

This submission is for the purpose of nominating Georgia and Travis Fojtasek for the 2019 Jackson Community Foundation Carter Wickwire Philanthropy Award and the 2019 Community Foundation Philanthropy Award.

Both Georgia and Travis could separately qualify for this award but together as a team they are remarkable.

Georgia is soon to be retiring as President and CEO of Henry Ford Allegiance Health where she has served for 25 Years. While in her position she has overseen the creation of a significant cardiac unit, a more effective and patient friendly cancer treatment unit, and with the Henry Ford Allegiance Health board, has overseen the combining of Henry Ford Health Systems in Detroit and Allegiance Health in Jackson. Her retirement is imminent however it is important to note that in spite of her very demanding administrative role she has continued to be a leader in our philanthropic community.

Georgia and Travis have been clear in their combined belief that the Jackson Community Foundation is a very significant force in our community. They have supported it by their work and donations. Georgia is a member of the Carter Wickwire society, a special society of individuals who have included the Jackson Community Foundation in their estate plan. Additionally, on 12/16/2003, the Edward and Nella Fullman Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund was established by Georgia and Travis, in memory of Georgia's mother and father, Edward and Nella Fullman to honor their commitment to their children's education despite very limited resources. The purpose of the fund is to support students with financial need and compelling circumstances who wish to enter the field of nursing. This scholarship is renewable. Previous recipients are given preference and may apply through the regular competitive application process.

For Georgia, supporting JCF also meant being a Trustee for a period of nine years from 1992 – 2001. At the conclusion of her service as a Trustee she has continued to participate as a member of the Board Development Committee, one of the more significant committees since its business is to plan for the future appointments of committee members and Trustees.

In addition, she has been instrumental in encouraging her staff at Henry Ford Allegiance Health to participate as volunteers at the Foundation to the ultimate extent that two of her Vice Presidents served as Trustees and Board Chairs, with the full blessing of their CEO to spend the time necessary to carry out their duties. Most volunteers recognize that having the support of your employer while volunteering in the world of philanthropy is invaluable.

Georgia also participated as a member of the Legacy Scholarship Steering Committee which is worth noting in that the Legacy Scholarship creation (similar to the Kalamazoo Promise) was highly experimental and the support by volunteers and Trustees sent a reassuring message to the community.

Travis is a Community activist and an Educator, on staff in the past at MSU. He has devoted much of his volunteerism to environmental causes. He has been a resolute supporter of Jackson Recycling. He has also been instrumental in the formation and continuation of the Green Market for organic produce. In his service on the Grant Committee for the Foundation he has been able to lend expertise when grant proposal regarding environmental quality and protection come before the Committee. He also served for many years on the Board of the AWARE Shelter, our local domestic violence shelter.

While I was working on the millage efforts for the County Parks, Travis appeared at one of our meetings to pick up materials and yard signs to help us in our effort.

Travis served nine years as a Trustee from 2008 – 2016, during which time he served as Co-chair of the Grant Committee. This particular Committee is very time intensive and requires much dedication by the volunteers.

I am recommending Georgia and Travis for the Carter Wickwire Philanthropy Award and the 2019 Community Foundation Philanthropy Award because it is clear that they believe in making the community which they have chosen to call home a healthy community in all respects. Their causes are well aligned with those of JCF. Not only do they work to make the community better but they also appreciate that philanthropy is best accomplished through the Jackson Community Foundation where donors and volunteers are in collaboration with others to find solutions to some of our most pressing problems.

In addition, I nominate Georgia and Travis Fojtasek because of my own personal experience. They demonstrated their dedication to the Foundation in that from the time I commenced my service as a Trustee through the time I was interim CEO until the end of my service, they were always available to me for advice and counsel.

For me Georgia and Travis Fojtasek are the epitome of volunteerism whether it is Georgia striving to transform lives through health and wellness one person at a time or Travis and his focus on a healthy environment through better food and recycling. They are always putting their community first and in so doing they represent the goals of JCF.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Walz Lefere