



Hendricks County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Deedee Daniel Awarded Sagamore of the Wabash

AVON, IND. – Senator Connie Lawson, Representative Greg Steuerwald and Representative Jeff Thompson recently presented Deedee Daniel, retiring Executive Director of the Hendricks County Community Foundation, with the distinguished Sagamore of the Wabash award.

Lawson began the presentation sharing some of the details of why she believed Deedee should receive an award. Deedee started as the part-time Executive Director in 1994, the Community Foundation had less than \$100,000 in funds available to support projects and make grants. During her 14 years as Executive Director, funds now exceed \$7 million. During this same time frame, the Community Foundation has given over \$5.8 million in grants and scholarships. She stated, “I believe one of the principal highlights for Deedee concerning the Community Foundation is the love and passion she has had for the work that the Community Foundation does and her efforts to get the message out concerning the existence of the Community Foundation, the fact that it provides opportunities for Hendricks County citizens to help and support every community, every school and every organization in Hendricks County. The mission statement of the Community Foundation is ‘connecting caring people with causes that matter.’ I think it is fair to say that Deedee has provided that vital link between caring people and the Foundation. “

Lawson shared with the group gathered to celebrate Deedee’s retirement that she had written a letter to Governor Daniels on Deedee’s behalf. She informed the audience that Governor Daniels had made it more difficult in recent years to give individuals the Sagamore of the Wabash and had thus created the Distinguished Hoosier award. Lawson stated, “Deedee I am sorry to tell you that Governor Daniels denied my request for the Distinguished Hoosier award. I am happy to tell you that you are being presented tonight with the Sagamore of the Wabash award!”

Pictured: Senator Connie Lawson (right) and Representative Greg Steuerwald (left) presenting Deedee Daniel with the Sagamore of the Wabash award at her retirement party in December. Also pictured, Deedee’s husband, Mel Daniel.

About the Sagamore of the Wabash

The Sagamore of the Wabash award was created during the term of Governor Ralph Gates, who served from 1945 to 1949. The term "sagamore" was used by the American Indian Tribes of the northeastern United States to describe a lesser chief or a great man among the tribe to whom the true chief would look for wisdom and advice. Each governor since Gates has presented the certificates in their own way. The award is the highest honor, which the Governor of Indiana bestows. It is a personal tribute usually given to those who have rendered a distinguished service to the state or to the governor.

About the Hendricks County Community Foundation

The Hendricks County Community Foundation manages a \$7 million collection of funds that are created by individuals, families, businesses and organizations for charitable purposes. In 2007, funds held at the Community Foundation awarded over \$475,000 in grants to charitable organizations and scholarships to students. The Community Foundation provides an easy, effective way for donors to make a lasting impact on Hendricks County.

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