

EXECUTIVE PROFILE



Ronald Leonhardt, Jr. Founder, President and CEO

A lifelong resident of Greater Cleveland, Ronald Leonhardt, Jr. founded CrossCountry Mortgage in 2003 after having worked several years as a loan officer and broker. Under his leadership, CrossCountry has become one of the nation's largest and fastest growing retail mortgage lenders, and the largest based in Ohio.

CrossCountry eclipsed \$1 billion in loans for the first time in 2014. In 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, it funded \$42.65 billion in home purchases and refinance packages, representing 198.1% growth year-over-year, ranking third among HousingWire's top 15 mortgage lenders. The company employs nearly 7,000 across its network of more than 500 office locations nationwide.

In December 2020, Leonhardt announced plans for a \$46 million headquarters in Cleveland's historic Superior Arts District east of downtown. The 168,000-square-foot complex, scheduled to open in late 2021, will bring more than 600 jobs to the city.

Leonhardt in 1997 earned a bachelor of arts degree from Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, Ohio, where he also was a member of the football and track teams. He began his career in the mortgage industry later that year, working as a loan officer and broker before establishing CrossCountry Mortgage with the assistance of two relatives and three other employees.

He is a member of the Mortgage Bankers Association, Washington, D.C., and Ohio Mortgage Bankers Association (Ohio MBA), Westerville, Ohio.

In addition to overseeing the growth of CrossCountry Mortgage, Leonhardt is an owner of several iconic Northeast Ohio restaurants, brew pubs and other establishments.