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special recognition award

WITAN



WITAN was founded in West Akron by seven young women on July 8, 1943 to form a group that would be a pleasure to its members while being an ever-growing asset to the community. The group has indeed become an important asset to the Akron community.

In 2002, the members of WITAN accepted the acronym Women in Touch with Akron's Needs to help define their purpose and commitment to the community. Well over two million volunteer hours and over \$1,400,000 in project funding have been contributed to non-profit organizations in Summit County by WITAN's membership throughout their history. Today, WITAN is composed of a group of more than 200 dynamic, dedicated, and diverse women.

Early years of WITAN were filled with monthly meetings, benefit dances, and theme parties. After many creative and successful benefit dances and parties, the group turned to other fund-raising methods, such as seasonal benefit style shows at Polsky's, cooking schools featuring culinary experts, and two very successful cookbooks. A French Market was born in 1978 and continues as an important two-day event complete with juried artisans, a luncheon prepared and served by members, homemade bakery, and much more.

In 1988, WOW (Women of WITAN), a gala patron party for the French Market, was established. The French Market and WOW provide nearly \$50,000 to the community annually. The Civic Committee of WITAN continues to screen worthy agencies and recommends to the general membership how the proceeds of the Ways and Means projects will be used to support local charities.

nominated by
Evelyn DiBello,
Stewart's Caring Place