

FRIEND OF PHILANTHROPY

The Smucker Family



Representing the Smucker Family are Timothy and Richard Smucker. Seated, Richard holds a portrait of their grandfather, Willard Smucker. Behind him is a photograph of their father, Paul Smucker. Tim, standing, holds a photo of their great-grandfather and founder of the company that bears his name, Jerome Monroe (J.M.) Smucker. (Photo courtesy of Chuck Crow, The Plain Dealer).

“With a name like Smucker’s...”

Millions of people around the world know how that sentence ends; Wayne County residents know it doesn’t apply only to the company, but to the family behind it as well. While The J.M. Smucker Company has grown from selling apple butter from the back of a horse-drawn wagon to a thriving corporation whose products are sold throughout the world, members of the Smucker Family have always remembered their roots in Wayne County. Over many years, the Smuckers have truly made philanthropy a family affair, and embody the qualities recognized in the **Friend of Philanthropy Award**.

Jerome Monroe (J.M.) Smucker was dedicated to finding ways to help meet the needs of the community,

even while he traveled. During the Great Depression, his hometown of Orrville was greatly tested. J.M., in Greece at the time, wrote home to ensure the proposed improvement project at Orr Park, in the heart of Orrville, did not fail in his absence. And, as banks across the nation began to collapse during the Depression, the Orrville National Bank also struggled and finally closed its doors in 1933. Realizing the effect this closing would have on the residents of Orrville and surrounding areas, J.M. helped establish a new bank – investing his own money and serving as one of its directors.

Since J.M.’s time, generations of the Smucker Family have followed the long-standing family tradition of

giving of their time and resources to their community. To list only a few examples of their generosity: Willard Smucker was instrumental in the building and governance of the local Dunlap Community Hospital, known today as Aultman Orrville Hospital; his brother Welker’s efforts helped to establish The Village Network (formerly Boys’ Village), which has helped thousands of troubled youth; Paul and Lorraine played a key role in developing Wayne College, a branch of The University of Akron, to better serve local students; and Marcella (Smucker) Clark supported the expansion of Dunlap Community Hospital, creating a wing in honor of her father.

The 4th generation of the Smucker Family continues this tradition of



The 4th generation of the Smucker Family
 Top Left: Richard and Emily Smucker
 Center: Tim and Jenny Smucker
 Top Right: Reid and Susi (Smucker) Wagstaff

sharing and service. Among their many community activities, the Smuckers were instrumental in creating Heartland Education Community, a support system of Orrville City Schools focused on improving education through the community. They have provided support for the Orrville City Schools' long-range facilities plan and centralized campus. Tim and Jenny Smucker have a passion for education—supporting a variety of initiatives including The College of Wooster and the Montessori School of Wooster.

Susi Smucker Wagstaff and her husband, Reid, support a variety of initiatives and scholarships for The University of Akron and Wayne College. Richard Smucker has been a leader in the beautification and revitalization of downtown Orrville. Jenny and Emily Smucker are full partners in the family philanthropy and are involved in an assortment of community activities.

Together, the Smucker Family has enhanced the quality of life of Wayne County citizens with their sponsorship and participation in a wide range of projects and programs. They have set a standard of generosity—over four generations—that few can match.



In establishing the **Friend of Philanthropy Award**, 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 that their **creativity** and **advocacy** can play in a project's success. Members of the Smucker Family exemplify the very best of all these qualities, and have repeatedly shared them with the members of this community. We are forever grateful.

The Friend of Philanthropy Award was created to honor those who make a difference in our communities with their philanthropic activities – the giving of time, talent or treasure – for the betterment of the Wayne County area. The award is presented each year 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.