

August 29, 2016

In the 16th and 17th century there was no family more respected in Florence and across Europe than the Medici family. Their business success and generosity in giving back to the community, particularly in support of the arts, was and remains legendary. The spirit of the Medici family lives here in the Great Lakes Bay region with the Shaheen family. Patricia Shaheen, and her late husband, Dr. Samuel H. Shaheen, known by many as “Doc”, established the family tradition of generous community giving that is embraced by their children, Dr. Samuel J. Shaheen, Peter Shaheen and Sabrina Shaheen Cronin. The Shaheens’ vision and big-heartedness has touched the lives of so many and has left a permanent, wide ranging, legacy for us and our future generations to enjoy.

Perhaps the most inspiring of their efforts is their conservation of Temple Theater. Many of us have appreciated the beauty of the Temple Theater while watching and listening to world class performances. Many may not know that without the generosity of the Shaheen family the Temple Theater would not exist. At a time when the theater was destined for complete demolition, the family devoted millions of dollars and much of their time and energy in the complete refurbishing and modernization of the theater. The family, with their spirit of generous giving, then donated the Temple Theater to a public charity for the benefit of all of us! Their dedication to enriching our community extends to many other philanthropic endeavors. For example, they were instrumental in saving the Saginaw Art Museum from its closing and sale. Recognizing that preventing the sale was not enough to preserve the art museum, they worked with Paul Furlo and others to raise the funds to enhance the beauty of the museum to a level never before reached. The museum is a special treasure for us to enjoy.

It was recently announced that the Council of Michigan Foundations, the Michigan Nonprofit Association and the governor's office has awarded the 2016 Community Philanthropy Award to the Shaheen family. The award will be presented to the family during the 2016 Governor's Service Awards ceremony on August 30 at the Temple Theatre in downtown Saginaw.

Congratulations to the Shaheens for recognition of their many efforts. We thank you for your inspiring achievements!!



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