



## 20 QUESTIONS

May

### Celebrating 20 Years of ACS

ACS is 20 years old! We're celebrating this milestone with a game of "20 Questions," featuring some of the people who've inspired us the most during our two decades in the field. Each month, we'll highlight a few answers from each of our featured guests.

#### **Marcia Egbert, Program Director, Thriving Families and Social Justice, George Gund Foundation**

As one of our longest relationships, Marcia is much more than a client. She's a thought partner and a mentor with a passion for social justice and fairness that never ceases to inspire. Throughout her career, Marcia has been a policy powerhouse, working in the Ohio Legislature, Cuyahoga County Commission, public interest lobbying in the private sector, and philanthropy. Marcia understands the commitment and patience necessary to create deep and meaningful policy change that creates lasting positive impacts for families and children in Ohio. Rather than resting on laurels of success in early childhood, criminal justice reform, housing, healthcare access, and more, Marcia continues to strategically influence the policy sphere with optimism, creativity and unflagging determination.

#### **1 What's your philosophy for life?**

I have two. "Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love." (Niebuhr) "Love is an active noun" (Mr. Rogers).

#### **2 Best book you've read lately?**

*50 Art Ideas You Really Need to Know* by Susie Hodge (Quercus, UK, 2011).

#### **3 Something you've done in your work that you're most proud of?**

Helping nonprofits and funders embrace the value and necessity of using their voices to advocate.

#### **4 Favorite watering hole?**

That's easy—the Millard Fillmore Presidential Library on Waterloo Rd. in my Collinwood neighborhood.

#### **5 One public policy you'd change?**

Fully reinstate and make permanent the Covid pandemic's enhanced federal Child Tax Credit that instantly lifted more than half of poor children in America out of poverty.

#### **6 What made you choose your career path?**

Combination of being a policy junkie from waaaayyy back and wanting to live out my spiritual values full-time through work. I never in a million years would have known or guessed that would lead me to philanthropy!



- 7 A favorite mentor?**  
Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, Ohio's greatest child advocate of the last 50 years.
- 8 Rock, rap, or country?**  
Gonna go straight to rock of the 3; if you'd thrown in jazz and opera you'd have my top 3.
- 9 Dogs vs. cats: who rules and who drools?**  
Love the pups.
- 10 Favorite thing about working with ACS?**  
The team's unique ability to seamlessly blend passion, intelligence, persistence, and a whole lot of fun into an unbeatable professional combination of effectiveness.
- 11 A skill that might surprise us?**  
Weaving—definitely not skilled but an enthusiastic amateur.
- 12 Biggest “win” or “lesson learned” of your career so far?**  
Essential lesson learned early on: never, ever, ever give up on a goal—there is virtually always a way to make at least some progress toward a goal if you insist on being the last person standing in any fight!
- 13 Favorite vacation spot?**  
Too hard to name just one! Cape Cod, the shores of Lake Erie, and Paris.
- 14 Ideal weekend activities?**  
Somehow connecting with our son in NYC, swimming/sailing in Lake Erie, bike riding, eating ice cream (actually it has to be vegan or frozen yogurt), watching movies, drinking Moscow Mules, hearing great music, not cleaning.
- 15 Pet peeve?**  
People who use whatever power they have to make someone else feel small.
- 16 Advice for rising leaders in your field?**  
Lead with kindness and care more about progress than credit.
- 17 If you could magically become an expert in anything, what would it be?**  
Pediatric ER doc or nurse. Either that or cabaret singing.
- 18 Favorite holiday?**  
The one coming up, whichever that is.
- 19 Country you'd live in if not this one?**  
Canada or France.
- 20 Most recent thing that made you smile?**  
Daffodils.

Stay tuned for 20 Questions from ACS in June!