

Helmers honored for community involvement

Stephen T. Helmer, a litigation attorney at Mackenzie Hughes LLP, was recently honored along with his wife Susan at the Catholic Charities House of Providence Dinner on May 25, 2005 and awarded the President's Medallion for their charitable work.

The Helmers are not ones to sit back and let life pass them by. They met in the early 1980s in Albany where Susan was attending the Venetian Institute and Stephen the Albany Law School of Union University, after graduating from Le Moyne in 1979. Even during college, Susan and Stephen strove to make a difference. Stephen was a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit College honor society and Pi Gamma Mu, the social services honor society. He also played Division II baseball at LeMoyne, for which he was later inducted into the college's Athletic Hall of Fame.

By 1983 the couple was engaged and on their way to Syracuse, ready to start their lives together. Susan took a position at Silverman Mower, which is now Eric Mower Associates, as a traffic coordinator.

Stephen joined Mackenzie Hughes, where he is now a partner, chair of the Litigation Department, and a member of the firm's and Executive Committee.

The Helmers are known for their commitment to the community. Both professionally and civically, they have truly made a mark. Susan and Stephen continuously volunteer their time for the greater good, while juggling career and the very active lives of their children: John, Maura, Caroline and Margaret.

Starting in 1985, Stephen joined his alma mater to support the Le Moyne Gold Wave Athletic Booster Committee, which he chaired in 1987. The same year, the Helmers chaired the WCNV TEL-AUC for the sports division and Stephen chaired the Onondaga County Bar Association's Young Lawyer Division and its high school "mock trial" competition.

Throughout the 1990s the Helmers supported many organizations by sitting on boards and volunteering time, including: Fayetteville-Manlius Little League and Pop Warner Football, Immaculate Concep-

School, where Susan teaches part-time and Immaculate Conception Parish where Stephen sat on the parish council, school expansion committee, was the basketball coach and still serves as the parish attorney. Stephen also supports his alma mater, Le Moyne College, through their capital campaign for the college baseball field and as the vice-chair of the college's Board of Regents. Susan's involvement in the community includes many charitable organizations such as: ABC House, where she served on the Board and chaired their annual fundraiser, Growing Seasons Garden Club, where she served back-to-back terms as vice president and president, Vera House, Everson Museum's Festival of Trees, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Catholic Charities. Both have participated in the House of Providence Dinner planning, as co-chairs or on the committee, since 1999.

Continuing their service into the new millennium, the Helmers supported Catholic Charities once again on the fall auction committee. In 2001, the

Helmers took on some new activities with Susan joining the



F-M High School STPA. The same year, the entire Helmer family joined the Fresh Air Fund Program where they served as a host family, providing in-home summer vacations for inner-city youths. In the recent years, the Helmers commitment to the community has not slowed, with Steve chairing the LeMoyne Founders Day Dinner in 2003 and Susan serving on the Alzheimer's Association Dinner auction committee in 2003. This year, Stephen joined the Board

at Rosewood Nursing Home and Susan the East Area YMCA fundraising committee as well as serving as a Francis House auxiliary member.

Time and time again, the Helmers have given to their community. Stephen once even surgically donated bone marrow to a family member with leukemia. For all of their selfless acts the Helmers were thanked and honored with the President's Medallion.