

outstanding philanthropist award

HELEN W. DIX



Helen Westcott Dix moved to Kent in the 1930s to study journalism at Kent State University. Little did Kent State, the city of Kent, Portage County, or the state of Ohio know that this freshman would make such an extraordinary impact on everything she championed. Helen became the Kent Stater's (nka the Daily Kent Stater) first female editor and led the paper when, for the first time in its history, it was entirely written, edited, and published by women. For the past seven decades, Helen Dix has demonstrated her commitment to her adopted home through her volunteerism and philanthropy.

Mrs. Dix has actively championed the Coleman Foundation and its mission of supporting children, families, and older adults with mental health and rehabilitation challenges. She is an active participant in the Foundation's fundraising events and is currently serving as honorary co-chair of the Foundation's campaign, Touching Lives Changing Destinies.

Mrs. Dix's life-long commitment to Kent State, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Masters in Political Science, is evident through her incredible generosity. She has created numerous scholarships and provided direct support to many programs. Other organizations that have benefitted from her leadership and vision include the Robinson Memorial Hospital Foundation, from whom she received the Foundation's Distinguished Service Award in 1999; the Portage County Gardeners; Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine; United Way of Portage County; United Methodist Church of Kent; League of Women Voters; Kent City Schools; Kent Free Library; Leadership Portage County (Class of 2002); The Portage County Park District; and Hiram College.

In 2004, the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce recognized the immeasurable contributions that Helen Dix has made to the Portage County community and bestowed upon her their first ever Lifetime Achievement Award. At the ceremony, Roger DiPaolo, editor of the Record-Courier, thanked Mrs. Dix for "being a good judge of character, a stickler for high standards, and a force for decency".

nominated by
William Childers,
Coleman Foundation