

EMBARGO UNTIL 2 P.M. OCTOBER 2, 2009

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### **Carl Meyer Named 2009 Most Valuable Citizen**

The Champaign County Chamber of Commerce named Carl Meyer as its 2009 Most Valuable Citizen on Friday, October 2. The announcement was made at the Chamber Annual Meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Champaign.

As the executive director of the Parkland College Foundation, Meyer has increased annual giving from \$60,000 to more than \$2 million. He was instrumental in establishing the Partners for Parkland scholarship program with Jerry's IGA and led the efforts to develop Parkland 200, a joint venture development with community leaders committed to the support and development of an educated workforce. Through his efforts, in the last year alone the Foundation was able to award 274 scholarships to deserving students. In the 1980s, Meyer also established two ongoing food programs with the University of Illinois Division of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Meyer is also a member and past president of Champaign Rotary; past board member and past president of Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club; board member of the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation; member of the Champaign County Alliance finance committee; and member and past chair of the Chamber's Agribusiness Committee.

He has previously been awarded the 2009 National Society of Fundraising Executive Award, the 2003 Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club President Award, the 2004 Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club Distinguished Service Award and the 2008 Varsity "I" Association Annual Merit Award.

"I have had the privilege of knowing Carl Meyer for many years," says Laura Weis, president and CEO of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce. "He is a generous man with his time; he is committed to making Champaign County a better place; he is passionate about our community and the development and well being of the youth in our community. It is an honor to name him our 2009 Most Valuable Citizen."

Previous recipients of the Champaign County Most Valuable Citizen award include Helen Levin (1992), Vernon Barkstall (1993), Stan and Judy Ikenberry (1994), Edwin Scharlau (1995), Frank Elliott (1996), Larry Smarr (1997), Dannel McCollum (1998), Robert Toalson (1999), Michael Aiken (2000), Jim Turpin (2001), Dr. Zelema Harris (2002), Stanley Weaver (2003), George Shapland (2004), Doug and Linda Mills (2005), Donald and Newt Dodds (2006), Kyle and Phyllis Robeson (2007) and Carol Scharlau (2008).

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