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## **NATION'S TOP FEMALE BUSINESS LEADERS OFFER ADVICE IN NEW BOOK WRITTEN BY CLEVELAND AUTHORS**

**YWCA GREATER CLEVELAND TO RECEIVE 100% OF BOOK'S NET PROCEEDS**

**CLEVELAND** (Jan. 26, 2017) – When local business owners Barb Brown and Margie Flynn set out to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Cleveland-based corporate sustainability and governance consulting firm, they embarked on a book project that's purpose was to give further voice to women leaders.

Yet, it became so much more.

In their recently published book, *[Uplifting Leaders\\*](#) (\*Who Happen to be Women)*, Brown and Flynn capture insights and stories of 25 of the nation's most accomplished and influential women in business on how they empower and uplift others as they seek to progress in their lives and careers.

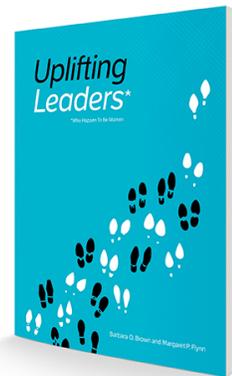
The diverse spectrum of leaders who share their candid insights and advice range from newly instated Nasdaq President and CEO **Adena Friedman**; the Campbell Soup Company President and CEO **Denise Morrison**; and Cleveland-based KeyCorp Chairman and CEO **Beth Mooney**.

But, the authors want to do much more than simply tell these stories.

At the heart of the book is a call to action—to “pay it forward” by passing *Uplifting Leaders* and its insights onto other people in their lives.

“The truth is, that while women in the workforce have evolved and gained ground over the years, national statistics indicate that there still exists a large gender-based gap at the top,” Brown said. “So, we challenge readers to determine what actions they can take to drive a ‘liftoff’ of more women to the top.”

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For that reason, the authors will donate 100 percent of the book's net proceeds to support the education of young women transitioning out of foster care through the [YWCA Greater Cleveland's Nurturing Independence and Aspirations \(NIA\) Program](#).

"We are honored that YWCA Greater Cleveland was selected to benefit from their generosity, and that this book written by and about incredible women will change the lives of young women in our community," Margaret Mitchell, President & CEO, YWCA Greater Cleveland, said.

NIA's comprehensive support system empowers homeless young adults (ages 18-24), many of whom are transitioning out of foster care, to successfully attain the highest level of self-sufficiency.

"We would like to thank Barb and Margie for giving life to this powerful book. It's no surprise that they would choose to continue their dedication to making our world a better place by giving the proceeds to a charity," she adds.

In the spirit of empowering leaders, the book also offers ways for readers to easily share the book's insights. Critical pieces of advice given by the featured women are printed on perforated cards which readers are encouraged to tear from the book and pass on to mentors, mentees, friends and coworkers.

"Whether in a gesture of gratitude for their help along the way, or in inspiration for the challenges to come, everyone can find a piece of wisdom to share from *Uplifting Leaders*," Flynn said.

**Several other Northeast Ohio Women Leaders Featured in Book Include:**

- Virginia Albanese, President and CEO, FedEx Custom Critical
- Jodi Berg, President and CEO, Vita-Mix Corporation
- Jenniffer Deckard, President and CEO, Fairmount Santrol
- Susan Fuehrer, Medical Center Director, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center
- M. Ann Harlan, Co-CEO, Harlan Partners, LLC; Retired Vice President and General Counsel, The J.M. Smucker Company
- Robin Kilbride, President, CEO and Chairman of the Board, Smithers-Oasis Company
- Beth Mooney, Chairman and CEO, KeyCorp
- Sandy Pianalto, Former President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
- Marcella Kanfer Rolnick, Vice Chair, GOJO
- Barbara Snyder, President, Case Western Reserve University
- Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton, CEO, Dream/Catcher Educational Consulting Service
- Margaret Wong, Managing Partner, Margaret W. Wong & Associates, LLC
- Jackie Woods, Retired President, AT&T Ohio

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**About YWCA Greater Cleveland:**

YWCA is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities. YWCA is the largest women’s organization in the world with a presence in 125 countries. Since 1868, YWCA Greater Cleveland has been a unique and vital resource for Northeast, Ohio. It provides advocacy and programming that helps to shape local communities and transform the lives of their residents. Key service areas currently include working to end youth and family homelessness, supporting the transition age foster youth, convening conversations about race, designing high-quality programs for women’s leadership, and creating system-wide change in society. Learn more at [www.YWCAofCleveland.org](http://www.YWCAofCleveland.org).

**About the Authors:** Co-authors [Barb Brown](#) and [Margie Flynn](#) are the principals and co-founders of Cleveland-based [BrownFlynn](#), a leading corporate sustainability and governance consulting firm. In celebration of their company’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the pair set out to write a book that inspires leaders with stories of uplifting women who succeeded because of their perseverance, positivity and sense of purpose. *Uplifting Leaders (\*Who Happen to be Women)* is now available on [Amazon](#). For more information, visit [www.UpliftingLeaders.com](http://www.UpliftingLeaders.com).

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