

# jordan award 2013

## DR. HENRY A. AND BARBARA M. JORDAN AWARD - 2013

*significant, longstanding, comprehensive philanthropic achievements*

### ~ ALBERT W. EASTBURN OF COATESVILLE

A longtime resident of Chester County, Albert W. Eastburn has dedicated his time, business experience, mentorship, and leadership toward charitable, philanthropic, and community causes. Through his focus on bettering the greater Coatesville area, he has provided exemplary strategic guidance to individuals and organizations throughout the region.

Al spent his 37-year business career with the Coatesville-based **Lukens Steel Company** and served as President until his retirement in 1992. Both during and after his tenure with Lukens Steel, Al forged himself as a dynamic philanthropist, serving countless roles with innumerable Chester County organizations. According to James McErlane, Esq., Lukens was the "lifeblood of Coatesville" and Al served as its corporate conscience.

Al has served on corporate boards including Steel of West Virginia from 1993-1998. He currently serves on the Krapf Bus Companies board as the only non-family board member.

"Al inspires philanthropy by practicing philanthropy," says MaryAnn Rossi, Esq. of MacElree Harvey. **"Working with Al, one has the distinct feeling that 'we're in this together.'"**

Al became actively involved with the Brandywine YMCA in the 1960s and expanded his role as a member of the Board of Trustees over the next four decades, ultimately serving as Vice Chair from 2001-2003 and Chair from 2003-2005. Al headed a \$1.5 million campaign in 1993. His leadership inspired others and gave them the confidence to exceed fundraising goals. During his tenure at the Y, Al jointly spearheaded a merger of the Brandywine YMCA and the YMCA of Central Chester County. This union maximized efficient use of resources and expanded services.

In the 1990s, Al created the Coatesville Area Partners for Progress. As CAPP's leader for 15 years, Al worked behind the scenes to provide advice and support "to others that work on the city's behalf... with a style which developed consensus and avoided conflict," says CAPP board member John Newtown. One of Al's most significant contributions while leading CAPP was to acquire an enterprise-zone designation for Coatesville in 1994. This allowed businesses to apply for grants and loans to establish themselves in the community, with the ultimate goal to stimulate the economy, provide jobs, and create new industries in Coatesville.

At the request of the Chester County Commissioners, Al served as a Board member of the **Housing Authority of Chester County**. Under Al's leadership as Chair, the Authority made great strides in ensuring that public housing was safe, affordable and up to code especially in Honey Brook, West Chester and Coatesville.

In the 1990s, Al led the initiative to help found the **Chester County Chamber for Business and Industry**, to positively influence the region's business climate. He became CCCBI's Founding Chair in 1994, while Robert Thompson served as CCCBI's first President.

In the 1990's, Al became the founding chair of **Chesconet**, an emerging nonprofit that worked in collaboration with the County, West Chester University, and the Chester County Intermediate Unit to provide internet connectivity to schools, libraries and government buildings throughout Chester County. Notes WCU Vice President Dr. Christopher Fiorentino, "Al personally recruited an excellent board. By the time he stepped down, a plan to provide a fiber optic connection to all schools and libraries was successfully executed."

**In the health care arena**, Al's tenure on the Board of the Coatesville Hospital led him to become Chair during the 1980s. During the 1990s, he helped guide the transition to become the Brandywine Hospital.

The Brandywine Health Foundation was created with the hospital sale. From 2001-2009, Al served as the Foundation's first Vice Chair and its second Chair. In his Board leadership role he met with key legislators and constituents to make the vision a reality, and raised substantial funds.

"From the outset," Al says of the Brandywine Health Foundation, "health was the key issue. That's what drove most of us to recruit ChesPenn Health Services to Coatesville and eventually house them and dental and mental health providers in the Brandywine Center. Combining that with subsidized senior housing in the same building is rather unique."

**Al's far-reaching influence and longstanding philanthropic commitments have strengthened our community, now and forever.**