



## **M. James Johnston, Corporate & Endowment Strategy, LLC**

A dedicated Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana Board member for more than 40 years, M. James Johnston has been recognized with Junior Achievement USA's National Centennial Leadership Award. On March 12, 2019, the tribute honored a select group of six recipients who have performed outstanding service to Junior Achievement at all levels.

That afternoon, Johnston was invited into the bell-ringing booth for the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) closing ceremony.

In recognition of Johnston's demonstrated leadership and significant impact on the organization, he previously received the JA USA Gold Leadership Award (2016), was inducted into the JA of Northern Indiana Greater Fort Wayne Business Hall of Fame induction (2015), and has been recognized with the Ove Jorgensen Spirit of Leadership Award (2000).

Johnston's dedication to JA exemplifies his belief that when you do what needs to be done, success will come. This philosophy began early in his life, as he watched his parents do what needed to be done to secure professional resources for the special needs of his two sisters. It continued as Johnston was encouraged to do what needed to be done to make the best use of his own talents.

"I had been a good student in high school, and I simply went to work after graduation. My minister saw a different potential and took me to several colleges," Johnston says. "I was admitted to Butler University and earned my business degree."

With that foundation for success, Johnston married his wife Beth and secured a position at Indiana National Bank in Indianapolis and earned his MBA from Butler University.

"After two years at Indiana National Bank, I was in a meeting at Fort Wayne National Bank," Johnston says. "Shortly after, Paul Shaffer offered me job there. It was 1968, and I started in marketing."



In 1992, he accepted the position as President of Fort Wayne National Bank. In 1996, he became its Chairman/CEO. “Fort Wayne National was steeped in culture and values,” he says, and Johnston’s dedication to maintaining the bank’s reputation included building business relationships. Those relationships ensured mutual success and allowed employees to give time to the community’s success.

When Fort Wayne National Bank was sold in 1998, Johnston invested time and energy into doing what needed to be done to continue the success of its employees, customers, and the community.

In addition to his Junior Achievement involvement, Johnston’s community activities grew to include serving as president of the Schwab Foundation.

“The ability to help develop the skills of young people dovetails with the work I have been doing with Junior Achievement since the 1970s,” Johnston says. “I know from personal experience the importance of helping young people get into the career that makes the most of their talents.”

Johnston says that by preparing young people to sustain their future, he is “giving back to the community. What I contribute leaves the organizations I’m involved with and the people we serve better for tomorrow.”

“My goals were never to be president or chair of something. Rather, I wanted to do the best job I could. I want to support the right people in doing the right things,” Johnston says.

In addition to his work with Junior Achievement and the Schwab Foundation, Johnston has been active with Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo, Mad Anthony’s Children’s Foundation, Greater Fort Wayne Chamber, and Butler University. His dedication has included serving as trustee of English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation, the Purdue Fort Wayne executive committee, and numerous other Board positions and fund-raising campaigns.

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) granted Johnston an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 2002. United Way has recognized him as an Outstanding Volunteer.

