

CCH Board Member

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Spotlight



Jeff Gokie

HOSPITAL BOARD CHAIR

The Columbus Community Hospital board of directors is a versatile group of people who serve an essential role for the community by working to improve the health and wellness of Columbus and surrounding areas. Jeff Gokie is a local business owner who recognized an opportunity to positively impact the health of his community by filling an essential role as a board member for the hospital.

After graduating with his bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Gokie moved to Dallas, Texas, where he worked for 12 years as a manufacturing manager at Texas Instruments-Defense Department. In 1995, he moved back to Nebraska to be closer to home.

"When deciding to move, we looked for the smallest manufacturing town in Nebraska which would allow us to be closer to home," he said.

Originally from Atkinson, Nebraska, Gokie and his family moved to Columbus after he accepted a position as an operations manager for TORIN products - a position he stayed in for three years. Over the years, Gokie has owned four local businesses, including Big Apple Bagels. He currently works as a Realtor in Columbus and owns

and manages Henry on 11th with his wife, Cathy.

Gokie said they are happy they chose to move to Columbus because of the opportunities for him and his family.

"Columbus is a great community to raise kids," he said. **"That was a huge benefit moving here, and we were not disappointed. The Columbus community allows everyone to get involved and make a real difference."**

In his free time, he enjoys volunteering for organizations around the community and staying active by playing basketball, tennis and golf. But he mostly enjoys spending time with his family, including five grandchildren.

In 2016, the hospital asked Gokie if he was interested in joining the board. He accepted the position and has served for six years. He is currently board chairman and has one year remaining in this position.

"I accepted the position on the hospital board of directors because I felt it would be a great opportunity to have an impact on the health of Columbus and the surrounding communities by helping drive the direction of health care," he said. **"As a board member, I draw upon my previous**

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experiences, including work, other board appointments, organizations I've been part of and, of course, my family."

Gokie said his favorite part of being on the board is serving a high-quality organization with people who care about their work and community.

Through his experiences, Gokie has fully understood what makes the hospital unique and an integral part of the community.

"Being on the board for over six years, I have had firsthand experience as to the top-level effort and commitment toward offering Columbus the greatest health care possible," he said. **"Our hospital's success is directly linked to the support given by individuals, families and businesses. We are a family community."**

With three years remaining on the board, Gokie knows the hospital will continue to look for new, innovative ways to make every person in Columbus healthier with an enhanced quality of life.

To learn more about the hospital and its board of directors, visit columbushosp.org.