

FRIEND OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Stanley C. and Flo K. Gault

How do you spell “philanthropy”? Residents of Wayne County know it’s spelled G-A-U-L-T. The inaugural recipients of the Wayne County Community Foundation’s *Friend of Philanthropy Award*—Stanley C. and Flo K. Gault—not only embody a love of humanity (the classic definition) but also an abiding commitment to the strength and vitality of this community.

Stan, born and raised in Wooster, Ohio, met Flo Kurtz, his wife-to-be, while attending The College of Wooster, from which they graduated in 1948. In the following years, Stan and Flo had three children, and the family moved often as Stan rose rapidly to the highest executive ranks of General Electric Corporation.

The Gaults returned to Wooster in 1980. Since then, they have involved themselves—and inspired others to become involved—in projects and programs that better the lives of Wayne County residents. What’s more, they have provided the capital that turns dreams into reality. Stan and Flo have always led by example—setting a standard of personal generosity that few can match.

Flo, who passed away in April 2013, served as a board member for the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne and Holmes Counties, the Village Network Corporation, and the Wayne Center for the Arts. She belonged to the Friends of Boys’ Village, The Monday Club, the Women’s Advisory Board for The College of Wooster, the P.E.O. Sisterhood, and was a faithful member of Wooster United Methodist Church. Flo served as a Trustee for the Methodist Theological School in Ohio and the East Ohio Methodist Foundation.

Because of her love of writing and words, and her commitment to encouraging young writers, Flo was an avid supporter of the Power of the Pen Tournament since its arrival in 1989 on The College of Wooster campus, where the State Finals were held in 2013.

While Stan’s contributions to business and economic development in Wayne County are great, his devotion to philanthropic causes has been even greater. For more than 40 years, he has been a Trustee of The College of Wooster, where he continues as Emeritus Trustee, and was also a founding Trustee of the Gault Family Learning Center. In addition, he has co-chaired a joint capital project for Every Woman’s House and Wayne County Alcoholism Services, led the challenge to raise substantial funds to purchase the downtown Wooster property for the new Wayne County Public Library, and served as honorary co-chair of the Campaign into the Next Century at the Wayne County Historical Society. In 2001, Stan led the drive to establish an Alexis de Tocqueville Society for the United Way of Wayne & Holmes Counties, a recruitment and retention effort he continued to lead for more than a decade, most recently serving as Co-Chair of the de Tocqueville leadership team in 2012.

Together, the couple sponsored and participated in an array of projects and programs that have enhanced the quality of life of Wayne County citizens. The Gaults created a “campus” south of the Square in Wooster, to allow for social and educational interaction using the Wayne Center for the Arts, the new United Way and Red Cross buildings, and the new public library as the

inspiration for collaborative activities. From the beginning, Stan and Flo embraced the vision of a revitalized downtown area, and have been pivotal to its creation. From infrastructure and beautification projects in the early 90’s to ongoing private and public investments such as Merchants Block, their support has helped to stimulate more than \$145,000,000 in reinvestment, and the economic development of downtown Wooster today.

Substantial contributions from the Gaults resulted in the Gault Youth and Family Enrichment Center at The Village Network, The Gault Youth Center at the Wooster United Methodist Church, the purchase of two properties to be donated to Habitat for Humanity, and The Gault Recreation Center at the Wooster High School. Strong supporters of Hospice & Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County, Stan and Flo were among the major contributors to the capital campaign to build a new residential treatment facility, “A Place Like Home.” Through his work as a Trustee for the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, Stan brought additional financial resources into Wayne County by guiding the Foundation’s philanthropic giving for The College of Wooster and The Village Network.

Stan served as the National Chairman for two major fund-raising campaigns at The College of Wooster, which together raised more than \$111 million. The Gaults’ contributions to The College of Wooster have allowed for the construction of numerous buildings, including Gault Admissions Center, the Flo K. Gault Library for Independent Study, Gault Manor, a student residence,

Gault Recital Hall in Scheide Music Center, the renovation of a home that became the Gault Alumni Center and, most recently, Gault Recreation Center within the new Scot Center complex.

In establishing the *Friend of Philanthropy Award*, the Foundation 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. Stan and Flo Gault exemplify the very best of all these qualities, and have repeatedly shared them—over many years—in good times and in hard times—with the members of this community. We are forever grateful.

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 will be presented each year at the Wayne County Community Foundation's Annual Dinner. For more details on the award and nomination process, please visit us online at WayneCountyCommunityFoundation.org or call 330.262.3877.

