



THE NEW ALBANY
Community Foundation

Contact: Craig Mohre
614.939.8150

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jennie and Mark Wilson Honored with 2015 Community Service Award:

*14th annual Remarkable Evening benefit featured Robert Gates and Leon Panetta,
former secretaries of defense and directors of the CIA*

[NEW ALBANY, OH, December 10, 2015] – The New Albany Community Foundation recognized Jennie and Mark Wilson with its annual Jeanne & John G. McCoy Community Service Award at last night's Remarkable Evening benefit at the home of Abigail and Leslie Wexner. Robert Gates and Leon Panetta, both former secretaries of defense and both of whom served as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, headlined the event as part of a conversation moderated by David Gergen, political journalist and co-director of the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School.

The Wilsons have been actively involved in a number of community causes in New Albany, both large and small, since moving to the community 11 years ago. "Jennie and Mark embody the spirit of the McCoy Community Service Award as extraordinarily engaged citizens of New Albany," said Dennis Welch, Chair of the Foundation Board of Trustees. "When they are involved in an effort here, they don't simply lend their names, they roll up their sleeves and contribute their time and resources to make sure it is successful."



The award was established by the Foundation to recognize citizens who have made a significant impact on the community through their accomplishments, contributions, and community service in keeping with the mission of the Foundation.

Through their remarkable philanthropy in New Albany and central Ohio, Jeanne and John G. McCoy exemplified community service and were the first to be honored with the distinction in 2004.

Previous McCoy honorees have included:

2014	Jackie and Ken Krebs	2008	Donald Cameron
2013	John W. Kessler	2007	Bill Resch
2012	Robert H. Schottenstein	2006	Dr. Ralph Johnson
2011	Tiney McComb	2005	Janet Atwater
2010	The Ryan Family: Ellen, David, Sarah & Mark	2004	Jeanne and John G. McCoy
2009	Dr. Phil Heit		

"It's difficult to imagine New Albany without the Wilsons and their energy," said New Albany Community Foundation President Craig Mohre. "It seems as if every community endeavor has benefited from their involvement and they've passed the values of contributing time and talent to the community along to their three

sons who are leaders in the classroom and on the athletic fields. We are so pleased to add the Wilsons to the distinguished list of leaders we've recognized for their community impact."

"Mark and I feel like there is a big difference between just living in New Albany and being a part of New Albany," said Jennie Wilson. "We hope that we are not only making a difference in the community today but helping to shape what it will be for years to come."

While they have been instrumental in shaping New Albany, the Wilsons' philanthropic impact ripples throughout the entire central Ohio community. Jennie served on the board of the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio for eight years, eventually serving as chair during a time of significant growth for the organization. Additionally, she is a five-year cyclist in Pelotonia, the grassroots bike tour to raise cancer research dollars for The James Cancer Hospital at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Jennie is a board member of both The Catholic Foundation and The Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts and she currently serves on an advisory committee for The Handshake Foundation. Jennie is an active alumna of Notre Dame and regularly participates in the Notre Dame mentoring program, which pairs successful professionals with current Notre Dame students.

Much of Mark's community service has been focused on New Albany, with significant volunteer time invested in New Albany Schools and supporting participation and excellence for student athletes. He is chair of New Albany for Kids and was a driving force in establishing an endowment fund to support scholarships for students who might not otherwise been able to participate in extra-curricular activities. Mark was a board member for New Albany Parks and Recreation, a board member and a coach for the New Albany Youth Football League, commissioner and a coach for New Albany Little League and a coach for New Albany Youth Soccer. Mark also was active in the successful effort to raise private funds to install a turf field at New Albany High School, later named Veterans Field. He subsequently chaired the dedication ceremony, which included military veterans from throughout the community, and coordinated two additional "Veteran Recognition Nights." He can be found mornings and afternoons serving as a crosswalk guard for the schools and throughout the week in New Albany classrooms as a tutor.

"Mark and Jennie are role models for what it means to be stewards and investors in the community in which you live," said New Albany resident and previous McCoy Award recipient, Ken Krebs. "They genuinely care about New Albany and they demonstrate it by giving generously of their time, their leadership and their financial support."

After the Wilsons received their award, Gergen facilitated a conversation with Gates and Panetta as the pair provided unique insights surrounding national security and defense. They are the latest distinguished speakers who have appeared at the Foundation benefit over the past 13 years, including United States Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, Great Britain Prime Minister Tony Blair, and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The Wexners and The New Albany Company underwrite the Remarkable Evening event so that proceeds may be reinvested in Foundation initiatives that enrich the community in the areas of lifelong learning, health and wellness, the arts and the environment. This past year, The New Albany Community Foundation awarded grants to Healthy New Albany and the Philip Heit Center, the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, New Albany Schools, the New Albany Arts Council, New Albany Symphony Orchestra and many more local organizations.

These grants are made possible through the support of generous donors and sponsors who contribute annually through Remarkable Evening or have established endowments at the Foundation. Lead sponsors for this year's Remarkable Evening include Abercrombie & Fitch, American Electric Power, The Berend Family & White Fence Surgical Suites, Huntington, Justice, The New Albany Company and The Wexner Family.

The Foundation also presents The Jefferson Series, which features a rich diversity of speakers including entrepreneurs, best-selling authors, journalists, historians and more. The 2015-16 season began with a two day series of discussions on mental health and suicide with mental health advocate, actress and author, Mariel Hemingway. Harvard Professor and author Michael Sandel will appear in New Albany on January 28th, Pulitzer Prize-winner and historian Jon Meacham will appear May 11th and two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author and

historian David McCullough is scheduled for June 8th. All Jefferson Series events are held at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts. Ticket prices are \$25 and \$35 for adults, and student/senior tickets are available for \$10 through Ticketmaster.

Please visit www.newalbanyfoundation.org for more information about The New Albany Community Foundation, Remarkable Evening and The Jefferson Series.
