



# Florence B. *Wager* AWARDS

## Dr. John and Debra Bauman

### *J. Scott Campbell Award*

In June of 2009, Vancouver Parks and Recreation was facing significant mid-year budget reductions. One of the programs slated for elimination was a free, family program known as Sunday Funday, held monthly at Marshall Community Center. The three-hour program included staff-led games and activities in the gym, arts and crafts, and a 90-minute free swim. Thanks to a generous sponsorship commitment from Dr. John and Debra Bauman, owners of Bauman Chiropractic, the program survived. In late 2009, the Bauman's extended their support of Sunday Funday for 2010 with another financial commitment

In late 2010, in response to a citywide budget shortfall, Vancouver Parks and Recreation had to make many budget cuts and service reductions; one of those being the closure of the Marshall Community Center on Sundays, which put an end to Sunday Funday. However, it did not end the Bauman's support of Vancouver Parks and Recreation. In November 2010, John and Debra once again stepped up to make a much-needed contribution to Marshall Community Center with a gift targeted to provide a free family swim every Saturday afternoon in 2011. In addition, they donated to the Everybody Plays Scholarship Fund, asking that their contribution assist families in providing swim lessons for children. "We're happy to provide an opportunity to enrich the lives of local youth," said John at the time of their gift.

In November of 2011, Vancouver Parks and Recreation received word from the Bauman's that they were going to extend their commitment to the Marshall Center for 2012. John and Debra's generosity certainly spoke to their commitment to improving the health of our community's children and families and set them apart as business leaders who understand the benefits of public-private partnerships.

The Bauman's repeated their act of generosity at the close of 2012 when they made yet another commitment to Marshall Community Center. They said at the time, "We feel fortunate we are in a position to be able to give back to a community that has given so much to us. To be able to provide an opportunity for children and families to access swimming lessons and fun family swimming time is a very important priority for us. We believe swimming, in addition to serving as a very healthy recreational activity, provides children with added confidence and self-esteem." Their donations have come in year after year, all directed at making swimming and play available to ALL our community's children.

During the pandemic, while the pools were closed, the Bauman's continued their support for kids with a grant to Camp Hope, making sure that all kids had a chance to get outside and enjoy the world around us.

The Bauman's' generous donations are a perfect example of paying it forward. Thank you, John and Debra, for making a difference, year after year. You have given such a wonderful gift to our community.

