



For Immediate Release

## Community Volunteers and West Michigan Legends to be Honored at 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Junior Achievement West Michigan Business Hall of Fame

**Grand Rapids, Mich., May 15, 2014** – Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes, Inc. (JA) announced today that Wilbur and Sharon Lettinga will receive the Edward J. Frey, Sr. Distinguished Achievement Award, and Renee Williams from Huntington Bank will be awarded the David B. Hensch JA Volunteer of the Year Award. All will be honored at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Junior Achievement West Michigan Business Hall of Fame dinner and ceremony on May 29, 2014 at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Wilbur and Sharon Lettinga** will receive the **Edward J. Frey, Sr. Distinguished Achievement Award** for their service to the community and ongoing commitment of improving the quality of life and the business climate in West Michigan. The Edward J. Frey Sr. Distinguished Achievement Award builds on the tradition of Edward J. Frey, founder of Junior Achievement in West Michigan, who made significant contributions to the region.



Wilbur and Sharon Lettinga have a long history of giving generously of their time, talent and financial resources to organizations in West Michigan. Wilbur Lettinga, a perennial entrepreneur, is the Chairman and C.E.O. of Kentland Corporation, a development Company that owns and manages manufactured housing and R.V. communities. He was the founder and past President of Lettinga & Associates, LLC, a C.P.A. firm started in 1957. Sharon Lettinga, co-owned a motel and mobile home park and worked at Ottawa Savings Bank in Holland, Mich., as Assistant Vice President and Corporate Secretary.

Wilbur and Sharon Lettinga have dedicated themselves to making a significant impact on West Michigan through their support of Davenport University, Spectrum Health, Hope Network and Gilda's Club.

Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes is pleased to announce that the JA Volunteer of the Year Award is being renamed the David B. Hensch JA Volunteer of the Year Award in honor of Dave Hensch's long service as a JA Board member and his extensive classroom volunteer commitment. Hensch has taught more than 100 classes in West Michigan and exemplifies the extraordinary volunteerism associated with the JA Volunteer of the Year award. Hensch was also a recipient of the award in 2001.

**Renee Williams**, vice president of community development and Michigan market manager at Huntington Bank, will be awarded the **David B. Hensch JA Volunteer of the Year Award**. The Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes Volunteer of the Year Award is given to one current Junior Achievement volunteer each year for their extraordinary contributions, being a champion for the JA experience, and advocating for JA within their spheres of influence, both personally and professionally. The JA Volunteer of the Year stands out among their peers.

Williams has personally provided more than 900 hours of service to the community over the last four years, developed over 30 financial education programs in State of Michigan, and through her efforts, approximately 10,000 individuals and businesses have received financial education and technical assistance.

In 2011, Williams launched Junior Achievement's "JA in a Day" education sessions. Starting in Grand Rapids, the program has expanded and the concept was implemented across Huntington's six-state footprint. In Michigan alone, more than 4,000 underserved students in five markets (Grand Rapids, Metro Detroit, Muskegon, Holland, Traverse City/Kalkaska and Kalamazoo) have benefitted from the program. Through JA in a Day programming, over 350 Huntington colleagues have provided over 3,000 volunteer hours of financial education to West Michigan's youth.



**About Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes, Inc.**

Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes is among the nation's top and 19<sup>th</sup> largest JA chapters and an area office of JA USA, the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. The organization offers programs to help prepare young people in Mid, West and North Michigan for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, how to create jobs which make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. Students put these lessons into action and are empowered to own their economic success. Visit [www.westmichigan.ja.org](http://www.westmichigan.ja.org) for more information.

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