



2017 WALKS OF LIFE HONOREES

Cailin Development

(Finucane Family)

Dublin native Louis Finucane likes to describe himself as a “serial entrepreneur.”

A graduate of University College Dublin, he landed in America in 1986 on a student visa as part of an exchange program, funded by Smurfit Packaging, at the University of Missouri-Rolla. While there, he obtained a Master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering specializing in Ultra High Pressure Waterjet technology. Not long after graduating, in 1988, he made his way to Cleveland to work for Allied Steel and Tractor Products Inc. in Solon, a manufacturer of original equipment for the heavy construction industry.



Shortly after receiving a U.S. patent for his design of a high pressure waterjet apparatus for the cleaning of utility power plant boilers, he incorporated his first business; Cailin Development LLC, in 1994. The name plays directly to his Irish roots (Cailin is the Irish version of the name Colleen). The choice of name may not have been motivated solely by a wish to comply with the Ohio Secretary of State’s requirement for a unique company name; but he will confess no more.

His company’s first venture was the acquisition of obsolete inventory in exchange for contracts to manufacture metal parts for his old employer, Allied Steel. In the following years, his company also supplied parts, such as steel pins, bushings, shafts and gears, to a variety of large manufacturing clients. Cailin has always prided itself on having long lead items in stock ready to ship at a moment’s notice. Today Cailin also has diversified into the business of providing Steel Straightening and Flame Hardening services.

While the engineering related business remains Louis’ first interest, his entrepreneurial spirit has led him to diversify significantly into the ownership and management of multi-family apartments and more recently, into the repurposing of old industrial buildings—an enterprise that contributes to the vitality of his adopted city. Louis is grateful to all the many people who, with no consideration for themselves, helped make his American dream a reality.

Above: Louis Finucane’s parents ca. 1950. Below: Louis with his son William at the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture, Fighting Heart.