



George Daly Award presented to Enfield Rotary Club

September 17, 2011—The Enfield Athletic Hall of Fame selected the Rotary Club of Enfield as this year's recipient of the George Daly Award. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that have provided outstanding support to sports programs in the Town of Enfield. When the Thompsonville Little League was formed in the 1950s, two Rotarians (from the Thompsonville Rotary Club, as it was known in those days), helped establish the league. In addition, another Rotarian donated a playing field. Rotary has sponsored a team in the league ever since. In 1993, one of our members learned that the high school girls' basketball teams at both Enfield and Fermi had little or no funding for uniforms and equipment. Larry Tracey brought an idea to the club to organize and sponsor a holiday basketball tournament. The "Enfield Rotary Classic" girls' basketball tournament was born. Every year between Christmas and New Year's, Enfield, Fermi and two visiting teams play a two-day tournament. Rotarians prepare a program with paid ads, sell tickets, snacks and soft drinks at the games, and purchase trophies, awards, sweatshirts, etc., for the players. In addition to the companies and organizations of our Rotarians, many local businesses and players' families support the tournament. All proceeds are split evenly between the two teams. Last year, each team received \$1,200. Rotary has donated more than \$10,000 to the girls' basketball teams since 1993. It comes as no surprise that Larry Tracey received the George Daly award in 2008 for his commitment to sports on local and statewide levels. In accepting the George Daly Award from Ellie Daly, George's widow, Enfield Rotary President Mike Helechu said, "on behalf of all of the members of the Enfield Rotary, past and present, I thank you for honoring us with the 2011 George Daly Award. I have a strong feeling that you will be honoring additional Rotarians at future Hall of Fame dinners and that our paths will be crisscrossing again and again in the years to come because of our mutual commitment to the Town of Enfield. Thank you very much." Rotarians who joined Mike and Mrs. Daly in the photo above include (l-r), Larry Tracey, Karen Jarmoc, Kevin Mayo, Scott Kaupin, Chris Casey and Cindy Mangini.