



## 2023 CARTER WICKWIRE PHILANTHROPY AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Jackson Community Foundation (JCF) established the Carter Wickwire Philanthropy Award in 2018 as a part of celebrating our history of humble beginnings and 70 years of service and impact in the Jackson community. JCF was founded in 1948 with two very special gifts. During World War II, the families of Lt. John L. Carter and Pfc. John Gilbert Wickwire donated proceeds from life insurance policies that were purchased in the name of their sons, both of whom lost their lives in battle. The Jackson War Chest accepted the insurance contribution, plus additional gifts added by each family. When discussion of starting a community foundation began, a total of \$20,000 was transferred to begin a permanent endowment for Jackson County, now called the Jackson Community Foundation.

**The Carter and Wickwire Philanthropy Award** honors a living individual or couple for service as a volunteer, a board member, or a donor who made a significant effort to help grow our community through philanthropy in Jackson County.

**Commitment:** James S. Grace is a dedicated and committed member of the Jackson Community. Jim received a BBA from the University of Michigan in 1964 and has resided in Jackson since 1966 when he began running Grace Carloading. He then served as a Financial Advisor with A.G. Edwards in the Jackson, Michigan office from 1975 until becoming director in 2020 from Meridian Wealth Management of Michigan. Jim was a talented leader who oversaw the growth of the A.G Edwards office from two brokers to ten registered Financial Advisors. The Jackson Community Foundation was fortunate to have Jim's financial expertise for over 11+ years of service on our Finance Committee, serving a Finance Chair, as well as trustee from 2002 through 2010 and Board Chair from 2005 through 2006. Jim also served as trustee then board chair of another local nonprofit, the Family Service and Children's Aid and as board member of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra. Jim is a dedicated member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Jackson, donating his time and talents whenever needed.

**Leadership:** In 2015, Jim and Joyce started the Foundation's first Individually Managed Fund, the Grace Family Charitable Fund to help support broad charitable purposes in Jackson County. He also led the way in becoming one of the first members of the Carter Wickwire Society, leaving a legacy in their estate plan to grow their fund for the next generation of family members to advise.

**Impact:** Jim's financial expertise was instrumental in the financial growth of the Foundation. From 2002 to 2010, JCF's net assets increased by 41%. Since the inception of the IMF program, six funds totally \$6M have been received. The Fund continues to grow, and several new funds are currently in progress. Personally, the Grace Family Charitable Fund has granted more than \$40,000 to local nonprofits.

**Creativity/Advocacy:** Jim is not alone in his passion to give back. In addition to supporting her husband's philanthropic work, Joyce Grace has created an equally impressive mark in our community. Joyce is an accomplished artist who has made her art available to various charitable organizations as auction items or as gifts. In fact, Joyce donated digital files of her paintings to JCF one year that was used to create note card takeaways for each guest. Joyce is also a long-standing member of the Jackson Literary and Art Association. The original purpose of the Association, which was formed by a group of women on February 29, 1892, was to bring "intellectual, aesthetic, scientific, spiritual, religious and

literal culture and inquiry” to the community. Today’s mission is to enrich the lives of the community through various forms of literature and art. Most recently, the focus has been on educating children of the arts by sponsoring programs like quality plays, the symphonic music and storytelling among other events. The group has also supported grants to local museums, high school drama workshops, choral music and Shakespeare plays among others. With Joyce’s leadership, in 2015 the Association and their assets became a Field of Interest Fund. The Jackson Literary and Art Association Fund provides financial support to fulfill their mission; promote art, literature, and entertainment to the Jackson Community with an emphasis on the education of youth in these areas. Joyce continues to serve on the committee and help advise the Fund to impact our community. Along with her husband, Joyce is also a dedicated servant of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

**Collaboration:** In 2006, the Board and a dedicated group of community members joined forces to replicate a scholarship program in the Kalamazoo community which helped students on their post-secondary journey. Going all in on education, Jim was part of a team that helped to build the Jackson Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Fund provides scholarships for local students to attend one of Jackson’s three institutions of higher education. Today the fund has grown to over \$1.6M. Since inception, 1,653 students have received over \$2.3M in scholarships. A unique part of the scholarship requires recipients to complete volunteer hours in hopes of continuing their philanthropic endeavors into adulthood. Since 2007, Over 67,500 volunteer hours have been given back to our local nonprofits, school districts, and governmental agencies.

**Final Statement:** Whether it was the Foundation, the Symphony, or the Ella, or one of the many other nonprofit organization Jim and Joyce Grace support, they are active participants, both by their presence and their generosity. Their community spirit is remarkable and they are worthy of this recognition.