

For Immediate Release
April 4, 2025

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**BBB Serving Dayton & Miami Valley Announces
The Winners Of Its 2025 Spark Awards**

DAYTON, OHIO, April 4, 2025- Better Business Bureau serving Dayton and Miami Valley will be presenting its seventh annual Spark Awards at the Torch Awards for Ethics on Tuesday, May 13 at the David H. Ponitz Sinclair Center. The Spark Awards, an Award for Entrepreneurship, recognizes business owners 35 and under or business owners of any age operating for less than three years, who demonstrate a higher level of character, generating a culture that's authentic about its mission and connects with community.

The Class of 2025 honorees are:

**6888 Kitchen Incubator
Middleyak Leather Company
The Fairy Godmother Events
Turtle Up**

Our first member of the Spark Award Class of 2025 is **6888 Kitchen Incubator**. 6888 Kitchen Incubator is dedicated to empowering food entrepreneurs by providing state-of-the-art facilities, mentorship programs and access to capital. Their goal is to shape the future of the culinary industry, foster economic growth and revolutionize the way we think about food. At 6888 Kitchen Incubator, their leadership team leads with integrity, resilience and unwavering commitment to service. Their team operates with a shared goal to create a space where food entrepreneurs can thrive. Through mentorship and education, like their Sharpen the Axe program, 6888 Kitchen Incubator provides food entrepreneurs with the tools to grow sustainable businesses. They have also teamed up with local organizations and community leaders to ensure their work extends beyond the walls of their kitchen. By collaborating with nonprofits to fight food insecurity, creating opportunities for workforce development and advocating for policies to support small business growth, 6888 Kitchen Incubator's work stretches beyond the walls of its kitchen and into the local community.

Dabriah Rice, co-founder of 6888 Kitchen Incubator, says, "Ultimately, our mission is about people—the entrepreneurs who dream big, the families who support them and the community that benefits when local businesses succeed. We will continue to show up, invest and lead with integrity because we believe that when we lift others, we all rise together."

Middleyak Leather Company isn't just about making leather goods—it's about making art that can keep up. Inspired by the grit and resilience of the Miami Valley community, every piece is built to be used, loved and put through the wringer. With the use of intentional choices, owner Marissa Dunyak, intertwined her personal values with her brand identity. The connection and trust she built with her audience has created a stronger, more engaged community. As a business owner, Marissa is willing to evolve, take a stand and build something that truly reflects the values of the community she serves. She recently supported Daybreak Dayton by donating 10 belts—an experience that shifted her perspective on the impact of her work. Moving forward, Marissa plans on supporting local non-profits by ensuring that functional, quality goods reach those who need them most.

Marissa Dunyak, owner of Middleyak Leather Company, says, "Dayton has given me so much and I'm committed to pouring that same energy back into the people and places that make this city feel like home."

The Fairy Godmother Events is a character entertainment company specializing in creating magical experiences with children and families. Its princesses, superheroes, sci-fi characters, holiday characters, event artists and musical acts bring joy to the community and value to their corporate, nonprofit and municipal clients. With over 60 cast members, Ashley Campbell, owner of The Fairy Godmother Events, supports her team in their personal and professional lives by offering coaching and training courses. In her leadership role, Ashley strives to support her cast members by learning their skills and goals outside of character entertainment work and empowering them any way she can. The Fairy Godmother Events supports the local community through volunteerism and hospitality. They currently support dozens of nonprofits with volunteerism, matching needs with fiscal sponsorships, connecting cast members to opportunities to serve and donating party packages when possible.

Ashley Campbell, owner of The Fairy Godmother Events, says, "This incredible community made it easy to dive in at full speed and we have been lovingly embraced every step of the way. Our community partnerships and philanthropic efforts have impacted our cast members and clients incredibly and I regularly reflect on how fortunate we are to get to do such magical work."

The last member of our Spark Award class of 2025 is **Turtle Up**. Turtle Up focuses on education, conservation and community transformation. At Turtle Up, community means Dayton and the region, the nation and the world, with a focus on Ghana. Through her leadership position, Corinne Brion, founder of Turtle Up, has found that true leadership is about supporting others with patience, care and humility. At Turtle Up, trust is the foundation of everything they do. From conservation efforts to educational partnerships, Turtle Up recognizes its impact depends on the strength of its relationships—with students, educators, community members and partners across Dayton and Ghana. Establishing a culture of trust requires intentional communication, shared purpose and mutual respect and Turtle Up works diligently to foster these principles within the team. At Turtle Up, giving back is the heart of its mission. They work hard to create opportunities for learning, leadership and sustainability in the communities they serve. Turtle Up has created scholarship programs, hands-on learning opportunities, STEAM curriculum, internships and research opportunities, and plastic recycling initiatives across both the Dayton region and Ghana.

Corinne Brion, founder of Turtle Up, says, "At Turtle Up, giving back is not a one-time effort—it is embedded in everything we do. Whether through education, conservation, leadership development or community partnerships, we are committed to reinvesting our time, talents and resources to uplift the communities we serve. As we continue to grow, we remain dedicated to fostering a culture of service, sustainability and ethical leadership."

John North, president and CEO of the BBB serving Dayton and the Miami Valley, shares, "We are honored to recognize our Spark Award Class of 2025. This diverse group of leaders embody and cultivate character, culture and community. We look forward to watching their growth and success in the years to come."

Join your Better Business Bureau in honoring these organizations by attending the Torch Award for Ethics awards dinner on May 13 at Sinclair Community College. Tickets for the

event are \$99 per person or you can purchase a table of eight for \$999. Make your reservations today by calling (937) 610-2277.

About Your BBB Serving Dayton and the Miami Valley

The Better Business Bureau has empowered people to find businesses, brands and charities they can trust for more than 110 years. In 2024, people turned to BBB more than 220 million times for BBB Business Profiles on 5.3 million businesses, and 80,000 times for BBB charity reports on about 12,000 charities, for free at BBB.org. The International Association of Better Business Bureaus is the umbrella organization for the local, independent BBBs in the United States and Canada. BBB Serving Dayton and the Miami Valley was founded in 1925 and serves Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, and northern Warren counties in Ohio.

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