

News Release  
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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**WSEM HONORS SENATOR GEORGE VOINOVICH AND JANET VOINOVICH AT  
17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LAMPLIGHTER HUMANITARIAN AWARD DINNER**

**CLEVELAND (May 6, 2010)** — West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM), a Cleveland-based nonprofit providing real help, real hope and real futures to Clevelanders in need, has named Senator George V. Voinovich and his wife, Janet Voinovich, its 2010 Lamplighter Humanitarian Award honorees. Senator Voinovich and Mrs. Voinovich will be honored at WSEM's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Lamplighter Humanitarian Award Dinner, 6-9 p.m. on June 11 at The Cleveland InterContinental Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Avenue in Cleveland.

Each year, WSEM honors community leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to the area through their corporate and philanthropic efforts and WSEM's mission of helping individuals and families meet their needs. This year, Lamplighter co-chairs and past honorees, Maria and Sam Miller and Sandy and Thomas C. Sullivan have joined WSEM in honoring Senator Voinovich and his wife.

All funds raised during the event allow WSEM to help individuals and families become more self-sustaining through programs that provide emergency food and outreach services, employment training and placement, early childhood education and counseling solutions.

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“WSEM is proud to honor Senator and Mrs. Voinovich for their unwavering support of this community and their service to the State of Ohio and to our country,” says Judith Z. Peters, president and CEO of WSEM. “Senator Voinovich has served as an elected official for nearly five decades. Janet Voinovich has been by his side and has directed her energies towards the well-being of women and children. Given Senator Voinovich’s retirement from the Senate this year; it is indeed fitting that WSEM honors this outstanding team at this time.”

### **About Senator George V. Voinovich**

Senator Voinovich is one of Ohio’s most distinguished public servants. His career in public service began in 1963 when he was appointed assistant attorney general for the state of Ohio. He later served as a state representative, Cuyahoga County Commissioner, County Auditor and Lieutenant Governor of the state of Ohio. In 1979, he was elected Mayor of Cleveland, serving as mayor for 10 years, and in 1990 he was elected Governor of Ohio and served for two terms.

Senator Voinovich is the only person to have served as Chairman of the National Governors Association and President of the National League of Cities. In 1998, he was elected to the United States Senate and was re-elected to a second term in 2004.

Senator Voinovich serves on the Committee on Appropriations, the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC). He is ranking member of three subcommittees: HSGAC’s Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia; Appropriations’ Homeland Security; and EPW’s Transportation and Infrastructure.

### **About Janet Voinovich**

Senator Voinovich has often referred to his wife as God’s greatest gift to him. Married for over 47 years, Mrs. Voinovich has been her husband’s partner throughout his long career in public service.

She is an active member of the Spouses of the Senate, which meet regularly when Congress is in session to support American Red Cross Initiatives. She is also a member of the International Neighbors Club, which brings together diplomatic and congressional women for the purpose of promoting goodwill by sharing and learning about each other’s countries, customs and cultures.

As First Lady of Ohio, she participated in the Governor’s trade missions where she established international school partnerships, matching schools in countries worldwide with their counterparts in Ohio and facilitating the exchange of letters and artwork between students. She also directed her energies

*WSEM Honors Senator Voinovich and Mrs. Janet Voinovich*

toward initiatives that focused on the health, education and well-being of Ohio's women and children through her leadership in the Ohio ADOPT-A-SCHOOL program, the HELP ME GROW program for moms-to-be and their babies, and her Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. In recognition of her service, she was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1999.

The Lamplighter event will feature a silent auction, entertainment from the Cleveland School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble and pianists from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Tables can be purchased beginning at \$3,000 and tickets are available for \$250-\$350. Commemorative ads thanking the Senator and Mrs. Voinovich can be purchased in the Event Book. For more information on the Lamplighter Humanitarian Award Dinner, please contact WSEM at 216.651.2037.

### **About WSEM**

Founded in 1966, West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM) is a nonprofit social service organization working to help individuals and families become more self-sustaining through programs that provide emergency food and outreach services, employment training and placement, early childhood education and counseling solutions. For more information, visit [www.wsem.org](http://www.wsem.org).

### **About the Lamplighter Humanitarian Award Dinner**

The WSEM Lamplighter Humanitarian Award was established in 1994 to celebrate a community of philanthropic leaders who exemplify integrity and demonstrate a commitment to the community through their philanthropic efforts. Past honorees have included Maria and Sam Miller of Forest City Enterprises and Sandy and Thomas C. Sullivan of RPM International Inc.

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