



## **WILLIAM E. (BILL) SCHEU RECEIVES THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S PRIZE FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

*Prize awarded for only the second time in The Foundation's 50 year history*

Jacksonville, FL – November 17, 2014 – The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida honored local attorney and dedicated civic leader William E. (Bill) Scheu with its Prize for Civic Engagement tonight at an event celebrating The Foundation's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Prize for Civic Engagement pays tribute to Scheu's enduring legacy of servant leadership. It was created by The Community Foundation in 2006 to recognize citizens in Northeast Florida who speak out courageously for the common good on matters of civic importance. The first—and until now, only—recipient of the Prize was the current chairman of The Community Foundation's board of trustees, Bill Brinton, who won in 2007. Selected by a committee of community stakeholders, The Prize for Civic Engagement includes a bronze statue created by local sculptor Derby Alloa and a check for \$10,000 from the Foundation's unrestricted funds.

"Bill Scheu embodies all the aspects that this prize was originally created for—he stands resolutely for 'civic virtue against public indifference or the winds of uninformed public opinion or private interest,'" noted Brinton, who is also a fellow shareholder at the law firm of Rogers Towers. "He has earned his rock solid reputation as a consensus builder and a man of unquestionable integrity, and has patiently guided countless conversations with thoughtful candor to advance the public good."

Brinton continued, "An integral part of The Community Foundation's mission is to build a better community, and Bill's Scheu's tireless pursuit of solutions to difficult issues is emblematic of our work. Our selection committee described Bill as a 'civic Superman,' and noted that he's often been called 'the City's unofficial problem resolver.' I can't think of anyone who more deserving."

A Jacksonville native and nationally recognized real estate lawyer at Rogers Towers, Bill Scheu has been in the spotlight most recently for leading the 11-member Jacksonville Retirement Reform Task Force, which has been grappling with the City's obligation to the Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension fund. Among the many thorny issues he has helped the community work through over the years are the Blodgett Homes public housing controversy in the mid-1980's and the settlement of Duval County's decades-old school desegregation case in the mid-1990's. A man of deep religious faith, Bill was recently chosen to be the Interim President for the Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta.

### **About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida**

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida ([www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org)) is Florida's oldest and largest community foundation. The Foundation works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community – helping donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helping nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helping people come together to make the community a better place. The Foundation has more than \$300 million in assets and has made grants in excess of \$278 million since 1964.

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**Contact:**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

Susan Datz Edelman

VP, Strategic Communications

904-356-4483

[sedelman@jaxcf.org](mailto:sedelman@jaxcf.org)

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