



*Advancing Peace through Literature*

DaytonLiteraryPeacePrize.org  /DaytonLiteraryPeacePrize  /DLPeacePrize  
P.O. Box 461 | Wright Brothers Branch | Dayton, Ohio 45409-0461

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE FOUNDATION HIRES NICHOLAS RAINES AS ITS FIRST FULL TIME EXECUTVE DIRECTOR**

**Dayton, Ohio** – The Board of Trustees of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize (DLPP) Foundation is pleased to announce that Nicholas A. Raines has been hired as the organization’s first full time Executive Director. Established in 2006, DLPP is the first and only annual U.S. literary award recognizing the power of the written word to promote peace and social justice. A native Daytonian, Nick is a seasoned professional who brings more than 15 years of experience in community development and engagement, fund raising, team management, and strategic planning to this role.

“With his passion for the arts and his personal warmth, Nick is a perfect fit as our new Executive Director,” said Sharon Rab, Founder and Board of Trustees President. “Nick appreciates and respects writers as fellow artists and is devoted to the concept of bringing people together in the name of peace locally, nationally, and internationally. He has been a passionate supporter of the DLPP from the first time he attended as a guest of Barbara Cleary, and has served on the Strategy Committee and the Board of Trustees, bringing his ideas and connections to help strengthen the organization’s commitment to advancing peace through literature,” Sharon continued. “It is time for the DLPP to move to professional staffing and we are fortunate to have a leader with his intelligence and inherent kindness to move us into the next phase in our development.”

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"The Dayton Literary Peace Prize has become one of the 'prized' assets of the city of Dayton and the state of Ohio. Having Nick in this new leadership role will influence in significant ways the reach and impact of all the different literary peace initiatives associated with the work of the DLPP," said Thomas J. Lasley, II, who is a member of DLPP's Board of Trustees.

"It is humbling to be a part of an organization that champions people's voices and strives to bring communities together," said Nick. "Together we will envision the continuing work of the DLPP, ensuring that those who speak truth courageously and tenaciously are given as wide a reach as possible. Our community, our society, and the world need to bear witness to the truths being written by our authors. It is my privilege to be able to collaborate with our authors, our founder, Sharon, our board, and all who love this prize and what it stands for in the pursuit of understanding each other's points of view—the pursuit of peace."

Prior to the DLPP, Nick served as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Russell Total Wealth Management, a Dayton-based company, where he led the construction oversight of the firm's 18,000 square foot headquarters at the Oakwood Sugar Camp Complex. In addition, Nick spent more than five years as Director of Development for the Miami Valley School. There he was responsible for successfully leading a \$9.5 million capital campaign to revitalize Dayton's only independent school. Before MVS, Nick worked for long-time Ohio Congressman Mike Turner's office holding various roles including Finance Director and Director of Outreach. He started his career in Development with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra.

In addition, Nick has always been actively engaged in the community. He currently serves on the Finance Committee for the Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Dayton

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and is a member of the Dayton Rotary. In addition, he has volunteered on the local organizing committee for the Big Hoopla, the fund development committee for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Miami Valley, the board of trustees for Musica, and was on the board of the DLPP before becoming its Executive Director.

Nick and his wife Bekah—a corporate attorney at Thompson Hine—reside in Kettering.

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