



**IAAS Walks of Life 2011**  
**Richard Coyne**

Richard F. Coyne is the founder and first president of the Great Lakes Science Center.

Twenty years ago, Coyne was chosen to spearhead the successful drive to raise \$60 million for construction of a world-class science center in Cleveland. He was responsible for leading the design team of architects, contractors and professionals to make the 165,000-square-foot science center a reality.

The center opened under cost and with no debt in time for Cleveland's bicentennial in 1996. It became one of the top 10 largest "hands-on" science museums in the country, offering more than 300 dynamic, interactive exhibits and activities organized on three floors, each dedicated to one of its educational themes (environment, science and technology). The center also featured an Omnimax wide-screen movie theater.

In its first two years of operation, the center drew more than a million visitors. Popular touring exhibitions such as Robot Zoo and Titanic helped make the museum a profitable operation.

The establishment of a Science and Technology Educational Partnership has raised more than \$2 million from foundations, corporations and the state to provide tours, benefits and partial aid to more than a million Northeast Ohio school children and teachers.

Coyne is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard and received a Fulbright Scholarship to India after graduating from Harvard Law School. Before coming to Cleveland, he spent 16 years with the Economic Development Council of New York City and New York City Partnership Inc., where he led task forces to improve the management and operations of the city's police, courts, and non-profit agencies generating hundreds of millions in savings. He also served as president and chief executive of the Science Place in Dallas from 1985 through 1991.

Since retiring from managing the science center in 2004, Coyne has provided independent consulting and advice to non-profits and others. He is a member of the leadership board of Cleveland Clinic's Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute and former chairman of the endowment board at St. Ann Catholic Church in Cleveland Heights, where he and his wife, Susan, live. The couple has three sons.

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