

Frank H Newman was born in Chicago in 1913. Newman graduated from George Williams College with a degree in Group Work Education and received a Master of Social Work from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis Missouri. Newman's Jewish Community service took place in various cities such as Yonkers, New York, St. Louis, and Gary, Indiana. He went on to become the Federation director in Gary for 8 years. He was one of the founders of a chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in that area. After working in both Chicago and the New York Metropolitan areas, he came to Indianapolis in 1959 where he was with the Jewish Federation and served as consultant on fundraising and health and welfare planning to 45 communities over an 11 state area and Canada.

During his tenure in Indianapolis, Federation campaigns grew steadily and placed Indianapolis "at the forefront of communities of its size" according to a 1975 quote from Community leader Marty Lerner. Newman was chairman of the Finance Committee of Inter-Faith Housing and on the Board of the Visiting Nurses Association. Newman also served on the boards of Planned Parenthood, the Indianapolis Reparatory Theater, Daymar and Dance Kaleidoscope, Ballet International, Girls Club of Indianapolis, United Way, Community Credit Counseling, Legal Aid Society, and FBI Citizen's Academy. He was a long time member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and Broadmoor Country Club.

Frank's influence on the Jewish Community of Indianapolis was so significant that it is hard to understand unless you lived through it. During his years here, there was a strengthening of relationships between the synagogues and Federation, the building of a community mikvah and the expansion of the Jewish Community Campus. Community leaders have commented over the years about how much of an influence he had on them and how much Frank impacted their involvement in the Jewish Community and philanthropy in general. The Jewish Community Endowment Fund began under his leadership and he headed it after retiring as Federation director. Many individuals in the original Young Leadership Development program started by Frank, went on to become the fabric of the community's philanthropy over the 30 year period of his leadership. The Newman Award is given each year to the most outstanding community professional for that year.

Frank and his wife Dorothy were married for 65 years and are survived by their son Robert and two daughters Terry (Bernstein) and Nancy (Reiter). For all these reasons the Hoosier Jewish Legends Award is presented posthumously to Frank Newman.