

## 2017 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR WALTER HOERMAN

The Citizen of the Year award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community and has made significant contributions to the vibrancy and strength of the Greater Rochester area.

The Chamber was delighted and honored to announce the 2017 Citizen of the Year was **Walter Hoerman**.

Walter Hoerman received a BS in Biology and Psychology from Bates College. He received his Doctor of Medicine (MD) from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in 1985 and completed his pediatric residence training program at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in 1988. Upon graduating from med school, Walter became a resident of Rochester, NH. He first served as pediatrician at Rochester Pediatrics beginning in 1988 and then became owner and pediatrician with the opening of Lilac City Pediatrics, located at 180 Farmington Road in Rochester in 1996. He has served as a dedicated pediatrician, serving the children of the seacoast of New Hampshire, for over 30 years.

Walter is certified with the American Academy of Pediatrics.  
He completed the Leadership New Hampshire program in 2001.

Walter generously served his community, serving as:

City Councilor - 1996 to 2001;

Mayor of Rochester – 2002 to 2004;

Past President of the Rochester Rotary Club 2007-2008

Walter continues to support our political process by welcoming multiple presidential candidates and housing volunteers and foreign students annually.

Walter was one of the founders of the Lilac Family Fun Festival that brought thousands to downtown Rochester for many years.

He participated in the Chamber's Downtown Summer Festival for several years, raising funds in the dunking booth and has been a member of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce since 1996.

He has also been a member of the Rochester Rotary Club since 1995 and served as Rotary Club President 2007-2008. He has been bestowed as a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. Much of his giving has been to Polio Plus. Being a pediatrician, he obviously cares about this Rotary project.

Walter became a certified race director and has helped several organizations raise funds with their 5k races including:

Howie's Field of Dreams 5K 2010-2013

Pumpkin 5K benefiting Boston Children's Hospital 2013

He generously contributes to several community organizations including the:  
Rochester Opera House  
Monarch School of New England  
Rochester Rotary Club where he sponsored several missions and was recognized with several awards for his many contributions.  
Arts Rochester, now Sole City Dance – where he has done Henna tattoos at their events  
Coaching Youth Soccer and supporting  
Roger Allen Baseball

Walter also serves on several committees throughout the seacoast region promoting the health of our youth.  
He has also been instrumental in working with the State of New Hampshire on lead poisoning prevention.

Walter also makes house calls, but not for medical reasons. He reads bedtime stories to his patients and many parents of his patients signed up. Walter stated that, “reading to children before they fall asleep is just as important as brushing their teeth, or putting them into pajamas, and it is never too early to start reading books to kids. With the increased number of electronic devices used before bedtime, tablets and cell phones tell our brains to not produce melatonin - the sleep hormone. He emphasized how important it is to read to your child at bedtime because it gives them the joy of reading and helps them to relax and go to sleep.”

As you all know, James Foley was a courageous young journalist who dedicated his life to caring for others through freedom of speech and democracy. He reported on injustices from across the globe, including some of the most dangerous. After two years in captivity, he was murdered by ISIS terrorists in 2014.

In 2015, Walter founded what is now known as the annual James Foley Run to benefit American hostages, press freedom and vulnerable children. He organized this local celebratory 5K run in Rochester, complete with music and free food and beverages and conceived of a virtual run, inviting friends of Jim’s from around the world to join together to remember him and raise funds for those without a voice. In the first year, \$75,000 was raised for the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation.

**Recognitions:**

Walter has received the Patient’s Choice Award, 2008 and 2011.

Compassionate Doctor Award – 2011

Lilac City Pediatrics has also been recognized as one of the top vaccinating practices in the NH.

Walter received a Humanitarian Award from Rochester Main Street in 2016 for his efforts in organizing the annual 5K race in Rochester in memory of James Foley.