



The Read Family Difference-Maker Award

November 2019

In February, 2016, both the Leadership Akron board and the Leadership Akron Alumni Association board mutually intended to create a meaningful tribute to Roger, Judy, and their son Scott Read in recognition of their involvement in advancing the mission and work of Leadership Akron, promoting community leadership, and strengthening the Akron community's well-being. After exploring a number of options with the Reads, a determination was made to create an award in honor of the family, and each year, (assuming nominees meet the criteria), recognize an individual(s) whose efforts have been instrumental in expanding the scope or impact of Leadership Akron's mission and work.

Roger, Judy and their son Scott Read have all made a difference in extending the reach and impact of Leadership Akron. Roger and Judy were pivotal in the creation of Leadership Akron's endowment fund, which enabled Leadership Akron's initial expansion to reach additional audiences. One of those new audiences were senior leaders participating in Leadership Akron: NEXT, in which Roger served as a key member of the design team. Judy joined him in participating in the charter class and Roger chaired the steering committee for the first six classes. In 2003-2004, having recently graduated from Leadership Akron Class 19, Scott Read joined with fellow Leadership Akron grad Jefferson Satterfield to launch Torchbearers, which today has grown to serve a membership of over 100 young leaders and is the affiliated community partner with Leadership Akron for emerging community leaders. The Read Family Difference-Maker Award will be presented to a leader who has likewise made a difference in advancing Leadership Akron's mission. The awardee will have a tree planted in his/her honor along the Towpath Trail, and will receive a household-scale version of the work of art that helps define the main installation site at Cascade Locks Park in the City of Akron. The criteria below will be considered in determining the awardee(s):

- **Primary Responsibility-** the recipient(s) will be those primarily responsible for initiating and/or significantly advancing a specific effort that strengthens the mission, impact, and/or reach of Leadership Akron. The effort may be a new or revamped program, a major event/activity, or a strategic goal of the organization.
- **Durability of Impact-** The effort that the recipient(s) initiated will have long-term influence on Leadership Akron, and extend to present and future generations of leaders.

Each year, a selection group consisting of the Leadership Akron board chair, Alumni Steering Committee co-Chairs, Leadership Akron President, the award's namesakes, and the immediate past two recipients (if there is more than one recipient in a given year, the group will select someone to represent them) will meet to determine the recipient of the award. Ideally, the candidate will be selected on May 12th, in honor Judy Read. The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting in August.