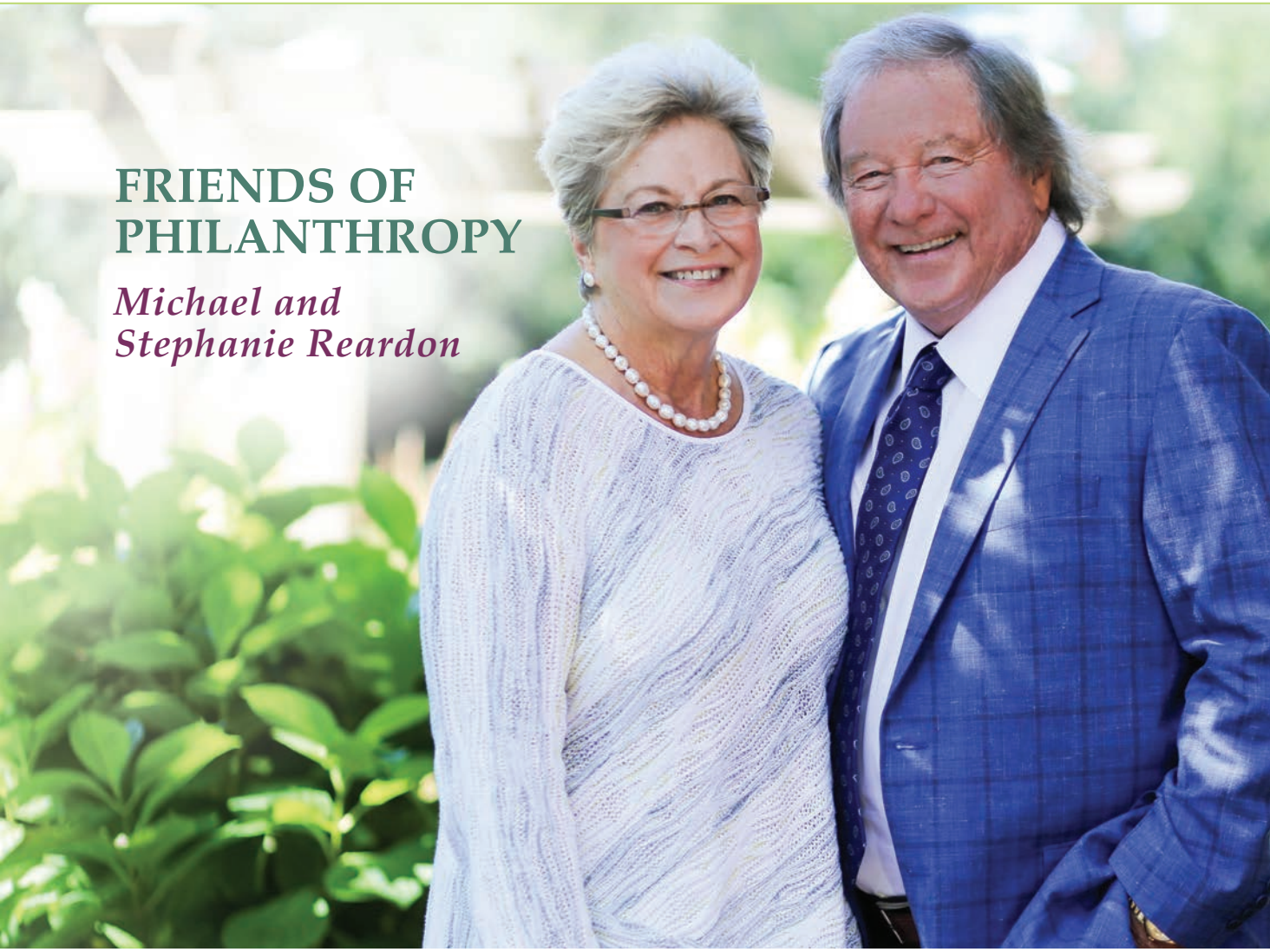

FRIENDS OF PHILANTHROPY

Michael and Stephanie Reardon

In 1974, Mike and Stephanie Reardon had a business decision to make: purchase a licorice company in Cincinnati or a titanium business in Shreve. They opted for the titanium business, later relocating United Titanium to Wooster. And, while the plan was to remain in Wayne County just a few years before settling down in Mike's hometown of Columbus, the couple fell in love with the community – lucky for us – and decided to stay, making Wooster their home – a choice that has provided substantial and lasting benefits to residents of Wayne County.

It is difficult to quantify the full extent of the Reardons' philanthropy. Some things are readily known, such as their leadership roles at First Presbyterian Church over many years and their steadfast and generous support of the United Way. But, as many will tell you, much more has been done behind the scenes without recognition or publicity. Not only are Mike and Stephanie personally generous with their resources, they also take a hands-on approach – volunteering their time and expertise to causes they care about.

Their selfless commitment to charitable giving and community development has had a County-wide impact for nearly five decades.

Mike is known for his charismatic personality, his huge heart, and his wisdom as a community leader – all traits he brings to the non-profit organizations and community initiatives he supports. He has served on the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and has played a key role in economic development efforts throughout the County. Mike has shared his expertise with various nonprofit boards and worked on the HealthCare 2000 committee which resulted in the creation of Viola Startzman Clinic.

The Reardons have consistently made lead contributions to fundraising campaigns throughout the County, including: Wooster High School, The Village Network, Wayne Center for the Arts, OneEighty Inc., Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO), Boys & Girls Club of Wooster, Cornerstone PlayLab, Wayne County Public Library, the CHIEF

Each year, well over 5,000 people enjoy ***Window Wonderland*** in downtown Wooster, a project the Reardons have personally supported each year.

Campaign to raise funds for Wayne County Fire and Rescue Association Regional Training Facility, the Stanley C. Gault Philanthropic Leadership Fund at the Foundation, and many others.

They have been leaders in the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of United Way, and United Titanium consistently has one of the highest employee participation rates of any local business. The couple also made a significant contribution to Wooster Community Hospital in 2018, bringing a state-of-the-art Cardiac Catheterization Lab to the area.

Mike and Stephanie's leadership of downtown redevelopment has been especially noteworthy. For many years, they were the main underwriters for Main Street Wooster's ***Window Wonderland***, an event that well over 5,000 people enjoy every Christmas season. Stephanie has played a key role in the Downtown Beautification project, which plants flowers each year on the Square in downtown Wooster.

Mike and Stephanie do not seek out the spotlight. They do not require accolades. They quietly, and consistently, provide support for virtually every philanthropic need in the community. Their example of commitment to community has inspired others to assume leadership roles and to participate in a variety of projects that have improved the quality of life for all of us.

In establishing the ***Friend of Philanthropy***, the Foundation wanted to recognize the difference that individuals can make through personal commitment and leadership, taking into account the impact such individuals have on our community, and the role their creativity and advocacy can play in a project's success. Mike and Stephanie Reardon exemplify the very best of all these qualities, and have repeatedly shared them with the members of this community. They will forever be admired for their dedication to making Wayne County a better community through selfless acts of personal and corporate philanthropy.

Previous Award Recipients

Stanley C. & Flo K. Gault, 2013

The J.M. Smucker Family, 2014

The Donald & Alice Noble Family, 2015

Greg & Kathy Long, 2016

Barry Romich, 2017

Stephen & Cheryl Shapiro, 2018

The Friend of Philanthropy Award was created to honor those who make a difference in our communities with their philanthropic activities – the giving of treasure, time, and talent – for the betterment of the Wayne County area. It is presented at Wayne County Community Foundation's Annual Dinner. For more details on the award and nomination process, please visit us online at WayneCountyCommunityFoundation.org or call 330.262.3877.