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Mayors Honor Dedicated Community Volunteers on September 6

Mayors of Blue Springs, Grain Valley, Independence, Lake Winnebago, Lee's Summit, Raytown and Sugar Creek honor 12 community volunteers as Citizens of the Year

THCF toasts the Humanitarian of the Year, Corporate Citizen on the Year and Financial Advisor of the Year

EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY, MO (July 15, 2014) – Truman Heartland Community Foundation is pleased to present this year's **Citizen of the Year** honorees, selected by area mayors. The recipients will be recognized at the Community Foundation's 19th annual **Toast to our Towns Gala** on **Saturday, September 6, 2014** at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center.

These community members have used their skills, abilities, and positions to promote the wellbeing of their communities and the people that live in them. While the avenue towards change may be varied among them, all the honorees are united by a common goal, *to improve the lives of their fellow citizens*, and a common desire *to help improve and enrich the communities of Eastern Jackson County*.

Mayor Carson Ross, City of Blue Springs recognizes Ted and Betty Meyer



Ted and Betty Meyer have been active in the community of Blue Springs since they moved there as newlyweds in 1961. In 1966, they realized their dream of opening a music store: Meyer Music. Ted has served as President of both the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce, and Betty has served as the President of the Young Women's Civic Club along with other civic organizations. They are active supporters of the Blue Springs School District music programs, St. Mary's Hospital, the Community Services League, the Rainbow Center, the Rotary Club, St. John LaLande Church, and the music

programs of surrounding school districts. Meyer Music has also been named the *Family Business of the Year* for the greater Kansas City area.

Ted and Betty have four children and nine grandchildren, many of which are involved in the family business.

Mayor Mike Todd, City of Grain Valley recognizes Allen Lefko



Allen Lefko's numerous contributions to Grain Valley's many projects and programs have made a great impact on the community, including senior citizen luncheon events, school scholarships, and the Grain Valley Police Department's annual shred event and Victim's Rights Golf Tournament. Moreover, Allen has served on many boards and committees within the community, and has most recently accepted and serves on the Grain Valley Economic Development Council. He has also sponsored and coordinated the "CHOICES" program for ten years and funded the A+ Program, both in the Grain Valley School District. He has been in banking since 1955, and is currently Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Grain Valley and Grain Valley Bancshares.

Allen and his wife Barbara are very proud of their three children and their three spouses. They are blessed with six wonderful grandchildren.

Mayor Eileen Weir, City of Independence recognizes Bill and Jill Esry



Third generation and lifelong residents of Independence, Bill and Jill Esry have made an indelible mark on the city as civic volunteers, business leaders, and community advocates.

Throughout his career at Blue Ridge Bank and Trust Co., Bill has been a vocal leader in the Eastern Jackson County community as President of the Missouri Independent Bankers Association, Chair of the Blue Springs Economic Development Corporation, Executive Board Member of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, and Council President and 2014 Presiding Chieftain of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say for the Heart of America Council Boy Scouts. Under his leadership, Blue Ridge Bank continues to be a highly regarded financial institution.

Jill was elected to the Independence School Board in 2010, and currently serves as the Board's Vice President. Jill serves the children and elderly of the community through her decades of volunteerism as President of the PTA for both Sycamore Hills Elementary and Bridger Middle School, board member of the Independence Council of PTA's, and Meals on Wheels. Bill and Jill's civic involvement has also included their participation in Rotary Club of Independence, Independence Junior Service League, and many more great organizations.

Bill and Jill are proud parents to their daughters Ellie and Jordan.

Mayor R. Scharfen, City of Lake Winnebago recognizes Steve Silverstein



Dr. Steve Silverstein served on the Board of Aldermen for 18 years. The majority of those years he was Mayor Pro Tem and Police Commissioner.

As Police Commissioner, Steve championed training and professionalism creating an outstanding department. Steve was always concerned about public safety and supported strict enforcement of bicycle, vehicle and pedestrian traffic and animal control. Steve was the driving force for yearly charity events supporting the Police Assistance Fund. Steve always gave generously at each event.

Some of the City's accomplishments while Steve was on the Board of Aldermen were a new city hall, a new public works building, the passing of 3 bond issues for streets and sewers, and the annexation of land critical for city growth. Steve was continually driving the City to optimize its services while maintaining a positive reserve.

Steve and Silverstein Eye Centers have supported fundraising activities in the City. His efforts have helped make these events very successful. Steve and his wife Elisa have 3 children.

Mayor Randy Rhoads, City of Lee's Summit recognizes the Tominia Family



As owners of Cameron's, a successful furniture store, the Tominia family has become greatly involved in the community, with each member of the family playing a big role.

Steve has served on the Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street (DLSMS) Board of Directors for 12 years as President and during his tenure DLSMS received the Great American Main Street Award. Sue volunteers her time behind the scenes for numerous DLSMS events and provides her design skills with the ReDiscover Homes Tour. Amy Robertson, Sue and Steve's daughter, was named DLSMS Volunteer of the Year in 2004 and 2012 and was recognized as Downtown Ambassador of the Year in 2009. Sue and Steve's other daughter, Gina Seibel, is a member of the Lee's Summit 360 implementation committee and is a volunteer on the Truly 150 Sesquicentennial Planning committee. By contributing their individual talents, each member of the Tominia family has made a great impact on the community.

Mayor David Bower, City of Raytown recognizes Michael McDonough



Michael "Mike" McDonough grew up in Raytown and has remained in the same neighborhood since moving to the city in 1963. Mike first started working for the City of Raytown in the Street Department. Mike started his police career in 1975 and has worked in almost every facet of police work and is currently the Sergeant of traffic. Mike has been a Raytown Police Officer of the Year and received the Lifesaving Award from the Metropolitan Chiefs and Sheriffs Association. Mike also received the Raytown Fire District James Schneider Award for Lifesaving.

Mike was recently elected to the Raytown Charter Commission, where he will join other Commissioners in writing and proposing a Charter for the City of Raytown. Mike is the Secretary of the Raytown Police Benefit Fund. During his tenure, Mike has been instrumental in raising money for the last ten years with the Raytown Police Golf Tournament, which has raised more than \$100,000 for local charities.

Mike is a past Board Member of the Friends of the Rice-Tremonti Home and REAP. Mike also participated with Youth Friends for the Raytown School District and read to students at Southwood School for many years. He also volunteers his time coaching soccer, baseball and Scouting.

Mayor Matt Mallinson, City of Sugar Creek recognizes Herb Soule



Chief Herbert M. Soule has served the City of Sugar Creek for over 45 years; first he was a Patrolman, then Sergeant, followed by Captain, and was elected City Marshal/Chief of Police/Fire in 2001. Herb is a lifelong resident of Sugar Creek and founded Sugar Creek Police and Fire Explorer Post 2, pioneered Child Video Printing in the Metro Area and was instrumental in the development of the Homeland Security Program for the State of Missouri. During his tenure Herb has received the Award for Valor for Heroism in Line of Duty, received both Kiwanis and Optimist Officer of the year awards, and was the American Legion Missouri State Police Officer for the year.

Herb has a passion for keeping the City of Sugar Creek involved with various surrounding organizations. He has served on the Midwest Public Risk Board, the Jackson County Drug Task Force and on the COMBAT Board. He has been a member of the Sugar Creek Economic Development Council as well as a member of the Sugar Creek Business and Civic Club. He has served as a member of the Board of Advisors for Continuing Education at the Western Missouri Regional Police Academy and a member of both the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Kansas City Metro Chiefs and Sheriffs Association.

Herb and his wife Jen have 3 sons and 1 daughter and Herb is the proud grandfather of 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

THCF toasts the 2014 Humanitarian of the Year, Corporate Citizen on the Year and Financial Advisor of the Year at Toast to Our Towns Gala

In addition to the Citizens of the Year chosen by the area mayors, each year the Truman Heartland Community Foundation recognizes individuals and companies who have had a significant impact on Eastern Jackson County, making the community a better place to live and serve. The Community Foundation is pleased to present this year's Heartland Humanitarian, Corporate Citizen and Professional Advisor of the year.



Norman E. Swails, Heartland Humanitarian of the Year

THCF is pleased to announce that Norman E. Swails is the 2014 Heartland Humanitarian of the Year. Mr. Swails' leadership and involvement in philanthropy in Eastern Jackson County has resulted in successful expansion efforts of many community organizations including Hope House, Sunshine Center, Community Services League and The Truman Presidential Museum and Library. While serving as the Presiding Bishop of the Community of Christ Church, he led the fundraising efforts for the new Temple and was instrumental in the merger of the Independence Regional Health Center Foundation with the Independence Community Foundation resulting in the formation of Truman Heartland Community Foundation.

Norm spends much of his retirement time in volunteer service projects. He has been Chair of the Board of the Truman Heartland Community Foundation, the Independence Chamber of Commerce, President of the Midtown Truman Road Redevelopment Corporation and a Trustee of Park University and Graceland University. Currently, he is president of the Legacy Foundation. Other past and present affiliations include Rotary International, Jackson County Historical Society, Independence Council for Economic Development, and several corporate directorships.

For Norman E. Swails' full philanthropic history visit www.thcf.org.



Corporate Copy Print, Heartland Corporate Citizen of the Year

In 2014 Corporate Copy Print celebrates its 20 year anniversary. Part of the company culture has always included partnering with charitable organizations who served others. From the very beginning of Tom and Susan Water's years of owning and operating their business, they have been committed to giving back to their community. Over the Company's

20-year history the Waters have donated thousands of dollars of in-kind printing to countless nonprofit groups across Eastern Jackson County including the Community Services League, Independence Square Association, Salvation Army, Rotary Club, Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Independence Arts and Film Festival, and Independence Chamber of Commerce as well as countless scout, school and church groups.

In addition to the Company's corporate support of the community, the Waters are both actively involved as volunteers in the area.

For Corporate Copy Print's full philanthropic bio visit www.thcf.org.



Doug Hammer, Paul M. Thomson Advisor of the Year

The positive impact of Doug Hammer's deep commitment to our community and area philanthropy can be seen throughout Eastern Jackson County. His dedication to helping area residents meet their financial and charitable goals has made him a leader in the financial industry. In addition to serving his clients, he is known in the community as a dedicated volunteer and supporter of charitable causes.

Mr. Hammer has served on numerous boards and has helped with dozens of community-service projects. Among many other volunteer commitments, he is a past president of the Rotary Club of Independence and past chairman of the Independence Tourism Advisory Board. He is a past board member of the Independence Regional Health Center/Centerpoint and served three terms on the Truman Heartland Community Foundation board. During his 8-year board commitment with THCF he helped the Foundation develop their financial advisor partnership program which makes charitable giving beneficial for both financial advisors and their clients.

For Doug Hammer's full philanthropic bio visit www.thcf.org.

The 2014 Toast to Our Towns Gala is presented by **Stewardship Capital** with additional support from **Centerpoint Medical Center, Data Systems International (DSI), Edward Jones, and Silverstein Eye Centers**. A private reception sponsored by **Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics** for the Citizens of the Year will be held on August 23, 2014.

About THCF

Truman Heartland Community Foundation is a public charity committed to improving area communities by promoting and serving private giving for the public good. Founded in 1982, THCF serves the region with assets reaching \$34 million and annual grants surpassing \$3.5 million. THCF serves individuals who, through their private giving, wish to support the public good and help them do it in the most tax-wise and effective manner. Through the Community Foundation, donors can set up their own family foundations, scholarship funds, field of interest funds, endowment funds, charitable gift annuities and many other charitable vehicles which utilize shared resources of the foundation to maximize the impact of their philanthropic dollars. In addition to donor services, the Community Foundation provides asset development for nonprofit organizations, awards community grants, assists organizations in planned giving and serves as a community leader in addressing community issues. For more information on charitable giving, visit www.thcf.org or call THCF at 816.836.8189.



The National Standards Seal indicates official confirmation from the Community Foundations National Standards Board that we have met the most rigorous standards in philanthropy. It affirms our commitment to financial security, transparency and accountability.

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