

Honoring Dr. Conrad Giles for his Dedicated Leadership and Support of ORT

Dr. Conrad Giles has a history of commitment and dedication to strengthening Jewish life, locally, nationally, and internationally and was appointed President of World ORT in 2016.

His involvement with ORT starting with the Detroit Men's ORT Chapter, stimulated his interest in Jewish Communal life, and he served as its President in 1978-1980. He also served nationally as a Vice President of the American ORT Federation, from 1980 to 1993. In the early part of 2000, Conrad was requested to act as a consultant between World ORT and the Federation system. He was a member of the first executive committee of the newly merged executive committee of ORT America.

Nationally, he was President of The Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) from 1996 to 1999. During this tenure, he helped facilitate the merger between The United Jewish Appeal where he had served as a National Vice-Chair, and the CJF in 2000, resulting in the United Jewish Communities where he then served as a Vice-Chair. In 2009 UJC became The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA).

In 2006, Conrad's leadership continued when he became vice-chair and later chair of The Jewish Council of Public Affairs, an organization for 125 community relations agencies in the U.S. On the International scene, Conrad has been a member of the Board of Governors of The Jewish Agency for Israel, from 1990 to 2000, and The Joint Distribution Committee, 1990-1993 and 1996-1999. He served on the Executive Committee of both organizations from 1996 to 1999.

Professionally, Dr. Conrad Giles has practiced pediatric ophthalmology in Metropolitan Detroit from 1963 to the present. In addition, he is the Clinical Professional and Chief emeritus of pediatric ophthalmology at Children's Hospital of Michigan and currently continues his academic career at the Kresge Eye Institute of Wayne State University Medical School.

Conrad and his wife Lynda's family includes six incredible children who have enriched their lives, along with their wonderful spouses, 15 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

For 100 years, ORT America has worked to break through social and economic barriers to transform lives. The ORT network reaches more than 200,000 people a year in schools, universities, and training programs in more than 30 countries. Driven by Jewish values, ORT bridges the gap between ability and opportunity leading to bright futures.

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