

June 16, 2026

**Rotary Club of Kalamazoo Red Rose
Committee Chair**

Brian Kaufman
brian@allegracmg.com
269-377-2465

Rotary Club of Kalamazoo Public Image Chair

Maria Newhouse
maria.newhouse@kzoo.edu
269-267-5931

Rotary Club of Kalamazoo President

Dan Sytsma
dann@improvetheeffects.com
269-599-7390

Rotary Club of Kalamazoo Awards 2026 Red Rose Citation to Charles Zhang and Lynn Chen-Zhang

KALAMAZOO, MI — The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo is proud to announce the presentation of the 2026 Red Rose Citation to Charles Zhang and Lynn Chen-Zhang. The Red Rose Citation is the highest accolade awarded by the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo to an individual or couple who exemplifies a lifetime of Service Above Self.

Charles and Lynn will be honored on June 29, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at City Centre Events in downtown Kalamazoo. The event is open to the public.

Charles and Lynn Zhang are entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and community leaders who have called southwest Michigan home for more than 30 years. After immigrating from China and earning graduate degrees from Western Michigan University in 1991, they founded Zhang Financial, now a nationally recognized wealth management firm headquartered in Portage. In 2024, both were named regional Entrepreneur of the Year® Award winners for Michigan and Northwest Ohio, and in May 2026 they received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Beyond their business success, the Zhangs are generous philanthropists in the Greater Kalamazoo region, funding university facilities, scholarships, arts programs, social services, and animal welfare organizations.

Among their many contributions are major investments supporting:

- Scholarships and student professional development initiatives at Kalamazoo College.
- The Charles C. and Lynn L. Zhang Legacy Collections Center and the Zhang Career Center at Western Michigan University.
- The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Gilmore Piano Festival, and the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.
- The Kalamazoo Humane Society, the Charles & Lynn Zhang Animal Care & Resource Center, and the recently expanded Zhang Animal Rescue Project.
- Healthcare and scholarship support through WMed and related community programs.

Nominated by Bob Miller, the Zhangs are recognized not only for their financial generosity but for their hands-on leadership and advocacy across dozens of local organizations. As Miller noted, “many non-profits and

educational institutions would not be able to serve the community as they do, or would not exist at all, without the Zhangs' generosity and leadership."

The story of Charles Zhang and Lynn Chen-Zhang is ultimately one of gratitude transformed into generosity. Their philanthropy, leadership, and belief in opportunity for others continue to leave a lasting mark on Kalamazoo. It is for this enduring spirit of service that the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo is proud to present Charles Zhang and Lynn Chen-Zhang with the 2026 Red Rose Citation.

About the Red Rose Citation

The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo has been awarding the Red Rose Citation for outstanding service since 1945. Prior recipients include Betty Upjohn Mason, Jack Hopkins, Diether Haenicke, the Hon. Carolyn Williams, the Hon. Betty Ongley, Tim and Joy Light, Judy Joliffe, Caroline Ham, Al Heilman, Karl Sandelin, Kay Polzin, Ken Miller, Mary Tyler, Linda Brown, Bill Schma, Marian Wattles, Patty Huiskamp, Marc Schupan, Mike Seelye, Jim and Lois Richmond, Moses Walker, and Charles Parker. The citation is presented to individuals who exemplify the Rotary's "Service above Self" philosophy. Recipients need not be a Rotarian to be nominated.

About the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo brings together business, professional, and community leaders to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace locally and globally.