

IN LEADING THE \$1.8 BILLION CLEVELAND FOUNDATION, RONN RICHARD IS SETTING THE PACE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHEAST OHIO.

Ronn Richard showed up a few hours early for his interview at The Cleveland Foundation three-and-a-half years ago.

He rented a car and he drove around downtown — up and down the streets, around city blocks. The exercise was customary for Richard, whose diplomacy background taught him to hit the ground running in any city, learn any language, get to know the right people fast and make a difference. What he saw here would not surprise most Clevelanders.

"The downtown looked hollowed out, a lot of empty buildings," he describes.

But intuitive, analytical Richard listens with his eyes. Potholes pocked the streetscape, right in front of a few brand new buildings.

"It occurred to me after an hour that all the new buildings in Cleveland were nonprofits," he relates, pausing. "And nonprofits do not pay property tax."

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Ronn Richard,
president and
CEO of the
Cleveland
Foundation

Cleveland's Ambassador

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