



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: June 2, 2009

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### **WAYNE COUNTY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES AWARD RECIPIENTS**

The Wayne County Foundation is pleased to announce the 2009 recipients of the Charles A. Rodefeld and Ruth J. Wickemeyer awards. The [Charles A. Rodefeld Award for Leadership in Philanthropy and the Community](#) seeks to recognize Wayne County citizens and/or companies who have served faithfully, though without fanfare; and those who have provided leadership and significant financial support over the years. The Rodefeld award has been presented every year since 1994.

The 2009 recipient of the Rodefeld Award is Jon Ford. In his letter of nomination former Starr Gennett Foundation board president, David Fulton, noted Ford's service goes "far beyond the formal responsibilities of his presidency". Ford, who is currently serving as President of the Starr Gennett Foundation board, is also actively involved with the Wayne County Foundation, Reid Hospital, and First English Lutheran Church and has been a volunteer with the Chamber of Commerce and the United Way.

The [Ruth J. Wickemeyer Award for Community Service](#) was established in 2006 to recognize a not-for-profit leader (paid or volunteer) who personifies exceptional service to others in the name of community progress.

Betty Mark, the 2009 recipient of the Wickemeyer Award, has been a volunteer with the National Alliance on Mental Illness for many years and has worked tirelessly for the rights of the mentally ill in Wayne County. Mark was instrumental in introducing Crisis Intervention Training for the Richmond Police Department and outlying area law enforcement.

The award recipients will be honored at the Foundation's annual dinner to be held June 26. The community, and friends and relatives of the award recipients are invited.

Reservations are required and may be made by calling the Foundation office at 962-1638.