

# FRIEND OF PHILANTHROPY

Greg and Kathy Long



Greg and Kathy Long are lifetime Wayne County residents—and they would not have it any other way. In fact, Greg’s family roots go back nearly to the founding of Wayne County. During the first half of the 20th century, three generations of the Long family were charged with caring for the clock atop the Wayne County Courthouse.

Greg attended Wooster Township Elementary School and Triway High School before graduating from Kent State University. While home over winter break in 1969, Greg met Kathy Jones, who also had deep roots in the

community through her parents’ business, the Wooster Glass Company. Kathy began her career with the company when she was only thirteen years old, working summers and after school. She and Greg married in 1972 and together they began to make their own mark on Wayne County.

The couple was strongly influenced by Kathy’s parents, Ralph and Grace Jones, who instilled in them a strong ethic of community involvement—often telling them “If you want to make a difference, you need to get involved.” And get involved, they did!

As a Certified Public Accountant, Greg provides professional advice to many nonprofits. He has served as Treasurer for countless organizations, preparing tax returns and providing advice free of charge. Serving on the Board of Governors for Wooster Community Hospital, Greg lends his expertise to ensure the healthcare complex remains financially strong and that the top-rated hospital continues to serve the residents of Wayne County. Greg currently is the President of Habitat for Humanity in Wayne County, Inc., and he is a Trustee for the American Red Cross Lake Erie/Heartland Chapter, The College of Wooster, and the Kent State University Foundation.

Kathy serves on the Board of the Ralph R. & Grace B. Jones Foundation. The Foundation funds the Outstanding Teacher Award each year for Wooster City School District. Kathy is an Emeritus Trustee of OneEighty, Inc. (formerly STEPS and Every Woman's House) and is a founding member of The Women's Fund, an affiliate of Wayne County Community Foundation.

The Longs have taken active roles in major fundraising campaigns in the area, including The College of Wooster, LifeCare Hospice, Wayne County Historical Society, The Village Network, The American Red Cross, and United Way of Wayne & Holmes Counties.

Their list of community involvements is equally lengthy. As needs arise in the community, Greg and Kathy have been there to provide what's needed. They believe strongly in the missions of the organizations they support; and while supporting these organizations financially is important, you will also find them "in the trenches." It's not uncommon to find them volunteering—tools in hand—to strengthen the organizations they serve.

The Longs exemplify the true meaning of philanthropy. Together, Greg and Kathy have been active in the community for decades—

making a difference in the lives of many. They understand that a community is built and managed by those who live within it. As such, the couple takes a pro-active role in reaching out to other members of the community and encouraging them to become involved.

They learned from Ralph and Grace Jones "never to be afraid to give someone a helping hand"—whether in business or their community. Ralph and Grace left a legacy of memories, packed full of respect, charity, and laughter—a legacy Greg and Kathy have picked up and carried forward.

In establishing the Friend of Philanthropy Award, WCCF 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. Greg and Kathy embody the very best of all these qualities, and have repeatedly shared them with the members of this community. We are forever grateful.

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### **Previous Award Recipients**

*Stanley C. & Flo K. Gault, 2013*

*The J.M. Smucker Family, 2014*

*The Donald & Alice Noble Family, 2015*

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*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. It 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](http://WayneCountyCommunityFoundation.org) or call 330.262.3877*