

Wooster's Noble family receives Friend of Philanthropy Award

Noble family presented Friend of Philanthropy Award

By THOMAS DOOHAN Staff Writer Published: October 16, 2015 4:00AM

WOOSTER -- Laughter filled the halls of the Shisler Center during the Wayne County Community Foundation annual dinner as Dick Seaman talked about the antics he shared with David Noble over the years.

While his stories were successful at bringing smiles to the audience, their aim was at celebrating the kindness and generosity of the Noble family -- the recipient of the 2015 Friend of Philanthropy Award.

Seaman, who presented the award to David Noble, who accepted for the family, said he and his friend go way back. He shared story after story of his experiences with Noble -- be it on the ski hill or, as he said Noble has a knack for athletic injuries, in the emergency room.

While David Noble has a light-hearted adventurous spirit and was a dedicated lawyer, Seaman said he generally thinks of his friend in another context. "I believe David will be remembered as the former lawyer turned philanthropist."

David Noble belongs to a family with a legacy of giving back, Seaman said. His parents, Don and Alice Noble, set up the Donald and Alice Noble Foundation, which he leads along with family and community members.

"David takes his philanthropy responsibility seriously and recognizes this important challenge of stewardship. Our community has benefited greatly from David and his board's critical evaluation of the needs in the area," he said.

Through David Noble, the Noble family and its foundation, Wayne County has seen the creation of the Alice Noble Ice Arena, Oak Hill Park, Noble House at Liberty Center Connections and many others. Seaman said presenting David Noble and his family the award represents some "well deserved recognition."

David Noble said he has thought about his family's legacy and of philanthropy and has realized giving back is a concept that is beneficial for everyone involved. It all comes back to what people want most in life -- happiness, joy and freedom.

"The best way to achieve those feelings is by being caring, compassionate, merciful and generous,"



Mike Schenk
photos/www.buydrphotos.com Seaman Corporation CEO Dick Seaman welcomes David Noble (left) to the podium after his introductory speech at the Wayne County Community Foundation Annual Dinner. Noble accepted the 2015 Friends of Philanthropy Award on behalf of his family.

Noble said. "In fact, the best way anyone can do something for themselves is to do something for someone else."

That idea is an age-old concept that is taught by cultures and religions around the world, he said. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told his followers to walk the extra mile in their generosity, helping others when it is not required of them.

David Noble said that behavior "can totally change a situation."

That is a concept Don Noble took to heart. David said his father was generous with his money, giving time and time again. But he also was generous with his employees at the Rubbermaid factory, listening to their stories and talking with them, he said.

"Generosity is also a hallmark of this community," he said, noting there are countless examples, which is "a direct result of the fact that generations of Wayne County residents have understood that the very best thing they could do for themselves was to do something for someone else."

This was an idea that resonated with many in the audience, including Ronald Holtman, who was the speaker. He said Wayne County has become great at philanthropy because people have been blessed with resources, the guts to do something about issues and the creativity to bring them to fruition.

"That is typical of philanthropy in Wayne County," he said.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the Wayne County Community Foundation. Board President Steve Matthew said the foundation has \$58.8 million in assets, an increase of \$1.3 million over last year. He said that is not possible without the community, which has given more than \$5 million in gifts. Matthew said over \$3.5 million in grants and scholarships were presented in the last year thanks to the community and donors like the Nobles.

Stan Gault, whose family received the 2013 Friends of Philanthropy Award, said David Noble's comments about generosity being good for everyone and a principal Wayne County has embodied could not be more true. He said he and his late wife, Flo, made sure to live their lives generously and it is clear the Noble family lives by that same idea.

"That family is committed to philanthropy," Gault added.

Donald Noble II said he was honored his family could be a part of the culture of giving in the community and presented with the Friends of Philanthropy Award. He said his grandparents would be honored to be listed alongside the distinguished group of recipients of other years.

"It's a testament to the legacy of our grandparents and an honor for us," Matt Noble said.

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