

## ◀ CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY AWARDS

Commercial Real Estate

# Corporate Philanthropy Awards: Schnitzer Properties, enterprise category



CommuniCare staff with Jordan D. Schnitzer at one of CommuniCare's grant awards ceremonies in 2023. From left, Erik Furst, Jordan D. Schnitzer, Kristen Engfors, Kelli Schlegelmilch, and Andrea Van Hagen.

COURTESY OF SCHNITZER PROPERTIES

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**What it does:** Privately held real estate company that develops, acquires and manages properties

**Location:** Portland

**Senior executive:** Jordan D. Schnitzer, president

**Number of employees:** 169

**Cash contributions to Oregon nonprofits in 2022:** \$25,971,791

**Employee volunteer hours/pro bono work in 2022:** 1,000 hours

Schnitzer Properties' giving is driven the Schnitzer family's long-running philanthropic commitment to Portland. With the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, the family company has supported area needs in education, medicine, housing and homeless services, and the arts. Just through its cultural contributions, Schnitzer has supported more exhibitions featuring artists of color and women artists than any other organization in the country, including 180 exhibitions at 120 museums nationwide.

**How does this company choose where to direct philanthropic work?** When my late parents, Arlene and Harold Schnitzer, were alive, the three of us would sit down together and go through approximately 250 requests a year. When my mother asked me to take over the foundation, I decided that it was too time consuming, and I decided to shift the foundation to increase several programs that we have, like CommuniCARE. Since I took over the program, it has grown from 47 to 1,700 students, who directed \$980,000 of contributions to 115 nonprofits in the community during 2023. We now focus on larger commitments to major community educational, medical, and cultural projects.

**How does this company encourage employee participation?** For decades, we have had a matching program, which has incentivized employees to make contributions to nonprofits of their choice, which we then match. We also have staff participate in

programs like SnowCap, a food bank in Gresham, where many of us would volunteer to hand out boxes of food during the holiday season.

**What nonprofit partners does this company work with and how were they chosen?** We try to balance our philanthropic efforts into several major categories. First, my late father, Harold Schnitzer, was a diabetic, so we established the Harold Schnitzer Diabetic program at OHSU, which last year saw 8,000 patients. We are working now to establish a Harold Schnitzer Residency Program at the Stanford Medical Center in the Bay Area. We continue to support the Opera, the Ballet, the Symphony, Portland Center Stage, Body Vox in Portland, as well as similar performing arts organizations in several other cities in the Western United States. We also work with major social service agencies such as Volunteers of America and others who help deal with alcohol, drug addiction and homelessness. Our acquisition of Wapato, which has been renamed Bybee Lakes, has served over 2,200 people experiencing homelessness.

**What plans does this company have to expand philanthropic efforts?** At the current time, we are working on three multi-million dollar major educational and cultural projects. Hopefully, we will be able to support these projects and there will be public announcements in the future. These are projects which I know my parents, as well as my children, and all of the 300 amazing staff members at Schnitzer Properties would be very proud of!

*Answers provided by Schnitzer Properties President Jordan D. Schnitzer.*

**T H E L I S T**

## **Corporate Philanthropy Awards - Enterprise (annual revenue over \$100 million)**

2022 OR/SW WA cash contributions

| Rank | Prior Rank | Name / prior rank / URL  |
|------|------------|--|
| 1    | 1          | Schnitzer Properties / The Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation |
| 2    | 2          | Nike Inc.  |
| 3    | 3          | Providence Health & Services   |

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