



# GRINDSTONE AWARD



**2000**

**George & Carol Kanaan**

For an evening in April, 2001, the City of Berea was enthusiastically transformed into the Land of Canaan - with a "K" that is. On that evening, George and Carol Kanaan were feted as the 34th winners of Berea's Grindstone Award as Citizens of the Year.

There are people who seem destined to serve their fellow man. The Kanaans both are cut from this rare cloth, as they have been quietly and without fanfare volunteering services and providing leadership, both in public and private situations, both individually and as a couple, all of their adult lives.

Carol and George were both born and educated in Youngstown, Ohio, and attended Youngstown State University. George came to Berea in 1963 and joined the Berea News, while Carol came here after marrying George in 1964. The couple then started a family, a business and their long tradition of involvement with Berea and its people. They founded their business, Copy Center West Printing Company in 1970.

Early on, George and Carol became active members of the Berea Jaycees and their involvement in civic affairs started.

George has also had long term involvement in the Berea Rotary Club and the Discover Berea Chamber of Commerce. He served as President of the Chamber and is in line to become the Berea Rotary Club President in 2005. Carol has served many terms as the Financial Officer for Discover Berea.

Carol is also the driving force behind the Grindstone Festival, Berea's Annual July 4th celebration. She worked tirelessly to bring the Triangle Clock Tower project to fruition. And, also shared her time on other civic committees including the Light Up Berea Parade and the Lou Groza dedication projects.

Both Kanaans have given many years of active service and leadership to these civic organizations as important committee chairs, officers and trustees, bringing to many programs and activities their main strengths of organization, fund raising and financial management.

Carol has been a volunteer at Southwest General Health Center and a volunteer tutor in Berea elementary schools. She also has been a Girl Scout leader. George recently served on the Berea Master Plan Committee, is a former Chairman of the Board of Discover Berea and has been a member of the Berea Schools Business Advisory Council.

Presented April 10, 2001

Radisson Hotel Middleburg Heights, Ohio