



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FOUNDATION HOSTS 2022 SUMMER CELEBRATION
AND ANNOUNCES CHARLES RODEFELD AWARD WINNER**

The Wayne County Foundation hosted their annual Summer Celebration at Forest Hills Country Club on Wednesday, July 13th. The evening brought together dozens of donors, nonprofit leaders, community supporters and other esteemed guests for an evening of celebrating philanthropy in Wayne County.

‘It was wonderful to spend the evening with so many people who advocate so passionately for our community,’ shared Foundation Executive Director **Rebecca Gilliam**. ‘Our community partners are doing the work today to ensure that the next generation will live in a vibrant, thriving Wayne County.’

Both Gilliam and Foundation Board President **David Rodgers** spoke at the event, thanking guests for their time and sharing some of the highlights of the past year, as well as exciting upcoming projects from the Foundation.

During these remarks, it was announced that **Roy Ridge** had been posthumously granted the ***Charles A. Rodefeld Award for Leadership in Philanthropy***. Ridge, who passed away in 2019, left a gift of over \$5.1 million to be utilized by the Wayne County Foundation for unrestricted grantmaking.

‘Roy was perfect for the spirit of the Rodefeld Award,’ said Gilliam. ‘In his life, he worked humbly yet impacted so many. His love for Wayne County will never be forgotten and his philanthropic legacy forever solidified.’

The Foundation will eagerly accept nominations for both the Rodefeld and ***Ruth J. Wickemeyer Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership*** later this year.

The Foundation would like to thank all of those who attended the 2022 Summer Celebration as we look forward to another year of supporting the community and nonprofit organizations of Wayne County.

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Since 1979, the **Wayne County Foundation** has existed to foster and encourage private philanthropic giving, to enhance the spirit of community and to improve the quality of life in the Wayne County, Indiana, area now and for future generations.