

Leonard (Len) Goldstein, of Fort Wayne, is an extraordinary role model of philanthropic leadership. He is a tireless public servant, dedicated to higher education, to Jewish culture, and to developing the next generation of leaders. Len has been a strong voice in support of Israel, in favor of human rights, and promoting public education. Giving and volunteering is tradition to Len Goldstein. He is a generous donor, as well as giving equally of his time and talents. He is a mensch in every sense of the word and a true model of the person we should all aspire to be!

One way he has shown his dedication to higher education and to Jewish culture, is the establishment of the Leonard M. and Ruth K. Goldstein Matching the Promise Scholarship in Jewish Studies, a four-year scholarship that is awarded each fall to an incoming freshman to Indiana University, Bloomington. According to Leonard, giving and volunteering is “a tradition. As a matter of fact, it’s almost a requirement in Judaism. The word is ‘tzedakah,’ and it means responsibility.”

He is a longtime board member of the Indiana ACLU, and was honored with its Founders Award ‘given to a person who has seized an opportunity to make exceptional gains in the enhancement of civil liberties.’ As a civil rights advocate and community elder, Len has been honored by numerous civil and human rights organizations including the Fort Wayne Urban League as an Urban League Lion. He is also a well-known activist in the Jewish community. He has served on both the Temple (Congregation Achduth Vesholom) and Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne boards.

Over the years Len has contributed his time, talent, and resources to many, many Jewish organizations as well as other organizations in the community, including the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Arts United, Allen County Public Library, Rotary, FAME (Foundation for Art and Music in Education) and Fort Wayne Center for Learning, to name a few. Leonard Goldstein is passionate about tikkun olam, “repairing the world” and once said that someday “I hope to make a difference.” We know he has already made quite a difference and we are proud to honor him with this Hoosier Jewish Legends Award.