

# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



## 2020 CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 | 5:30 P.M.  
OLD NATIONAL EVENTS PLAZA

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



FIFTH THIRD BANK

# Proud to be your COMMUNITY PARTNER



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Vectren employees share in the commitment to community by volunteering their time, talents and treasure. Whether it is by serving on a nonprofit board, choosing to contribute personal funding to a local charity or spending their time volunteering at a local agency, Vectren employees are community-minded and highly engaged contributing over 35,000 hours in 2019.

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# Celebration of Leadership

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Leadership Everyone proudly presents the 25th 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, programs, businesses, and organizations that make significant collaborative contributions to our community.

This region is full of people working within organizations and on projects. It is Leadership Everyone'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 Everyone

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The mission of Leadership Everyone 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 Everyone'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 Everyone :

- 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 Everyone, 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 Everyone 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



[LeadershipEveryone.org](http://LeadershipEveryone.org)



# Underwriters and Committees

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## Leadership Everyone is proud to recognize the

### Celebration of Leadership Underwriters Includes underwriters as of March 3, 2020

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Acropolis  
Becki Alcorn  
Anonymous Donors  
AstraZeneca  
Ascension St. Vincent  
Atlas Van Lines  
Shirley Becker  
Bowen Engineering  
Bravo Media  
The City of Evansville – Department of  
Metropolitan Development  
Deaconess Health System  
Evansville Vanderburgh Airport Authority  
EXTEND Group  
Field & Main  
Fifth Third Bank  
Flanders, Inc.  
Hafer  
M. Susan Hardwick  
IBEW Local #16  
Ivy Tech Community College

Court Kull  
La Campirana  
Lamasco Bar / Amy's on Franklin  
Leadership Everyone Board of Directors  
Leadership Everyone Class of January 2019  
("Rainmakers")  
Lochmueller Group  
Lynn Miller Pease and Family  
New Horizons Financial Consultants  
Old National Bank  
Jeff Purdue  
SABIC  
Sixth and Zero  
Stage One Media  
Torian Insurance  
Toyota  
United Companies  
Susan Vaughn  
Vectren, A CenterPoint Energy Company  
VPS Architecture  
Welborn Baptist Foundation  
The Women's Hospital

## Celebration of Leadership Committees

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### Chairpersons

Court Kull (Honorary Chair)  
Andrea Herschelman (Co-chair)  
Christina Mayes (Co-chair)

### Emcees

Stephanie Roland                      Scott Wylie

### Celebration of Leadership Nominations And Planning Committee

Mary Allen	Beth Kroft
Helen Azarian	Erin Lewis
Shirley Becker	Heather McNabb
Marilyn Brenton	Lu Porter
Carlos Caballero	Keith Rawley
Amanda Coburn	Lu Porter
Scott Cohorst	Katie Reineke Pritchett
Aaron Huff	Karen Robinson
Nathan Jochum	Adam Trinkel
Sarah Kluemper	Scott Wylie

### Selection committee

Lana Abel	Kelly Gates
Alisha Aman	Aaron Huff
Helen Azarian	Mark Moore
Andrea Backes	Lu Porter
Abraham Brown	Keith Rawley
Joshua Calhoun	Dave Schutte
Don Crankshaw	Jason Southwell

### Publications

Helen Azarian  
Amanda Coburn  
Andy Drewlinger  
Mike Hart - Deaconess Health System  
Sarah Kluemper  
Lily Pease  
Katie Reineke Pritchett  
Anthony Robison - [iamanthonyrobison.com](http://iamanthonyrobison.com)  
Vince Stone - Atlas Van Lines

### Production

Bravo Media                      Stage One Media



# Celebration of Leadership

Old National Events Plaza • Downtown Evansville, Indiana  
March 19, 2020

5:20 p.m. Entertainment—*UE's Mad Hot Ballroom*

5:30 p.m. **Welcome—**  
Lynn Miller Pease, *Leadership Everyone Chief Executive Officer*  
Court Kull, *Fifth Third Bank City President & Celebration of Leadership Honorary Chair*  
Andrea Herschelman, *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**

Special Award—*The Spirit Award*

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

Individual Division Award

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

Project or Program Division Award

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

Business or Organization Division Award

## **Special Awards—Event Underwriters**

*Sam Featherstone Youth Awards*

*Sportsman Award*

*Bryce Jordan Servant Leader Award*

*Susan Kelley Jordan Courage Award*

*Lt. Col. Reginald Gibson Award*

*Willie Effie Thomas Diversity Award*

*Shirley James "Greening the Community" Award*

*Nancy Sieben Koehler Sustainability Award*

*Darrell Ragland Award*

*Sara B. Davies Award*

*Transformational Inclusion Award*

*Regional Impact Awards*

*Civic Engagement Awards*

*Outstanding Innovation Award*

*Lifetime Award*

*Philanthropy Award*

*Visionary Award*

*Community Collaboration Award*

*Lifetime Award*

**A glimpse of what's to come with Regional VOICE—Lynn Miller Pease**

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

**American Sign Language Interpreter**  
Carly Zimmermann - Z Interpreting, LLC



Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation

**Bringing Learning to Life**

**WE**

**ARE**



**Vibrant Schools  
Vibrant Communities**



Leadership doesn't happen by chance. It takes determination, commitment and vision. It takes working together for the greater good of others. By joining together, we can truly make a difference in our community and the futures of our students.

Together, We Are E.

# And the Nominees Are...

## Individual

### ARTS

**Andrea Herschelmann**—In 2016, Andrea became the University of Southern Indiana's first Interior Designer. There she covers a variety of projects ranging from the new Physical Activities Center to rejuvenating existing educational spaces with new designs. Andrea recognized a gap for the local design community and set a plan into motion. Andrea is also active in volunteering and teaching fitness classes to the community. *Nominated by: Andrea Backes*

**Brittany Samsil**—Brittany, 29, has been painting since she was a kid and has always been involved with local charities and nonprofit organizations. Having previously lived in a homeless shelter, she used art to lift her spirits. Brittany now sells her artwork, with the majority of proceeds going to a nonprofit organization she has chosen for the year. In addition to her own philanthropic efforts, she is raising two young children who spend their holidays delivering meals and gifts to those less fortunate. Brittany makes a constant effort to know and help those in her community. *Nominated by: Heather Hallmark*

### COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD

**Carol Abrams**—Carol has called Evansville her hometown for the past 36 years, involving herself in activities both at Temple Adath B'nai Israel and the broader community including Evansville Philharmonic, Evansville Museum, UE Theatre Society, Indiana Arts Commissioner, Committee to Restore Victory, and Friends of Victory. Her main passion is the arts; however, she is also fiercely interested in equity for all – demonstrated by her founding of CYPRESS (Committee to Promote Respect in Schools). Since 1999, CYPRESS' mission has been to build respect and appreciation for diversity in our schools and community. Thousands of teachers, students, and community members who have been impacted through CYPRESS. She would say it is the work of many, but it is truly all thanks to her great leadership! *Nominated by: Amy Walker and Patricia Weinzapfel*

**Hugo Giovanni Avila**—Hugo has made a difference in the lives of a large group of Latino children through his dedication to promoting wellness and leadership training. Mr. Avila and Brant Flores partnered to open St. Pugilist Boxing Club, not only as a place where you could go and throw some punches, but a place to offer the opportunity to young Latinos and Latinas to improve their self-esteem and encourage values. While running one of the Midwest's most complete and professional boxing training facilities, Hugo G. Avila is focused on creating an impact in a community that often does not have the opportunities to succeed. *Nominated by: Abraham Brown*

**Charnika Baltzell**—Charnika has provided her time engaging in community affairs from being a CASA volunteer, a Liaison for CAPE Executive Board, Secretary for UNOE Executive Board, Assistant Secretary for Glenwood Neighborhood Association, to a NAACP Member. She is presently serving her time as a Human Relations Commissioner and is kick-starting her etiquette services, Charm Appeal Etiquette Building Consultancy, at the Evansville Community Development Annex, to help bring back the lost importance of etiquette and protocol. *Nominated by: Charnika Baltzell*

**Teri Barnes**—Teri is the Division Manager at Smith & Butterfield, President of Granted, Ambassador of the Southwest Indiana Chamber, President of Plaza PTSA, and volunteer with other organizations. She has made an impact in our community's economic development, education, children, and lives as a whole. *Nominated by: Toni Thompson*

**Lisa Barnett**—Lisa is an inspirational teacher, mother, and community advocate for the Tepe Park area. She inspires youth to follow their passion and help pursue their dreams while helping others around them pursue their dreams as well. Lisa Barnett is piloting the Southside Youth Zone where children can come to learn and feel safe from the streets. She always makes herself available to all the children and their parents, any time of day or night. *Nominated by: Carmella Notari*

**Mariama Black-Wilson**—Mariama is the president of M.A.S.K (Mothers Against Senseless Killings), and has worked with the Prosecutor's Office as well as EPD on different ways to curb gun violence in our community, and this year became Pigeon Township Trustee. Not only does she serve the community on a large scale, but also personally; whenever someone's loved one has been shot or killed, she is the first person called to provide comfort. *Nominated by: Alhamisi Griffin, Lawrence Taylor, & William Payne*

**Phillip Boyd**—Phillip is the Executive Director of the Men's Residency Center of the Evansville Rescue Mission. He is a bright light, open-minded, and a servant leader who puts others before himself. He strives to make the community a better place through recovery programs. *Nominated by: Nate Denning*

**Trisha Davenport**—Trisha was a kind, outgoing, and thoughtful person. Involved with the United Methodist Youth Home, she shared her love of scrap-booking with the youth in their care. She helped them create beautiful books that emphasized their individual value. Trisha battled cancer throughout her time volunteering, and passed away last fall. She is deeply missed. *Nominated by: Tia O'Neil*

**Cathy Davidson**—Cathy has taken on many roles within the community. Currently she is the United Neighborhoods of Evansville South Sector Regional Vice president. With this role, she attends as many Neighborhood Association meetings and gatherings as humanly possible. Cathy is an advocate for anyone who needs one and she is not afraid to say what needs to be said no matter how difficult the topic. *Nominated by: M J*

# Nominees, continued

**Xavier Davidson**—Xavier is kind and helps others in need no matter who they are. He believes everyone is different and important. He has helped a boy with Tourette syndrome feel better after he had been subjected to bullying. Xavier has been there for children suffering from depression or anxiety, including those with disabilities, and even encourages others to pick up litter. No matter who you are, Xavier will be your ally. **Nominated by: Alia Elizabeth Quinn**

**Florintine Dawn**—Florintine Dawn, portrayed by Owen Jackson, exhibited great pride and bravery in performing at EVPL's Drag Queen Story Hour. Despite local, state, national, and international backlash, she persevered. Through storytelling, singing, and dancing, she delivered a message celebrating what it means to be different. Dawn's message of inclusion, despite her many personal obstacles and threats, succeeded in amplifying a message sorely needed in most communities. **Nominated by: Don Crankshaw**

**Tiffany Duke**—Tiffany is a USI student majoring in elementary education and special education. She has always been passionate about social justice issues. Tiffany has worked with local pastors and church staff, as well as members of River City Pride, on the best ways to educate individuals on issues of gay marriage, sexual orientation, and the LGBTQ+ community as a whole. **Nominated by: Ben Griffin**

**Jessica Kingsbury**—Jessica is known for her work on fundraisers, including one for Gibson County Cops for Kids. She was able to raise \$5,300 in October to help police officers buy presents for underprivileged children. Forty children were able to have a great Christmas because of her generosity. Jessica also helps women get sober and stay sober. She is very passionate about recovery living and helping influence the lives of other women. **Nominated by: Jeremy Bigham**

**Gina Gibson**—Gina dedicates her life to fighting poverty and strengthening families. She is the Executive Director & CEO of Evansville Christian Life Center. She is also the author of *The Community I See: Why I Have Hope for a Better Evansville*, which takes readers on a journey of some of the problems plaguing Evansville. Along the way, she confronts misconceptions, offers new perspectives, and shares a vision of hope for the community. **Nominated by: Josey Roth**

**Chad Goble**—Chad is a Packing Operator at AstraZeneca Mt. Vernon and an avid golfer who shares his knowledge and skills with others. Realizing that students in the area did not have the means to purchase their own golf clubs, Chad posted the need on Facebook, asking people and companies to donate golf equipment. The response was overwhelming. **Nominated by: Kathleen Irwin**

**Paul Green**—Paul currently serves as Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 16. In addition to his job, he volunteers for many organizations. He has donated hours helping Aurora and United Caring Services with electrical work in remodeling their building. He is also on the Board of Directors for Aurora and serves on Easter Seals. Paul's passion

for his homelessness, community, and equal rights for all is evident in countless ways. **Nominated by: Jeanie Bennett**

**Kim Johns**—Kim is a servant leader on the Board at Aurora, where she has helped set up a strategic vision for the organization. She also played a role in the Vectren merge, where she took on responsibilities and departments across Texas and Indiana, tripling the number of people who reported to her. Even still, she was always available to support her team and made sure that each team member's strengths were showcased and utilized. **Nominated by: Beth Kroft**

**Nick Johnson**—Nick saw a need: young LGBTQ people needing clothes that fit their identity. Changing one's wardrobe is expensive, especially if that person is a teenager and is deep in discovering who they are. Nick came up with the idea of a free clothing bank specifically for young LGBTQ people. He found a space to house it, recruited both teen and adult volunteers, asked for and sorted through donations, and found a way to help connect people with clothing, all while going to high school.

**Nominated by: The Rev. Holly Rankin Zaher**

**Mike Labitzke**—Deputy Director of Project Management for Evansville Water & Sewer Utility Mike Labitzke believes in a "give-back" on his projects - that it's not just his job to move water from A to B, but to deliver a project that makes the world better. Mike has his hands in many of the city's water and sewer improvement plans and is currently working with students to develop a wetland education park that will also filter water. Mike is a servant leader who encourages innovation. **Nominated by: Erin Lewis**

**Jerry and Kimberly Lewis**—The Lewises have lived a life of servant leadership, personally donating their time, muscle, resources and heart to delivering furniture to families who recently left dangerous situations. After they both work their shifts at Toyota and AK Steel all week, they spend their weekends picking up furniture and delivering it to families with Albion Fellows Bacon Center. **Nominated by: Erin Lewis**

**Cathy Myers**—Cathy has a passion for helping hurting and disenfranchised people. Her nonprofit organization, HOPE DOT COM, seeks to reduce the number of homeless people in the community and connect them to existing available resources. She hosts various events for the homeless community utilizing support from the Black Nurses of Evansville. Cathy actively searches for ways to meet individuals' needs and helps in any way she can.

**Nominated by: Jack Buttrum**

**Noah Nellis**—Noah is a senior at Reitz High School and started his own Westside business, Nellis Lawn Care Service, a couple of years ago. His business now reaches all over the Tri-State and so does his desire to help the community. Noah also contacted the 911 Gives Hope Board about helping with their annual toy drive—he made an incredible donation of toys and plans on helping every year. He is a true future leader who is making a difference in his community.

**Nominated by: Leslie Morgan**

# Nominees, continued

**Kellsie Phillips**—Kellsie is an Animal Care Technician at the Vanderburgh Humane Society. She is a compassionate, optimistic, and hardworking individual who pours her heart into caring for the animals in her charge with love and attention to detail. Their well-being is her top priority, and she goes above & beyond to offer them creative enrichment and promote them for adoption. She is also a community advocate (particularly of Haynie's Corner) and dauntlessly accepting of every human she meets. *Nominated by: Anonymous*

**Blake Podewils**—As an eighth grader, Blake went above and beyond by making a generous donation to The Literacy Center. Tasked with a project at school to help improve the community, he discovered how many barriers can be overcome by improving literacy levels. He started a GoFundMe account to raise money, then purchased items on The Literacy Center's wish list and put them together himself. He continues to stay involved and helps in any way he can.

*Nominated by: Regina Hamman*

**Bettye Poole**—Bettye does not allow homeless and at-risk youth of our community to disappear under the radar. Bettye is a servant leader vital to our community. Through her work with EVSC, UE's African American Alumni Association, and being elected Conference Chair of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, she engages families across different cultures, works with students who exhibit destructive behaviors, and reaches disconnected parents. *Nominated by: Sondra Matthews*

**Jeff Purdue**—Jeff leads by example by being a servant leader. Jeff is VP of Business Development at Bowen Engineering. Jeff's take-charge attitude allowed him to be one of the main planners and fundraising leader for Mickey's Kingdom, and he now leads one of the park's Clean Teams. Jeff also assists the children in our community living with life-threatening illnesses through his role at Granted. He is also the chair of the Leadership Everyone Development Committee and helps every time there is a call for volunteers. *Nominated by: Teri Barnes*

**Rachel Rainey**—Rachel is a Young Professional entrepreneur. Her business, 3 Chicks Fudgery, not only has a shop on Main Street in Mount Vernon, but she also travels the Tri-State selling fudge at local events. Rachel also has worked hard to promote Chamber events and the region, and in the past year, was the key coordinator for the Riverbend Market. She believes buying local and supporting each other helps our communities prosper. *Nominated by: Randy Owens*

**Dave Schutte**—After fourteen years of service in the EVSC, Dave retired to quickly become the Director of the EVSC Foundation's Hangers program, a clothing resource for students. Each year, Hangers serves approximately 2,500 EVSC students, giving them the basic necessities of hygiene products and clothing. Dave is always there to welcome students who come to Hangers. Through his leadership and caring attitude, he inspires students and reminds them that people do care and want them to succeed.

*Nominated by: Sara DeWitt*

**Jason Southwell**—Jason has been working as an Interior Designer at Hafer for 11 years. Through these years, he has gained a reputation both inside and outside the office as a top-notch designer. Some of his major projects include: The Cox Group Corporate Headquarters, EVSC McCutchanville School, the Evansville Regional Airport Renovation, and the Henderson County Public Library Renovation. He also enjoys giving back through volunteering for a variety of organizations including Rotaract Club of Evansville, ARC of Evansville, F.J. Reitz Theatre, Junior Achievement, EVSC Theater Productions, Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana, and Friends of Willard Library. He makes a difference! *Nominated by: Ali Niemeier*

**Erika Strong Rodriguez**—Erika grew up in Utah and served in the United States Army. She currently works as a realtor for Remax Revolution. She is of Mexican and Colombian descent. Her specialty is helping Spanish-speaking residents find a home here in Evansville. As a bilingual realtor, she makes the home-buying process more welcoming, clear, and less stressful for the Hispanic community here in Evansville. She also represents her culture with folkloric dance at Fiesta Evansville. *Nominated by: Rachel Wambach*

**Rachel Wambach**—Rachel is local graphic designer and community enthusiast. Her tireless dedication to helping local organizations and businesses present beautifully to the Evansville public is admirable. Rachel is the owner of Sprout Design and she is incredibly engaged in the Tri-State. Her designs can be seen in all facets of our community. Rachel was involved in the early stages of the E is for Everyone campaign, which acknowledges and celebrates diversity in our community. *Nominated by: Erin Bowen*

**Scott Watkins**—Scott is a kind person, not afraid to reach out to someone in need. This could be a family member, friend, coworker, or a stranger. Upon leaving work once, Scott encountered a young man sitting on a bench. After learning he was homeless, he took the young man to eat. Scott has demonstrated that his willingness to help has no boundaries. He believes every person should have the opportunity to achieve their own success. *Nominated by: Paul Green*

**Tameka Watson**—Tameka is the founder of a Facebook community action group entitled "MOTHERS HOLDIN IT DOWN" that helps families attain the resources they need. She also coaches The Inner City Youth Basketball League. As League Director/Coach for the last 6 years, she has impacted 165 kids per season and has managed to keep the league free so anyone can play. She has helped over 1,000 families. *Nominated by: Tameka Watson*

**DeAndre Wilson**—DeAndre is that guy you see rolling the "Cancer Sucks" tire around town. Through the Keep Rolling Campaign and in memory of his father, he is collaborating with the community on a documentary while cross-promoting organizations. With virtually no budget, DeAndre is finding new partners, making new collaborative relationships with existing organizations, and reminding thousands of people to improve their health outcomes and persevere. *Nominated by: Philip R. Hooper & Mandy Ford*



# Nominees, continued

## EDUCATION

**Jacque Barnette**—Jacque has led the EVSC's English as a Second Language program, which has grown from fewer than 100 students in 2000, to more than 700 this school year. Through her leadership, Jacque's team of ESL teachers and coaches works to ensure students and their families are successful and feel welcome. More than 50 different languages are spoken in the ESL program; they are proving to international families that Evansville is a welcoming place to live, bringing diversity to our community that we may not otherwise have. *Nominated by: Sara DeWitt*

**Summer El-Khodary**—Summer is a senior Public Health student from the University of Evansville and an advocate for women like her who wear hijabs and headscarves. She shares the stories of amazing women who break barriers all over the world proudly with their hijabs on! Summer has planned events for the Evansville community to spread the message of diversity, including hosting a series of panels on diversity and the experiences of others. *Nominated by: LaNeeca Williams, Amani Rimawi, & Leslie Eades*

**Crystal Funke**—Crystal is a registered nurse who has shown a drive to provide interventions and care that are proven to have positive outcomes for every patient. She believes that patients deserve to receive the best treatment and brings research ideas to the hospital's "Evidence Based Practice" council each month. Crystal has expressed a need for dietary menus that coincide with a patient's primary language, proving her awareness that enhancing diversity shows concern. *Nominated by: Claudia Hulseay*

**Heidi Gregori-Gahan**—Heidi serves as the Associate Provost, Center for International Programs at the University of Southern Indiana, where she oversees services for international students/scholars, international recruitment, the development and implementation of study abroad programs, and campus-wide programming. Gregori-Gahan is a leader hundreds of International students can count on, and is a bridge to USI's academic team and the international students. *Nominated by: Abraham Brown*

**Tanya Harris**—Tanya, former Vice President and General Manager of the AstraZeneca Mt. Vernon Site, has a wealth of knowledge and experience that she shares to empower others. In addition to her demanding job, she has had multiple speaking engagements where she has shared her knowledge of mentoring and coaching. She provides authentic answers to both personal and career life questions. In addition, she takes her mentoring to a personal level with her church and local community. She will be greatly missed by her AZ community! *Nominated by: Kathleen Irwin*

**Steve Reffett**—Steve graduated from Bosse High School and went on to serve in the Navy. After his time in the military, Steve pursued his career path and became a successful partner at his Evansville accounting firm. Today, he stays active by volunteering his time as a

tutor, substitute teacher, and with various community boards. He talks to students about their future goals, helps them find jobs, and takes them on college visits. Steve is forever giving of his time and energy to help our inner city kids as well as all people who need a positive role model. *Nominated by: Shari Millikan*

**Allison Shepherd**—Allison is an Elementary School Teacher at Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. In the summer of 2019, Allison asked her Facebook network to support her initiative to sponsor the students in her class so they could choose a Scholastic book every month. Allison works with her neighborhood and friends to help these children learn and understand the joy of reading. *Nominated by: Kathleen Irwin*

## GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SERVICE, & ENVIRONMENT

**Josh Brewer**—Josh is Evansville's one and only Homeless Liaison Officer through the EPD. He is paving the way in our city with a new style of policing. Throughout the last year, Josh has worked hard to develop strong relationships with Evansville's local agencies and organizations that serve the homeless population. He has done extensive outreach work and gotten to know most of the individuals facing homelessness in our community on a first name basis. He shows tremendous patience and compassion in his approach with individuals. He cares about people and making Evansville a better place. *Nominated by: Phillip Boyd*

**Tanisha Carothers**—Tanisha is an Evansville native who came to love her city through YMCA's Diamonds program, where she later felt compelled to be the kind of mentor that someone had been to her. Now she is changing lives and giving of herself through her growing law practice and an exploding startup company. *Nominated by: Candace Chapman*

**Ella Johnson-Watson**—Ella is a communications professional and public servant. Since the first days of the Evansville Water & Sewer Utility administration, Ella has shared their vision and progress with the public. In her new role with the EWSU, she continues to keep the public informed about EWSU projects that are impacting our community. Working with local media and other community stakeholders, Ella has provided transparency and understanding for city projects. *Nominated by: Mayor Lloyd Winnecke*

**Candra Loehrlein**—Candra has been the Director of the Pre-Trial Diversion program in the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's office since 2006. Every single day she interacts with her clients across the community who have found themselves down a path that led them to crime, violence, and drug usage. She offers them a new way to approach life. Within her programs she ensures that everyone who enters her office is provided with equal opportunities and offers them a new road to travel with hard work and dedication. *Nominated by: Ryan Loehrlein*

# Nominees, continued

**Robert Lopez**—Robert is a freshman at UE who has a vision to improve our Evansville downtown and is working to make it a reality. During his junior year of high school, he learned that the Evansville Water & Sewer Department needed to build water filtration tanks, but wanted help deciding what to put back down on the surface. With only a few weeks to prepare, Robert and his partner jumped in, got help from Hafer Design, and created a stunning wetland education park. He continues to work towards the finished project. *Nominated by: Erin Lewis*

**Dale Naylor**—Dale has been a local educator and first responder for more than 30 years. As Principal of McGary Middle School, Naylor is always available to meet with children and parents of all demographic backgrounds. In addition, he volunteers 20-30 hours a week as a firefighter, EMT, and Chief of the Knight Township Fire Department. He was recently selected to join the ranks of the Warrick County Sheriff's Office as a Reserve Deputy. *Nominated by: Kris Holzmeyer*

**Philip Smith**—Officer Philip Smith currently serves as the Special Projects Coordinator with the Evansville Police Department. Officer Smith schedules the community interactions for the department's special projects. Officer Smith strongly believes in the integration of community. He is a true servant leader that takes a smile and positive vibe everywhere he goes. His personality and good humor has helped many citizens in Evansville build trust in the EPD. *Nominated by: Abraham Brown*

**Ashley Vezzoso-Schaefer**—Ashley served the Evansville Convention and Visitors Bureau and the local/regional tourism market for 17 years. As Director of Sales and Number Two to the previous Executive Director, Ashley supervised the construction and opening of the Deaconess Sports Park and has booked hundreds of group meetings and events. Ashley was responsible for the CVB's key mission of putting "heads in beds" by attracting a diverse array of visitors to Evansville hotels. *Nominated by: Anonymous*

## HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

**Julie Blesch**—Julie has been a nurse for thirty years and has the uncanny ability to make patients and their loved ones feel like family. She often assists with the most difficult moments in a person's life and makes it her duty to help in any way she can. Her servant's heart impacts all those around her. *Nominated by: Anonymous*

**Carlos Caballero**—Carlos is a healthcare leader, passionate about serving people, building bridges of collaboration, and focusing on helping others become the best versions of themselves. He has served the needs of the poor through international medical missions, developing multidisciplinary, strategic population health plans in the Evansville community, improving Alzheimer's and dementia care, and providing hospice care in Southwest Indiana. *Nominated by: Christie Caballero*

**Nate Denning**—Nate is the lead pastor and program director at the Evansville Rescue Mission. He is a dedicated husband and father of four children and he constantly goes out of his way to help others and to serve our community. He consistently makes our community a better place by exhibiting an extreme willingness and desire to help those who are in need. *Nominated by: Phillip Boyd*

**Jason Emmerson**—Jason currently serves as the Executive Director of United Caring Services. Jason has twenty years of nonprofit leadership experience. He has worked in sales/marketing, is an ordained pastor, has served on several nonprofit boards, and has volunteered for many years as a police/fire chaplain. Jason is a lifetime IU alumni member and helps Kelley School of Business students with Compass Leadership Projects. He also serves on several local commissions and is seen by all as a true servant leader. *Nominated by: Christina Mayes*

**Jana Green and Dexter**—Jana and Dexter have been instrumental in helping to implement the Therapy Dog Program at The Women's Hospital. Jana provides a line of communication between The Women's Hospital and the twelve other TDI handlers who visit The Women's Hospital regularly. Jana continues to spread awareness about the healing qualities of dogs to ensure that all patients feel comfortable during their stay at The Women's Hospital. Her goal is to educate through providing compassionate Therapy Dog interactions. *Nominated by: Emily Wesner*

**Dr. Christine Griffiths, AUD**—Dr. Griffiths is an Audiologist specialist in Evansville, providing audiology services at Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. She works tirelessly to ensure the best quality of life for her patients, going as far as writing insurance companies when treatments are not covered. Christine does not see demographics in her patients—she only sees children in need and struggling parents, and treats them individually. *Nominated by: Andrea Backes*

**Robin Mallery**—Robin is a nurse and health educator by training. Currently, she volunteers her time and talent to promote nutritious food access as well as food preparation methods within our community. As Board Chair of Urban Seeds, she works with food producers, vendors, educators, and more to promote a "food as medicine" philosophy. She is on a mission to ensure that residents have the knowledge to sustain healthy eating habits for better health outcomes for themselves and their families; healthier diets lead to a healthier community. *Nominated by: Helen Azarian*

**Melissa & Jeremy Mayer**—Melissa and Jeremy have a heart for children! With three biological children of their own, Jeremy and Melissa have added three more children to their family out of the foster care system. Loving, energetic individuals with a heart for children in crisis, they sought out the founder of the Isaiah 117 House after hearing of its mission and have worked diligently to bring it to our community. *Nominated by: LeeAnn Borchelt*



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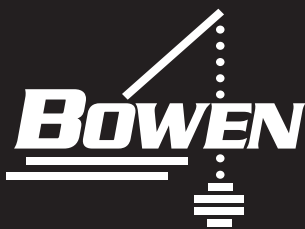
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# Nominees, continued

**Tracey Titus**—Tracey is an RN and serves as Vice President of Accreditation for the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare. She worked for 19 years at the Vanderburgh County Jail Medical Department in the position of Nurse Manager. She makes certain that accredited jails, prisons, and juvenile facilities provide proper medical care to inmates. She has always been fair and impartial and willing to help ANYONE. Tracey works with all races, nationalities, and genders. *Nominated by: Lavon Wood*

**Kirsten Wagmeister**—Kirsten is the chair of HeartSaver, an all-volunteer organization that raises money to place automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in area churches, schools, community centers, nonprofit organizations, and first responder vehicles. Under her leadership, HeartSaver has raised funds to distribute 400 AEDs throughout the Tri-State area. At least eight lives have been saved by AEDs placed through HeartSaver. *Nominated by: Mark Moore*

## Business or Organization

### ARTS

**Funk in the City**—Funk in the City presents the Annual Art Festivals at Haynie's Corner twice a year. The events feature artists from around the region and multiple states. A portion of the proceeds are used to promote and preserve the Arts District. The latest project was providing free WiFi in Haynie's Corner, as well as sponsoring the Christmas tree at the fountain, free Thanksgiving food, Christmas presents, and other events throughout the year. The art and culture have helped develop Haynie's Corner into a true arts district and a destination for visitors. *Nominated by: Anonymous*

**Mysti Dawn Foundation**—After Chris Morgan's death, his drag queen persona, Mysti Dawn, was honored by beginning this foundation that seeks to embrace and encourage the LGBTQ+ community. They hold local pride events, family-friendly drag shows, and a yearly pageant exhibiting Mysti Dawn's desire to create the true meaning of family, friend, and queen! *Nominated by: Amy Word*

**Old National Public Theater at WNIN**—WNIN Tri State Public Media operates the local PBS affiliate on TV and the NPR affiliate on FM. For fifty years, WNIN's mission in the community has been to deliver engaging public media content that informs, entertains, and inspires. A cornerstone of WNIN's recent move into new office and studio space was the addition of the 46-seat Old National Public Theater. WNIN's theater strives to better and inspire the community through screening locally-produced WNIN productions, popular current and classic movies, and films produced by local talent. *Nominated by: Tim Black*

## COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD

**AstraZeneca VitAliZe**—The AstraZeneca (AZ) Mt. Vernon VitAliZe team is an employee-led service group that is a part of AZ's Great Place To Work Initiative. The team and the AZ Mt. Vernon Site Employees have volunteered 2500+ hours and donated \$32,000 to support local nonprofits. Organizations include Holly's House, American Red Cross, Mt. Vernon Parks and Recreation, Mount Vernon River Days, Chemo Buddies, Tri-State Food Bank, Posey County Alliance, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and American Diabetes Association. *Nominated by: Kathleen Irwin*

**Catholic Charities**—Catholic Charities is a community social service agency in Southwestern Indiana providing professional services to all regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, orientation, or gender. The organization is dedicated to leading the way in meeting the emergency needs of the poor and vulnerable. Catholic Charities provides various programs: life and work services, marriage and family life support, immigration services, and counseling. Their common goal is to give hope to all individuals, empowering and giving them a sense of purpose and belonging, and to aid in spiritual growth. *Nominated by: Christina Mayes*

**Churches Embracing Offenders**—Churches Embracing Offenders is a nonprofit agency dedicated to ministering to the spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs of non-violent offenders living in and returning to the community from incarceration. Since June of 2000, Churches Embracing Offenders has been helping area men, women, and youth reenter society. *Nominated by: Mandy Ford*

**Different Shades of Pretty**—Different Shades of Pretty utilizes an intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive. It recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths. This approach promotes self-esteem and positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths. *Nominated by: Michelle Jackson & Trevor Robertson*

**D.T.E.A.M.**—D.T.E.A.M. (Differently, Talented, Extraordinary, Autistic Minds) gives our autism community a platform to be free and creative by giving them the space to explore their interests. The organization gives them a sense of inclusion, and empowers any and every individual living with autism that is able to join. D.T.E.A.M. seeks to bring the autistic community together by providing an outlet for creativity. *Nominated by: Corsica Fox*



# Nominees, continued

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**Evansville Sports Corporation**—The Evansville Sports Corporation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with the mission of enhancing Southwestern Indiana's economy, image, and quality of life through the attraction, promotion, and development of high profile, signature sporting events. In addition to holding national sporting events, Evansville Sports Corporation has partnered with the NCAA and the Boys and Girls Club to promote diversity and wellness all throughout the community. *Nominated by: Steve Schaefer*

**Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union**—Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union, launched by teachers in Evansville and from Evansville College in 1936 when financing was difficult to obtain because of the Depression, now has more than 220,000 members in all 50 states. ETFCU and its members donate more than \$600,000 to nonprofits and schools each year, but have a special relationship with Habitat for Humanity of Evansville. ETFCU employees pledge a deduction from their paychecks to fully fund a home build (2020 will be the third year, with more than \$120,000 pledged) as well as volunteer on the build. *Nominated by: Tim Ethridge*

**Fifth Third Bank**—Fifth Third Bancorp is a diversified financial services company headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio with several locations in Evansville. This year, Fifth Third raised its minimum wage to \$18 per hour for approximately 4,900 employees. With this increase, Fifth Third will have raised its minimum hourly wage by 50% over the past two years. In addition, Fifth Third Bank also fosters and supports various employee groups within the organization in their efforts to actively engage and participate in local nonprofit and other community efforts. *Nominated by: Tim Black*

**Honey + Moon Coffee Co.**—Honey + Moon Coffee Co. has a contemporary vibe and unique menu. Zac and Jessica have stepped up to the challenge of expanding where existing coffee shop locations have struggled, and turning them into viable destinations in their community. *Nominated by: Amy Bouchie*

**M.A.S.K. (Mothers Against Senseless Killings)**—M.A.S.K. (Mothers Against Senseless Killings) of Evansville is a newly-formed organization in association with M.A.S.K. of Chicago, made up of concerned mothers who have lost a child to gun violence. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for area children by helping to promote, teach, and demonstrate love and non-violence. M.A.S.K. is dedicated to reaching out to the community in service and support in hopes of curbing the senseless violence in our city. *Nominated by: Corsica Fox*

**Mama's Enterprise Group dba The Evansville Community Development Annex**—The Evansville Community Development Annex is a unique collaboration of for-profits and nonprofits creating a Community Development location which provides affordable and community-enhancing programs, services, and events in Evansville's urban community. The Annex is and has been the location of minority and small business startups and nonprofit services. They provide a convenient and affordable location for events and charitable causes, as well as establish a small business location. *Nominated by: Dean Hall*

**Reitz Memorial High School Challenger League and B.E.S.T.I.E.S. Program**—Memorial students have been a major contributor to the overall growth of the Challenger League Baseball program. This program relies on student athletes to assist children with disabilities during the game. Each and every time the students come to assist the children they bring a special bond that is unmatched within the community. They have created a program within the school called BESTIES to interact more with the children on and off the field of play. *Nominated by: Matt Pokorney*

**Resurgence Church**—Resurgence Church's mission is to give to any member of the community whenever possible. They drive children to camp, host Vacation Bible School, and donate to Thanksgiving and Christmas giveaways every year. The organization loves and help people in the community, regardless of race or background. *Nominated by: Vera and Carisa Campbell*

**River City Pride, Inc.**—River City Pride's aim is to bring awareness to the local LGBTQ+ community. The first major Pride Parade and Festival was a rousing success and shined a light on diversity and inclusion in the area. RCP worked with churches, service agencies, and businesses to organize the 2019 Pride Festival, proving there is a spirit of inclusion in our community. They welcome anyone who shares the goal of improving our region and uplifting people regardless of race, gender identity, or orientation. *Nominated by: Kelley Coures*

**River Kitty Cat Cafe**—River Kitty Cat Cafe opened in 2017 as a coffee shop and satellite cat adoption center on thriving Main Street in downtown Evansville. Since then, they have facilitated more than 430 cat adoptions to date and brought countless out-of-town visitors onto Main Street to play & eat. The cafe has recently been acquired by the Vanderburgh Humane Society as a nonprofit program, and all of its revenue will now benefit animals in need. *Nominated by: Amanda Coburn*

**Southern Indiana Mentoring Academy (SIMA)**—SIMA is a mentoring program that has partnered with Lincoln School in order to support and empower young men within the community to make positive life choices and enable them to maximize their personal potential. This year, they raised money to purchase Christmas gifts for each young man at Lincoln. They volunteer their time during lunch/recess, events and participate in their Site Council Advisory Meetings. SIMA is committed to making a difference in the lives of young men. *Nominated by: Knetra Shaw*

**Southside Stars Youth Zone**—SSYZ is a nonprofit that walks with youth ensuring they are career-, college-, and life-ready. They will do whatever is needed in order to serve the community. Recently they exhibited this mentality by creating a community garden to help Tepe Park residents who are in need of food. SSYZ does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, or sexual orientation. This neighborhood organization's only prerogative is to help those in need. *Nominated by: Lisa Barnett*

# Nominees, continued

**Sprout Design**—Sprout Design is an independently-owned and operated graphic design business that predominantly produces design work for individuals, businesses, and organizations in Evansville and the surrounding area. Owner Rachel Wambach has a talent for clean, uplifting, and eye-catching visuals that are ultimately purposeful to both clients and consumers. In addition to paid work, she has also donated countless hours to designing posters, websites, logos, branding, and print design for area nonprofits.

**Nominated by:** Erin Bowen

**Yoga and More**—Yoga and More not only offers a wide array of yoga classes, but they have worked with outside businesses and helped them to coordinate opportunities for their employees to experience yoga classes in their own environment. They offer classes for organizations, fundraisers, and even donation-based classes on holidays for nonprofit agencies.

**Nominated by:** Michelle Kirk and Laura Clem

## EDUCATION

**High Score Saloon**—High Score Saloon gives more to this community than just a fun place to play games! This past year, they brought together local businesses in their effort to pay off EVSC student lunch debt. Tattoo shops, bars, restaurants, extermination facilities, recycling and waste plants, and more rallied together for this effort. They have raised thousands of dollars for local animal shelters, cancer support groups, schools, and women's shelters through give-backs.

**Nominated by:** Anonymous

**Jacob Ball Wish Fund**—The mission of the Jacob Ball Wish Fund is to assist teachers and caregivers of children with special needs by providing exceptional teaching tools and developmental opportunities to enhance the children's experiences. The Jacob Ball Wish Fund was established with the sole purpose of funding wishes to teachers and caregivers who work with our special friends.

**Nominated by:** Aaron Huff

**RAMP**—RAMP (Real-World Application; Maximizing Potential), a program through EVSC's OptIN, in partnership with AmeriQual, is a first-of-its-kind, comprehensive, work-based learning program in Indiana that fully embeds high school students within an Evansville-based industry. Students work side-by-side with industry experts at AmeriQual to earn a wage and acquire manufacturing skills that they can use upon graduation to acquire a high-wage position in a high-demand career field. **Nominated by:** Sara DeWitt & Candace Chapman

## GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SERVICE, & ENVIRONMENT

**Fifth Third Bank**—Fifth Third Bank has a strong commitment to bettering the environment, focused on corporate environmental sustainability and efficacy through five sustainability goals: 25% reduction in energy use, 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (achieved in 2018), 20% reduction in landfill waste, 20% reduction in water usage, and purchasing 100% renewable power (achieved in 2019). Fifth Third Bank is the first publicly traded company worldwide and the first US bank to sign a contract leading to 100% renewable energy through solar power. **Nominated by:** Joshua Case

**Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville (GAGE)**—The GAGE Team connects businesses, talent, ideas, and experts to elevate the economic prosperity of Greater Evansville. The GAGE focus is on Business Retention & Expansion, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Quality of Place & Talent, and New Business Attraction. They reach out to businesses to address their current and future needs. GAGE is involved in efforts to grow the region and attract a wide variety of startup and existing business to provide the area with a diverse economy where we all can thrive. **Nominated by:** Jim Spath

**Morton Solar**—Morton Solar & Electric is the oldest solar company in Indiana. In 2019, Morton Solar became the first Certified B Corporation in Southern Indiana. Certified B Corporations are a new kind of business that balances purpose and profit, driving a global movement using business as a force for good. In 2010, Morton Solar was instrumental in the passing of a state net-metering law for solar, which increased usage of solar energy. Morton Solar also donates solar arrays to organizations like CAPE, Mickey's Kingdom, and Howell Wetlands to educate and provide energy. In one year alone, Morton was able to offset 9,383,628 lbs of CO<sup>2</sup>.

**Nominated by:** Joe Kratochvil

**Vegans of Evansville Community Action (VECA)**—VECA is a volunteer group of local vegan individuals working to better our environment and encourage an eco-friendly, humane, and animal-friendly culture in our community. They meet monthly to clean up an area of the community and also work to make vegan lifestyle choices more accessible and common to the general public. They hosted a Vegan Trunk or Treat in partnership with the Franklin Street Events Association for Halloween. Two of their members, Brandie & Nick Scott, are opening Flourish, a 100% vegan restaurant, on the west side of Evansville. **Nominated by:** Amanda Coburn

# Nominees, continued

## HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

**Ascension St. Vincent**—Ascension St. Vincent is one of Indiana's largest health systems with 20 hospital locations, almost 2,000 physicians and over 400 total care sites across the state. Their trauma and community outreach department partnered with the University of Southern Indiana's nursing program to bring Stop the Bleed training to the community and EVSC high schools with over 800 students reached in the fall semester. The program teaches people of different age groups, race, and gender a lifesaving skill, making our communities safer and stronger. *Nominated by: Kendra Hatfield*

**Aurora Homeless Outreach Team**—The Aurora Homeless Outreach Team seeks out those experiencing homelessness in Evansville by visiting abandoned homes, parks, bridges, and garages in order to service those in need. They help navigate the processes to obtain identification, Social Security cards, and housing, and provide for immediate basic needs such as clothing, hygiene products, and food. The Homeless Outreach Team strives to support this struggling portion of our population. *Nominated by: Joshua Brewer*

**Boyettt Treatment Center**—Boyettt Treatment center provides medication-assisted treatment and counseling for individuals struggling from substance use disorders. They offer full scholarships and work with their clients on a sliding scale basis. They also have a Clothes Closet that is available to any member of the community and distribute Narcan and Prescription Drug Disposal Kits to the public. Boyett works closely with most of the other treatment providers in the area to ensure everyone, regardless of race, religion, or gender identity, gets the help they need. *Nominated by Margeaux Rennels, Blake Merkel, John Pritchett, Frank Boyett, & Nancy Boyett*

**Brighter Side Treatment Center**—A medication-assisted treatment (MAT) center that focuses on the rehabilitation and recovery of chemically-dependent individuals. Their treatment focuses on counseling, societal re-entry, workforce preparation, wellness exams, and self-betterment through healthy coping mechanisms. They have programs to help those who cannot afford it, restoring hope to the hopeless.

*Nominated by: Katherine Castillo, Christina Gillim, & Jessica Kingsbury*

**Evansville Christian Health Clinic**—ECHC is a nonprofit health clinic that accepts anyone regardless of their ability to pay. The affordable services provided range from pregnancy tests to dental cleanings. If a patient is unable to pay, there are volunteer opportunities to offset the co-pay. If the client does not have insurance, they are placed on a sliding scale fee program that is determined by their income, but will never exceed the cost of \$35. The clinic focuses on a holistic approach in order to help the client to reach their fullest potential.

*Nominated by: Steve Harrell*

**Granted**—Granted grants wishes to local children suffering from life-threatening or terminal illnesses. In addition to the wish programs, they provide family support groups, education scholarships, and emotional/financial support for families when needed in difficult times. Granted utilizes their board and staff of mixed backgrounds, ethnicities, and careers to ensure that they put the children and their families above all else. *Nominated by: Corey Eblen*

**Indiana Ambition Basketball**—Indiana Ambition Basketball, begun by Mitch Lewis, is dedicated to helping kids pursue their basketball interests. This organization takes kids of all shapes and sizes and builds confidence and other social skills. IAB instills character lessons into every single aspect of the game, from playing time, to training, to team selection. Mitch moved his company to Trinity United Methodist Church so that gym rental income could be used to help families in need with heating bills. *Nominated by: Jenny Braun, Jill Crane, Randy Graham, Justin Fehn, David Poole, & Randy Byrd*

**Spero Health**—Spero Health is an outpatient addiction treatment center. They change lives by helping addicts to cope with their addictions, to find housing, to provide for their children. Regardless of background or ethnicity, they treat patients as people, not just as addicts. *Nominated by: Anonymous*

**Tribe**—Tribe is a peer-led adventure and challenge-based support group for female-identifying survivors of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. The mission of Tribe is to create a space where survivors can rebuild confidence, self-esteem and personality. Tribe conducts sessions throughout the year and utilizes rock climbing, yoga, hiking, kayaking, and art to customize each session to suit the needs of the members. *Nominated by: Rachel Wambach*

**United Caring Services**—United Caring Services, led by Executive Director, Jason Emmerson, is an agency that provides people in need access to crisis stabilization services through six programs. UCS's mission is to provide values-based, low barrier, sustainable, and high-quality homeless shelters, services, and solutions. UCS serves 250 people daily and brings together individuals, businesses, agencies, and providers to support its important, low barrier programs and unique initiatives like the Medical Respite and Crisis Care Center. *Nominated by: Christina Mayes*



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# Nominees, continued

## Projects and Programs

### ARTS

**Bethany's Studio at Carver**—Bethany's Studio at Carver was created by Children's Center for Dance Education for Tap, Tumble, and Twirl, for preschool dance students and other groups who regularly meet at Carver Community Organization. Dance was added to the curriculum of Carver preschool as another way to teach skills for kindergarten readiness such as cooperation, spatial awareness, and direction-following. The studio also serves as a memorial to Bethany Schklar. *Nominated by: Sally Olson*

**"On the Roof" Music Series**—Zach Evans, with the assistance of Anne McKim and Andrea Adams, started the "On the Roof" series with a range of musicians from various genres on the roof of their new Arts Council location on Main Street. These programs were free and open to the public with more than 800 people attending. The music featured 36 diverse musicians and many genres. Free and open to all members of the public, On the Roof Music Series is inclusive and fun. *Nominated by: Nathan Jochum*

**ParksFest Music Festival**—ParksFest is an annual free, all-day music festival in Evansville. The event takes place in Garvin Park in the heart of Jacobsville and features national and regional touring bands and musicians as well as local artists. ParksFest is driven to bettering our community by promoting equal access to world-class music entertainment and experiences. *Nominated by: Zach Evans*

**Rogue & Peasant Aces ChangeLab**—The University of Evansville Department of Theatre has reached beyond the walls of Shanklin Theatre to present free Shakespeare for the broader Evansville community. The Rogue & Peasant Aces is a mobile Shakespeare company that toured eight schools in the Tri-State performing Shakespeare for over 1,500 students this semester. The purpose is to make the arts more accessible to communities who don't traditionally get exposed to it or have the chance to experience it. *Nominated by: Erin Lewis & Brooksie Smith*

**Self.e Alley**—Self.e Alley at 318 Main Street is about celebrating our community through murals. The first mural is a modern take on an old Evansville postcard and cityscape with new images inside letters spelling the city's name that represent Evansville today. E is for Everyone! (Even our alleys!) Self.e Alley wants everyone to be proud of and celebrate Evansville. *Nominated by: Andrea Lendy*

**Victory International Film Festival**—The festival's mission was to celebrate film and the community of Evansville. They screened 120 films from 30 different countries. Attendees had the opportunity to network with filmmakers and enjoy submissions from across the world. They not only showcased excellent films, but the vibrant Downtown heart of our city as well. *Nominated by: Matthew Ulm*

**Warrick County Summer Musical Program**—The Warrick County Summer Musical Program is an annual summer musical held for the last 23 years. They have presented productions with companies as large as 125 members including cast, crew, orchestra, and staff who come together to build a production. The Warrick County Summer Musical takes pride in its inclusion of a very diverse group of students, with a variety of different backgrounds and needs, into their "Summer Musical Family". *Nominated by: Sarah Klumper*

### COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD

**BRIDGE (EVPL)**—BRIDGE (Building Respect & Integrity in Diverse Greater Evansville) is a community activist group focusing on equity and diversity. Working with EVPL, they conducted a series of presentations called Understanding Privilege and Bias, that investigated White Privilege. There were 6 presentations of the program with videos, followed by group discussions. BRIDGE brought these difficult conversations to a safe place in order to foster positive relationships, understanding, and dialogue across the diverse Evansville community. *Nominated by: Don Crankshaw*

**Bridges out of Poverty**—Bridges out of Poverty introduces the community to a framework for understanding poverty. Bridges out of Poverty has been the catalyst for programs such as the community poverty simulation, "30 Days of Poverty," and many other initiatives throughout our surrounding counties. They believe the role of community is crucial in building wealth and prosperity and must be included in discussions about ending poverty. This work transcends into all sectors, being the "bridge" that connects people to resources, education, & opportunities. *Nominated by: Emily Parker*

**cMoe's Children's March on Evansville**—The Children's March on Evansville was created by the Children's Museum of Evansville as a platform to amplify the voices of youth on social justice issues. A rally is held before the march where students share their hopes that embody the slogan, "Love, Not Hate," and art supplies are provided in order to make signs to help promote individual messages of equality. Because of the success of the march, cMoe is the first organization in the state to be granted access into the Cultural Competency Learning Institute, which aims to generate organizational change in the arenas of equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives. *Nominated by: Nathan McCullough-Haddix*

**Community Produce Give Away- All Saints Catholic Parish**—As part of the church's health ministry and outreach team, All Saints Catholic Parish began a project called Bountiful Blessings. This project invited the congregation's members to bring in fresh produce from their gardens to share with neighbors. In the summer of 2019, they partnered with Seton Harvest and fresh produce was brought to the campus of All Saints once a month enabling neighbors to have easy access to garden bounty at no cost. *Nominated by: Amy Hanson*

# Nominees, continued

**Dia de los Muertos Celebration**—Inspired by celebrations while growing up in Tucson, Arizona, Henderson County Judge Executive Brad Schneider desired to create an event to let the growing Tri-State Latino Community know they are an important part of the overall community. The Dia de Los Muertos Celebration came out of a collaboration among local agencies including the City of Henderson Parks Department, the Henderson County School District, the Tourist Department of Henderson, the Downtown Henderson Partnerships, Montessori School in Evansville, Holy Name Church, local Mexican Restaurants and Local Latino Community leaders. This event welcomed close to 2,000 participants allowing all the opportunity to learn more about Hispanic culture. *Nominated by: Abraham Brown*

**E4ME and EVV Cares App**—The EVV Cares and E4ME apps were designed by Delisa Payne and Chris Johnson as a one-stop mobile application for city resources, events, and entertainment. The goal is to foster connection, deliver digital convenience, and provide a positive quality of life to overall better the Evansville community. *Nominated by: Macie Cox & Francesca DiMaggio*

**Evansville Christian Life Center GAIN Initiative - Food Co-Op**—GAIN is a program that improves the lives of those in poverty by teaching them how to budget for groceries. As a part of their regular GAIN meetings, participants will shop for a specified amount of food twice per month for a low fee. GAIN is different than many of the other food banks because its main purpose is to help participants rise above poverty. Once a member has become financially stable, they can teach others using their own experiences. *Nominated by: Beth Kroft*

**Evansville Cursillo**—The Evansville Cursillo is a layperson-led organization that operates under the authority of the Catholic Church. Its role is to teach participants what their role is as a disciple of Jesus Christ, using ongoing events to help its members grow and sustain their relationship with Christ. The Cursillo is committed to changing the individual environments of its members by helping them be agents of change in the environments where they live and work. *Nominated by: Christina Mayes*

**Evansville Junior Football League Colts**—EJFL enables disabled children to achieve their dream of playing football. They were approached by the family of Andrew Marsh, a special needs child who suffers from severe scoliosis (among other challenges), who wanted to join. With the help of league commissioners, coaches, parents, and players, his dream was made a reality. Andrew was an honorary captain for the team, assisted with practice, and was even able to score a touchdown. It inspired our community by showing that if second and third grade kids are able to see through what others may perceive as differences and include Andrew without hesitations, anyone can. *Nominated by: Chuck Capshaw & Brandon McCullough*

**Evansville Watch**—As social media became very popular, in 2009, EvansvilleWatch started posting on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, monitoring local scanner traffic and reporting Evansville/

Vanderburgh County incidents as they happen. They quickly distribute public safety and traffic information in real time to keep over 100,000 followers in the Tri-State area up to date on local events. *Nominated by: Nathaniel Boyett*

**EVPL's Drag Queen Story Hour**—As part of ongoing community social justice and education work, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library executed a children's story hour featuring a local drag performer. The program gained attention on local, state, and national news. On the day of the event, almost 500 children and adults attended. DQSH featured a person of difference delighting and entertaining children and adults through storytelling. It brought cultural awareness to the children and to our entire community and sparked a community discussion about LGBTQ+ issues. *Nominated by: Don Crankshaw*

**Franklin Street Community Garden**—In its sixth year, the Franklin Street community garden continues to literally grow and thrive! By working together, the neighbors, the home school network, the Girl Scouts, and the Franklin Street Events Association created a garden of collaboration. *Nominated by: Amy Word*

**Game Room Alley**—Game Room Alley was funded by the Downtown Evansville Economic Improvement District and is located on the 300 block of Main Street between Enjole Interiors and Encounter Church. The alley opened to the community in July 2019 as a place for all to gather for conversation, relaxation, and to play all kinds of games - from hopscotch to Connect Four and even chess or checkers. *Nominated by: Jeff Threlkeld*

**Gumbo Cook Off**—The Gumbo Cook Off began 7 years ago as a way for the FSEA (Franklin Street Events Association), to give to the community. Gumbo Cook Off is an event where small business partners with a nonprofit to make delicious soup. 1,000 people visit the event, sampling their way up and down the street. \$125,000 has been raised from this fully volunteer-run event! *Nominated by: Amy Word*

**HopeDotCom Monthly LOVE FEAST**—The Love Feast is a free, fresh, hot, community meal provided monthly while live worship music is playing and medical screenings, insurance, & job information are offered by various organizations. Love Feast is impactful to Evansville because it restores HOPE to hopeless people & gives volunteers and organizations a proactive way to be involved in our community. *Nominated by: Kimberly Mann*

**International Food Festival**—The International Food Festival, sponsored by the Islamic Society of Evansville, draws a huge crowd every year to support its goal of donating proceeds to the Tri-State Food Bank. To date, the festival has donated over \$50,000 to the cause of helping to feed the needy in the region. Sharing delicious food and fellowship brings us closer as one community. The charitable goal of supporting the Tri-State Food Bank makes the event that much more meaningful. *Nominated by: Helen Azarian*

# Nominees, continued

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**Jacobsville Workforce Housing Partnership**—The Jacobsville Workforce Housing Partnership is a multi-sector collaboration with the goal of seeing neighborhood transformation and beautification in Jacobsville. They hope to achieve this through the implementation of development efforts, homeowner rehabilitation, and the construction of new, single-family, affordable workforce housing.

*Nominated by: Joshua Case*

**Junior League of Evansville Lunch Program**—The Junior League of Evansville provides free bag lunches to children during the summer. In 2019, JLE prepared 900 lunches, served 650 children, and the remaining 250 were donated. JLE provided lunch for children who may not have access otherwise. JLE continues to understand the impact of Food Insecurity in the local area and work on activities to support those most affected. *Nominated by: Kathleen Irwin*

**Mickey's Kingdom Clean Team**—The Mickey's Kingdom community volunteer committee became aware that the Park posed a safety risk for those who visited because it was being vandalized at night. The community team and WJLT radio responded quickly and asked the community to step forward and create thirty Mickey's Kingdom Clean Teams to clean the park every morning. *Nominated by: Jeff Purdue*

**Night on Main**—Night on Main was held throughout the summer months of 2019. Once a month, the block parties on Main Street offered unique entertainment (a Ferris wheel, ax throwing, and live music!) and opportunities for people to come and experience our growing downtown. Each event welcomed 800+ people of all ages and backgrounds! *Nominated by: Mandy Scheessele*

**Off-Road Motorsports Youth Foundation**—Off-Road Motorsports Youth Foundation (OMYF) is a nonprofit organization and desert race team based in Evansville, IN. OMYF is led by cancer survivor and motorsports enthusiast Preston Lewis, whose dream is to give young people affected by unfortunate life circumstances the opportunity to learn about and connect with the motorsports industry. Through hands-on, off-road motorsports racing experiences, Off-Road Motorsports Youth Foundation gives young people the chance to explore their passions and discover how to apply them in a way that enhances their lives and impacts the community around them. *Nominated by: Sandra Server*

**PZ Express**—The Evansville Promise Zone launched the Promise Zone Express, a new partnership between the Evansville Promise Zone, Bridge Builders Transportation Program, and Missing Pieces CDC. Recognizing that transportation continues to be a barrier for many who live in this "Food Desert," the PZ and its partners found a creative way to address the need. PZE provides free transportation to grocery outlets 2-4 times a month from designated Promise Zone neighborhoods. *Nominated by: Silas Matchem*

**Teacher Locker**—Opened in Fall 2019, Teacher Locker is a community partnership with the EVSC, Public Education Foundation, Area Council PTA, EVSC Foundation, Evansville Teachers Association, and the EVSC Retired Teachers, that offers free classroom supplies and materials to the more than 1,500 teachers in the EVSC. It is known that many teachers often use their own money to purchase classroom supplies and materials that normal school budgets can't cover. Teacher Locker is meant to take the financial burden off teachers so they can concentrate on what matters most—planning and providing engaging lessons for the more than 22,000 students enrolled in the EVSC.

*Nominated by: Sara DeWitt*

**TEDxEvansville**—TEDxEvansville has provided over 60 talks to the community with many areas of interest covered. It gives local speakers the chance to spread their ideas to a local audience with videos of the talks shared all over the world. TEDxEvansville is organized by a volunteer group of community advocates who are committed to spotlighting bright minds, meaningful conversations, and change.

*Nominated by: Sarah Kluemper*

**UE & WNIN's Community Changemaker Challenge**—The Community Changemaker Challenge is a partnership between the University of Evansville and WNIN to bring the empowering experience of Changemaking to the community at large. The Challenge is a new and impactful project for our community to inspire our region's residents to propose ideas to make Evansville more fun & exciting.

*Nominated by: Mitch Lewis & Brooksie Smith*

**Vanderburgh County Crime Victim Resources (VCCVR)**—The Vanderburgh County Crime Victim Resources (VCCVR) website is a resource for victims connecting them with the appropriate services of local agencies and charities. Many victims do not know their rights. This website provides this information at no cost.

*Nominated by: Katarina Book*

**Wall of Lights**—The Wall of Lights was part of Downtown Evansville's holiday themed decor for 2019. Funded by the Downtown Evansville Economic Improvement District, The Wall of Lights was a 30 foot-high and 40 foot-wide LED light installation that filled in the 'missing' buildings on the 200 Block of Main Street. The lights turned the area into a vibrant destination that attracted hundreds of people and created a sense of community giving residents and visitors a special experience. *Nominated by: Andrew Carnahan & Audrie Burkett*

**Women's Equality Day Annual Celebration**—The Women's Equality Committee is in the planning stage for the centennial celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. They take responsibility to ensure awareness for equal rights for all women. The event is designed to inspire young women in high school and lower grades to pursue STEM education while helping to develop a deeper understanding that their capabilities are limitless.

*Nominated by: Sheila Huff*

# Nominees, continued

**Young Leaders United Dodgeball Benefit Battle**—Each year, Young Leaders United hosts a benefit dodgeball tournament, engaging local businesses and individuals. The event has been held the past two years and has seen 31 teams compete not only in dodgeball, but in a costume contest and for a team spirit award. All proceeds for the YLU Benefit Battle go toward education programs for local youth.

*Nominated by: Sarah Kluemper & Chuck Capshaw*

## EDUCATION

**7 Sisters**—7 Sisters is a nonprofit project that was founded and developed by seven women that each lost a sibling to overdose and/or suicide. This group of women came together to carry a message of awareness about addiction and have tirelessly volunteered to share their experiences. They speak to youth groups, schools, jails, churches, and recovery centers and have inspired the community by candidly sharing their grief, concerns, and hope. *Nominated by: Lisa Seif*

**Berry Global Manufacturing Program at Harrison High School**—For the second year, Berry Global will provide a semester-long program for Harrison High School seniors focused on preparing students for a career in manufacturing. The students receive instruction on manufacturing, logistics, and operations, and at the completion of the program, Berry Global hires the students for a probationary period where they mentor them toward full-time employment. This program betters our community by offering an opportunity to students who lack a clear career path after high school graduation.

*Nominated by: Leslie Wilhelmus*

**Delaware/Dream Center Partnership**—In June 2017, the Dream Center partnered with Delaware Elementary School to personally tutor students, as well as to come into the school to create lasting relationships with the students they're tutoring. They work with small groups, interacting with students during lunch and recess and in after-school programs. By creating these relationships, the Dream Center is able to address any obstacles students may face, in the classroom or otherwise. *Nominated by: Sara DeWitt*

**DNA Lab**—Evansville African American Museum's DNA Lab is a Saturday leadership academy for middle school students promoting a greater probability of personal success and a collective sense of community through cultural, educational, and social enrichment. The Lab has identified a gap in cultural educational experiences for young people and has taken steps to ensure that students have the opportunity to learn and experience those missing pieces. Spearheaded by local young leaders, they facilitate the program with activities, speakers, and community outings.

*Nominated by: Karese Johnson*

**Festival of Nations**—The Festival of Nations provides students from diverse backgrounds a platform to share their culture and experience other cultures. The festival seeks to engage people across multiple cultures. The students represent and share every facet of their country, from food to dance to cultural greetings. This program promotes and encourages the benefits of a diverse population.

*Nominated by: Aaron Huff*

**Junior League of Evansville Women's Conference**—Junior League of Evansville (JLE) sponsored a Women's Conference: Leadership, Empowerment and Career in Evansville, IN on August 15th, 2019. This 3-tiered conference program was designed to inspire and empower women at every stage of their leadership journey. The day included recognizing business women in the area and providing workshops to develop skills covering all stages of a woman's career.

*Nominated by: Kathleen Irwin*

**2020 National High School Mock Trial Championship (The Indiana Bar Foundation and Evansville Bar Association)**—Academic competitions help our high school students gain valuable knowledge and skills beyond the classroom. The Evansville Bar Association sponsors a regional competition, where area students participate in a simulated trial. In May of 2020 Evansville will serve as the host city for the 2020 National High School Mock Trial Competition! As the host city, Evansville will welcome thousands of competitors, coaches, and supporters. Hundreds of area attorneys and judges volunteer to provide this experience to the state and national winning teams from throughout the world when they arrive in Evansville.

*Nominated by: Scott Wylie*

**A New Generation Remembers: A Unique Holocaust Experience**—This traveling student art exhibit consists of Holocaust murals created by students at summer camp at Western Kentucky University. The exhibit was displayed at Temple Adath B'nai Israel. 3000 students, teachers, and members of the public viewed the murals there or attended one of the many events in the community. Over 400 people attended the "Afternoon of Remembrance," where Holocaust survivor Fred Gross spoke about his family's experience fleeing the Nazis. CYPRESS produces a variety of programs for educators, students, and the Tri-State community to promote understanding and acceptance. *Nominated by: Sandy Lasher*

**On-Site Learning Alliance**—The Literacy Center's On-site Learning Alliance takes its Basic Adult Literacy program to the people of the Tri-State. Adults struggling with reading and writing can attend free weekly tutoring sessions in public, nearby locations. Currently set up in EVPL Central, EVPL McCollough, Tepe Park, and Alexandrian Public Libraries, the Alliance seeks to remove the barriers that potential learners face when wanting to further their education with multiple, conveniently-located satellite locations.

*Nominated by: Marilyn Brenton*



# Nominees, continued

**Piggies for Presents**—Piggies for Presents began in 2018 with first grader Orhan Sarol, who wanted to use money from his piggy bank to buy toys for kids in our community. He invited his classmates to join him, then it grew to the class below him. Together, they bought around 220 toys that were donated to Young and Established's Toy Drive. Each year the project grows and impacts more local children.  
*Nominated by: Megan Collins*

**Reitz Memorial High School Football Team**—Reitz Memorial Football coaches, players and student managers have created a tremendous team culture of servant leadership. Selflessness, genuine concern for others, the importance of family, brotherhood, and love for one another is best represented by the team's connection with freshman Sam Schulz who battles epidermolysis bullosa and team videographer Aaron Coomer who lives with cerebral palsy.  
*Nominated by: Darci Christofferson, Missy Neighbors, Greg Pence, Michelle Petrig, & Jeff Purdue*

**Technician.Academy's 2019 Respect is Learned© In The Pits**—Each year, Technician.Academy invites college automotive students to apply to win a weekend with Randy Meyer Racing at the Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis, IN, the largest drag racing event in the world. Contest winners get to work alongside the race team's pit crew, gaining hands-on experience on the team's Top


Alcohol dragsters. In 2019, Megan Meyer of Randy Meyer Racing won the race, giving the two contest winners an even more unique once-in-a-lifetime experience.  
*Nominated by: Brian Server*

**University of Evansville's ChangeLab Program**—The purpose of UE's ChangeLab is to allow students to bridge the gap between academia and the real world while benefiting the community at large. Individual ChangeLab projects touch both the business community and nonprofit organizations by bringing expertise, fresh perspectives, and energy that is supplied by impassioned student participants. ChangeLab projects are wide-ranging in their scope, but all are aimed at producing a positive result in the community.  
*Nominated by: Keith Leonhardt*

**"Walk a Mile in My Shoes" Refugee Camp Simulation**—Students from Harrison and Bosse participated in a simulation where they had to "flee a country" and "cross a border" to get to a refugee camp. Students encounter border guards, immigration judges, and then go to jail where they have to bribe their way out. Registration to the camp was coded and the people spoke a "foreign language." Emotions were powerful, and most importantly, empathy was developed for families who are going through this worldwide.  
*Nominated by: Aaron Huff*

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# Nominees, continued

## GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SERVICE, & ENVIRONMENT

**Aquatic Task Force**—For the past three years, the Mayor's Aquatic Task Force has pulled together members of the aquatics community to research, plan, design, and coordinate a vision for the replacement of the Lloyd pool. Their efforts have ended in the groundbreaking of a new, state-of-the-art, \$28.4-million-dollar facility in the Jacobsville neighborhood. The facility will have a 50-meter-stretch competitive pool, a recreation pool, and a splash pad area to fully meet the needs of all members of the aquatics community.

**Nominated by:** *Erinn Jankowski*

**Commission on Homelessness - Marketing Committee**—

The Commission on Homelessness has several committees to benefit the community. The Marketing Committee, chaired by Jason Emmerson, was formed to better coordinate the Commission's communication, branding, and purpose with two founding ideas: to better educate the community through a greater marketing campaign and community collaboration, and to create an awareness campaign around the topic of panhandling, which is often confused or combined with homelessness. **Nominated by:** *Christina Mayes*

**EPD SWAT Challenge**—The EPD SWAT Challenge is an annual obstacle course run in downtown Evansville. There are anywhere from 15-20 obstacles created for participants throughout the course. The participants have fun while helping raise support for local EPD officers and their families. The proceeds help cover expenses for police equipment and training, but at other times the resources raised can go to assist a police officer whose family might be in need due to medical expenses or other illness. **Nominated by:** *Kris Holzmeyer*

**PUSH-IT - Promoting Urban Soil Health in Towns**—PUSH-IT is a group of citizens, professionals, agricultural specialists, and conservationists who promote urban conservation and soil health. Through education efforts, PUSH-IT is promoting a better community starting with the very foundation of life. All PUSH-IT meetings and programs are open to the public.

**Nominated by:** *Randy Gerth*

**SPEAK: An Explorative Lecture Series**—SPEAK is a lecture and discussion series held by EVPL that brings in authors, thought leaders, and speakers throughout the year. Through the SPEAK initiative, EVPL hopes to further our vision of communities united through shared exploration and understanding by supporting and encouraging conversation. SPEAK encourages our community to speak up and speak together. In 2019, SPEAK focused on equity, diversity and inclusion by bringing recognizable authors, experts and speakers to speak on diverse and sometimes difficult subjects.

**Nominated by:** *Don Crankshaw*

**Vanderburgh Humane Society Low-Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic**—

The Spay & Neuter Clinic is working to provide spay and neutering services at a low cost to combat pet overpopulation. It deeply affects people when they cannot afford a private veterinarian for their pet, or they face the burden of repeated unwanted litters. The Clinic helps fill a gap in service for those families. Anyone can have their pet spayed or neutered at the VHS Davidson Rausch Clinic, no matter their residency, income, or any other factor.

**Nominated by:** *Amanda Coburn*

**Victim Assistance Unit**—The Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office is dedicated to providing assistance to minimize the pain of difficult situations; it is crucial to the well-being of victims. The Victim Assistance Unit never turns anyone away, and services are free. Advocates build relationships with victims and have a duty to represent their best interests, but more importantly they lend a shoulder to cry on when it's needed most. No matter your gender, skin color, or economic status, the Victim Assistance Program sees you as a human that will conquer this difficult situation.

**Nominated by:** *Regene Newman*

## HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

**Albion's Primary Prevention Program**—Albion's Primary Prevention program provides education and training for youth and adults to prevent first-time perpetration and victimization while implementing evidence-based strategies that begin on the personal level. Albion utilizes Safe Dates, Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM), and Athletes as Leaders curricula in middle/high schools. These curricula teach skills to develop healthy dating, positive communication, anger management, and conflict resolution. Participants of all programs learn how to increase awareness of abuse, improve bystander intervention skills, resolve conflict, use calming strategies, participate in the prevention of community violence, and equip youth with the skills and resources to help themselves or friends in abusive relationships. **Nominated by:** *Kristie Byrns*

**ARG Lemonade Stand**—AIDS Resource Group (ARG) leads by joining with other organizations to promote the message of healthy behaviors within the Evansville community. Last summer, ARG offered a unique outreach through their Lemonade Stand. This multi-layered outreach offered cold drinks and snacks as well as harm reduction kits. As the weather turned colder, the beverage changed to hot chocolate, and the giveaways included hats, gloves, socks, and scarves. Hepatitis C vaccines were also offered at no charge which helped to impact the containment of this disease within the community. **Nominated by:** *Helen Azarian*

# Nominees, continued

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**Be a Santa to a Senior**—Be a Santa to a Senior was started by the Home Instead Senior Care Foundation. Throughout the years, this program has provided gifts to seniors in the community who are lonely, financially challenged, or less likely to receive a gift at Christmas. In Christmas 2018, Be a Santa to a Senior provided over a thousand seniors with gifts, spreading love and holiday cheer among the seniors in our community who are less fortunate.

**Nominated by:** *Carlos Caballero*

**Community Health Needs Assessment 2019**—Community Health Needs Assessment identifies recurring causes of poor health, then focuses resources to drive positive change. Deaconess, ECHO Community Health, St. Vincent Evansville, United Way of SWIN, Vanderburgh County Health Department, and Welborn Baptist Foundation worked together to create one collective survey and action plan. This is the third CHNA completed as a group effort, now nearly a decade of strategic efforts to improve our greatest health issues. Our leaders put community before competition to maximize results for the people. **Nominated by:** *Becca Scott*

**Deaconess MAP (Medication Assistance Program)**—The Medication Assistance Program (MAP) is a free service provided by Deaconess that helps qualifying patients get their medications for little or no cost. During the last three fiscal years, MAP staff members secured nearly \$91 million worth of medication and copay assistance for those in need. The program helps uninsured and underinsured patients, as well as those who cannot currently afford the medications they need. MAP serves everyone: the elderly, the uninsured, and even the middle class population have difficulty affording expensive medications. **Nominated by:** *Linzee Smiley-McIntosh*

**E-Ville OCR**—The Evansville Obstacle Course Racing Club (E-Ville OCR) provides free workout routines and a support group for individuals interested in improving their general fitness or learning about the sport of Obstacle Course Racing. Their group always meets individuals where they are and focuses on holistic self-improvement. **Nominated by:** *Scott Cohorst*

**Evansville Recovery Alliance**—Evansville Recovery Alliance is a peer-led organization dedicated to the implementation of harm reduction interventions, public health strategies, drug policy transformation, and justice reform in Vanderburgh County. ERA was created in May 2019, and within the first six months they distributed 1,000 doses of free naloxone during public education meetings. **Nominated by:** *Nate Boyett, Margeaux Rennels, & Lavender Timmons*

**"Fresh Fruit Friday & Power Protein Peanutbutter"**—This program was developed and started this past summer by 16-year-olds Amanda Deutsch and Emily English. They went on a trip to Heifer International Ranch to learn about food insecurity and were inspired to help Fulton Square Boys & Girls Club with supplying take-home

food bags for weekends with fresh fruit and jars of peanut butter, since the weekend food backpack program is not available during the summer. **Nominated by:** *Jennifer Deutsch*

**Friday Morning with Patchwork**—Friday Morning with Patchwork is an outreach program that Patchwork Central provides on the first Friday morning of every month at EVPL's Central branch. Patchwork staff provide free blood pressure readings and offer simple health advice and referrals to anyone who passes by their table. They particularly aim to reach marginalized citizens in our community and provide compassionate assistance to those in need.

**Nominated by:** *Helen Azarian*

**The Gobbler Gathering**—For 97 years the Evansville Rescue Mission has hosted its annual Gobbler Gathering, feeding the Tri-State's less fortunate and hungry at Thanksgiving. This year a record-breaking 2,300 food boxes and bags were distributed. This large collaborative effort demonstrates the generosity of those in our community and allows the ERM to distribute approximately 161,000 pounds of food the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. **Nominated by:** *Joshua Nichols*

**Hangers**—Hangers is a clothing resource committed to serving EVSC students in need by providing them everyday living essentials that would otherwise be unaffordable. By providing clothing, school supplies, and hygiene products, Hangers strives to improve the self-esteem and confidence of each student served, and in turn, ensures greater student success and fulfillment. Hangers gives all EVSC students the ability to look and feel their best, every day.

**Nominated by:** *Noah Stubbs*

**Health Science Institute**—The Health Science Institute immerses high-achieving high school students in the world of health care. This two-week-long program allows students to experience medical careers first hand and helps them make informed future career decisions. By interacting with healthcare professionals, participating in clinical experiences, and shadowing, students complete an entire semester of course work in two weeks and can earn one semester of high school credit in Advanced Applied Science. Alumni frequently report their early exposure either sparked or intensified a calling to serve others through a career in health sciences.

**Nominated by:** *Karen Peake*

**Isaiah 117 House**—Isaiah 117 House will be a community-funded transitional home for children in foster care. It will give workers a safe, clean, home-like environment to find placement for children that have been removed from their homes. There will be trained volunteers to provide love for the children, and to feed and reassure them during the transition process. The foster family will then be able to pick up children that are fed, rested, and calmer than in past situations, with the necessary items needed to help get their stay off to a better start. **Nominated by:** *LeeAnn Borchelt*



# Nominees, continued

**Komen Cares**—Komen Cares is a program to assist people undergoing treatment for breast cancer with financial assistance for utilities, groceries, and transportation. It was started as a pilot program for all Komen Affiliates across the country and is now being rolled out nationwide. Komen Cares does not discriminate against sex, race, age, religion, or any other defined minority. The program is open to any current breast cancer patient undergoing active treatment that also meets the financial requirement of living within 250% of poverty as defined by the federal government.

*Nominated by: Sheila Seiler*

**Make-A-Wish Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana**—Make-A-Wish® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy. Wishes are more than just a nice thing—a granted wish is a part of a holistic treatment method that empowers children to fight harder against their illnesses. A wish experience carries the potential to not only impact the life and wellness of a child, but also to reinforce the spirit of compassion within a community through the joy of a child.

*Nominated by: Jonathan Lee*

**Mobile Food Pantry**—This project was started with a goal that “no child goes to bed hungry.” MFP supplies non-perishable food that requires minimal cooking to families in need. The Islamic Society Of Evansville and Muslim Association Of Southern Indiana For Health Advancement collaborated with MFP to provide nourishment to those who would otherwise be affected by hunger, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

*Nominated by: Abdul Samee Mohammed*

**New Ronald McDonald House at Deaconess Gateway**—

Deaconess and The Women's Hospital collaborated to build a new Ronald McDonald House at Deaconess Gateway to serve families of hospitalized children who desire to be close to their loved ones. In addition to having a place to sleep, families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House don't pay for services or have to meet any criteria other than being parents or legal guardians of a minor child who is hospitalized. Additionally, volunteerism at RMH encourages a variety of organizations and social groups to provide meals and services for guests at the home. *Nominated by: Pam Hight*

**Ride for Memories**—Walnut Creek Alzheimer's Special Care Center in Evansville, IN conducted a fundraising event for the Alzheimer's Association in 2019 called Ride For Memories. The mission was to raise awareness and support for the families in our community who are affected by Alzheimer's and all forms of dementia. The impact of this disease inspired the motorcycle community to ride in unison in order to raise \$3,000 for the Alzheimer's Association in the Evansville Chapter. *Nominated by: Carlos Caballero*

**Safe Space for Developmentally-Delayed Patients**—Deaconess Cross Pointe's “Eddie's Room” is a safe space for developmentally-delayed patients. This space was unofficially named in honor of a past patient that sparked a collaborative effort that spanned several departments throughout Deaconess Health System. While being admitted to Deaconess Gateway for several months, “Eddie” struggled with bouts of physical aggression and would damage property. The room is utilized to house patients while mental health treatment strategies and transition plans are established and implemented. *Nominated by: Linzee Smiley-McIntosh*

**Simulation Education Program at The Women's Hospital**—

The Women's Hospital Simulation Education Program utilizes high fidelity mannequins to provide a safe learning environment for clinicians. The program completes an onsite assessment of health care facilities in the region and develops customized training according to the specific needs and clinical goals of the facility. The program implements evidence-based practices which result in improved outcomes for high-risk obstetrical and neonatal needs, increasing survival rates for both. This team strives to ensure that everyone has access to the education needed to provide positive outcomes. *Nominated by: Lindsey Johnson*



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Lawrence Taylor, *Merrill Lynch*

Susan Vaughn, *Indiana Economic Development Corporation*

Otha Warren, *North Park Corporation*

Amy Word-Smith, *Lamasco Bar and Amy's on Franklin*

Kelsey Wright, *Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation*

Lifetime Member – Darrell Ragland, *Community Volunteer*

Honorary Director – Ryan Hatfield, *Indiana General Assembly*

Honorary Director – Court Kull, *Fifth Third Bank*

Honorary Director – Mayor Lloyd Winnecke,  
*City of Evansville*

## PAST PRESIDENTS

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Suzanne A. Nicholson, 1976-77

William R. Burleigh, 1977-78

N. Keith Emge, 1977-78

David L. Rice, 1978-79

H. Lee Cooper, 1979-80

Suzanne K. Cottone Klapp, 1980-81

Randall D. Wheeler, 1981-82

William Jackson, 1982-83

Marilyn R. Schenetzke, 1983-84

Andrew R. Present, 1984-85

Dale McConaughay, 1985-86

Janice K. Davies, 1986-87

Alan H. Newman, 1987-88

Terry B. Haynie, 1988-89

Michael F. O'Brien, 1989-90

Steve H. Parker, 1990-91

Victor M. Jackson, 1991-92

Jeffrey A. Wilhite, 1992-93

Nancy Gaunt, 1993-94

Jeffrey L. Lake, 1994-95

Michael W. Allee, 1995-96

James S. Morris, 1996-97

Stephen P. Lintzenich, 1997-98

William M. Brown, 1998-99

Ronald W. Seib, 1999-00

Barbara Coyle Williams, 2000-01

Charles Harrington, 2001-02

Lu Porter, 2002-03

Jeffrey A. Berger, 2003-04

Lois W. Duncan, 2004-05

Gregg Utley, 2005-06

D. Stephen Parker, 2006-07

Kathryn Daniel Schymik, 2007-08

Eric Williams, 2008-09

Tom Bailey, 2009-10

Cheryl Steinbacher, 2010

Sean Georges, 2010-11

Greg Freyberger, 2011-13

Court Kull, 2013-14

Linda Negro 2014-15

Shawn Collins 2015-16

Shawn Norris 2016-18

Jennifer Briggs 2018-19

# The Jefferson Awards

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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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