



Carolyn Leeds

Carolyn was a working mom before it was “trendy,” and she set a wonderful example for her children, not to mention so many other people. She has had an enormous impact on the Indianapolis Jewish community through her volunteer and professional careers over 50 years.

The Indianapolis Jewish community and the state of Indiana got the breadth of her experience when she became the interim director of numerous organizations within the Jewish community: Hooverwood, Park Regency, Jewish Community Center, and the Jewish Federation to name a few. She became the first woman board chair of CICOA aging and In Home Solutions (the Area Agency on Aging for Marion county and the seven surrounding counties in Indiana), and her work in establishing endowments for the Jewish community will live on for generations to come.

Carolyn was persuaded to leave retirement to become the Federation liaison for the 1990s campus renovation

committees that brought the Federation offices to the Hoover Road campus from downtown.

Her volunteer involvement extends from the early days working on the JCC Theater in the Woods in the 1950s to currently serving on the organizing committee of the Indiana University Hillel Campus Superstars. As a volunteer for the Indiana Jewish Historical Society, her experience has been invaluable to her work in weekly reviewing and cataloguing the archives of the Indianapolis Jewish community at the Indiana Historical Society in downtown Indianapolis.

She was the 2014 recipient of the Jewish Community Center's Ivan Chalfie Award.

Carolyn married Dr. James (Jim) Leeds and they had three children, Peggy and the late Cathy and Kenny.