

As my two year OPRF Chamber Presidency comes to an end, all I can think about is how thankful I am for our wonderful Chamber staff, Board, and members. Because of all of YOU, we have made the best out of the last two years while faced with a worldwide pandemic. We have adapted, pivoted, advocated and supported those in need. Throughout this time we have worked together as a COMMUNITY to become stronger. Thank you so much for your support of me as Chamber President and for your support of both our small business community and your OPRF Chamber of Commerce!

#chamberLOVE



Mary Ann Bender
Board President



COMMUNITIES

Wednesday December 1, 4:30-5pm - Ribbon Cutting at Hines Insurance

Come celebrate with us at the **Hines Insurance** ribbon cutting! Ribbon cuttings provide an opportunity to welcome and connect with a new business, network with other attendees, and celebrate our growing business community. Welcome Hines Insurance!

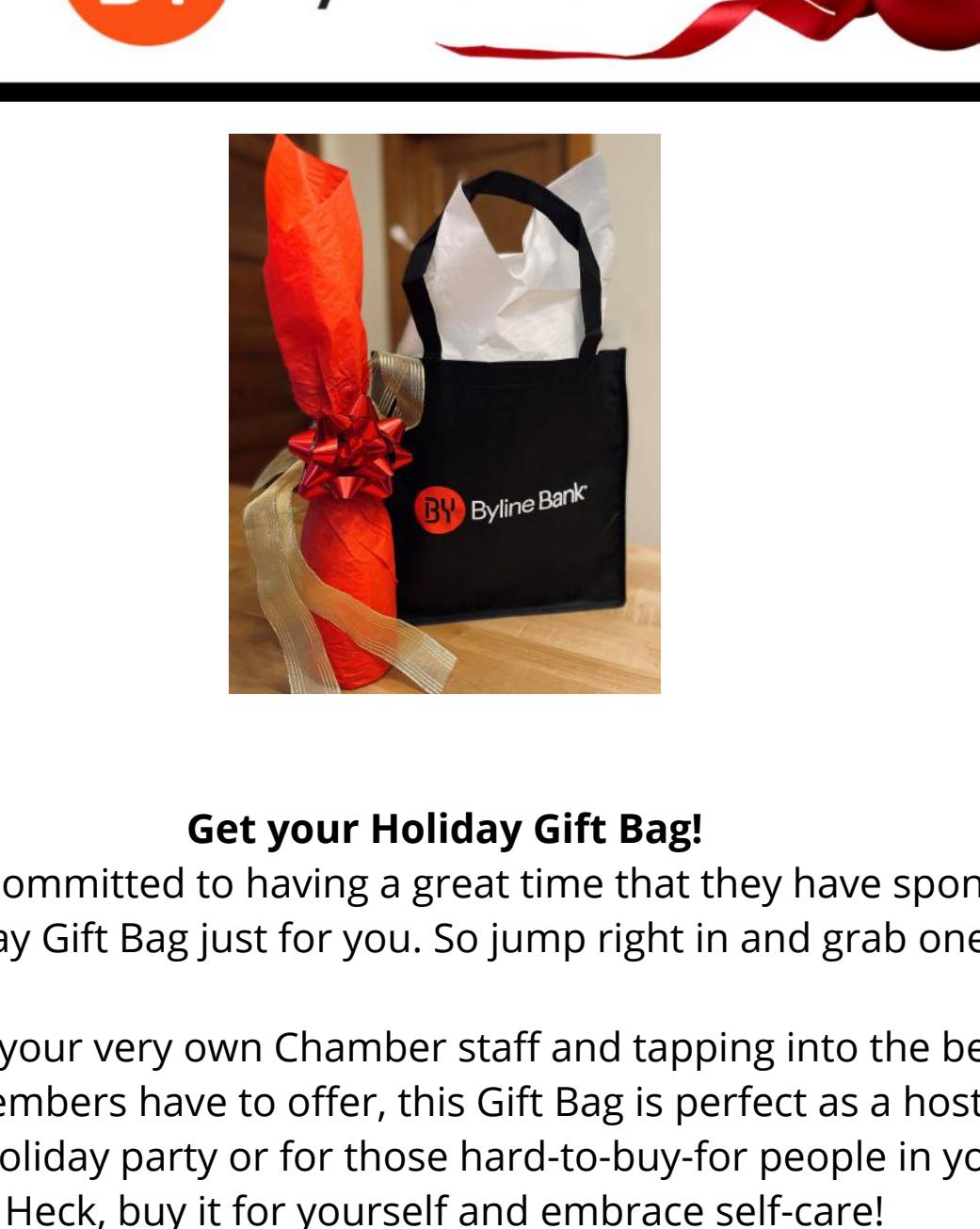
[REGISTER](#)

Friday December 3, 12-12:30pm - Takeout Stakeout at Kalamata Kitchen

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our next Takeout Stakeout at **Kalamata Kitchen**! We'll convene at Kalamata Kitchen to pick up our takeout lunch choices, and get to see each other for a bit while we're at it in a socially-distanced meetup. Lunch is a flat \$16 including tax and tip. Choose your meal at registration. Hope to see you there!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Thank you to the Village of Oak Park who will subsidize \$100 OFF the ad rates to any OP business who wants to participate.



Advertising DEADLINE: Dec. 1

This marketing opportunity is great for service businesses!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Take a Break with Us

We know that owning or working in a business has been particularly hard this past year and we are guessing that you could use some TLC!

Join us as we launch our **NEW Chamber program** aimed at taking care of you, our small business community. Welcome to our monthly

Meditation Mondays! All it takes is half an hour (that's only 30 mins!) for us to help you put your to-do list aside, empty your head of all the

chatter and truly look after yourself.

[Check out Chogo on WGN News!](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Get your Holiday Gift Bag!

Byline is so committed to having a great time that they have sponsored a Holiday Gift Bag just for you! So jump right in and grab one!

Curated by your very own Chamber staff and tapping into the best that our local members have to offer, this Gift Bag is perfect as a host gift, to bring to a holiday party or for those hard-to-buy-for people in your life!

Heck, buy it for yourself and embrace self-care!

[REGISTER TO ATTEND & GET YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT BAG HERE](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Then we want to hear from you!

Contact Mark Wilden

and tell me why your chamber is great host!

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[and tell me why your chamber is great host!](#)

SUPPORT LOCAL

Purchase your digital giftcards TODAY!

Great gifts for corporate, teacher, & holidays gifts, & more...

\$10,000 gift cards purchased to date!



Be a Participating Vendor in the Shop Local OPRF Digital Gift Card Program & increase your SEO Ranking!

Members sign up [HERE](#)

to be a participating OPRF merchant.

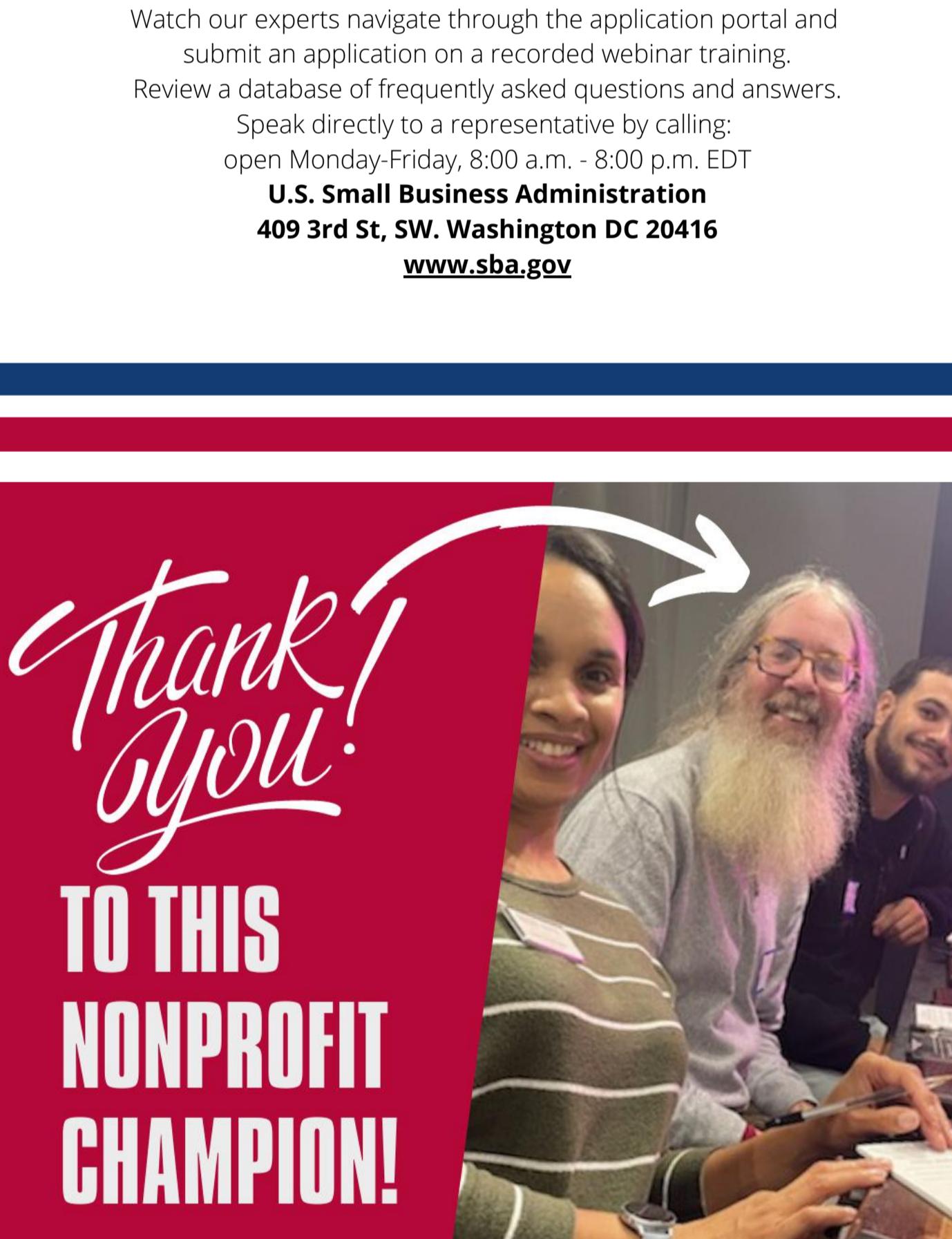


***Non-Members sign up [HERE](#)**

to be a participating OPRF merchant.



Small Business Season!



SBA

U.S. Small Business Administration

Learn how to apply

If you are eligible for **PPP Direct Forgiveness** because your lender has opted in and you have a PPP loan amount of \$150,000 or less. You can apply for forgiveness online using the SBA's PPP Forgiveness Portal. It takes only 6 minutes on average to complete the application and you can apply using a smart phone.

Currently, over 1.5 million business owners have applied for forgiveness through the SBA. We encourage you to apply today before payments are due.

To apply, enter the portal and start your application: directforgiveness.sba.gov.

Need help applying? Use the following resources:

Watch our experts navigate through the application portal and submit an application on a recorded webinar training.

Review a database of frequently asked questions and answers.

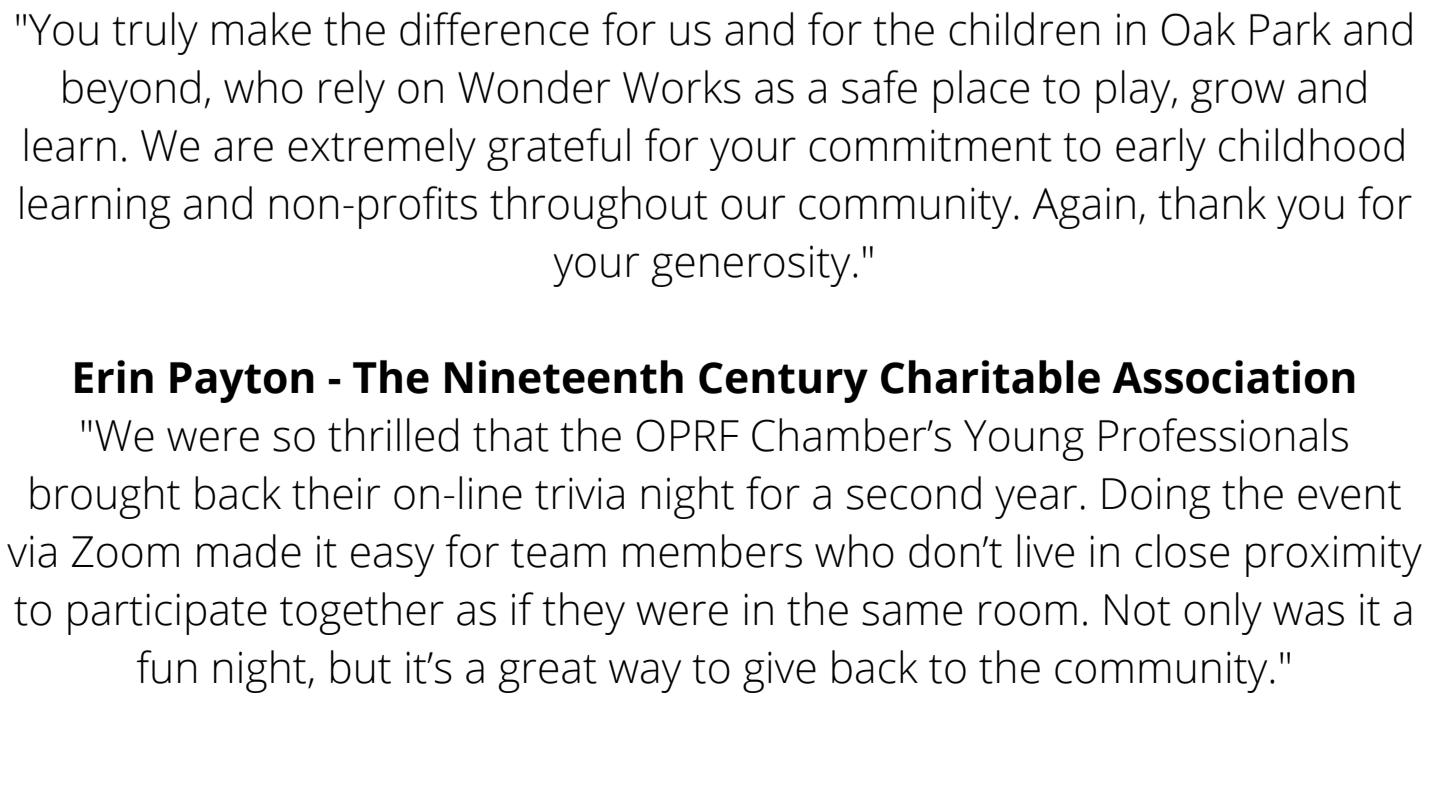
Speak directly to a representative by calling:

open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. EDT

U.S. Small Business Administration

409 3rd St, SW. Washington DC 20416

www.sba.gov



Did you know that this year our very own Mark Walden and our Young Professionals Affinity Group raised enough money at the annual **Trivia Night to cover the membership dues of 12 nonprofit members?**

That's 12 nonprofits who can stay connected to our business community during these uncertain times. A huge thank you to Mark and his YP team for their dedication to the future of our villages!

Want to learn more about how you can hang out with Mark and the Young Professionals? Reach out and let him know. He would love to hear from you! **Email Mark at: mwalder@oprffchamber.org**

What a wonderful, fun night!

2021 Trivia Night supported the following organizations:

Wonder Works Children's Museum

Nineteenth Century Charitable Association

Oak Park Association of Realtors

OPRF Museum

Oak-Leyden Developmental Services

Animal Care League

Kadampa Meditation Center

Housing Forward

The Symphony of OPRF

OP Regional Housing Center

The Children's School

Medical Ambassadors Haiti

Sara Payton - Wonderworks

"You truly make the difference for us and for the children in Oak Park and beyond, who rely on Wonder Works as a safe place to play, grow and learn. We are extremely grateful for your commitment to early childhood learning and non-profits throughout our community. Again, thank you for your generosity."

Erin Payton - The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association

"We were so thrilled that the OPRF Chamber's Young Professionals brought back their on-line trivia night for a second year. Doing the event via Zoom made it easy for team members who don't live in close proximity to participate together as if they were in the same room. Not only was it a fun night, but it's a great way to give back to the community."