

FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP AWARD

Summa Foundation



The Summa Foundation has worked to support patient care, medical education, and innovative research through philanthropy since its inception in 1976. Created through the vision of Walter A. Hoyt Jr., M.D., the Foundation grew and flourished during the 1980s under the guidance of Dr. Hoyt and the leadership of Louis A. Meyers, the Foundation's first chairman. In 1989, when St. Thomas Hospital merged with Akron City Hospital, Summa Health System was created and the Foundation supported philanthropic efforts at both hospitals. Today, the Summa Foundation board and Summa Health System leadership have created a corporate structure with the Foundation as a freestanding entity serving the entire system.

The original \$5 million transfer from Akron City Hospital establishing the Foundation was intended to support and perpetuate medical education and research. In 2008, the Summa Foundation transitioned to a multifaceted role that encompasses community benefit, government relations, fundraising, and resource development. Through these roles, the Summa Foundation continues to build relationships, influence health policy, and develop new, diversified resources to advance Summa Health System's goals and regional priorities.

Today the Summa Foundation is a philanthropic organization that supports the mission of the entire Summa Health System by integrating fund development, community benefit and diversity, and government relations. As the Summa Foundation works to expand its vision of funding innovation and strategic and entrepreneurial initiatives, it remains committed to its philanthropic priorities of education, civic and community reinvestment, and building capital capacity. The Foundation's end goal is to build a healthier community and further distinguish Summa Health System as a national leader in medical education, research, and clinical innovation.

nominated by

**American Red Cross of
Summit & Portage Counties**