

Morton Grove Trustee John Thill Receives Prestigious Rotary Award

By **MG1895**



John & Marian Thill with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award

At the annual Taste of Skokie Valley event on June 10, 2010 held at the Doubletree Hotel & Conference Center in Skokie, Morton Grove Village Trustee John Thill was honored with Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellowship Award. The event benefits the Rotary Club of Skokie Valley and the Skokie Chamber of Commerce.

Among those attending were the Mayors of Morton Grove, Niles, and Skokie to help in honoring a citizen in their communities chosen by the Rotary to receive this distinguished award. The Paul Harris Fellow recognition was created in memory of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, as a way to show appreciation for contributions to the Foundation's charitable and educational program. A Paul Harris Fellow is an individual who contributes \$1,000 or in whose name that amount is contributed. Every Paul Harris Fellow receives a pin, a medallion, and a certificate when they become a Fellow. This identifies the Paul Harris Fellow

as an advocate of the Foundation's goals of world peace and international understanding.

Rotary International is a worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million business, professional, and community leaders. Members of Rotary clubs, known as Rotarians, provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. There are 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Clubs are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds as signified by the motto "Service Above Self" as their main objective is service in the community, workplace and throughout the world.

Morton Grove Mayor Dan Staackmann said he was proud to participate in this ceremony honoring his colleague on the Village Board. A number of Morton Grove residents were also in attendance to witness a dedicated man of service receive his award. John Thill said, after receiving the Paul Harris Fellowship, "I am humbled and grateful—but this honor really belongs, not just to me, but to my wife Marian too, as we are truly a team in life and in all the causes we support." Both John and Marian Thill are active in a number of environmental causes including the Friends of Morton Grove Forest Preserves. Both act as Stewards for Cook County Forest Preserves as well.

"It was a great to see a dedicated leader like John, who does so much for his community and never seeks the limelight for himself, get the recognition he deserves," stated Mayor Staackmann.