



News Release: For Release Oct. 28, 2 p.m. Contact: Cheryl Taylor, Foellinger Foundation, 422-2900 or Steve Cebalt 416-0222. Note: Print-ready (300 DPI) photos of Carl Rolfsen and Jan Wilhelm available at www.flickr.com/photos/bottomlinepr

Embassy's Jan Wilhelm receives award at Foellinger event recognizing top community leadership

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, the Foellinger Foundation honored 36 volunteer board leaders for their work on behalf of local nonprofit organizations. These leaders sit at the helm of a major force in our community. With the turbulence in our national and local economies, the pressure on nonprofit organizations increases and the need for top leadership talent has never been more important. These volunteer leaders were honored for their excellence in leadership in this vital sector of Allen County.

This is the third year that the foundation has hosted the event to spotlight the exemplary work of volunteers who devote themselves to local nonprofits. "The award program has garnered national attention for recognizing nonprofit leaders who volunteer their time and talent to lead organizations that greatly enhance our quality of life in Allen County," said Cheryl Taylor, Foellinger Foundation President. "We do this to showcase good people doing the right things and to encourage further excellence in nonprofit leadership."

All of the nominated volunteer leaders have served on the boards of area nonprofit organizations. They were nominated by their peers for the 2008 Carl D. Rolfsen Stewardship Award, presented annually by the Foellinger Foundation.

2008 Nominees

Milli Bishton, *Hope Alive*
Sheila Brown, *Interfaith Hospitality Network*
Linda Buskirk, *Audiences Unlimited*
June Enoch, *Heartland Chamber Chorale*
Michael Fisher, *Mustard Seed Furniture Bank*
Larry Graham, *Science Central*
Lynn Hatfield, *Community Transportation Network*
Thomas Horton, *Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana*
Kevin Howell, *Black College Club*

Diane Humphrey, *Fort Wayne Civic Theatre*
Deborah Jones, *Super Shot*
Dr. Kenneth Keller, *American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana*
Raymond Keller, *YMCA*
Maurice Keltsch, *Artlink*
Jody Kinsey, *YWCA*
Thomas Locke, *League for the Blind & Disabled*
Lockwood Marine, *SCAN*
Tracie Martin, *Erin's House for Grieving Children*
Pat Morello, *Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana*
Michael Musson, *Wellspring Interfaith Social Services*
David Norton, *Fort Wayne Area Youth For Christ*
Stan Podzielinski, *Fort Wayne Sister Cities International*
Karen Richards, *ARCH*
Dar Richardson, *Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home*
Doug Rodenbeck, *Northeast Indiana Burn Council*
Ronald Rohrbacher, *Early Childhood Alliance*
Ian Rolland, *East Wayne Street Center*
Larry Rowland, *Leadership Fort Wayne*
Gary Shearer, *Boys & Girls Club*
Rudi Siela, *The Franciscan Center*
Kenneth Steffen, *Summit City Chorus*
Jeff Taner, *Vincent Village*
Patricia Weddle, *Girl Scouts of Limberlost Council*
Jan Wilhelm, *Embassy Theatre Foundation*
Jerry Witte, *Turnstone Center for Disabled Children & Adults*
William Zielke, *Aboite New Trails*

The annual award is named for Carl D. Rolfsen, who served on the Foellinger Foundation board of directors for a quarter century, retiring from the board in 2005. He continues to serve on the Foundation's Investment & Finance Committee. Organizations had the opportunity to nominate a board member who exemplifies at least three of the Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards, identified by BoardSource. BoardSource is a national organization that supports nonprofits by seeking to strengthen their boards of directors.

Jan Wilhelm of the Embassy Theatre Foundation was awarded the 2008 Carl D. Rolfsen Stewardship Award due to her extraordinary work and innovative ideas. Wilhelm has used her role on the board of directors as an opportunity to institutionalize many organizational improvements within the Embassy Theatre Foundation that will remain after her tenure as president ends. From her time spent selecting the executive director and new board members to her tireless work with many community leaders and city officials concerning a new walkway downtown, Wilhelm has left her mark of excellent leadership on the Embassy Theatre Foundation and this community.

Wilhelm has promoted board development, instilled long-term best practices and helped to professionalize operations at the 80-year-old theatre. All of her work has helped to ensure the Embassy Theatre Foundation's long-term viability in the community. Because of Wilhelm's dedicated commitment to the Embassy Theatre Foundation, the organization will receive a Foellinger Foundation grant that consists of \$10,000 for operating support and up to \$7,500 for special board development training.

Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards

1. Determine the Organization's Mission and Purpose
2. Select the Chief Executive
3. Provide Proper Financial Oversight
4. Ensure Adequate Resources
5. Ensure Legal and Ethical Integrity and Maintain Accountability
6. Ensure Effective Organizational Planning
7. Recruit and Orient New Board Members and Assess Board Performance
8. Enhance the Organization's Public Standing
9. Determine, Monitor, and Strengthen the Organization's Programs and Services
10. Support the Chief Executive and Assess His or Her Performance

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About the Foellinger Foundation:

The Foellinger Foundation, Inc. is a private charitable foundation created in 1958 by Helene R. Foellinger, *The News-Sentinel* publisher from 1936 to 1980, and Esther A. Foellinger, her mother.