Elfi Di Bella is the President and CEO of YWCA Columbus, a position she accepted in January 2010. Since joining the YWCA, Elfi has worked to meet the critical needs of all women in central Ohio – from chronically homeless women struggling with mental illness and addictions, to professional women striving to be the next generation of leaders in our community. Under her leadership, the YWCA Family Center, an emergency shelter for homeless families, has continued to be a national model for success by rapidly re-housing families and offering a breadth of services under one roof. Her insightful guidance also has led to a three-year CARF accreditation in the Women’s Residency program – demonstrating the YWCA’s commitment to quality, accountability and satisfaction of the people served.

Looking toward the future, Elfi has ensured the legacy of the YWCA continues by overseeing a $25 million comprehensive campaign and raising $10 million philanthropically to transform the historic Griswold Building downtown, sustain critical services at the Family Center and strengthen the organization’s endowment.

Elfi is passionate about helping all women succeed. She is a specialist in women’s leadership and a frequent speaker on the topics of homeless women and families. As CEO of one of Columbus’ most influential organizations for women, Elfi invests her time in supporting and creating programs to address women’s critical needs. This includes providing affordable childcare for working moms, GED programs for formerly homeless women, racial justice training for children, leadership programs for young women, and leadership opportunities for seasoned leaders.

Recognized as a “Woman of Achievement” in 2009 by the YWCA, a recipient of the American Red Cross Steckler International Service Award and 2014 Pillar Award for Nonprofit Executive Director, Elfi is an active community leader and volunteer. She serves on the Columbus Community Relations Commission, is a trustee for the Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation board and serves on the board of the National Association of YWCA Executives. She also serves on the Otterbein Women’s Leadership Network Advisory Council and on the Steering Committee for Women at the Table (WATT). She also was named as one of Smart Business Magazine’s Central Ohio “Smart 50” in 2014. In 2015, she won Smart Business’ Progressive Woman Award and the Niagara Foundation’s Commitment Award.

Previously, Elfi has chaired the Community Shelter Board’s Board of Trustees and the Columbus Metropolitan Club. Elfi has also held various leadership roles for Leadership Columbus, Columbus School for Girls, Jazz Arts Group, Dresden Sister City Inc., Columbus Sister Cities International and the Columbus Arts Stabilization Committee. Originally from Idar-Oberstein, Germany, Elfi earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management from Franklin University and is a member of the International Women’s Forum. Elfi enjoyed over 20 years of career success in the financial services sector prior to joining YWCA Columbus.

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