

Richard and Judy Seaman



College sweethearts, Richard and Judy Seaman met on a blind date while attending Bowling Green State University. After graduation, the couple married and moved to Millersburg to work for the family business – a textile company that was started in 1949 by Richard’s parents, Norm and Irene, with two sewing machines in their basement.

As a result of fire insurance issues related to their Millersburg manufacturing facility in 1985, Richard and Judy Seaman had a difficult decision to make – consolidate the business into their plant in Tennessee or rebuild locally. Always thinking of their community, Richard and Judy thought it important to keep jobs here. After a bit of searching, they


found land in Wooster to build the new headquarters and manufacturing plant for Seaman Corporation – a decision that their associates and the residents of Wayne County have benefited from ever since.

Richard and Judy are both actively involved in their community and support a variety of charitable causes such as education, entrepreneurship, and health and wellness. They have made it their mission to focus their philanthropic endeavors on sustainable causes that will create a long-term impact on their community.

Richard is an Emeritus Life Trustee for The College of Wooster, served for 15 years as the chairman of the Business Advisory Council for Wooster City Schools, and is currently the Board Chair for Burton D. Morgan Foundation, a philanthropic endeavor dedicated to investing in organizations that promote the free enterprise system and foster the entrepreneurial spirit.

Judy devotes her energy to Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO) and was a founding member of The Women’s Fund at Wayne County Community Foundation. She has previously volunteered her time, talent, and treasures with People to People, OneEighty, Inc. (previously Every Woman’s House), and Wooster City Schools Arts Programs, as well as several other community organizations.

In recent years, the couple supported bringing additional high-quality pediatric health care to Wayne County with financial support to Akron Children’s Health Center, Wooster. They also donated the land for the newly established Clear Creek Park, an 11-acre park that takes guests on a three-quarter-mile trail over two boardwalks to an overlook of Clear Creek, a tributary of Killbuck Creek. This community asset was part of the vision for their investment in building the Aspen Racquet Club. Although it is a separate business, this significant investment has provided another state-of-the-art recreation facility for the Wooster and Wayne County community.



Richard and Judy believe in the importance of educating future generations about philanthropy. They strive to instill a sense of service in their three children – Carrie, Kim, and Jason – and eight grandchildren. The Seaman Family Foundation enables the younger generations to engage and learn about their community and its needs. Any member of the family may propose a funding opportunity to the Family Foundation, but are expected to personally contribute towards the project in a meaningful way. In the words of Richard, “While all of our descendants may not want to have their careers in the family business, the philanthropic mission of our Family Foundation offers a platform to support their stewardship passions and provide a common family bond.”

The couple empowers a culture of philanthropy within their family business, Seaman Corporation. The company often donates their products, a variety of industrial fabrics that can be utilized for architectural and roofing needs, to areas affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters. In addition, the company also offers associates paid time off to engage in volunteer activities for area nonprofit organizations close to their own hearts.

Their generosity is truly a gift to so many today and for many generations to come. In establishing the **Friend of Philanthropy Award**, the Foundation wanted to recognize the difference that individuals can make through personal commitment and leadership, consider the impact such individuals have on our community, and the role their creativity and advocacy play in a project's success. Richard and Judy Seaman exemplify the very best of all these qualities, and have repeatedly shared them with the members of this community. They will forever be admired for their dedication to making Wayne County a better place through selfless acts of personal and corporate philanthropy.

Previous Award Recipients

Stanley C. & Flo K. Gault, 2013

The J.M. Smucker Family, 2014

The Donald & Alice Noble Family, 2015

Greg & Kathy Long, 2016

Barry Romich, 2017

Stephen & Cheryl Shapiro, 2018

Mike & Stephanie Reardon, 2019

No recipients in 2020 or 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Friend of Philanthropy Award was created to honor those who make a difference in our communities with their philanthropic activities – the giving of treasure, time, and talent – for the betterment of the Wayne County area. It is presented at Wayne County Community Foundation's Annual Dinner. For more details on the award and nomination process, please visit us online at www.wccfoh.org or call 330.262.3877.



RUTH M. TIECHE

Ruth M. Tieche worked at Freedlander's Department Store for nearly 60 years, retiring in 1975 as personnel director. She passed away in March 1989, at the age of 90. Through a bequest, Ruth left \$384,000 to the Foundation as an unrestricted gift.

Ruth's generosity brought the total assets under the care of the Foundation to more than \$1 million – a major milestone for the young organization. With careful stewardship, her initial gift has continued to grow while also awarding funds back into the community through the Foundation's competitive grant cycle. Unrestricted gifts, like the one provided by Ruth, allow the Foundation to meet the ever-changing needs of our community for years to come.

In recognition of her commitment to Wayne County, the WCCF Board of Trustees have renamed the Friend of Philanthropy Award and established a community fund in Ruth's honor.