



## 2019 CELEBRATION OF GOODNESS LUNCHEON

**Event:** Celebration of Goodness Luncheon *Emceed by Denise Dufala*  
**Date & Time:** Tomorrow, Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>; 11:30 am – 1:30 pm  
**Location:** Executive Caterers at Landerhaven  
6111 Landerhaven Dr., Mayfield, OH 44124  
**Presenter:** Values-in-Action Foundation (Project Love)

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**REQUEST FOR COVERAGE:** TOMORROW, Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>; 11:30 am

**(Cleveland, OH)** Please join Values-in-Action Foundation **celebrate Cleveland's own COMMUNITY ALL-STARS** for its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Goodness Luncheon emceed by longtime Cleveland news anchor and children's book author Denise Dufala at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven.

Each year, this free, community event honors individuals who represent goodness, caring and respect beyond the norm and, through their efforts, make Cleveland a better place. **The Celebration of Goodness continues the legacy of event founder Sam Miller who sadly passed away in March at the age of 97.** Miller believed that our community is an aspiring neighborhood of GOODNESS that is shaped by people who inspire goodness, and then a chain reaction of more goodness follows. The 2019 class of goodness honorees is nothing short of amazing. These individuals are role models whom we wish to have our community copy and emulate because all have made significant impacts in leadership, society, school, business, church and community:

- **Cleveland Catholic Bishop, the Most Reverend Nelson Perez**  
When Bishop Nelson Perez arrived in Cleveland in September of 2017, he said he came with no agenda, only a desire to come to know the people and the places of Northeast Ohio. Since then, he has embraced those in need with joy and compassion, recognizing the God-given dignity of every person.
- **KeyBank Foundation Chair and CEO Margot Copeland**  
Margot Copeland has been the consummate community builder, lifting up the most disadvantaged in Northeast Ohio and in KeyBank's communities around the country. Whether through increasing graduation rates, encouraging mentorship, improving access to college, beautifying community or encouraging families, Margot provides hope for the future.
- **U.S. District Court Judge, the Honorable Dan Polster**  
Judge Dan Polster is being celebrated because he is the kind of judge who is both compassionate and just, tough minded while being right minded. Judge Polster is now tackling one of the most important federal court cases of our times: the prosecution of over 1,800 cases against major pharmaceuticals involved in the national opioid addiction and overdose crisis.
- **Akron Schools Superintendent David James**  
As a child of Cleveland, graduating from iconic John Adams High School, David James has achieved the highest heights of a career in education. As superintendent of the Akron Public Schools, he has taken the Akron schools to new levels of academic success, focusing on a college and careers model that gives students new and many pathways to successful lives.
- **The Leebow Family and Majestic Steel USA**  
Majestic Steel USA and The Leebow Family have built one of the most efficient, sustainable and quality steel service companies in the country while also inspiring leadership and a community of goodness for their hundreds of Majestic associates.

Just as these honorees spread goodness, Values-in-Action Foundation empowers students and adults to build communities of kindness, caring and respect through programs that teach, promote, and provide skills and tools to enable individuals to make positive, values-based decisions every day. The Celebration of Goodness is a reflection of the organization's values-driven approach to teaching students the importance of goodness through its character-education and anti-bullying school programs. **Since 1994, Values-in-Action's Project Love programming has trained more than 539,000 students and 4,700 educators nationwide and annually impact more than 350 Ohio schools with consistent, positive results.** In fact, 99% of participating students report that they are more likely to make positive choices and perform more acts of kindness as a result of Project Love's training.

For additional information about the luncheon, the honorees, or Values-in-Action programming, call 440.442.5683 or visit [www.viafdn.org](http://www.viafdn.org).