



Media Contact:
Margaret L. Brown
Loudoun Laurels Foundation
703-898-9443
Margaret@loudounlaurels.org

For Immediate Release

Frances ‘Fran’ Craig and Kristi & Mike Huber Named 2026 Loudoun Laureates

Their contributions to Loudoun County will be celebrated by the Loudoun Laurels Foundation at its Celebration of Life & Leadership Gala on September 26, 2026

Leesburg, VA – April 28, 2026 – The Loudoun Laurels Foundation has chosen Fran Craig, technology entrepreneur and STEM education champion, and Kristi and Mike Huber, local leaders and founders of Belfort Furniture and Stone Tower Winery, as its **2026 Loudoun Laureates**. The Foundation honors them for embodying and modeling the qualities it seeks in all candidates for the annual honor: selflessness, integrity, creativity, wisdom, and courage. This year’s selections were drawn from a deep and diverse pool of worthy candidates.

“We always receive a great slate of exceptional nominations, and it is truly difficult to choose the Laureates from this incredible group,” said Aparna Sanjay, executive director of the Foundation. “During the deliberations, the Laurels’ Advisory Committee, which includes leaders from business, government, philanthropy, and nonprofits, expressed its admiration for all the nominees who devote so much time and energy quietly working to improve our county.

“In the end, they found Craig and the Hubers to be exemplary models of the generous spirit, selflessness, integrity, and wisdom our Laureates embody.”

Fran Craig is a technology leader, entrepreneur, mentor, STEM enthusiast, and philanthropist. She is known for helping to bring the internet to Loudoun County. While working in technology at AT&T, Carnegie Mellon University, GTE Telenet, DHL Courier, and other organizations, she developed software applications. Adding strategic technology planning and organizational management, she formed her first company, Computer

Strategies. In 1997, Craig originated the concept of the web-based timesheet and morphed Computer Strategies into Unanet, a software company. In 2018, private equity invested in Unanet, which is now a leading AI software provider for professional services and government contracting firms. Deeply interested in education for STEM and women in business, Craig supports the Loudoun Education Foundation, the Northern Virginia Science Center, STEM For Her, the Loudoun Symphony, the Women's Center, Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame (her alma mater), and the George Mason Costello College of Business Center. Craig was recognized in 2025 as STEM for Her's Woman of the Year, in 2024 with an honorary Doctor of Science at Saint Mary's, in 2018 as a Tech 100 Executive by NVTC, in 2016 as a SmartCEO Brava winner, and in 2006 as a "Woman Who Means Business" by the Washington Business Journal.

Kristi and Mike Huber are known for giving back to the community through their companies, Belfort Furniture and Stone Tower Winery, and are philanthropists and active participants in many worthy charities. They have helped raise millions of dollars over the past several decades for Loudoun YMCA's "Building Bridges" and "Caring for Community" initiatives, programs that help send under-resourced children to summer camp and provide safe, high-quality after-school care for working families. They also host numerous fundraisers at Stone Tower Winery, allowing nonprofit organizations to raise millions for cancer research, education, hunger relief, and services for survivors of domestic violence and assault. Mr. Huber serves on the Route 28 Commission Advisory Board, formed to address transportation issues in one of the most important business corridors surrounding Dulles International Airport in Fairfax County and Loudoun County. Through Belfort Furniture, the Hubers regularly contribute to Loudoun Education Foundation, Every Citizen Has Opportunities (ECHO), and Future Leaders of Loudoun County. Belfort's "Be Green" program has been responsible for planting over 500,000 trees in the community since 2007, one tree for every delivery.

About the Loudoun Laurels Foundation

The [Loudoun Laurels Foundation](#) is dedicated to honoring exceptional community leadership and empowering the next generation of leaders through mentorship, scholarships, and educational support. The foundation celebrates individuals whose contributions exemplify the values of service, integrity, and civic engagement.

To help celebrate the 2026 Laureates, join us at our Celebration of Life & Leadership Gala on Saturday, September 26, 2026. Purchase tickets or sponsor our event here:

<https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E358977&id=3>