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# Celebration *of* Leadership

Thursday, March 15, 2018 | Old National Events Plaza



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COMMUNITY CELEBRATION COLLABORATION  
PROJECT ARTS EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE HEALTH & SOCIAL  
EUTENANT COLONEL REGINALD P. GIBSON OUTSTANDING INNOVATION REGIONAL IMPACT  
SPORTSMANSHIP VISIONARY WILLIE EFFIE THOMAS WINTERNEIMER/LAMAR PUBLIC SERVICE  
COLLABORATION CONSENSUS PASSION GIFTS TALENTS TRUSTEE FUN LOVE PROUD BEAUTIFUL  
ARTS EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE  
EUTENANT COLONEL REGINALD P. GIBSON OUTSTANDING INNOVATION REGIONAL IMPACT  
SPORTSMANSHIP VISIONARY WILLIE EFFIE THOMAS WINTERNEIMER/LAMAR PUBLIC SERVICE

# Celebration of Leadership

Leadership Evansville proudly presents the 23rd annual Celebration of Leadership brought to you by Fifth Third Bank.

The Celebration of Leadership is a conscious effort to seek and honor individuals, projects, and businesses and organizations that make significant collaborative contributions to our community.

Evansville and the surrounding communities are full of people working within organizations and on projects. It is Leadership Evansville's intention to demonstrate and celebrate the depth of our citizens' commitment to our community by identifying as many nominees as possible. Therefore, a special thanks to those people who took the time to recognize and nominate tonight's honorees. Without them, there would be no celebration.

## Leadership Evansville

The mission of Leadership Evansville has remained viable over a number of years. The organization has realized that its meaning continues to change as we discover new ways to build and sustain our community into the future.

Founded in 1976 by a group of future-thinking local leaders, Leadership Evansville's original commitment to community-wide betterment remains unique and strong. Today, effective 21st century leadership programs exist to strengthen and transform communities and to make them "leaderful." To do this, Leadership Evansville:

- Brings together people with different talents, gifts and perspectives;
- Transforms these individuals into servant leaders who embrace the concept of community trusteeship and the collaborative process;
- Develops in them an understanding of how today's leaders function and teaches them the skills to apply this knowledge;

- Teaches effective processes, especially envisioning a preferred future, consensus decision making and collaboration;
- Provides real-life opportunities to use the knowledge, skills and processes through practice and performance; and
- Inspires people to identify their passion for community betterment, to make a commitment to create a better community and to take responsibility for making sustainable changes.

Leadership Evansville, through its staff and volunteers, teaches these attitudes, skills and processes to adults, youth, organizations, not-for-profits, businesses, educational institutions, neighborhood associations, churches and other leadership programs locally and at the state and national levels. Leadership Evansville is committed to making its programming available to all who want to be 21st century leaders.



PO Box 2449 • Evansville, Indiana 47728  
812-425-3828



LeadershipEvansville.org



Diverse servant leaders transforming community.

—Leadership Evansville Mission Statement

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# Underwriters and Committees

## Leadership Evansville is proud to recognize the Celebration of Leadership Underwriters

*Includes underwriters as of February 26, 2018*

Acropolis Restaurant  
Alcoa  
Becki Alcorn  
Anonymous Donors  
AstraZeneca  
Atlas Van Lines  
Berry Global  
Doug and Amanda Berry  
Chris Berneking Photography  
City of Evansville through the Department of  
Metropolitan Development  
Deaconess  
Evansville Courier & Press  
Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library  
EXTEND GROUP  
Fifth Third Bank  
Hafer PSC  
M. Susan Hardwick  
IBEW Local #16  
Court Kull

La Campirana  
Leadership Evansville Board of Directors  
Lochmueller Group  
Lynn Miller Pease and Family  
Shawn and Brooke Norris  
NFP Clippinger Financial Group  
Old National Bank  
St. Vincent Evansville  
SABIC  
Stage One Media  
Sycamore Services  
Torian, Hofmann, Dillow and Flittner  
Toyota  
Tropicana  
United Companies  
Susan Vaughn  
Vectren Corporation  
VPS Architecture  
The Women's Hospital

## Celebration of Leadership Committees

### Chairpersons

Marilyn Brenton                      Court Kull

### Emcees

Stephanie Roland                      Scott Wylie

### Celebration of Leadership Planning Committee

Marilyn Brenton	Katie Miller
Jennifer Briggs	June Miller
John Colbert	Lynn Miller Pease
Miekka Cox	Katie Reineke
Mike Davis	Linzee Smiley-McIntosh
Jennifer Evans	

### Selection Committee

Alisha Aman	Kelly Gates
Tim Black	Karen Hamilton
Billy Bolin	Aaron Huff
Marilyn Brenton	Sarah Labitzke
Abraham Brown	Mark Moore
Joshua Calhoun	John Raisor
Don Crankshaw	Keith Rawly
Kimberly Dunning	Dave Schutte

### Nominations committee

Joshua Armstrong	Austin Maxhiemer
Amy Bolek	Heather McNabb
Ross Chapman	Linda Negro
Mallorie Cloum	Zac Parsons
Kelley Coures	Alex Schmitt
Pam Height	Dave Shutte
Kat Isabell	Timothy Weir
Marsha Jackson	Jason Woebkensberg
Laurel Jones	Amy Word-Smith
Eric Krogman	Scott Wylie
Darin Lander	

### Publications

Anthony Robison - Anthony Robison Designs  
Vince Stone - Atlas Van Lines  
Saundra Server - EXTEND GROUP

### American Sign Language Interpreter

Marge Luebbehusen

# Celebration of Leadership

Old National Events Plaza • Downtown Evansville, Indiana  
March 15, 2018

5:15 p.m. Entertainment

5:25 p.m. Sabrina Newton Performance

5:30 p.m. Welcome—

Court Kull, Fifth Third Bank Senior Vice President & Celebration of Leadership Co-Chair  
Shawn Norris, Leadership Evansville Board President  
Lynn Miller Pease, Leadership Evansville Chief Executive Officer  
Marilyn Brenton, Celebration of Leadership Co-Chair

5:40 p.m. Recognition of Nominees and Nominators—Stephanie Roland and Scott Wylie

**Presentation of Celebration of Leadership Awards—Event Underwriters**

Individual Awards—Arts • Community & Neighborhood • Education • Environment •  
Government & Public Service • Health & Social Service

Individual Division Award

Project or Program Awards—Arts • Community & Neighborhood • Education • Environment •  
Government & Public Service • Health & Social Service

Project or Program Division Award

Business or Organization Awards—Arts • Community & Neighborhood • Education •  
Environment • Government & Public Service • Health & Social Service

Business or Organization Division Award

**Special Awards—Event Underwriters**

Sam Featherstone Youth Awards

Spirit Award

Leaders In Technology Award

Lt. Col. Reginald Gibson Award

Bryce Jordan Servant Leader Award

Willie Effie Thomas Diversity Award

Winternheimer/LaMar Public Service Award

Shirley James "Greening the Community" Award

Nancy Sieben Koehler Sustainability Award

Sara B. Davies Award

Civic Engagement Award

Outstanding Innovation Award

Transformational Inclusion Award

Darrell Ragland Visionary Award

Susan Kelly Jordan Leader in Courage Award

Regional Impact Award

Lifetime Awards

Community Collaboration Award

7:00 p.m. Closing—Stephanie Roland and Scott Wylie

**Stay until the end for a surprise!**

# And the Nominees Are...

## INDIVIDUAL

### ARTS

**Lenny Dowhie**—Lenny Dowhie's servant leadership inspires far and wide, in subtle and dramatic ways. From starting an art expo in Chicago called Expressions of Culture to directing the New Harmony Clay Project, Lenny has taught and inspired countless artists. Not only has Lenny taught at the University of Southern Indiana and served as chair of the art department, but he and wife donated \$1,000,000 in support of USI's ceramics program. *Nominated by: Kari Akin*

**Anne McKim**—Anne McKim is a dedicated wife, mother, friend and neighbor who works tirelessly to further arts awareness and celebration in our community. As Executive Director of the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, she regularly embraces diversity throughout her projects by celebrating every walk of life, color of skin, sexual identity, religious view and ability. Through her energy and passion, the arts council has flourished and grown in its impact. *Nominated by: Zac Parsons*

**Sabrina Newton**—Sabrina uses her talents in marketing and songwriting throughout our community. In addition to her role as Senior Manager of Strategic Communications and Marketing for the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana, she has written and performed songs, including "Take me to the River," for the E is for Everyone branding campaign. Sabrina will always find ways to give back to our community through the power of song. *Nominated by: Greg Wathen*

**Chris Weatherly**—Chris Weatherly uses the art of film to challenge what it means to be a good neighbor in Evansville. His films explore diversity by viewing people different from us with dignity and value. Chris's film, "Left Turn," is the product of collaboration. Directed and produced in Evansville, the film highlights churches, organizations and individuals coming together to transform our city. Chris is a talented film producer who lives out the values he shows in his films in his everyday life. *Nominated by: Austin Maxheimer*

**Jon Whitman**—Jon uses his talents and skills as an artist to make our community more vibrant and beautiful. In addition to his work at Shoe Carnival as digital marketing developer, he was commissioned to design and paint the mural underneath I-69 and Highway 41. Jon also volunteers for several organizations, including E is for Everyone, Q Commons and One Life Church. He is a humble servant leader, working behind the scenes and as a team player. *Nominated by: Alex Schmitt*

## COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD

**Mary Allen**—Mary Allen is the definition of servant leader. From her business ventures, 6th Street Soapery and Evansville Pedicab, to her involvement in nonprofits like Haynie's Corner arts district, QCommons and E is for Everyone, her positive attitude and tireless work ethic inspire many. She never seeks the limelight, or asks for anything in return. Mary always brings a contagious energy, building excitement for all involved. She's a natural connector and conduit for inclusion. *Nominated by: Matt Wagner and Ryan Bodine*

**Curt Begle**—Curt Begle, President of Engineered Materials Division at Berry Global, is a tireless community advocate and leader. He serves on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Southwest Indiana Chamber, Corridor of Champions and UE Board of Visitors. He helped implement ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) reports, which builds awareness about families in need. As United Way Chair, Curt led the 2016 campaign to raise \$4.6 million. With all his work, he strives to get results and have fun doing it, leaving organizations better than they were before his involvement. *Nominated by: Mike Davis*

**Ryan Bodine**—Ryan Bodine, General Manager at Xaxby's, husband and father of four, is an active member on the Social Status of African American Males Commission Board. Ryan is actively involved in establishing and growing Evansville's Midtown area and an active E is for Everyone brand champion. He grows a small urban garden and puts some of the fresh produce in buckets near the sidewalk, sharing his harvest with those passing by. Ryan exhibits true servant leadership in his work life, personal life and his community. *Nominated by: Mary Allen*

**Samantha Buente**—Samantha Buente exhibits true servant leadership by embracing inclusiveness, diversity and enhancing those around her. Her commitment to countless volunteer opportunities, including the co-chairwoman for Haynie's Corner events, shows her passion for the community. One of the first to sign up, last to leave, and planning and executing everything in between, Samantha inspires all those who work with her. *Nominated by: Amy Word Smith*

**Nikki Davis**—As Executive Director of SMILE on Down Syndrome, Nikki Davis promotes the mission and vision of the organization through tireless public awareness and advocacy, masterfully-run events and the heart-warming stories of the individuals who make up the SMILE organization. She does so with a positive and upbeat attitude while running a wedding magazine and venue out of her house, fostering numerous animals and being the wife and mother to a young family. *Nominated by: Alex Schmitt*

# Nominees, continued

**Noah Deeg**—At age ten, Noah Deeg started helping poor children in Uganda. His first year he raised enough money to buy two cows for needy families. At such a young age, Noah's love and compassion for these children has enriched the lives of so many. Noah exhibits initiative, leadership and dedication with Noah's Necklaces, an organization selling necklaces made by incarcerated women. Noah's servant leadership has raised awareness in Evansville of other cultures and the plight of the less fortunate around the world. *Nominated by Juli Gardner*

**Tim Ethridge**—As past Editor of the Courier and Press, Tim Ethridge continues to support positive growth of this community, celebrating the city's wins, encouraging us to learn from our mistakes with honest yet constructive criticism, and reminding others to give back to the community through their actions, not just words. Tim has been involved in, and an advocate for, the positive success of this city for a long time, and has done so by fostering relationships of like-minded individuals and encouraging them along their paths of success. *Nominated by Alex Schmitt*

**Jodi and Kevin Ferrell**—Jodi and Kevin Ferrell are a compassionate duo who give their all to their community through comfort, prayer, food and a dose of kindness. The Ferrells see opportunities to help and simply make them happen. Recognizing the needs of the elderly population, they have started Almost Kin, a care-taking service for seniors, brought a local chapter of Twilight Wish to Evansville, who grants final wishes to seniors, and have begun soup drives annually called Soup for Seniors. They appreciate the differences in people and embrace them by believing that each culture is beautiful and each person should be given time to share their story. *Nominated by: Michelle Kirk*

**Brittany Finch**—Throughout her career and personal life, Brittany Finch looks to her own experience of overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles to help others confront their own struggles. With a focus on substance abuse and mental wellness, Brittany partners with nonprofit groups and projects geared towards community outreach. She works with diverse individuals, groups, ministries and organizations regardless of race color or creed, exhibiting true servant leadership and community commitment in all her work. *Nominated by: Brandon Ragland*

**Mellissa Goff**—Mellissa Goff is instrumental in the Evansville Autism community. As a wife and mother of family members with Autism/Asperger's Syndrome, Mellissa empathizes with families affected by the condition. She established a Girl Scout Troop for girls on the autism spectrum and helped establish Sky Zone's sensory times for children. Last year, the Indiana Society of Autism made Mellissa an ally, allowing her to educate and

support parents, children, educators, law enforcement and support programs throughout Indiana.

*Nominated by: Beverly Goff, Andrew Goff, Kayla Ruby, Benjamin Gallant, Randa Doleh and Celeste Gossman*

**Tracy Gorman**—Through his leadership with the Evansville Rescue Mission, Tracy Gorman rallies others to a common cause. This past Thanksgiving, under Tracy's leadership, the ERM served a record-setting 2,200 families with a free meal. More than 1,000 guests called ERM their temporary home, and 11 men completed ERM's P.A.C.E.S. program, a long-term residential program where members learn life skills getting them one step closer to independence. Tracy is committed to serving and providing for the homeless community of Evansville through teaching, compassion, and faith. *Nominated by Joshua Nichols*

**Jake Hicks**—Jake Hicks is no ordinary car salesman. Veteran and single father, Jake's charity program through Evansville Kia, TEST DRIVE EVANSVILLE, raises money for local nonprofit organizations. The featured nonprofit gets the word out about their important mission and earns money, just for taking a test drive. Jake is the definition of altruistic, helping those who are helping others with nothing expected in return. *Nominated by: Jill Kincaid*

**Christine Keck**—Christine Keck exhibits true servant leadership by encouraging others to take an active role in their passions. Her passion for enhancing the Evansville community is clear in all her work, whether as President Elect for the Southwest Indiana Chamber Board of Directors or as Vice President of the St. Vincent's Foundation Board. Christine tirelessly helped lead the way for the new Woodmere Dog Park and takes an active role in community historic preservation. *Nominated by: Susan Hardwick*

**Gail Knight Williams**—Gail gives tirelessly to many local organizations but perhaps none more than the Christmas on North Main Parade. Her team saved the parade by bringing it to North Main Street and by building a reserve to assure its future. A true servant leader, before retiring from her post as Chair of the Parade, Gail shared her knowledge by training others, ensuring continued success for a treasured community event. *Nominated by: Joseph Easley*



# Nominees, continued

**Barbara Lucas**—Barbara Lucas is a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant who wears many volunteer hats in the Evansville community. A dedicated mother, grandmother, sister, daughter, friend and veteran, she volunteers three days a week at the Harvest Time Inner City Ministries feeding program to help the low-income and homeless. Barbara also mentors other women to stay fit and active at the YWCA and helps sustain the Honoring Women's Veterans annual conference at the University of Evansville. *Nominated by: Sondra Matthews*

**Rene McCormick**—Rene McCormick, President of South Lincoln Park Area Neighborhood Association, has served many years in various leadership roles in her Neighborhood Association and with United Neighborhoods of Evansville. An inspiration to the community, Rene attends Town Hall meetings and represents neighborhood concerns with city officials to seek effective solutions. Renee is deeply invested in faithfully supporting and serving her neighborhood family members. *Nominated by Lester Bell*

**Teresa McKeethen**—Through her mentoring and work with Goodwill Industries, Teresa McKeethen helps others turn hardships and addiction struggles into victory. With the grace of Goodwill Industries, who gave Teresa a second chance, she managed to jump from minimum wage worker to Vice President of Operations and HR. She hopes that her story and support will inspire other women to choose sobriety and a new life. *Nominated by Jeffrey Main*

**Kathryn Mckinley**—Kathryn Mckinley, a crossing guard for Lincoln Elementary School at Bayard Park Drive, has become a silent hero and leader not only for the children crossing her street, but also to those who drive by and receive a friendly wave every morning. Her bright spirit reminds others how a smile and cheerful attitude can boost someone's day, encouraging them to pay it forward. Kathryn reminds us that even the smallest act of kindness can be transformative. *Nominated by: Don Crankshaw*

**June Miller**—For over a decade, June Miller has devoted her professional efforts to strengthening the nonprofit sector in Southwestern Indiana. As a Regional Director of the Indiana Nonprofit Resource Network, June provided training, consulting and support to hundreds of local nonprofits. While her work is often structural and behind-the-scenes, June has done much more than fulfill the duties of her role. She has become an icon in the nonprofit field and a cheerleader for all the good it does. *Nominated by: Scott Wylie*

**Reverend William Payne**—After his release from federal prison, Reverend William Payne saw a need in his community and devoted his life to helping at-risk youth find a better path. He began Boss Prep Academy, a mentoring program for at-risk boys and girls, Men of Valor, another mentoring program, and an annual Bike giveaway with Walmart, where 60 children who participate in Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library's Summer Learning Program are given a new bicycle – just to name a few. Last August, Rev. Payne was named President/CEO of the Evansville Black Chamber of Commerce. *Nominated by Brandon Ragland*

**Josh Roeder**—Josh Roeder passionately fights for people battling cancer in our community. Through his work at Texas Roadhouse, he supports Chemo Buddies cause by donating food throughout a cancer patient's chemo therapy treatment. He also gathered other restaurateurs to form "A Taste of Hope," which raises funds to support Chemo Buddies. Josh spreads love, compassion and good will throughout the cancer community. *Nominated by: Jill Kincaid*

**Kathy Rosa**—Kathy Rosa is a tireless leader and advocate for the Tepe Park Neighborhood Association. As president of the neighborhood association she puts in countless hours to transform Tepe Park into a neighborhood where people want to live, work, worship and play. Under Kathy's leadership, the neighborhood association, has taken on the formal process of developing and launching a Quality of Life plan for the neighborhood, only the second of its kind in Evansville. Kathy models diversity in a very diverse neighborhood by inviting people of all backgrounds to the table. *Nominated by: Austin Maxheimer*

**Aretha Seebree-Graves**—Aretha's passion for culture, education and community is evident in the many organizations and programs she's a part of. As a member of the Evansville African American Museum board of directors, Aretha collaborates with various community organizations to participate in the museum's annual events. A talented public speaker, Aretha has presented at several family-oriented conferences, including the annual National Black Family Conference in Louisville, Ky., and the National Conference of African American Museums. *Nominated by: Sondra Matthews*

**Andrea Sinnett**—Andrea embodies love of community, servant leadership and community vestment in her work for the Franklin Street Events Association (FSEA). She works tirelessly for the FSEA in addition to being a single mom, graduating from USI and working full-time. Andrea is inclusive with all in her work, a silent servant leader, striving to make a real change in her community. To those who know her, she is a treasured and valued member of this community. *Nominated by: Amy Word Smith*



# Nominees, continued

**Cindy Staples**—Cindy Staples has created a collaborative, supportive and charitable environment in both her workplace and community. As founder and director of ViTAliZe, AstraZeneca's voluntary employee club whose mission is to positively impact the health (body, mind and spirit) of our colleagues, families, and community, Cindy plans, promotes, and helps deliver programs that align with AstraZeneca Wellness and Corporate giving strategies. Cindy's leadership and inspiring ViTAliZe team truly make AstraZeneca Mount Vernon a great place to work and is positively impacting the community. *Nominated by: Keith Rawley*

**Bob Tenbarge**—Bon Tenbarge is giving back by raising awareness of the benefits of yoga in the Evansville community, including those serving time in jail, donating his time and money to holding weekly yoga sessions at the Vanderburgh County Jail. He is also in the stages of establishing a nonprofit organization to offer classes to those in the community who may not be able to afford yoga classes. He partners with other practitioners of yoga, meditation and other holistic practices to establish a nonprofit to reach out to underserved students in schools. *Nominated by: Brian Murphy*

**Jenny and Bob Thomas**—Both Jenny and Bob give so much of their time to our community, always with a pep in their step and a smile on their face. They make everyone they meet feel loved, encouraged and valued. The vast majority of their free time is spent volunteering with trash pickup, KEB activities, Energize Evansville, Santa and Mrs. Claus and much more. These selfless volunteers inspire many with their steadfast passion for giving back. *Nominated by: Alex Schmitt*

**Allen Waller**—After witnessing the loss of a friend from drowning, Allen Walker makes sure every child can receive swim lessons. He partners with local swimming pools to offer free lessons and holds fundraisers to raise additional money for lessons – all on a volunteer basis. Growing up in a low-income, single-parent household, and losing family and friends to gun violence, Allen can draw from firsthand experience to not only serve as a Vanderburgh County Juvenile Probation Officer, but also as a trusted mentor. Allen didn't have to make a difference. He chooses to. *Nominated by: Nikki Wessley*

**Alan Winslow**—Alan Winslow has spent 95 years in Evansville learning, serving and contributing to the betterment of our city. Yes, at 95, Alan actively serves many local and national organizations. Alan led the charge of Our Greater Community, which is now a part of HOPE of Evansville. He spent decades running the Neighborhood Economic Development Center and Patchwork Central. Outside of Evansville, he visited small villages in El Salvador to help residents gain access to potable water. Although he last

visited El Salvador at age 90, Alan continues to serve the group Companion Community Development Alternatives as they build partnerships between people in El Salvador and Evansville. *Nominated by: Joshua Case*

## EDUCATION

**Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett**—Dr. Bennett strives to make USI a welcoming place for all students across the nation and world. As USI's third president, she established the university's first strategic plan, coordinated USI's first doctoral program and is a leader in bringing a multi-institutional medical school to Evansville. Dr. Bennett ensured the University supports our entire region through projects like the I-69 Innovation Corridor. Her leadership is an example to all of how to lead a major institution with skill. *Nominated by Scott Wylie*

**Ashlee Bruggenschmidt**—As Principal at Sharon Elementary and founder of the Play for Kate Foundation, Ashlee Bruggenschmidt understands that when our local families are cared for, our community is stronger, whether that means helping to pay for students' medicine or ensuring all students get a present on their birthday. She does all of this while running a Title 1 school with a 4-Star School distinction by the Indiana Department of Education. She has created a culture of collaborative trust and individual value, and her approach to servant leadership has inspired her students, fellow staff and her community. *Nominated by Madeline Scott*

**Carla Bunner Webb**—Carla Bunner Webb is a resilient, boots-on-the-ground, lifeline to many suffering from unhealthy and abusive relationships. As an educated woman from a loving family, Carla missed the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship. Her own struggles grant her the wisdom and experience to help all in need, no matter a person's age, race, gender, or socio-economic background. *Nominated by Kathryn Kornblum-Zelle*

**Dr. Thomas A. Kazee**—Dr. Thomas A. Kazee, University of Evansville President, works tirelessly with leaders of local educational institutions to merge the talents of each school to create Evansville Center for Health Sciences. Dr. Kazee was instrumental in working with a local group to preserve and move the historic Peters-Margedant House to the UE campus. The UE "Fellows" program was spearheaded by Dr. Kazee. In addition to all this, Dr. Kazee is involved with many local non-profits including the United Way, Southwestern Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Welborn Foundation, and WNIN Board of Directors. Dr. Kazee has committed his professional and personal life to advancing the Evansville community. *Nominated by Jennifer Briggs*

# Nominees, continued

**Amy Walker**—Amy Walker embodies energy, enthusiasm and creativity, exhibited through her work as Director of the Public Education Foundation of Evansville, which has benefited thousands of EVSC students through grants, scholarships, programs and projects. Each project requires collaboration and teamwork and partnering with local universities, allowing the students opportunities to learn and test life and career skills in ways which also benefit the community in a powerful way. In addition to her full-time gig, she contributes to numerous community organizations, including her church, CYPRESS, Girls in Bloom and Rotary.

*Nominated by Carol Abrams and Anne Stallings*

## ENVIRONMENT

**Susan Harp**—Susan Harp is dedicated to the beautification and advancement of this community. She co-chairs with her husband, Steve, the position of Regional Vice President with United Neighborhoods of Evansville for all east side neighborhoods. She is mother to Yellow Labrador Retrievers, EVIE SUE and VANDY LEE, trained in picking up litter around the community. Their anti-litter and recycling program has received both local and nation-wide recognitions. She has also written two children's books featuring the beloved EVIE SUE focusing on environmental awareness.

*Nominated by Alex Schmitt*

**Jeff Justice**—From USI's Griffin Center to UE's Ridgeway Center to the EVV Regional Airport renovation to the Ford Center, Jeff Justice and the Hafer Design team have made significant impacts to the entire Evansville community. Jeff has spent over three decades in the Downtown Main Street area, using this experience to guide the team of the 2016 Downtown Master Plan Update. Jeff's true servant leadership mindset has had an inestimable impact on Evansville.

*Nominated by Joshua Armstrong*

## GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE

**Amy Canterbury**—After a long, successful career in banking, Amy Canterbury is a passionate leader in the non-profit sector. As President and CEO of the United Way of Southwest Indiana, Amy's collaborative spirit, contagious enthusiasm and clear vision for the future allows her staff and army of volunteers to live the United Way vision and missions. Amy's leadership extends past the United Way as she strives to collaborate with other non-profits, community organizations and passionate individuals seeking to make our community better. *Nominated by June Miller and Kathryn Nix.*

**Mike Labitzke**—Mike Labitzke is helping transform the sewer infrastructure upgrade into a unique opportunity for innovative and sustainable community improvement projects, like the pump station project and the green infrastructure initiative. Mike coordinates internships at EWSU and collaborates with UE's chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers as well as the Changemaker Challenge to align students' projects with EWSU initiatives. He has been instrumental in altering stakeholder perception, helping the public find new ways to collaborate with the EWSU. *Nominated by Amy Bolek*

**Lu Porter**—For 25 years, Lu Porter has become a fixture of servant leadership in our community, known for bringing diverse people together, and enacting important improvements to the Evansville African American Museum, leading to a number of industry awards. As Vectren's AVP/Community Development Officer, she raised awareness, built consensus, and helped improve social and economic conditions within the company's assessment areas. Lu has served on over 30 nonprofit boards, foundations and state commissions during her lifetime.

*Nominated by the Evansville African American Museum Staff*

## HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

**Sara Barnett**—Sara Barnett has faithfully served the deaf and hard of hearing community as a sign language interpreter, an advocate, a leader, and a friend for several years. Her business, Connections Sign Language Interpreting, provides affordable interpreting services to the deaf community. Through her tireless advocacy, she works toward a greater acceptance and understanding of deaf culture. Sara's perseverance has touched many lives in both the deaf and hearing world. *Nominated by Kat Isbell*

**Janie Chappell**—Janie Chappell's passion for mental health issues and suicide awareness are clear in her work as a manager and counselor for Community Services and Business Development at Deaconess CrossPointe and in her Mental Health First Aid classes with the Southwest Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition. Janie is a resonant advocate for a diverse, socially stereotyped and victimized population of all ages. *Nominated by Don Crankshaw*

**Jeremy Evans**—Jeremy Evans' compassion, innovation, leadership and inspiration have taken the Dream Center in a new direction of growth and initiative to better serve the diverse physical, social, emotional and mental needs of at-risk children. Since Jeremy's arrival, the Dream Center has grown and refined its programming to include evidence-based practices, strengthened community collaboration, improved collaboration with the public school system and increased focus on broader neighborhood impact. Being Executive Director of the Dream Center is more than a job to him; his work floods into many aspects of his life. *Nominated by Amy Bolek*

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"We need many, many citizen leaders—not just a handful—at all the various levels and diverse segments of life... there are never enough."

—Jefferson Award recipient John Gardner

# Nominees, continued

**Tony Garrett**—Tony Garrett, husband and father of two, was diagnosed with Young Onset Parkinson's Disease at 32. He has since spent his time raising awareness and understanding the disease. Tony has hosted two fundraisers to raise funds for the Michael J Fox Foundation and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation and posts messages of hope and insight on his Facebook page. A truly driven and inspirational person, Tony does not let his illness dampen his positive attitude, keep him from celebrating his kids or impact his ability to show respect for people from all walks of life. *Nominated by Martha Garrett*

**Wyeth Hatfield**—Wyeth Hatfield's passion for helping the under-served has directly impacted the lives of countless community members. As Director of Integrated Health Care and Community Outreach at ECHO Community Healthcare, Wyeth both leads ECHO's social service delivery and works across systems to ensure organizational connectivity to broader community initiatives. Wyeth excels in mobilizing and convening stakeholders around a shared vision of change. His service, advocacy and compassion are evident in his pursuit of equal access to quality and affordable care and services. *Nominated by Chris Metz*

**Kathryn Kornblum-Zelle**—Kathryn Kornblum-Zelle is an example of how much can be accomplished when someone has passion about a mission. She cares about the people she serves, as much as the people who help her pursue this mission. Kathryn and the Parenting Time Center work with community leaders to eliminate domestic violence. She works tirelessly to serve those families who have been affected by estrangement through drugs, domestic violence, just to name a few. She also works with court judges and CASA to pursue grants to support the services and needs in our community. *Nominated by Amy Bouchie*

**Amy Lutzel**—Amy Lutzel is a caring individual who uses her innovation to help those around her. She would go above and beyond for anyone. As Ivy Tech's Wellness and Fitness Coordinator, Amy organizes programs for students, including Paws to Relax during finals week. Students can destress by playing with some furry friends. Her creative savvy has caught the attention of other schools who have begun similar programs. *Nominated by Marilyn Brenton*

**Patrick O'Connor**—Patrick O'Connor's passion is filming people's stories, bringing awareness to issues from terminally ill youth to the living conditions of the elderly poor and end of life care. Pat's award-winning film, THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS, pulls back the curtain on 5 million homebound and home-limited individuals who are unable to access the healthcare system due to a combination of functional impairment, chronic illness and poverty. This awareness has already spurred conversations to find solutions to these important issues. *Nominated by Margaret McMullan*

**Rachel Spalding**—Rachel Spalding, Executive Director of Perioperative Services for St. Vincent, brings spirituality, inspiration, respect and autonomy to her staff and the community. Rachel is involved in several nonprofit groups including the Hadassah Group, a group of women that strives to share prayer, support and mentor women in the sex industry. A shining example of St. Vincent's mission and values, Rachel inspires those around her to live up to their potential.

*Nominated by Ashley Tenbarge and St. Vincent Evansville*

**Davi Stein-Kiley**—As Vice President of Social Work & Programs for Youth First, Davi Stein-Kiley encourages continuous education and training of her employees, ensuring the community receives top-of-the-line expertise. Her collaborative leadership is evidenced by her community partnerships with Promise Zone, Community Needs Assessment, FACES Systems of Care, Suicide Prevention Coalition, local schools and other initiatives for improving the health and well-being of our youth.

*Nominated by Parri Black*

## PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

### ARTS

**"Children's Nutcracker" performed by Children's Center for Dance Education**—For 23 years, The Children's Center for Dance Education's (CCDE) Children's Nutcracker has engaged the community both on and off stage in creative movement and appreciation for world cultures. CCDE brings the ballet to local schools, allowing many students to witness dance up close and even practice with the performers. CCDE collaborates with organizations throughout the community, successfully engaging children and families from all race, creed, economic status, or physical ability, bringing the CCDE's mission to life that every child should dance. *Nominated by Sally Olson*

**Haunted Historic Evansville**—Patchwork Central, Haynie's Corner Arts District Association and Civic Theatre celebrated the fall season in the arts district in a spooky and fun way. Haunted Historic Evansville brought hundreds to Haynie's Corner to hear stories of haunted Evansville history. The three organizations (and lots of community volunteers) provided the costumes, scripts and touring, selling hundreds of tickets and raising almost \$1,000 to support the arts district. *Nominated by Amy Word Smith*



# Nominees, continued

**Hidden Figures Red Carpet Event**—The Evansville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority inspired many by hosting a Hidden Figures Red Carpet Event, a national initiative of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., to support films promoting positive images of African Americans. The event featured local Hidden Figures, women of color working in STEM professions, and stimulated dialogue around the low representation of women and racial/ethnic groups in STEM disciplines. The Evansville Alumnae Chapter seeks to close the STEM diversity gap by helping women of color participate in STEM activities, explore STEM careers and connect with role models. *Nominated by Cyndee Sturgis Landrum*

**Invisible Patients: Jessica MacLeod & Patrick O'Connor**—When Patrick O'Connor heard Jessica MacLeod, a local nurse practitioner, describe the challenges facing homebound patients in our community, he acted. Patrick's film, *Invisible Patients*, follows Jessica over several months as she tells the story of these patients and the hardships they face. The film strives to ignite legislative action so better treatment options become available for homebound patients. *Nominated by Linda Negro*

**Main Street Dance's production of Macbeth**—Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Director Amy Scharf, the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and Eykamp String Quartet, the 2017 Main Street Dance's *Macbeth* created a performance full of dance, storytelling and music with dancers of all ages and skill levels. They performed for the Ark Child Crisis Center where the dancers taught a dance lesson and sold roses to raise funds for Arc. Offering classes free of charge, Main Street Dance seeks to provide innovative, high-quality performance opportunities to students in a positive environment. *Nominated by Ed Scharf*

**St. Meinrad Rocks Fest**—Local, regional and national talent came together for the St. Meinrad Rocks Fest. This free-of-charge event brings communities together for a weekend of fun and goodwill. All proceeds this year go to the development of the soon-to-be St. Meinrad Town Museum. Event leader, Carol Troesch, works closely with the local Legion Post 366, Boy Scout Troop 102, and a troop of various performers to ensure everyone enjoys themselves while supporting a great cause. *Nominated by Emily George*

## COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD

**Community in Pain**—The Community in Pain project, a joint collaboration with the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office and Eyewitness News WEHT, provided free access to addiction/substance abuse resources in Evansville, Henderson and Owensboro. Using an anonymous addiction phone bank hotline, callers were connected with specialists to meet individuals' needs. The program shined a light on our nation's

overdose epidemic and struggles with substance abuse. Community in Pain offered real-time solutions for those stuck in the grip of addiction, while working to diminish the stigma. *Nominated by Jess Powers*

**E is for Everyone**—E is for Everyone aspires for all in our community to feel heard, a part of and represented. The collaborative branding initiative wants everyone to connect with someone or something new, find a unique way to contribute to the community, and celebrate together what makes our region great. With "E" popping up everywhere in town, from the downtown walkway, to the top of the civic center Christmas tree, E is for Everyone's positive, can-do attitude continues to grow. *Nominated by Ryan Bodine*

**Evansville's Christmas on North Main Parade**—Every year, the community unites to spread holiday spirit to the Jacobsville neighborhood. Evansville's annual Christmas on North Main Parade brings awareness to the transforming Jacobsville area. With a major volunteer group led by Gail Williams, the parade draws community members of all races, economic statuses and faiths. For this year's parade, Jacobsville proudly welcomed the community to the newly finished Complete Street, featuring a green space, bike and walking path. *Nominated by Joseph Easley*

**Evansville Area Jeepers (EAJ+)**—The 300+ members of Evansville Area Jeepers know how to support community and law enforcement. From convoys traveling from Mt. Vernon through Evansville into Newburgh handing out gift cards to law enforcement, to arranging Jeep funeral processions for passed members to raising money for Cystic Fibrosis, the club is a fun, family-friendly organization that maximizes the Jeep experience while fostering an atmosphere of community. *Nominated by Debbie Schaefer*

**Evansville Hydrofest 2017**—People of all ages, walks of life and socio-economic backgrounds enjoyed both planning, working and attending Evansville Hydrofest 2017. Race enthusiasts from across the Midwest attended the race. The amazing collaborative efforts of the city leaders, vendors, businesses, organizations and volunteers made the Evansville Hydrofest event a wonderful success for the betterment of our community. *Nominated by Jon Siau*

**Even Start**—EVSC Even Start is a unique high school equivalency program, allowing parents to obtain a high school equivalency while providing early education for their infants, toddlers and preschool children. It acts as advocates for these families by providing parenting education as well as life skills such as money management, nutrition and job interviewing. Through partnerships with Vincennes University and the Lampion Center, Even Start provides a full-service experience to parents and their children. *Nominated by Sara DeWitt*



# Nominees, continued

**Girl Scouts Achieve**—Girl Scouts Achieve, the only program of its kind in the country, betters our community by its inclusivity, offering girls with autism equal opportunity to experience the Girl Scouts. Spearheaded by local autism advocate, Melissa Goff, Achieve provides a specific environment to accommodate sensory and communication needs. The program also offers support and training to parents and volunteers, helping them to be advocates for their girls and others impacted by autism. *Nominated by Mary Allen*

**Lifesavers**—Lifesavers is a team of people spreading intentional kindness, love and compassion throughout the community. Started by Tiffany Fuller as a simple monthly social media reminder to perform self-breast exams, the group now includes many charitable causes. People of all races, creeds and needs are loved and cared for through Lifesavers' projects. Lifesavers exhibit true servant leadership through their inexhaustible desire to identify and fill community needs. *Nominated by Becca Scott*

**The Women's Hospital Mamava Pod at Ford Center**—The Women's Hospital, the Ford Center and Deaconess Foundation collaborate to provide a safe, comfortable place for breastfeeding mothers. The Mamava Pod, located at the downtown Ford Center, is a private, clean space for mothers to breastfeed or express their milk. These organizations hope that this initiative will inspire other local businesses to provide similar lactation spaces for their patrons or employees. *Nominated by Lindsey Droege*

**Q Commons**—Q Commons brings local and global conversations together in one night to discuss how to advance the good in our communities. The hosts made sure no one was left out, paying for 33% of each ticket and providing free tickets if needed. Volunteers helped with everything from sound engineering to parking assistance. The leaders engaged with a diverse range of perspectives, intentionally selecting both men and women, suburban and urban, Millennials and Generation X, entrepreneur and corporate business, so all people could be heard. *Nominated by Mary Allen*

**Stoplight City Playground**—Through Franklin Street Events Association (FSEA), 911 Gives Hope, and a large group of community volunteers, Stoplight City is on its way to becoming an inclusive, state of the art playground off Franklin Street. With funds raised by the FSEA, sponsorship dollars from 911 Gives Hope and a matching grant from the state, Stoplight City will be 100% privately funded. Ensuing opportunities for safe and healthy play in one of Evansville's many cultural districts is imperative to our city's continued growth. *Nominated by Amy Word Smith*

**Student Buddies**—A joyful little dancer and an impassioned teacher held a school dance that raised over \$4,000 for Chemo Buddies, a local organization helping cancer patients during chemotherapy treatments. After Isabelle Wood witnessed family members going through chemo praise Chemo Buddies, she and her teacher, Emma Dugger employed the school-wide program Spring Fling, which grants funds to students with dreams similar to Isabelle's. Isabelle's work is a testament to the power of a single person's vision coming to life. *Nominated by Jill Kincaid*

**TEDxEvansville**—TEDxEvansville is a volunteer group of community advocates providing the TED experience by spotlighting bright minds and inspiring community members who provoke meaningful conversation. In just three years, TEDxEvansville expanded to a larger venue. Keeping the community foremost in mind when making decisions, TEDxEvansville brings together community members from all walks of life who share a passion for connecting and improving our community. *Nominated by Heather McNabb*

**Trolley of Evansville Districts (TED)**—Growth of Evansville's city core is at the heart of Trolley of Evansville Districts' (TED) mission for the community. Making it easier for citizens to access local neighborhoods and local businesses ensures increased connectivity to promote happy living spaces, business growth and involvement in civic organizations. Developed as a collaborative effort between organizations, including Franklin Street Events Association and the Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville, all walks of life are encouraged and welcome to ride on TED and experience all aspects of the community. *Nominated by Thom Endress*

**Woodmere Dog Park**—Dog lovers from all walks of life are highly anticipating the future Woodmere Dog Park, where owners and their furry friends may enjoy an attractive and safe location to exercise and socialize. In collaboration with the Board of Parks Commissioners, the Friends of Woodmere Dog Park have enlisted active support of dozens of other individuals and corporations in the community, contributing to the refinement of and realization for the future park. *Nominated by Randy Alsman*

**WPSR Radio Station**—90.7 WPSR allows local high school students to experience a career in radio and television broadcasting. Open to all area high schools, participants build lasting relationships with fellow students outside their respective schools. Through Tri-State Talk, these students also learn about local nonprofit organizations, providing valuable publicity to these organizations and their causes for the betterment of the community. *Nominated by Jason Woebkenberg*

# Nominees, continued

## EDUCATION

**cMoe Ignite It! Creativity Forum**—The cMoe Ignite It! Creativity Forums offer annual programs to educate and energize local individuals and organizations. They bring top national presenters to train on collaboration and positivity. Last year's Orange Frog parable emphasized the beauty in appreciating others through kind words and gestures. The program inspired other organizations to spread the positive word, including Ivy Tech who used the Orange Frog for their staff and faculty development program. cMoe's program engages all ages, even adults, to make the Tri-State a happier, more caring community. *Nominated by Marilyn Brenton*

**Evansville Day School 4th Grade Giving Project**—The common vision to support and give to others is apparent to every fourth grader participating in the 4th Grade Giving Project at Evansville Day School. With ten dollars in hand, students are challenged to use that money to make a difference. The joy and giving hearts these students gain is contagious. Through this supportive project, fourth graders transformed ten dollars into \$6,000 for diverse organizations throughout our community. *Nominated by Amy Barron*

**Evansville Tech on Tap**—Evansville Tech-on-Tap focuses on connecting the niches of the innovation ecosystem in Evansville. They welcome everyone with an interest in driving innovation in our region. Tech on Tap works with universities, K-12 education, the Small Business Development Center, the Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville, and many others to facilitate connections between innovators. With the goal of connecting the region to technology and innovative ways of thinking, all topics are on the table, and everyone is welcome. *Nominated by Ellen Horan*

**EVSC GAIN Initiative**—EVSC's GAIN Initiative strives to ensure all students reach their maximum potential at every stage of life. It uses a neuro-developmentally sensitive framework, grounded in the concept of how students learn so that critical cognitive and social emotional skills are developed. GAIN practices continuous improvement and utilizes insight and feedback from professionals in the community, district and state level. *Nominated by Pam Hight*

**Helfrich Park Real World STEM with Berry Global**—In collaboration with Helfrich Park, sixth grade science honors courses and Berry Global, The Helfrich Park Real World STEM project teaches middle school students real world STEM skills by working with professionals in manufacturing, engineering, graphic design and production. Students collaborate with Berry Global team members to build a project using industry-specific protocols and then present it to the Berry Global Executive Leadership Team. Time, talent and community servant leadership work together to develop and inspire our future workforce through this innovative initiative. *Nominated by Cory Herin*

**Hoosier Veterans' Consortium**—Hoosier Veteran's Consortium grew from creating a fictional classroom scrapbook into capturing stories of real-life veterans. Innovative Perspective students and New Tech Institute teachers help students turn real-life war stories into incredible projects, such as the Library of Congress' Veterans' History Project. Students seek out veterans and their families of all ages and backgrounds, each branch of service and from all American wars and conflicts to paint a full picture of our local veterans. *Nominated by Jennifer Dill*

**Medical Professions Academy**—The Medical Professions Academy (MPA), a partnership of EVSC, Central High School and Project Lead The Way Biomedical Sciences Program, is a half-day program open to all students entering high school with an interest in science or health-related fields. MPA challenges a diverse group of students to achieve at the highest levels so they may contribute to science, medicine and their communities. With an integrated curriculum and community partnerships, MPA teaches its future medical professionals through inquiry, critical thinking and effective communication. *Nominated by Sara DeWitt*

**Project Connect**—Caze Elementary School's Project Connect helps students understand the connection between their choices today, in and out of the classroom, and their future success. The school's 5th grade team, counselor, principal, and many other school staff partner with community members to enable students to connect with professional community members, EVSC Innovative High School programs, colleges and universities. Students leave the projects empowered with a vision for a successful future. *Nominated by Jason Woebkenberg*

**Southern Indiana Career & Technical Center Diesel Program (SICTC)**—For the SICTC Diesel program, helping young people reduce or eliminate their debt when graduating college is a top priority. The Diesel Program celebrated a major diversity milestone in 2012, graduating its first female student who has gone on to celebrate a successful career life. Exhibiting true servant leadership, she awarded a scholarship to another female student. Last month, the program was recognized by Cummins Engine Company as the number one High School Diesel Program in the nation, one of many awards the school has celebrated. *Nominated by Sara DeWitt*

**Trail with a Tale**—Trail with a Tale is a collaborative community effort promoting literacy and encouraging families to learn together through nature. Altrusa, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library and the Evansville Parks and Recreation Department combined their respective skills and knowledge to not only promote literacy through interactive, fun and diverse tales, but also to provide free entertainment and learning to children and families from all backgrounds and beliefs. *Nominated by Erika Qualls Barnett*

# Nominees, continued

## ENVIRONMENT

**Cart Creek Clean-up**—On May 7 and June 17, 2017, approximately 50-65 volunteers, along with the City Engineer's office staff, removed thousands of pounds of trash and about 60 shopping carts embedded in the mud at Dry Branch Creek, also known as Cart Creek. This community-driven project was an environmental remediation effort with the city government, led by Stormwater Coordinator, Karan Barnhill, and single-working mom, Courtney Woodruff. The Cart Creek Clean-up improved water drainage from Dry Branch Creek into Pigeon Creek, benefiting all residents living along the waterway. *Nominated by the City of Evansville's Mayor's Office*

**Central High School Super Mileage Team**—The Central HS Super Mileage Team designs, tests and builds prototype vehicles that compete in the Shell Eco Marathon and Indiana Super Mileage Challenge. Individual aspects of the vehicles are designed, built and integrated together to produce a one-of-a-kind, fuel efficient vehicle. The program allows students an opportunity to take concepts learned in the classroom and apply them to a real-life scenario, helping students build local relationships and develop lasting community roots. *Nominated by Pam Hight*

**Franklin Street Community Garden**—Chris Borries and her Franklin Street Community Garden team created a garden that not only brings diverse groups and people together, but also gives produce to the food bank. This year's hops harvest will be made into a local brew grown and produced on the west side. The community garden is a physical manifestation of the care and attention to our cultural district. From children to the elderly to neighbors needing food assistance to the Franklin Street restaurants, everyone is served and impacted. *Nominated by Amy Word Smith*

**Pigeon Creek Greenway Solar Lighting Project**—The Pigeon Creek Greenway Solar Lighting Project is a public/private partnership seeking to improve the Greenway's safety for thousands of users – without spending tax dollars or increasing fees. Through a partnership between the City of Evansville and Vectren, a safe public activity destination was created by extending solar lights hours of activity, allowing all citizens to use the Greenway safely. *Nominated by the City of Evansville's Mayor's Office*

## GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE

**Evansville Water & Sewer Utility Storm and Sanitary Sewer Project: Alan Mounts & Mike Labitzke**—Evansville Water & Sewer Utilities has done more than execute a functional underground plan with the EPA's mandate to separate storm and sanitary sewers. They found creative ways to help this enormous expenditure provide above-ground features, enhance the aesthetic of Evansville and provide public recreational and educational facilities – all while saving money. Evansville Water & Sewer Utilities executed additional initiatives like joining with other groups to relocate and enhance Kids Kingdom playground, including public meetings to get the community's input. *Nominated by Randy Alsmann*

**Hoosier Task Force**—Evansville Police Department, Evansville Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services team up with community members as the Hoosier Task Force to provide relief aid to victims of natural disasters and similar tragedies. Task Force members from all walks of life combine their respective skills and personal time to help communities as far as Texas and Florida. These silent heroes truly go above and beyond to help not only our local community but our nation-wide community. *Nominated by Eric Krogman*

**James Bethel Gresham Commemoration**—The Indiana World War I Centennial Committee in collaboration with the Evansville Museum, Daughters of the American Revolution, City of Evansville, and the Indiana Archives, held a remembrance ceremony for James Bethel Gresham, one of the first three soldiers to give his life in World War I. From a full gun salute to wreaths lain at both Gresham's and his mother's graves, the event was a moving memorial in remembrance of the Gresham Family's service to our country. *Nominated by Alisha Aman*

**North Main Complete Street**—Neighborhood organizations in the Jacobsville Area untied to complete renovations of North Main Street, bringing new vitality to one of the oldest parts of the city. To ensure residents had access to their homes and businesses, Contractor Ragle made sure to mend gates and fix driveways throughout construction. Through major collaborative efforts between local organizations, the city and elected officials and planners, the future of North Main is bright. *Nominated by Kelley Coures*

**Youth Resources Teen Court**—Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's office and Youth Resources collaborated to form Teen Court, which provides both real consequences for juvenile defendants and opportunities for them to make better decisions through counseling and YR's programs. Many of these teens labeled as "bad kids" are struggling with personal issues (loss of a family member, depression, bullying, or daily woes) leading to poor choices. Through active volunteers, the program has positively impacted these kids and our community. *Nominated by Alex Schmitt*

# Nominees, continued

## HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

**Aurora's Gingerbread House Contest**—Aurora's Annual Gingerbread House Contest brings holiday cheer while also raising funds to serve people experiencing homelessness. This year's event raised \$35,600 with over 1,000 participants, observers and volunteers in attendance. With teams of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels working and learning together, the Gingerbread House Contest exhibits true collaborative leadership and community inclusion, while also bringing awareness to our homeless community.

*Nominated by Joshua Armstrong*

**Caze Cougars Running Club**—The Caze Cougars Running Club at Caze Elementary School instills confidence in children while also encouraging enthusiasm for a healthy lifestyle, self-reliance and determination. Each student in the club develops personal fitness goals within a supportive environment. Fellow students encourage and push each other as both coaches and peers. A true example of servant leadership, Caze Cougars Running Club accepts all students, no matter their race, status, socioeconomic background or disability. *Nominated by Jason Woebkenberg*

**Deaconess Mobile Breast Center**—Deaconess Mobile Breast Center makes it easy to fit a life-saving test into any woman's day, including the uninsured or underinsured. The mobile site provides the initial screening, as well as follow-up care, connection to providers, and explanations of complex healthcare issues. With a range of host sites, from churches to senior centers to schools to physician offices and more, the Mobile Breast Center strives to eliminate any barrier.

*Nominated by Jill Trautvetter*

**Evansville State Hospital Friend to Friend**—The Friend to Friend Program at the Evansville State Hospital has embraced diversity since the early 1960s by accepting others for who they are. By pairing patients with volunteer members from the community, this vital connection and sense of belonging to the community promotes healthy relationships, improved social skills and true friendship for the patients and volunteers.

*Nominated by Rachelle Chrisman*

**EVSC 5K**—EVSC 5K is a family-friendly, fun way to bring awareness to healthier lifestyles for children and adults while raising funds for EVSC Physical Education Programs. EVSC Wellness Committee partners with Tri-State Community Clinics, local law enforcement and businesses to ensure the walk and fundraiser are accessible to families and individuals of all ages, economic situations and physical abilities.

*Nominated by Jason Woebkenberg*

**Safe Pets Domestic Violence Program**—Vanderburgh Humane Society Safe Pets helps people and pets who've experienced domestic violence. Many times, victims of abuse will remain in the situation for fear of their pets' wellbeing. For up to 30 days, VHS offers free room & board for pets of victims fleeing abusive situations. VHS Safe Pets has helped more than 50 victims of domestic violence since it started in 2013. This program hopes to alleviate the continued abuse in our community by helping to ensure the pets' safety.

*Nominated by Alex Schmitt*

**Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training**—Thanks to the collaborative effort of SART participants, USI, and the Southwest Indiana AHEC, Indiana nurses can receive Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training without leaving the state. These nurses not only provide clinical care to the victim, but they also ensure the process of collecting evidence and documenting injuries is completed compassionately and efficiently, helping the victim and law enforcement in their efforts to stop the perpetrator. *Nominated by Ann White*

**SMILE on Down Syndrome Dance Troupe**—A first of its kind in the area, the SMILE on Down Syndrome Dance Troupe is comprised of individuals with Down Syndrome, autism and other cognitive disabilities. The troupe uses the classes to exercise and build their performance, social skills and self-esteem. Open to all ages and abilities, dancers take pride in their skills and perform at various community events in town. The program not only brings the special needs community together but also creates a space for the dancers to connect with the broader community. *Nominated by Nikki Davis*

**SMILE on Down Syndrome Moms Bible Study**—The SMILE on Down Syndrome Moms Bible Study group is a fellowship organization that provides a safe, non-judgmental environment for moms of children with special needs. Open to women from all faith backgrounds, the group supports each other's victories, tribulations and questions, tapping into their shared experiences to provide genuine support and guidance. *Nominated by Nikki Davis*

**SMILE on Down Syndrome Reading Program**—Seeing a need in our community, SMILE on Down Syndrome researched and created its own reading program for those with Down Syndrome. SMILE is the first organization in the country to create a curriculum for classroom/group use. Through the efforts of many community volunteers, all but one participant completed the first program, and every student showed incremental progress. *Nominated by Nikki Davis*



# Nominees, continued

**Stop the Bleed Coalition**—"Stop the Bleed" is a nationwide campaign to teach individuals how to potentially save lives in danger of death due to blood loss, the number one cause of traumatic preventable death, in ours and surrounding communities. Stop the Bleed campaign raises awareness of the basic actions necessary to stop life-threatening bleeding. Deaconess Hospital, St. Vincent Evansville and Evansville Surgical Associates joined forces to provide this valuable, life-saving education to over 933 individuals – free of charge. *Nominated by Lu Weil*

## BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### ARTS

**Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana**—The Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana seeks to make Evansville a shining star on the cultural horizon, bringing art to our citizens and those visiting our community. They seek new, innovative ways to foster artistic creativity and arts education. The Arts Council supports and sponsors all artists. From art exhibits featuring those in the state penitentiary systems to sponsoring the sculptural completion at the Evansville Regional Airport, the Arts Council welcomes all types of artist and the community who cherish them. *Nominated by Jon Siau*

**D'Alto Studio Of Performing Arts**—D'Alto Studio of Performing Arts inspires individuals to achieve their dreams and find confidence through the arts. Jennifer and Michael D'Alto and their staff provide a creative space where everyone is welcome. They go above and beyond, offering scholarships to those who can't afford lessons, even giving children a lift home if needed. D'Alto offers a teacher's assistant program, teaching kids and teens how to be dance instructors. *Nominated by Amelia Madi*

**StaC Gallery**—Family-owned and run, StaC Gallery offers a warm, accepting space to a diverse group of artists. They go above and beyond to accommodate and assist new and seasoned artists. They welcome everyone to participate in both indoor and outdoor workshops, classes and events and are truly committed to utilizing their space to encourage both individual artists and local businesses. StaC Gallery exhibits true heart for the community it lives in and serves. *Nominated by Heidi Krause and Timothy Weir*

### COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD

**Old National Bank**—Old National Bank lives their mission to build "long-term, highly-valued relationships" with clients by employing individuals based on talents and strengths. ONB not only meets traditional hiring quotas for those with disabilities, but also exceeds it by serving the disabled community with specialists with disabilities themselves. After the hiring of a deaf employee, her peers requested sign language courses so they could communicate with her. ONB did not hesitate and offered lunchtime courses. ONB's efforts are truly transforming how the company works to promote inclusion within our communities. *Nominated by Michelle Kirk*

**Play for Kate Foundation**—After her tragic death from an ATV accident in 2015, Kate Bruggenschmidt continues to inspire our community to learn more about ATV safety. The Play for Kate Foundation provides safety education and injury prevention using ATV safety guidelines. With the same goal in mind, families, local businesses and legislature have committed to education initiatives such as Safety Sam, the ATV safety robot the size of a nine-year-old who shares ATV safety and injury prevention. *Nominated by Jamie Pryor*

**River Kitty Cat Cafe**—The River Kitty Cat Café is devoted to helping local cats find their forever homes. The cafe offers coffee, snacks and the opportunity to visit with cats ready for adoption. Through their partnership with the Vanderburgh Humane Society, River Kitty offers a seamless adoption process, with all proceeds going back to the VHS. River Kitty created a fun, safe environment for all community members to congregate and promote the adoption of rescue cats. *Nominated by Katie Miller and Josh Armstrong*

**Skanska**—Skanska's mission, to build for a better society, comes to life in the Evansville community. In addition to serving a broad range of clients, they are committed leaders in safety, project execution, sustainability, ethics and people development. Skanska also encourages their employees to volunteer. Whether through setting up and tearing down the Ritz's Fantasy of Lights or serving as a pacesetter for United Way, Skanska strives to exhibit servant leadership in all they do. *Nominated by Shelby Adams*

**Tepe Park Neighborhood Association**—The Tepe Park Neighborhood Association inspires and empowers its residents to get involved and make the changes they want to see in their neighborhoods. Committed to a full neighborhood revitalization effort and protecting diversity, the organization believes resident-driven change is the key difference between revitalization and gentrification. Their work, which began as a spark, has ignited a flame, reaching other neighborhoods. *Nominated by Lisa Barnett*

**Tri-State Public Media (WNIN)'s New Media Center**—WNIN is a true example of an organization of the community, by the community and for the community. Located on main street in the growing downtown area, WNIN's new Media Center provides exciting opportunities for members of the community, of all races, genders and abilities, to engage in educational and informative programming. As a community-owned organization, WNIN relies on the support of its listening public. *Nominated by Scott Wylie*

**Turn Table**—Turn Table LLC creates opportunities for members of the community, including formerly incarcerated individuals, to learn skills ranging from the culinary arts to entrepreneurship. Turn Table was founded by two young men of color who use their opportunities and advantages to impact underserved, underrepresented and under-resourced individuals and groups. They look beyond financial profit to prioritize community impact by sponsoring events for local nonprofits. Turn Table LLC, literally and figuratively, caters to nourish our bodies, creativity and community spirit. *Nominated by Cyndee Sturgis Landrum*

**West Side Nut Club**—The West Side Nut Club (WSNC) has been supporting the Evansville, particularly the Westside community, since 1921. Consisting of over 200 members spanning over three generations, the WSNC provides fundraising efforts for non-profits, scholarships and hosts the week-long Fall Festival, which allows non-profit organizations to fundraise and attracts over 200,000 visitors every year from all over the country. It is truly a community institution where "from small acorns, large oaks grow!" *Nominated by Alex Schmitt*

## EDUCATION

**EVSC Foundation**—The EVSC Foundation supplements funding for over 100 EVSC programs, from athletics to theater to student crisis situations. The Foundation assists the schools with grant writing, conducting stock transfers and school projects in alignment with EVSC's vision and strategic plan. Last year the Foundation afforded its 39 schools and programs over \$400,000, helping students gain opportunities to be educated, inspired, and to just be kids. *Nominated by Pam Hight*

**Organizational Development/HR Team, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library**—In an effort to stop unwanted behavior within the library, the Organizational Development team at EVPL worked together with their staff and a local video production company to create a bystander intervention training video, teaching the staff the skills necessary to improve the library experience for all. This program has not only been implemented with the EVPL staff but has also been requested by library organizations outside Evansville. *Nominated by Don Crankshaw*

## ENVIRONMENT

**Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library**—Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library has further embraced its concerns and care for the community by stepping up its efforts to improve our impact on the environment by installing solar panels on Central Library's roof and initiating single stream recycling waste containers at all 9 locations, in both public and nonpublic areas. Oaklyn Branch Library even boasts a native prairie garden and wildlife refuge for a roof. EVPL leads by example, serving as great stewards of EVPL tax payer monies, saving taxpayer dollars by implementing environmentally sound practices. *Nominated by Don Crankshaw*

**Southwest Indiana Association of REALTORS Main Street Sidewalk Park**—Sometimes small spaces create big community impact. In collaboration with the city, Downtown Alliance, public works, community volunteers, and others, Southwest Indiana Association of REALTORS created Main Street Sidewalk Park, an attractive, free space for anyone to congregate with easy access for persons with disabilities. The park's success has sparked talk of building more parks on Main Street and even across the bridge in Henderson. The Southwest Indiana Association of REALTORS exhibits that innovation is contagious, no matter how small. *Nominated by Joshua Armstrong*

## GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE

**Downtown Evansville Economic Improvement District**—Working to create a vibrant city core, the Downtown Evansville Economic Improvement District (EID) has brought new vitality to the downtown community. Downtown Evansville is one of the most diverse areas in our city, from small businesses working with regional banks to the local coffee house selling drinks to Fortune 500 executives. The Downtown Alliance and the new EID leverage and celebrate that diversity. *Nominated by Scott Wylie*

**Evansville Fire Department**—On and off duty, the Evansville Fire Department (EFD) exemplifies servant leadership. From collecting donations for Easter Seals and the Muscular Dystrophy Association to helping raise over \$1 million in ten years through Guns and Hoses, the EFD goes above and beyond their core protection and preservation of lives and property of the residents and visitors of the City of Evansville. As Fire Chief Mike Connelly puts it, "All we need to know is, "Where are you?" and "What is your problem?" and we come to help you." *Nominated by Mike Connelly*

**Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office**—The Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office has revamped its community outreach programs to increase community transparency and trust in the criminal justice system. By sharing public service announcements and awareness videos, the Prosecutors Office has reached more than 1,075,400 people on Facebook alone. Its collaborative work with neighborhood associations and local businesses and organizations, including Holly's House, Albion Fellows Bacon Center and Churches Embracing Offenders, help project its goal of community safety, substance abuse awareness, and overall betterment of the community. *Nominated by Jess Powers*

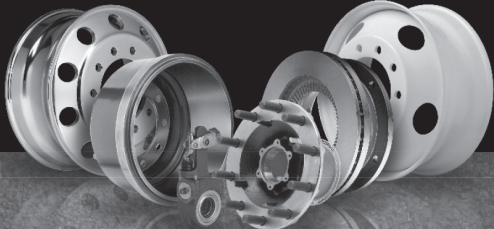
**Women's Fund of Vanderburgh County**—The Women's Fund of Vanderburgh County, part of the Vanderburgh Community Foundation, has supported area charities dedicated to improving the lives of women and children. By harnessing the power of hundreds of female (and a few male) philanthropists, the Women's Fund has provided over \$750,000 of impact grants to worthy causes. Most of the entities benefited by the Women's Fund have been front-line service groups, such as domestic violence shelters, homelessness prevention groups, and youth support organizations. *Nominated by Scott Wylie*

**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**


**14 News**—Channel 14 News Sunrise Team does more than report the news. It gives back to its community. Each fall the Sunrise School Spirit Team visits local schools that collect canned goods and non-perishables for the Tri-State Food Bank. The students have an opportunity to give back to their community, show off their school spirit, have a friendly competition with other schools to donate the most goods, and experience the power of coming together to support your community. *Nominated by Alisha Aman*

**Borrowed Hearts Foundation**—The Borrowed Hearts Foundation is a true example of collaborative community effort. The Goughs, a local foster family since 2012, began an assistance program for foster families, collecting and sharing clothing and hygiene supplies from family to family to help bear the financial burden these families sometimes face. Borrowed Hearts has grown to serve the entire Tristate and has plans to grow into more Indiana regions. *Nominated by Ashely McReynolds and Shauna Day*

**So much to celebrate!**



Congratulations to Leadership Evansville for shining its light on the many examples of servant leadership throughout our community.



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**Deaconess Care Integration (DCI)**—Deaconess Care Integration is an Accountable Care Organization (ACOs) made up of groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers that provide coordinated, high quality care to their Medicare Fee-for-Service patients. Last year, the total medical expenses for Medicare patients decreased by 40 percent. This collaboration with regional health care providers, insurance agencies, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to name a few, established a strong infrastructure so all Medicare patients can receive the highest level of care across county and state lines. *Nominated by Fred Wallisch*

**Franklin Street Pizza Factory**—Franklin Street Pizza Factory displayed incredible diversity with a simple act of faith: hiring someone who was formerly incarcerated. Not only did they provide gainful employment, Franklin Street Pizza Factory went above and beyond to work with her, scheduling shifts around appointments with a probation officer, required check-ins, counseling, and other specific needs. They made sure her employment was successful for all parties. Franklin Street Pizza Factory's act of servant leadership improved the life of one individual and inspired an entire family and community. *Nominated by Amy Word Smith*

**Mayor's Substance Abuse Task Force**—Mayor's Substance Abuse Task Force (MSATF) works with the Evansville community to promote substance abuse awareness, education, prevention and treatment. Diverse groups of all race, gender, ethnicity and faiths represent the Task Force members, as substance abuse and addiction doesn't discriminate. The Task Force strives to support and sustain a healthy and vibrant community to live, work, play and raise a family. *Nominated by William Wooten*

**United Caring Services**—United Caring Services of Evansville provides hope to the poor and individuals experiencing homelessness in our community as well as food, clothing and a safe place to rest. By collaborating with ECHO Outreach Team, USI nursing students, health care providers and respite coordinators, United Caring Services ensures that anyone admitted to the program has the opportunity to improve his or her condition. *Nominated by Mallorie Cloum*

**United Methodist Youth Home**—The United Methodist Youth Home is in the business of saving young lives at risk in our community. Most have experienced severe trauma, neglect, and abuse in their short lives. At UMYH, staff provide the structure, love, and support regardless of what happened in their pasts. The youth and staff weekly give of their time to organizations such as Gilda's Club, River Pointe Health Camp, It Takes a Village, and the Ronald McDonald House. UMYH programs give our youth an extra opportunity to better their chances in the workforce and therefore better standing and positive influence in society. *Nominated by Allison Harrison*

**Wes Attebury Foundation**—The Wes Attebury Foundation honors the memory and legacy of the late Wes Attebury by building community awareness of skin cancer. In 2007 Wes lost his battle with Melanoma. Drawing inspiration for Wes' Christian faith, values, and message of hope, the Foundation seeks to assist, both spiritually and financially, skin cancer patients within the Tri-State area. Since 2012 the Wes Attebury Foundation has raised a net total of \$108,445.64, with all proceeds benefiting victims of Melanoma and supporting cancer research. *Nominated by Alex Schmitt*



### Congratulations to the Celebration of Leadership Recipients!

*Gregory E. Richards (LE Graduate)* *Yoda* *Alan C. Patton* *E. Blum* *LE Graduate*

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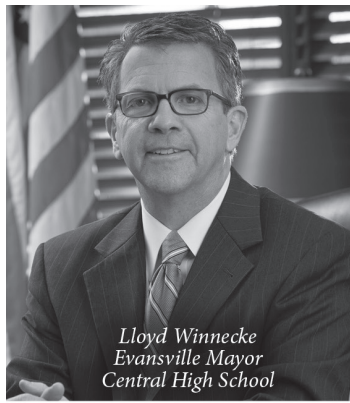
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*Congrats!*



**Congratulations  
Celebration of Leadership nominees!**

~Shawn & Brooke Norris  
Shawn Norris, President Leadership Evansville, Inc.



*Lloyd Winnecke  
Evansville Mayor  
Central High School*



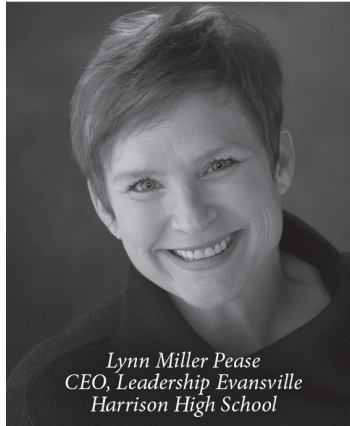
*Vaneta Becker  
State Senator  
North High School*



*David Smith  
EVSC Superintendent  
F.J. Reitz High School*



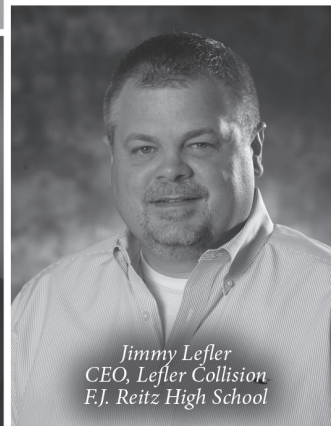
*Stephanie Terry  
Executive Director, cMOE  
Bosse High School*



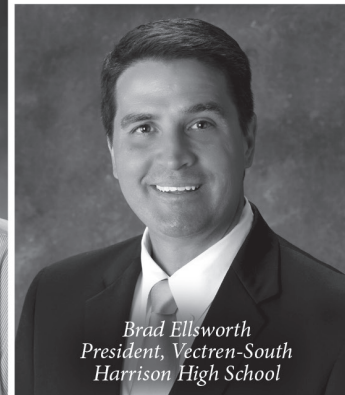
*Lynn Miller Pease  
CEO, Leadership Evansville  
Harrison High School*



*Derrick Stewart  
CEO, YMCA  
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Court Kull, 2013-14

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Shawn Collins 2015-16

# The Jefferson Awards



The Jefferson Awards is a national program recognizing outstanding community and public service. The program was established in 1972 by the American Institute for Public Service, an organization founded by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft Jr. and Sam Beard.

Recipients of the Jefferson Awards are individuals who recognize and give new meaning to the old adage that "one person can make a difference."

Jefferson Awards are also presented on a national level to recipients whose public service has made an impact on the country as a whole. Names of past winners evoke memories of America's greatest achievements over the past quarter of a century. They include Barbara Bush, Rosalynn Carter, Walter Cronkite, John Gardner, Katharine Graham, Alan Greenspan, Henry Kissinger, Wendy Kopp and Gen. Colin Powell.

## Local Jefferson Award Recipients

### 2000

Jim Coy  
Jim Fowler  
Shirley James  
Helen McKinney  
Willie Effie Thomas

### 2001

Bernadine A. Jones  
Sr. Mary George Kissel, OSB  
William E. Vieth

### 2002

William Harold Calloway  
Gary May  
Mary Roberson

### 2003

Pat Coslett  
Bridget McDaniel  
Sr. Jane Nesmith, SBS

### 2004

Sarah & David Kaufman  
Estella M. Moss  
Honorable Wayne S. Trockman

### 2005

Officers Billy Bolin & Paul Kirby  
Phyllis Kincaid  
Wilfred C. "Bill" Bussing III

### 2006

Rev. Adrian M. Brooks Sr.  
Holly Dunn Pendleton  
Mike Whicker

### 2007

Paula Guzzo  
Kathryn Martin  
Pastor Larry A. Rascoe

### 2008

Patrick & Lisa Phernetton  
Dale Sights  
Alfonso Vidal

### 2009

Andrea Croslyn and  
Bala Ambravaneswaran  
Rob Kerney  
Dennis Myers

### 2010

Kathy Boyd

### 2011

Kyle Capin

### 2012

Scott O'Daniel

### 2013

Sherry Ocker

### 2014

Claire Wright  
Raegan Ball



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