

# 2008 SPRING LUNCHEON

MAY 15, 2008  
THE STATLER GOLDEN BALLROOM

**BUFFALO**  
RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

Forward



#### FACT SHEET

- Event:** **BUFFALO RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION  
2008 SPRING LUNCHEON**
- Keynote Speaker:** **Chris Collins, County Executive**  
*Erie County*
- Renaissance Honoree:** **Christopher H. Koch, Chief Executive Officer**  
*New Era Cap*
- When:** Thursday, May 15, 2008
- Time:** 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- Place:** **The Statler Golden Ballroom**  
107 Delaware Avenue  
(Delaware and Niagara Square)
- Est. Attendance:** 500 – 600
- Tickets:** \$100 Individual  
\$1,000 Table
- Sponsorship Levels:** Platinum \$5,000  
Gold \$3,500  
Silver \$2,500  
Bronze \$1,500
- Emcee:** **Jodi Johnston, WGRZ-TV Channel 2 On Your Side**

**Luncheon Beneficiary:** Proceeds from the Luncheon will be used to launch the **Renaissance Scholars** program, a program that will provide scholarships and mentoring opportunities for City of Buffalo public high school students entering college. The program will also provide selected students with valuable real life experience through internship programs and mentoring sessions with business and civic leaders in the community.



**2008 BUFFALO RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION  
MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD TO BE PRESENTED TO:**

**Christopher H. Koch**  
Chief Executive Officer  
*New Era Cap*

**About the Man of the Year Award**

Annual recognition to the individual or individuals that exemplify outstanding community leadership and service to the Buffalo region.

**PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:**

Thomas R. Beecher, Jr.

Father Vincent M. Cooke, S.J.

Burt P. Flickinger, Jr.

Seymour H. Knox III

Paul J. Koessler

Robert J. Kresse

Victor & Corrine Rice

Robert E. Rich, Sr.



**Buffalo Renaissance Foundation, Inc.  
2008 Spring Luncheon – Man of the Year**

**Christopher H. Koch**



Chris Koch currently is the Chief Executive Officer for New Era Cap. New Era Cap was founded in 1920 by Chris Koch's great grandfather, Ehrhardt Koch. The company was started in small shop on Genesee Street, in Buffalo N.Y. New Era is the leading headwear manufacturer in the country and produces over 35 million caps per year, employing over 1,700 people worldwide.

Chris Koch has worked in the family business for over 30 years. From an early age, he had a goal to carry on the family tradition as a fourth generation Koch to lead the company. Throughout his tenure at New Era, Chris has worked in various departments before becoming CEO. Under his leadership New Era has become the exclusive supplier of on-field headwear for Major League and Minor League Baseball.

We are excited to honor Chris Koch at our 2008 Spring Luncheon as the Renaissance Man of the Year in celebration of his commitment and vision. In particular, the BRF would like to recognize Chris Koch's leadership for the 2006 relocation of New Era Cap's headquarters to downtown Buffalo. We thank Chris Koch and New Era for investing in the future of downtown Buffalo. It is evident that New Era's headquarters at 160 Delaware Avenue (pictured at right) has helped revitalize downtown and has become an anchor for development.



**Buffalo Renaissance Foundation, Inc.  
2008 Spring Luncheon - Keynote Speaker**

**Chris Collins**



The residents of Erie County elected Chris Collins as the seventh Erie County Executive on November 6, 2007. A businessman with 35 years of private sector experience, Collins ran against the political establishment of both parties and won with 64 percent of the vote. Collins ran as a chief executive, highlighting the dangers of electing another chief politician. As County Executive, Collins is focused on his “Three Rs” - reforming Erie County government, rebuilding the local economy, and, ultimately, reducing taxes. Collins is committed to running Erie County like a business, making it more effective, efficient and responsive to hardworking taxpayers. Collins' campaign centered on bringing Six Sigma to Erie County government using state grant dollars. A proven business method to improve production and eliminate waste, Six Sigma is a bottom-up approach designed to empower employees. Soon after being elected, Collins tapped a Six Sigma director and its implementation is the center of his administration. For the last eight years, Collins has managed, and is the sole investor of, Cobblestone Enterprises LLC, a merchant bank that is focused on investing in local manufacturing companies. Over the years, Cobblestone Enterprises has invested in management buyouts and purchases of financially distressed companies that have sustainable market niches. Since 1998, Cobblestone has invested in over 20 acquisitions that currently operate as ten separate platform companies. These companies currently have over 600 employees, including 500 in Western New York, with annual sales in excess of \$80 million.

The Cobblestone portfolio includes high-end custom cabinetry and door manufacturer Bloch Industries LLC; electrical repair shop and industrial distributor Volland Electric Equipment Corporation; biotechnology companies ZeptoMetrix Corporation and Buckler Biodefense Corporation; drug development company Virionyx Corporation, Ltd.; oxygen generating machinery and animal cage washing manufacturer Audubon Machinery Corporation; sterile water supplier Wurlitzer Water Works LLC; commercial dinnerware manufacturer Niagara Ceramics Corporation; industrial lift and transfer system manufacturer Easom Automation Systems, Inc.; and, micro-wind systems and solar energy equipment integrator Starboard Sun Corporation.

Before creating Cobblestone, Collins founded Niagara Falls based industrial gear manufacturer Nuttall Gear Corporation in 1983, purchasing the assets of the Westinghouse Gear Division. At Nuttall Gear, Collins emphasized a Total Quality Management program which resulted in the company being recognized as one of the



Top 100 Private Companies in Western New York from 1987 to 1994 and one of the Future 50 companies in Western New York in 1995. The County Executive began his professional career with Westinghouse Electric in 1972, spending eleven years with the company in various positions of ever increasing responsibility, including Manager of the Westinghouse Gear Division. Collins has been active in the community, particularly with the Boy Scouts. He was chairman of the 2001 and 2005 National Jamboree Committee for the Greater Niagara Frontier Council Boy Scouts of America and served as chairman for the 2007 World Jamboree. He is Vice President of Administration for the Greater Niagara Frontier Council and has served on the Executive Board for many years. Collins served as Cub Master for his son's Cub Scout Pack and is Assistant Scoutmaster for his son's Scout troop in Clarence. He was named Horizon Citizen of the Year by the Greater Niagara Frontier BSA in 2005.

Since 1999, Collins has volunteered his time as a mentor at the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB) Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, as well as being a mentor in the annual Henry A. Panasci Jr. Technology Entrepreneurship Competition. Collins has been a guest lecturer in the MBA program at UB for many years. He also has lectured at Alfred University and Canisius College related to his small business experience.

Collins received a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from NC State University in 1972 and a MBS from the University of Alabama in 1975. The County Executive is married and has three children and one grandchild. He and his wife, Mary, live in Clarence, New York.



## **About the Buffalo Renaissance Foundation**

The Buffalo Renaissance Foundation (BRF), founded in 1981 as a 501(c)3 organization has a decades-old tradition of fostering programs and dialogue to improve the quality of life in Western New York. Through its commitment to philanthropic initiatives and charitable giving, the BRF has effected positive change in the community and facilitated dialogue on important economic, educational, cultural and civic issues. Built on the belief that Buffalo is a tremendous place to live and raise a family, the BRF is driven by a strong passion to promote Buffalo's renaissance through cultivating opportunities for future generations. Since its inception, the BRF has attracted many of Buffalo's top business leaders to govern the organization and to work collectively as ambassadors for positive thought and change. Above all, the BRF has demonstrated continued growth in its charitable giving, endowment and forums.

In 2007 the BRF established the **Renaissance Fellowship** at the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. The program enables the Medical Campus to grant fellowships to qualified young adults, thereby allowing Buffalo to retain some of the best and brightest students. We are proud to have a role in shaping the future of Buffalo by establishing the Fellowship in support of our mission to "Build a better Buffalo" by investing in our youth.

This year, the BRF intends to establish the **Renaissance Scholars** program, which will provide scholarship and mentoring opportunities for college entering students from the City of Buffalo public schools.

For ticket information please email Heather Stephen at [HeatherBRF@yahoo.com](mailto:HeatherBRF@yahoo.com)

Positive thinking.  
Positive change.



**Buffalo Renaissance Foundation 2008 Board of Directors**  
*Dedicated to building a better Buffalo*  
*Founded 1981*

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*2008 Luncheon Committee Chairs*

*Heather Stephen*  
*Executive Director*



## CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Corporate support of the Buffalo Renaissance Foundation's 2008 Spring Luncheon is available in the following four levels of sponsorship. Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors are welcome to hang a company banner at the luncheon (BRF will not produce banners).

### **PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP LEVEL** ..... **\$5,000**

- Twenty (20) courtesy tickets to the luncheon
- Recognition from podium for major sponsorship
- Full page ad in luncheon program
- One (1) seat at the dais table
- One (1) recognition gift
- Recognition as a sponsor in luncheon program

### **GOLD SPONSORSHIP LEVEL** ..... **\$3,500**

- Ten (10) courtesy tickets to the luncheon
- Recognition from podium for major sponsorship
- Half page ad in luncheon program
- One (1) recognition gift
- Recognition as a sponsor in luncheon program

### **SILVER SPONSORSHIP LEVEL** ..... **\$2,500**

- Ten (10) courtesy tickets to the luncheon
- Half page ad in luncheon program
- One (1) recognition gift
- Recognition as a sponsor in luncheon program

### **BRONZE SPONSORSHIP LEVEL** ..... **\$1,500**

- Ten (10) courtesy tickets to the luncheon
- Quarter page ad in luncheon program
- Recognition as a sponsor in luncheon program

## **PROGRAM BOOKLET ADVERTISING**

The Buffalo Renaissance Foundation will be printing a program booklet that will include advertising for our corporate sponsors, in depth pages on our Keynote Speaker, our Man of the Year, the Foundation's charitable activities and the organizations benefiting from the luncheon.

<b>FULL PAGE AD</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>HALF PAGE AD</b>	<b>\$350</b>
<b>QUARTER PAGE AD</b>	<b>\$200</b>



**BUFFALO RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION  
2008 SPRING LUNCHEON  
SPONSORSHIP FORM**

**Yes, we would be delighted to join with others to support the Buffalo Renaissance Foundation on the occasion of its 2008 Spring Luncheon.**

**Company** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Website** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name/Title** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**We pledge to be a sponsor at the following level:**

- Platinum \$5,000**
- Gold Sponsor \$3,500**
- Silver Sponsor \$2,500**
- Bronze Sponsor \$1,500**
- Full Page Ad \$500**
- Half Page Ad \$350**
- Quarter Page Ad \$200**
- Check is enclosed for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**
- Credit card:**     **MasterCard**    **Visa (please check one)**  
    **Card No.:** \_\_\_\_\_  
    **Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Please send us an invoice on May 1, 2008**
- Unable to sponsor, enclosed is our tax deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make check payable to: Buffalo Renaissance Foundation, Inc.  
Attn: Heather Stephen  
PO Box 322  
Buffalo, NY 14205**