



January 29, 2008

Contact: Laurie Petrie, Communications Director, 513-345-3393

## **Joined Hearts in Giving: Award honors long-married couples who volunteer together**

Four southwestern Ohio couples will be honored on Valentine's Day for their long marriages and shared commitment to community service and volunteerism.

The Joined Hearts in Giving award will be presented at the governor's residence in Columbus on Feb. 14 by First Lady of Ohio, Frances Srickland and Ohio Department of Aging Director Barbara Riley.

The honor will go to 25 couples from around the state who have each been married 40 years or longer and who together have devoted countless hours of volunteer service to a wide variety of organizations.

The local couples are:

### **Louise and Philip Friedman of Oxford**

The Friedmans volunteer several days a week at the Oxford Senior Citizens Center. They help in the kitchen and the office, keep the bird feeders filled, and serve as substitute drivers for the Meals on Wheels program.

The Friedmans have been volunteering together for 45 of their 54 years of marriage. They have participated in an after-school reading program for children; helped with a summer meal program for kids at a mobile home park; drove the Help Van; worked in the Senior Center's greenhouse; and drove for Meals on Wheels.

According to their nomination, Mrs. Friedman said, "We like to hang out with the old folks most of the time. And when we see something that needs to be done, we just do it!"

More information: Contact Wendy Richardson of Oxford Senior Citizens Center – 513-523-2617

### **Pat and Roy Ickes of Middletown**

Since 2006, Pat and Roy Ickes have been Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for abused children at PARACHUTE: Butler County CASA. CASA volunteers look out for the best interests of children who are under the protective supervision of Juvenile Court.

The Ickes volunteer as a team and are appointed to a child's case together. Their goal is to help assure that children are out of danger and can live in a safe, permanent and loving home.

The Ickes also coordinate Shalom, a homeless shelter program involving churches which provide space and meals for homeless people, and are active at First United Methodist Church in Middletown.

Before moving to Middletown in 2001, the Ickes volunteered in their community in Worthington, OH, including serving as foster parents. They have been married 54 years.

According to their nomination: "Pat and Roy are always upbeat and smiling, They are a smart, friendly, fun, energetic couple and they work hard to make a difference for those who are less fortunate."

More information: Contact Ms. Chris Schultz, 513-867-5010

### **Doris and Jim Leugers of Hamilton**

Married 51 years, Doris and Jim Leugers volunteer at Partners in prime (formerly Senior Citizens, Inc.) several days a week. Jim Leugers is the center's Membership Director.

They were high school sweethearts who can frequently be found dancing together at the senior center.

Both have also volunteered for youth basketball, Little League and school programs.

More information: Contact: Jenny Oldham, 513-867-1998.

### **Betty and Robert Sorrell of Clinton, Cincinnati**

Married 60 years, Betty and Robert Sorrell spend time nearly every day at the Clifton Senior Center and volunteer to do whatever needs doing. They help with the food service, Meals on Wheels, exercise programs and clerical needs. Mrs. Sorrell is an officer on the Participants Council.

More information: Contact: Anita Briggs, 513-861-6934

### **About Council on Aging**

Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (COA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults and their families.

Founded in 1970, COA is designated by the state of Ohio as the Area Agency on Aging for Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren counties. COA plans, coordinates, funds and administers programs for an area that is home to more than 252,000 adults age 60 and older.

Through its programs and services, COA promotes choice, independence, dignity and well-being of older adults through a range of community-based services that help them remain in their homes for as long as possible.

### ***For Answers on Aging:***

Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio  
175 Tri County Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45246  
513-721-1025 Toll-free 1-800-252-0155  
E-mail: [info@help4seniors.org](mailto:info@help4seniors.org).  
Website: [www.help4seniors.org](http://www.help4seniors.org)