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## **April D. Davidow**

*By Rachel Richardson | rrichardson@enquirer.com*



April D. Davidow(Photo: The Enquirer/Glenn Hartong)

April D. Davidow is the kind of volunteer every nonprofit organization dreams about.

She's energetic, well-organized and dedicated. A self-taught sculptor, Davidow's events are often remembered for their artsy flair – and the hundreds of thousands of dollars they raise for community projects.

Davidow says she owes her successful track record to her late parents, Abrom and Sarah Dombar, a hardworking couple who often worked six days a week to make ends meet, but still encouraged their two children to make a difference in their community.

"I saw my mother write a check for an organization when I was younger and said, 'Mom, there are so many things we don't have. How can you give somebody else a check?' She said, 'There's always somebody who has less than we do,'" Davidow remembered.

"That's the way we grew up."

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Davidow began volunteering in high school and never stopped. The Woodward High graduate served with the Jewish Federation and Hadassah, the benevolent Jewish women's organization, and as a "cheerette" at a local hospital.

As a young mother of two sons, Davidow devoted herself to the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training, which supports vocational opportunities for Jewish students, and served as Hadassah's president.

After her divorce in the mid-1980s, she became president of the Jewish Hospital auxiliary, where she met now-husband Harry Davidow. The couple, who share a passion for philanthropy, have been married 23 years.

When Harry's sister Lynn Stern asked the couple for help in launching a Wellness Community chapter in Cincinnati, Davidow sprung into action to help raise the necessary \$250,000.

Founded in 1982 in California, the national organization – which changed its name in 2009 to the Cancer Support Community – provides emotional support groups, healthy lifestyle classes and educational and relaxation workshops at no cost to cancer patients and their families.

In 2007, Davidow turned her fundraising expertise to planning the first Hats Off luncheon, an event organized by volunteers to support efforts to build Smale Riverfront Park. The event, now in its seventh year, has raised more than \$700,000.

"Everybody knows when they turn to April, she will get the job done," Kim Thiboldeaux, president and CEO of the Cancer Support Community, wrote in her letter nominating Davidow to be an Enquirer Woman of the Year. "She has a beautiful and unique ability to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary."

## **MORE ABOUT APRIL**

**Birthplace:** North Avondale

**Current residence:** Downtown

**Family:** Married to Harry; two children and three grandchildren

**Education:** B.A., education, University of Cincinnati

**Occupation:** Philanthropist

## **WHAT SHE SAYS**

### **Why she does what she does**

I see that I've done good for other people. I've done good for the organization and the people, but I also got back in that I got these wonderful friendships. I've made my very best friends through

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volunteering. My girlfriends from my (high school) youth group live all over the world and we still see each other every year and email every week.

### **Secret to her success**

I love starting something new that's never been done. And I know that if you start it, you chair it. One of my best qualities is being so organized. I write things down a lot. I'm never late. I budget my time and write a list for the day or the month and I make sure it gets done. I learned not to spread myself too thin on too many different things at one time. I either do it right, or I don't do it.

### **The legacy she hopes to leave**

You're not born knowing to give of yourself and to give money. You have to be taught that. I've given a legacy to my sons, who both volunteer, and my grandchildren. It's a very good feeling.