

For Immediate Release

## **Wean Foundation Names Two New Board Members**

**\$275,000 in grants also announced for December- including a major award for a future Community College for the Mahoning Valley**

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*December 18, 2008- Warren-* The Raymond John Wean Foundation announces the appointment of two new members of the board of administrators.

Suzanne Fleming of Youngstown is a community volunteer who spent 10 years working as a research associate in the Center for Human Services Development at Youngstown State University. Early in her career, she worked as a surgical intensive care nurse at what is now known as Northside Hospital. Fleming holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from YSU and a master's degree in public administration from Kent State University.

Don Emerson of Warren works currently as the Executive Director of the Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority. Previous to this, he was a research assistant at YSU in the Center for Urban Studies. Emerson earned a bachelor's degree in political science and history at Miami University (Ohio) and has a law degree from the University of Akron.

When asked about his appointment to the Wean board, Emerson said, "I am looking forward to being formally associated with the Wean Foundation. They have proven to be a truly progressive and

positive force for the Valley. I aim to continue to support their efforts in that vein."

Gordon B. Wean, chairman of the board and grandson of the foundation's founder, also expressed great enthusiasm about the appointments. "We are very excited about Suzanne and Don joining our board.", Wean said, "They bring to the Wean board years of valuable community experience and judgment that will be critical in the Foundation's efforts toward community improvement"

Fleming and Emerson begin their duties on the Wean Foundation board next month. They replace outgoing board members Jennie Dennison Budak and Mary Halfacre.

Photos of Ms. Fleming and Mr. Emerson are attached to this news release for your use.

The current Wean board announced a new round of grant awards during its December meeting. Together, they total \$ 275,000 in giving to the community.

- \$100,000 to the Ohio Board of Regents to continue its development of a community college for the Mahoning Valley
- The Alliance Community Outreach Program (ACOP) of Warren received \$20,000 for youth programming
- The Children's Museum of the Valley received \$15,000 for planning effective and efficient ways to serve local children
- D & E Counseling Center will get \$35,000 to develop a model to for training preschool teachers how to better manage challenging behaviors in the classroom
- Millcreek Children's Center received a \$25,000 administrative support grant

- A \$20,000 grant was awarded to Potential Development for strategic planning in serving the needs of autistic and developmentally delayed children
- Warren Joint Apprentice and Training will get \$50,000 for a solar/wind power system in its training center
- The YWCA of Warren received \$12,875 for diversity/cultural awareness and racial justice workshops

Warren industrialist, steel maker and entrepreneur Raymond John Wean started the foundation that bears his name in 1949. The Wean Foundation makes grants to nonprofit organizations in Youngstown and Warren with the expressed mission of improving the quality of life in impoverished and underserved urban neighborhoods. The foundation specifically targets its giving in ways that increase the capacity of grant-receiving organizations to do their work in the neighborhoods.

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