

• 2014 Man of the Year •
Mitchell C. Schneider
President and Chairman of the Board
First Interstate Properties

Clevelanders have always been generous and supportive of community and charitable causes. Throughout its history, there are countless examples of individuals, businesses, and civic organizations that have stepped to the forefront to contribute in making our community a better place to live. It is our honor to recognize an individual who, through his philanthropy and commitment to the community, has made a significant economic impact in our region, and has also invested in making it safer for all.

Mitchell C. Schneider is the President of First Interstate Properties, Ltd., a Lyndhurst, Ohio based real estate development and management company. Mr. Schneider, an attorney, previously practiced real estate development in Cleveland.

In 1989, he created First Interstate Properties, Ltd., a full service real estate development and management company. During the course of its 25 years, First Interstate has developed properties throughout Northeast Ohio including Legacy Village in Lyndhurst, Ohio. Overall, First Interstate manages a portfolio of property totaling over four million square feet.

First Interstate is the developer of the first major power center project in the City of Cleveland, Steelyard Commons, a nearly one million square foot shopping center that opened in the Spring of 2007. Steelyard Commons has transformed 125 acres of industrial land, a portion of a former steel yard, into the largest open-air centers ever to be built in Cuyahoga County. It has generated significant economic benefits and supported the creation of more than 1,200 jobs in Cleveland.

Steelyard Commons also hosts National Night Out Against Crime ("NNO") each year in August, and welcomes over 5,000 event attendees during just four short hours. The NNO campaign involves local citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime, drug and violence prevention awareness as well as strengthen police/community partnerships. The National Association of Town Watch recognized NNO at Steelyard Commons in 2010 for its Outstanding Participation in "America's Night Out Against Crime." This event placed 38th out of more than 250 event submittals in the population category of 50,000 - 99,999, and the plaque is currently on display at Cleveland City Hall in the Community Relations Department.

Giving back to the community is a focal point in First Interstate's overall operation. Their Hawthorne Valley Shopping Center serves as the venue for the Annual Oakwood Village concert series; Avon Commons sponsors the annual Eagle Run (benefitting Avon schools), the American Heart Association's Lorain County Heart Walk (sponsors and hosts the event), and the annual Duct Tape Festival. In the past, Avon Commons has donated to The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, an organization that works with over 150 schools in nine counties across northeast Ohio. Legacy Village in Lyndhurst sponsors and hosts the annual Cleveland Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis. Throughout the year they also run the Change for Charity program, donating the change from its parking meters to local charities. To date, Change for Charity has gifted more than \$790,000.00 to more than 500 charities primarily in Northeast Ohio. Oakwood Commons in South Euclid donated 22 acres to the city of South Euclid and created Oakwood Green, nearly doubling the public parkland area in the city of South Euclid.

Mr. Schneider is also the Co-Founder and CEO of Legacy Capital Partners, a company that is focused on providing investors with opportunities to invest in income-producing real estate properties. Legacy Capital Partners' investment strategy is focused on value creation opportunities with a concentration on for-rent multi-family projects. To date, Legacy Capital Partners has invested in 29 projects around the country.

On a personal level, Mitchell is involved in a variety of local and national community organizations. He has been a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) since 1988, and has served in its Government Affairs Committee. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. Additionally, Mitchell is a Trustee of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, one of the premiere land conservation organizations in the country, where he serves as the Chairman of its Transaction Review Committee. Mitchell recently served a four-year term as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Siegel College, a local higher education institution.

For his dedication to community service, philanthropy, and his commitment to making our neighborhoods a better and safer place to live, we are honored to name Mr. Mitchell Schneider our 2014 Man of the Year.

