics.

Their dedication to community service extends throughout Cleveland. Together they support a variety of civic, educational, art, health and social service institutions, volunteering significant time. Sally was an active member of the Hawken Board for over 20 years and served as Treasurer and Chair of the Investment Committee. She is the immediate past Chair of The Holden Arboretum, and is on the board of Case Western Reserve University and Town Hall. She is a trustee of the Gries Family Foundation. She serves on several investment committees of not-for-profit institutions. She is the Chairman, President and CEO of Gries Financial LLC. and has the distinction of founding the first female-owned investment management and financial planning firm in the state of Ohio. She is also a founder and chairman of Fieldstone Realty Partners LLC.

Bob has served on over 30 boards of non-profit institutions, currently serving on half that number, some for over 30 and 40 years. In 2000 he co-chaired the civic committee that recommended, and against heavy odds, helped pass the Bond Issue that is providing over \$1 billion to repair the Cleveland Public Schools. A fifth generation Clevelander, his family has been involved in the building of Cleveland since the arrival of his great, great grandfather in 1837, the first Jewish settler in our city.

Bob, a former venture capitalist, and minority owner of the Cleveland Browns, now is an extreme endurance athlete, whose 72 adventures throughout the world include a run from Death Valley to the top of Mt. Whitney, a one week race across the Sahara, a 1000 mile bike ride across the Gobi Desert from Mongolia to Beijing, and climbs of 22 mountains including the highest in Antarctica and the Arctic.