

Foundation bestows awards on community servants

Written by Louise Ronald Staff Writer

Jun. 26

pal-item.com

Quiet but effective community service was honored Wednesday at the Wayne County Foundation's annual dinner at Forest Hills Country Club.

Awards were presented to two women whose work behind the scenes has helped countless others, and the foundation itself was recognized for its efforts to improve the health of non-profits in the county.

Mary Alice Adney and her husband, the late Dr. Frank Adney, received the Charles A. Rodefeld Award for Leadership in Philanthropy and the Community.

"Mrs. Adney is the epitome of someone who has improved the effectiveness of several existing charitable institutions while maintaining an attitude of humility," said the letter from the Richmond Art Museum nominating her for the award. "No buildings, rooms, auditoriums or plaques bear her name. Mrs. Adney prefers and insists to quietly impact the programs and institutions anonymously, in the spirit of true philanthropy."

The contributions made by the Adneys are said to have totaled several thousands of dollars. That generosity has inspired others to give.

"Multiple individuals who care about our organization have increased the time and devotion they give Girls Inc. and have attributed this increase to Mrs. Adney's inspiration," wrote Laura Retherford, co-executive director of Girls Inc., in a letter of support for the nomination. "Two board members decided to include Girls Inc. in their planned giving. These women independently shared that they made this decision after seeing the impact of Mrs. Adney's philanthropy."

The Ruth J. Wickemeyer Award for Community Service went to Aileen Wickett-Harris, who has helped direct the Community Kitchen since its founding in 1994.

"For 20 years, Aileen Wickett-Harris has been quietly addressing the issue of hunger in Wayne County," said the nomination letter from St. Paul's Episcopal Church. "As coordinator of the Community Kitchen ... Aileen has overseen the serving of thousands of hot meals to guests in need of food or fellowship."

"There isn't a person who attends the meals that doesn't know the love and generosity of Aileen," wrote St. Paul's member Robert Wilson in a letter of support.

Staff writer Louise Ronald: (765) 973-4469 or lronald@pal-item.com.