

Ron & Prue Holtman



It is difficult to quantify the full extent of Ron and Prue Holtman's philanthropy – their commitment to and passion for our community has been unwavering for over fifty years.

Some things are readily known, such as their steadfast and generous support of Wayne Center for the Arts. But, as many will tell you, much more has been done behind the scenes without recognition or publicity. Not only are Ron and Prue 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 over five decades.

Upon arriving in Wooster, the couple almost immediately got involved in community endeavors. Ron joined the Board of what is now Wayne Center for the Arts (WCA). This would be the first of three separate terms on the WCA Board, including serving as Board Chair, and guiding the institution through a number of difficult transitions and evolutions.

In addition to his service to WCA, Ron has volunteered on numerous nonprofit boards throughout Wayne County: The Village Network, United Way of Wayne and Holmes Counties, Goodwill Industries, OneEighty, and the Killbuck District of Scouting America to name a few. He currently serves as a trustee for Killbuck Watershed Land Trust, Ohio Light Opera, and has recently joined the board of The Lyric Theater.

Last but not least, he served as a Trustee for Wayne County Community Foundation for 23 years – as President of the Board from 1993 to 2005 and as Investment Committee Chair for the following 8 years. Under his leadership, the Foundation grew from \$3 million in assets to over \$51 million in assets. He was named Trustee Emeritus in 2013.

While Ron's background as an attorney puts him more in the public eye, Prue prefers to work behind the scenes. She devotes her energy to American Association of University Women, the Flo K. Gault Scholarship Committee, and was a founding member of The Women's Fund at Wayne County Community Foundation.

The Holtmans do not seek out the spotlight. They do not require accolades. They quietly, and consistently, provide support for our community. Ron and Prue set the bar for volunteer service in Wayne County. 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.

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

Michael & Stephanie Reardon, 2019

Richard & Judy Seaman, 2022

John C. Johnston III, 2023

**No recipients in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic*

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 www.wccfoh.org or call **330.262.3877**.



RUTH M. TIECHE

The Friend of Philanthropy Award is named in honor of Ruth M. Tieche. Ruth worked at Freedlander's Department Store for nearly 60 years, retiring in 1975 as personnel director. She passed away in March 1989, at the age of 90, leaving no survivors. Through a bequest, Ruth left \$384,000 to the Foundation as an unrestricted gift.

Ruth's generosity brought the total assets under the care of the Foundation to more than \$1 million – a major milestone for the young organization. With careful stewardship, her initial gift has continued to grow while also awarding funds back into the community through the Foundation's competitive grant cycle. Unrestricted gifts, like the one provided by Ruth, allow the Foundation to meet the ever-changing needs of our community for years to come.