

lifetime achievement award

Roger T. and Judy A. Read



Roger and Judy, philanthropists at heart, have been two of the most altruistic and influential community members in the Akron area, engaging community members and leaders to invest in countless philanthropic causes through advocacy and their own philanthropic gifts.

For almost 40 years Roger T. Read has been an active community member, serving on the boards of numerous organizations that have helped shape Akron's growth and development. Prior to his retirement in 1995, Roger, as President and CEO of Harwick Standard Chemical Corporation, was known for his quality initiatives, visioning process, and increasing company visibility and market share.

In 2002, the Akron Community Foundation acknowledged Roger's "selfless dedication to humanitarian causes in Akron" by awarding him with their highest honor, the 33rd Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award.

presenting sponsors

The Brennan Family Foundation

The Maynard Family Foundation

Roger is currently serving on the board for Smithers Group Corporation. He is a past director for the B.W. Rogers Company and FirstMerit Corporation; a trustee for the Corbin Foundation and the University of Akron Business College Advancement Council; Past Chair of Akron Rotary Club, Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens Board, Akron Automobile Club, and the Center for Nonprofit Excellence; has served as a trustee of Leadership Akron; and is past President of the University of Akron Foundation.

Judy has been an active part of the philanthropic landscape as well. A trustee and advisor to countless nonprofit organizations, she is a well respected voice in the Akron area. She was instrumental in a series of events, properly known as Wake-up calls, that were seminars addressing the need for collaborative and sustainability planning to nonprofit organizations in Northeast Ohio.

The impact of the philanthropic spirit by which Roger and Judy live is evident in the many Akron area organizations that call them friends. Their ability to move family members and acquaintances alike to community involvement is a testament to the respect they have gained through their good works.

nominated by Center for Nonprofit Excellence member Gigi Woodruff