

Norma McKinley Citizenship Medals awarded

By Submitted
Posted at 12:01 AM

The Ashland County Community Foundation is pleased to announce that the annual Norma Elizabeth McKinley Citizenship Medals were recently awarded in each of the Ashland County elementary schools to students exemplifying respect, responsibility, integrity and good character throughout the academic year.

These awards to fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders in Ashland, Hillsdale, Loudonville and Mapleton schools were made possible by the generous financial support of retired juvenile court judge, Mike McKinley, to honor the memory of his late wife, Norma, a longtime advocate of citizenship education.

Judge McKinley has created two endowment funds at the Foundation to commemorate Norma's legacy of developing young leaders through the emphasis of teaching right from wrong and understanding the principles of responsibility and respect.

One endowment fund provides annual support for the awards made at each school, allowing the building principals and curriculum directors the flexibility to devise their own methods for recognition, each of which includes a Norma McKinley commemorative display case, where students' names and photos are placed for public acknowledgment of their efforts.

A second endowment fund is providing grant opportunities to inspire "special projects", in support of citizenship-building, allowing educators in any of the Ashland County schools to formulate their own ideas about how to best complement the annual awards program.

ACCF executive director, Jim Cutright, commented, "Mike is very much interested in sustaining these efforts, in memory of Norma, and has recognized that the establishment of permanent endowment at ACCF is an excellent tool to accomplish his goals. For him, it's not about drawing attention to himself; it's about helping students understand, at an early age, the importance of being a good citizen and understanding what that means, all while honoring the memory of his beloved Norma."

Norma McKinley taught for over 30 years in Ashland City Schools and as an adjunct professor at both Ashland University and the University of Cincinnati. Before she passed away in 2014, she was recognized by the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges, the American Bar Association and the American Lawyers Auxiliary for her law-related citizenship education. She also appeared in the 1988-89 edition of "Who's Who in Education." Retired Judge Mike McKinley honored his late wife by participating in the Norma E. McKinley Citizenship Medals awarded recently in each of the Ashland County elementary schools, shown in these four photos.

