



NEWS RELEASE

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LOCAL COUPLE ROBERT & SUSAN SAVAGE WILL RECEIVE OUSTANDING PHILANTHROPIST AWARD

TOLEDO, OH— Few individuals have had as big an impact on philanthropic efforts in the Toledo area as Robert and Susan Savage.

Passionate about creating opportunities for children, the Savages have long supported programs in science, literacy and school readiness. They championed the creation of a science center in Toledo and Bob was instrumental in bringing COSI to Downtown, securing public funding for the center and chairing the Create a Great Name committee responsible for renaming the center Imagination Station. Today, he maintains a leadership role as Vice Chairman of the Imagination Station Board of Trustees.

Many philanthropists give of their treasure, but Bob and Sue give of their time, too, and lead by example. The couple supports the science center at every level, attending its fundraising events, donating wine from their private collection to silent auctions, belonging as members and bringing their grandchildren to explore all that the Imagination Station has to offer.

Shelly Orenstein, Foundation Officer at Imagination Station who nominated the Savages for the Outstanding Philanthropist Award, said that the two are “ tireless advocates for Imagination Station in the community and continue to raise funds and make friends for the science center, always with the goal of getting kids excited about math and science.”

Knowing that "many hands make light work," Bob founded – and continues to serve as its president – the Science Society in 2010, which now has 90 members and has raised almost \$2 million in support of providing exceptional exhibitions for Imagination Station. This group funded Idea Lab, Imagination Station's flagship permanent exhibition that opened in May of 2016. In Idea Lab, visitors can "tinker" using real tools, science concepts and 21st-century skills.

Sue was a driving force behind The Creativity Lab: The Susan M. Savage Family Place located in the children's library inside the main branch on Michigan Street. The Savages donated \$300,000 to help build the lab as part of an \$870,000 project to modernize the children's library. Sue has volunteered for years as a school librarian and is a member of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library's Board of Trustees. She is also a long-time active member of the Toledo-area Christ Child Society, which services at-risk children in Northwest Ohio in many ways.

Bob and Sue work tirelessly to make Northwest Ohio a better place. They support countless Toledo organizations, including Bob's alma mater, the University of Toledo, to provide opportunities for economically disadvantaged students and to improve the University's campus. Bob led fundraising efforts for the \$15.4 million Savage & Associates Complex for Business Learning and Engagement, serves as Trustee for the University and The UT Foundation, and has received the Gold T Award, the University's top alumni award. He and Sue also established the Robert C. and Susan M. Savage Foundation at Toledo Community Foundation. Bob is a former city councilman and Vice Mayor, and a member of the Million Dollar Round Table's Excalibur Society, which supports many organizations throughout the region.

Bob was recognized as the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser in Northwestern Ohio in 2009 on National Philanthropy Day, and received the Glass Key to the City in 2009. He is a past President of the St. Vincent's Medical Center Board of Directors and the Toledo Opera, and current Co-Chair of the Toledo Distinguished Clown Corps, an organization that sponsors the Toledo Holiday Parade.

Bob and Sue will be recognized at the 30th Annual National Philanthropy Day luncheon on November 9, from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Premier Banquet Hall in Toledo. The annual event is a community celebration of the philanthropic spirit and practice that results when we work together to “Change the World with a Giving Heart.”

Space is limited to 500 guests, so those who would like to attend are encouraged to reserve their tickets now. Reservations can be made online at AFPNWO.org or by calling [330-329-2472](tel:330-329-2472).

Toledo Community Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor for the 2017 National Philanthropy Day. Other sponsors include Ambassador Sponsor - Toledo Lucas County Public Library; Signature Sponsors - Bowling Green State University, ProMedica Foundations and The University of Toledo; and Supporting Sponsors - The Andersons, Inc., Mercy Health Foundation - Greater Toledo, PNC and The Trust Company.

About Association of Fundraising Professionals

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), with more than 33,000 global members, advances philanthropy by enabling individuals and organizations to practice ethical and effective fundraising. The core activities through which AFP fulfills this mission include education, training, mentoring, research, credentialing and advocacy.

About Association of Fundraising Professionals – Northwest Ohio Chapter

The Northwest Ohio (NWO) Chapter of AFP is an inclusive and diverse community of more than 125 fundraising professionals from 78 nonprofits and 9 consulting firms in 15 counties throughout Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan whose nonprofits raise more than \$277 million dollars annually. Members and their institutions abide by a Code of Ethics and Donor Bill of Rights to ensure that funds are raised and stewarded ethically to benefit people within our community, thus strengthening public trust in philanthropy.

About National Philanthropy Day®

National Philanthropy Day® (NPD), observed internationally around November 15th, is an international celebration of the countless contributions individuals and organizations make every day to benefit their communities and enrich our world. NPD was originally conceived of and organized by Douglas Freeman in the 1980s, and President Reagan signed the official NPD proclamation in 1986. Last year, more than 130 AFP chapters held NPD events and activities across North America.

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