



# TORCH NEWS

Promoting Marketplace Trust In Ohio & Michigan

## TORCH AWARDS – Winners 2023

### A Win for Integrity

BBB celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Torch Awards for Ethics on September 28, 2023. Winners were announced, congratulations given, and the audience was deeply inspired by the delivery of keynote speaker, Tim Berta.

Tim was a member of the Bluffton University baseball team, and was riding with the team, when their bus crashed in the early morning hours of March 2, 2007, in Atlanta, Ga. Five teammates died, as a result of the crash, as well as the bus driver and the driver's wife. Tim credits "his team" for his recovery ... the first responders, teams of doctors, family, friends, and baseball teammates. "The years of struggle, desperation and hopelessness are not something I want to remember. Instead, I remember the teamwork and the triumphs".

The Torch Awards shine a spotlight on BBB's team of ethical businesses in our communities, and we were honored to share the stage with 13abc's Lee Conklin ... BUT ... something we often overlook, in this process, is the fact that YOU ... as a BBB Accredited Business ...

are a VITAL part of these awards ... a vital part of THIS team.

BBB Members stand tall, together, as examples of ethical practices, integrity, honesty, and character. Each time one of our members is honored ... we are all honored.

A phrase attributed to John F Kennedy is ... "a rising tide lifts all boats". The tide rose just a little higher when the Awards were handed out to the following companies:

**The Non-Profit Category Winner was The Ability Center of Greater Toledo.** The Ability Center advocates, educates, partners, and provides services supporting people with disabilities to thrive within their community.

**Winning in the Small Business Category was Forte Music School.** Established in 2006, the school aims to empower the next generation of musicians and artists to discover their true potential and make a positive impact in their communities.

**The Medium-Sized Business Category winner was Freedom Roofing, Windows, and Siding.** Freedom offers residential and commercial roofing services, as well as replacement windows and vinyl siding. Their mission is to provide the highest quality workmanship possible, with a commitment to a solid work ethic.

**The Large-Sized Business Category winner was Jon Frankel Dentistry.** Frankel Dentistry is the first 100% employee-owned dental practice in the United States. Changing lives, a smile at a time, is their passion.

Honest businesses and charities make their communities better. For us, **"Start with Trust"** is more than a catchphrase – it crystallizes why we exist, and it guides our every decision.

104 years ago, our BBB began its journey to keep an honest and ethical marketplace and YOU have contributed to this success! We thank you and truly appreciate your support.

**Now, let's celebrate this amazing team!**



Forte Music School: Jim Stanton (right) and BBB CEO Lane Montz