

**Mort November**  
**National Philanthropy Day 2005, Outstanding Philanthropist Award**

For many philanthropists, the inspiration to give begins with a personal experience. It may be gratitude for excellent medical care, a desire to share one's good fortune with those less fortunate or simply, to help one's neighbor. For Mort November, his inspiration is a beloved daughter's death. His daughter, Debra Ann, died in 1977 at the age of 24. Her love of children and what she might have been able to do for them was and continues to be the inspiration behind his philanthropic giving.

Mort was born in Cleveland in 1926, graduated from East Tech High School in 1945 and served in the Army from 1945-1948 in Japan. In 1948, he married Phyllis Tetalman, who died in 1979. He has a son, Larry, born in 1951 and 3 grandchildren. In 1982, he married Iris Flaxman. Mort began his professional career in sales in 1949 and in 1959 entered the field of life insurance. He was the president of The Cleveland Association of Life Underwriters, Founder and Chairman of East Cleveland Mayor's Advisory Committee, member of the Children's Hospital Leadership Board of The Cleveland Clinic and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Families and Children.

Mort's style of philanthropy began modestly and was very personal. In 1993, the Debra Ann November Annual Achievement Award was established in cooperation with the Cleveland Municipal School District in his daughter's memory. For the first eleven years of the program, children from the Cleveland schools, who had achieved academically, were sent on overnight trips to Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit. Two years ago, the destination became the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Center. This program continues today with over 350 children participating since its inception.

In 1999, Mort expanded his philanthropic efforts by establishing a supporting foundation, with the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, in honor of his daughter and his first wife, Phyllis. This fund has supported numerous projects over the last several years including building the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center in 1999; in 2000, the fund supported three projects, a library at the Center for Families and Children, school supplies for Ethiopian children in Israel and a medical needs project in Amman, Jordan. In 2004, the November Fund supported construction of a playroom in Debra Ann's name at the JCC and established support for Project Love's "Kickoff for Kindness" program and the fund is providing the lead gift in establishing the Center for Autism Building at the Children's Rehab Hospital of The Cleveland Clinic. Also planned for late 2005, is the groundbreaking for The Debra Ann November Recreation Pavilion at Camp Wise in Burton, Ohio and the dedication of the Debra Ann November Research Greenhouse at CWRU's Squire Valleyvue Farm. In July 2005, The East Cleveland Public Library celebrated the dedication of the Debra Ann November Learning Center, a beautiful new facility in East Cleveland that will be the centerpiece for much community

cultural activity. In 2006, groundbreaking will be held for the Jack and Leah November Pavilion & Gardens at the Center for Families and Children.

Allan Gross of the JCF said “ Mort came to the philanthropy table late but became a significant force in our community. He became evermore experienced and energized as time went on and as he acted upon his generosity.”

Mort’s wife Iris and their family share in keeping Debra Ann’s memory alive through the projects they have supported and Mort credits much of the success to their support. The Novembers are committed to the values of education, recreation, the arts and religion and, through their philanthropy, practice” tikkum olam” the Jewish belief of repairing the world. But it is more than this for Mort and his family. It is keeping the memory of a beloved daughter alive through helping those whom she loved most...children.

“My daughter was a very special young lady in many ways—had she lived she would have devoted her life to children, to help one child, enriches many—like a ripple in a pond.” Mort said. His daughter is Mort November’s inspiration, he is ours.