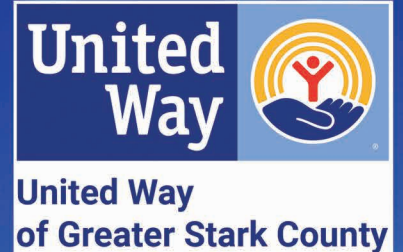


NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

APRIL 15 - 21, 2018

Sponsored by



HOW WILL YOU BENEFIT FROM VOLUNTEERING?

Volunteering has many commonly known benefits: you become more engaged in your community, feel a stronger sense of purpose, and a greater overall satisfaction knowing you’ve helped someone less fortunate than yourself. While those are strong enough reasons to volunteer, research shows that volunteering in your community can improve your individual health. If you’re recruiting or organizing a group of work colleagues, the benefits only increase!

Volunteering offers some of the following health benefits:

- **Increased happiness**, decreased stress: Volunteering and knowing your work is making a difference in the life of another person triggers an overwhelming sense of contentment similar to a good workout. Both of these activities prompt a release of dopamine in the brain, which also aids in the reduction of stress.
- **Relief for symptoms of mental illness:** Volunteering encourages socialization, a strengthening of a sense of community, and bonding with others. These activities help alleviate loneliness and have been shown in studies to help people

- suffering from mental illnesses such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), depression, and anger management issues.
- **Decreased risk of Alzheimer’s:** Research from the Journal of Gerontology indicates that aiding in social services can improve the brain’s elasticity, allowing it to remain active into old age. This in turn reduces the risk of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease in volunteers aged 65 or older.
 - **Weight loss:** Even the smallest volunteer activities require a little more movement than we get working at our desks. Regular volunteering adds up to more calories burned on a normal basis, and coupled with the reduction of stress, it becomes easier to maintain or even lose weight.

If you’re thinking of planning a volunteer initiative at your workplace, here are a few of the benefits your organization can reap from doing so:

- **Increased employee engagement:** When companies encourage their team to participate in volunteer programs, it increases employee satisfaction and morale. This, in turn, leads to increased

- profitability and productivity! A report by Realized Worth stated that companies who more actively engage their employees saw “their profitability jump by 16%, general productivity was 18% higher than other companies, customer loyalty was 12% higher, and quality increased by 60%.” Greater Engagement also leads to reduced staff turnover.
- **Heightened corporate visibility:** When a company has a well-established volunteer program, it can do wonders for their reputation in the community in which they are based. A successfully- implemented volunteer event is an excellent topic for local media to cover and share with your community. A well-run program can show the world your company cares about its employees, teamwork, and public service. From a marketing standpoint, it can also increase brand awareness and offer subject matter for content creation.
 - **Appeal to younger employees:** It’s well-established that the millennial generation (ages 16 to 36) is committed to making a difference in the world around them. A Stanford Graduate School of Business study states that “graduates are willing

to sacrifice an average of 14.4 percent of their expected salaries to work at socially responsible companies.” Millennials view social responsibility as something almost as important as fair pay and good benefits when pursuing employment at a workplace. Showing potential employees your workplace cares about your community will help draw in and retain new talent.

Want to find opportunities to get involved in by yourself, or with a group of colleagues from your workplace? Check out United Way of Greater Stark County’s Volunteer Resource Center at www.uwstark.org/volunteer for opportunities nearby! Find out more information below.

Sources:
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The list of new volunteer opportunities is always growing, so check back often!

UNITED WAY OF GREATER STARK COUNTY VOLUNTEER RESOURCE CENTER ORGANIZATIONS

Absolute Hospice	330-498-8075	Catholic Charities Serving Portage And Stark Counties	330-491-0896	JRC Adult Day Center	330-455-3873	Stark County CASA/GAL Program	330-451-7786
Access Health Stark County		Child And Adolescent Behavioral Health - OH - Canton	330-454-7917	JRC Learning Center	330-452-8376	Stark County Community Action Agency	330-454-1676
Adaptive Sports Program Of Ohio	330-262-1200	Children’s Dyslexia Center Of Canton		Lake Township Historical Society		Stark County Community Action Agency (SCCAA)	330-456-6218 ext 156
Akron Zoo	330-375-2550	Coleman Professional Services	330-452-3194	Louisville Area YMCA	330-875-1611	Stark County Court Of Common Pleas - Reentry Court	330-451-7737
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank	330-535-6900	CommQuest Services, Inc.	330-455-0374	Make-A-Way, Inc.	330- 837-0650	Stark County Family Court CASA/GAL Program	330-451-7282
Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter	330-823-7223	Community Harvest of Stark County	330-493-0800	Massillon Family YMCA	330-837-5116	Stark County Hunger Task Force	330-455-6667
Alliance Community Gardens	330-680-2244	Compass Sexual Assault Education, Prevention & Active		Massillon Museum	330-833-4061	Stark County Probate Court-Court Angels	330-451-7744
Alliance Community Pantry		Crossroads Hospice	330-899-9100	Meals On Wheels Of Stark & Wayne Counties	330-832-7220	Stark Parks	330-409-8096
Alliance for Children & Families	330-821-6332	Domestic Violence Project, Inc.	330-445-2000	Mercy Medical Center	330-489-1106	StarkFresh	330-353-8793
Alliance YMCA	330-437-5678	Early Childhood Resource Center - OH - Canton	330-491-3272	Meyers Lake YMCA	330-454-9018	The First Tee of Canton	330-452-5331
Alzheimer’s Association Greater East Ohio Area Chapter	330-650-0552	Edward Jones Investments	330-430-0067	Minerva Area YMCA		The Salvation Army Canton	330-453-0159
American Red Cross Stark & Muskingum Lakes Chapter	330-453-0146	EN-RICH-MENT		Monroe Community Center	330-412-0584	The Salvation Army Of Alliance	330-823-5188
Arthritis Foundation	330-837-7615	Eric Snow Family YMCA	234-214-0418	Mt. Pleasant Community Garden	330-499-5131	The Salvation Army Of Massillon	330-833-6473
Beacon Charitable Pharmacy	330-445-1086	Faith Family Church		National First Ladies’ Library	330-452-0876	The Stock Pile	330-455-4585
Beyond Our Boundaries	330-455-8111	Faith in Action of Western Stark County	330-837-2705	Palmer Test	330-605-2463	The Wilderness Center	330-359-5235
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Summit, Medina & Stark Counties	330-376-6503	Habitat For Humanity East Central Ohio	330-915-5888	Partners Against Trafficking of Humans Stark	330-491-0896	TiQVAH Hands Of Hope	330-353-9697
Blue Moon Non-Profit	330-936-1729	Hammer & Nails	330-453-6277	Pathway Caring for Children	330-493-0083	TomTod Ideas	
Boys & Girls Club Of Massillon, Inc.	330-833-4395	HandsOn Connect Cloud Solutions	813-370-0094	Peace For Pets	330-484-9537	Total Living Center	330-455-3663
Canton Calvary Mission	330-454-8610	Hartville Thrift Shoppe	330-877-2769	Pegasus Farm	330-935-2300	Towpath Trail YMCA	330-879-0800
Canton City School District	330-438-2581	Hattie Larlham	330-840-6844	Pro Football Hall Of Fame Marathon	330-687-1519	United Way of Greater Stark County	330-491-0445
Canton Development Partnership	330-458-2091	Hoover Historical Center	330-490-7435	Project REBUILD, Inc.	330-588-3205	United Way’s 2-1-1 Information & Referral	2-1-1 or 330-491-9997
Canton Museum Of Art	330-453-7666	Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center	330-823-7487	Reach Out And Read	330-543-0760	VITA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance	330-499-9989
Canton Palace Theatre	330-454-8172	ICAN Housing	330-455-9100	Rebuilding Together Northeast Ohio - OH - Canton	330-470-8800	Walsh University	
Canton Parks And Recreation	330-456-4521	Jackson Township Recycling Station	330-833-7365	SAM Center - Serving Area Military	330-956-6162	YMCA of Central Stark County	
Canton-Stark County THRIVE		Jeff Palmer Test 2	330-605-2463	Stark County Board Of Developmental Disabilities	330-477-5200	YMCA Of Western Stark County	330-837-5116
Carroll County Park District	330-627-8046					YWCA Canton	330-453-7644

CELEBRATING PEOPLE IN ACTION

National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, has been recognized for more than 40 years. The celebration is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities.

The Canton Repository, with support from United Way of Greater Stark County, is recognizing outstanding volunteers in Stark County. In early April, a community-wide call for nominations went out through the pages of The Canton Repository and at www.starkcountyvolunteers.com. Nominations were gathered and a selection committee comprised of editorial staff and community members selected the finalists and winners spotlighted in this special section.

Nominations were made in the following categories:

Volunteer of the Year

The Repository recognizes that our community is a better place because of our volunteers. This award recognizes an individual who has made an impact on our community that goes far beyond normal volunteering. Over the past several years this person has excelled at making a positive impact that has changed the course of our region for the better. This individual has exhibited exceptional involvement which could include outstanding service at a particular event, leadership in an initiative or project, increased involvement in a volunteer role or sustained, long-term commitment to a particular volunteer role that is worthy of recognition.

Youth Volunteer Leadership

Youth volunteers are not only the leaders of tomorrow – they are the leaders of today.

We will recognize one outstanding young leader from Stark County through the Youth Volunteer Leadership Award who demonstrates outstanding volunteer leadership in their school, community or group and is 15-21 years old.

Behind-the-Scenes Volunteer

There are the volunteers you see out in the community, and there are the ones who work to make sure that person has what they need to succeed. This award will go to a volunteer who may not always be seen collecting money or managing events, but who assists with essential office or behind-the-scenes work. This individual is the glue of the organization, giving the organization the ability to be on the front lines without worry of completing routine tasks that are necessary to their success.

Impact

This is open to any project, event or person that has made a significant difference to the community in a relatively short amount of time.

This nomination should tell a story about the difference or life changing impact the nominee has made to a person, community, or group in the past year.

Collaboration of the Year

Any volunteering project, event or activity that has been organized by two or more groups that came together to make an impact. The nomination should demonstrate examples of effective teamwork, how each group contributed to the activity and shows how the project and community benefited from the collaboration.

Outside the Box

We like big ideas, and we love big ideas that make Stark County better. This award will recognize a volunteer project, event or activity that has demonstrated ‘outside the box’ thinking, shown innovation and creativity, that has impacted our area in a big way.

Aultman
712498



WHY I DO IT

A Conversation with Bill Cook, United Way of Greater Stark County Board of Directors Chair

How long have you been involved with United Way?

Since 1979. I was involved in United Way of Cleveland, United Way of Medina, United Way of Harrisburg and United Way of Lima. I started here in 1997 in allocations and then I went into fundraising because the leaders of the community knew me, and they knew that I knew people, so they asked me if I would get involved in the Annual Campaign. In 2007 I became campaign co-chair for a year. That was eye-opening, both personally and professionally. Personally, it opened my eyes to the whole county - where I saw programs for students in Alliance, or for abused women in Canton, or for senior citizens in Massillon - and how we get involved in all of the communities.



In allocations I learned how United Way distributes the money and assures that it's being used properly. This helped me in the way of fundraising, because when I go out and ask people for money, I can look them in the eye with sincerity and honesty and say, "We make their money work harder, and we hold agencies accountable." As an organization, we're very frugal.

You said United Way of Greater Stark County is frugal. Can you tell us what you mean by that?

People hear about some agencies and nonprofits that are raising money, but not actually using the money to do what they say they're going to do. At United Way, we want to make sure that if someone has a passion - whatever that passion is - we make sure that for every dollar they give, 86¢ is going to fund that passion, it's going to provide that service. I think that's good to know, it's important information. And when you think about the return, the amount of money we bring back to the community, it just helps us do even more.

I think we've evolved from a social service support organization, to now trying to solve issues rather than just treat issues. We have to be very cognizant of the community needs, because our financial supporters have many opportunities to give of their treasure. We also give people the opportunity to give of their talent, too and that's the one area in which I'd like to see more people getting involved. Whether it be with us or with other organizations, giving money is very much appreciated and respected, but we also need more people to get personally involved to really solve the problems in our community.

How would you describe your experience as a Campaign Co-Chair?

It was rewarding, it was scary, it was a roller coaster of emotions. I was afraid I would fail. I came in right after one of the most successful campaigns, led by John Sirpilla - a fantastic individual. The Hoover Company had just left Stark County, so we wouldn't have their campaign contribution. A lot of local people were concerned about their personal worth because of the challenging economy. I was concerned that I'd let people down. But I learned that the community will not let you fail. That's the thing I came away with. Our community will help you to succeed if you just ask people, and get the word out there that you need their help.



Luckily, I had Eric Johnson with me as co-chair, and he had a little bit more of the charismatic trait. He complimented me. I was more of the "grunt" and he was the leader.



What surprised you the most about your work with United Way? Did you have any sort of expectation?

The realization is that you have to have little victories. You're not going to solve the problem in a day, or a week, or a year or even 10 years. But you're going to take steps down the path.

You can take pride in the fact that you're helping people help people. I think the one area in which I wish I could do more is getting the residents of Stark County to realize that United Way is COOL. United Way is one of the best assets they have to help the community go farther. We touch families, we touch children, we touch the business community and the governments.

We're that one organization that's really committed to Stark County. We don't have any agenda other than helping our own residents to succeed - a thriving community where people feel safe, where they feel that their kids are getting a good education. That when we see problems, we look to find a "group think" to solve the problems, rather than just try to think that we can solve it ourselves. And when you engage the community, there's so much energy that comes from that.

Which of United Way of Greater Stark County's programs resonates most with you? Do you have a personal passion?

I would say, trying to help people rise up out of poverty. Because when I first got married, I was living in subsidized housing. I was going to school at night and working during the day, and I had my 2 children. I had a good support



system, and that gave me the resources to rise above that tough situation. Going through that experience taught me that you have to have people you can rely upon, you have to have resources – and if you don't have that, it makes a huge difference. You'll just feel like you're overwhelmed, and why even try? Having that support system makes a person feel, "I have to get out of here for my own benefit. I am worthy of being treated differently." Having that self-worth makes a big difference.

What would you tell someone who doesn't want to support United Way? How do you respond to that?

Philanthropy is an individual decision, but I would say that – if the community in which you live is doing well and people are thriving, the whole community will benefit and rise up. And if you have any type of passion or sense of worth and want to give back, United Way is the one organization where you can either give of your time, or your talent, or both. We ask people to donate because we can move issues with money, but we also move issues with people. The mentoring program, for example; it doesn't take money, it just takes time.

Would you say the people of United Way of Greater Stark County have inspired you?

They challenge me and inspire me. I've learned a lot from Maria, and from everybody here. No one can be an expert about everything. Sometimes we're in our own little world that we don't have our eyes open, we're so focused. A myopic sort of thing. So having that person or group that can open your eyes, that's so important.

This is not an easy organization to be a part of because there are many emotions that come into play. There's passion, there's caring, there's sadness, there's hope. Everything you can think of, and we all want to try and fix everything but unfortunately there isn't enough money to fix everything. But we do the best we can. I'm proud to be associated with everyone here.

I'm involved with other organizations, but United Way has given me the foundation to be more valuable to other organizations. If it wasn't for United Way, I probably would be fumbling around, trying to do what is right. United Way sets the bar, sets the example, sets the standard... for involvement, for participation, for commitment.

mental health
716114

COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR WINNER

Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board and United Way of Greater Stark County Board of Directors

Nominated by: Monica Rose Gwin, Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board

Why do you believe this nominee is worthy of special recognition?

The United Way Financial Prosperity Center, the result of a collaboration of two local volunteer boards — the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board and the United Way of Greater Stark County Board of Directors — has made a substantial impact in helping Stark County residents become financially stable. Opened in January 2017 and located at OhioMeansJobs Stark County, its services are tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual client and focuses on three primary areas: employment counseling and placement, financial education and coaching, and access to income supports and public benefits. This collaboration is an excellent example of bringing two organizations with common missions and goals together to improve the quality of life for people who are struggling. OhioMeansJobs Stark County facilitates job training and career services to create and grow employment opportunities. The Financial Prosperity Center complements and enhances the services available at OhioMeansJobs Stark County while providing additional tools, resources and support to help people achieve and maintain financial stability. The ability to access more services at a one-stop location is truly an added benefit for people in need.

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

The Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board is comprised of individuals who represent business, economic development, education, labor and community organizations. They work in close partnership with Stark and Tuscarawas county commissioners and the mayor of Canton in planning, administering and overseeing workforce development programs funded under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The STWDB sees the value in co-locating these services and in providing “bundled” access to benefits, including financial education and coaching,

along with employment services. Offering these coordinated services will lead to better outcomes for individuals by providing them not only with a job, but also a means to sustain themselves financially from their new employment going forward. The STWDB is committed to being a part of this strategic collaboration. The United Way of Greater Stark County Board of Directors is composed of knowledgeable community leaders who are representative of the entire Stark County area and the communities being served. UWGSC board members give their time and talent to serve as a governing board developing policies that focus on UWGSC’s mission. They also serve as advocates for the organization in a vital fundraising role, as well as being stewards for financial contributions received. The board’s contribution of leadership and vision is invaluable to United Way of Greater Stark County and the communities being served.

Tell us a story that exemplifies the nominee’s extraordinary service and commitment.

Through the foresight of these volunteer boards of directors, the Financial Prosperity Center has provided 1,523 services to more than 700 Stark County residents in its first year of service. These services consist of a series of reinforcing services of both workforce development career services and financial asset-building services. The bundling of services is unique to each individual, as each person’s needs are different. Participants have developed resumes, received interviewing tips, attended career fairs and gained employment. Individuals have accessed tax credits of over \$800,000 and have received refunds totaling more than \$2 million. Beyond this, households have increased their assets in many other ways. They have accessed SNAP benefits, with the average allotment of \$2,385 annually, Medicaid benefits and HEAP benefits. Participants have increased their knowledge and understanding of personal finance concepts by 28 percent. Many have developed and achieved career and financial goals, with an average improvement to their credit score of 56 points. The Financial Prosperity Center sees changes in people’s financial behavior in a way that encourages them to make a long-term commitment to increasing income, decreasing expenses and acquiring assets.

What else should we know about this nominee related to his or her volunteer work?

Many UWGSC board members serve on impact councils that allocate funds to programs and services that are aimed at solving our community’s problems at the root cause. This

process can be grueling and requires months of volunteer hours. In addition to planning, overseeing and administering workforce development programs, many STWDB members volunteer their time by providing guidance and input for career information sessions, job search workshops and job fairs. Connecting job seekers participating in services through OhioMeansJobs Stark County with services offered by the Financial Prosperity Center is a win-win for our community. This volunteer collaboration shows the true spirit

of providing more effective services that give families the tools to sustain financial stability and self-sufficiency.

Visit www.uwstark.org/financial-prosperity-center for more information about this collaboration.



Huntington
715380

BEHIND THE SCENE WINNER

J. Sean Keenan

Nominated by: Maria Duvuvuei

Volunteers for:
Community Legal Aid

Why do you believe this nominee is worthy of special recognition?

When Sean retired from his law practice several years ago, he thought he was moving on to enjoy golf, good food and time with family and friends. He now acknowledges something else was planned for him — something that would become an integral part of his life. He joined Community Legal Aid’s board in 2015. Like many attorneys, he had some idea what Legal Aid was and did, but it wasn’t ingrained as a part of him. In the time since Sean joined our board, he has become a staple in our organization. His leadership helps us continuously seek new and innovative ways to help more people gain fairer and more equal footing in the justice system. His engagement as a donor provides financial backing to the programs and services that give our impoverished neighbors access to an attorney. Donation of his time and talent as a volunteer (pro bono) attorney directly provides many in Stark County with the justice Legal Aid seeks to share with all low-income residents. If you met Sean, you probably wouldn’t see right away his leadership and involvement in our community. His quiet demeanor and gentle persona mean he doesn’t traditionally like to be the center of attention. But talk to him one-on-one about his work with Legal Aid, and you’ll see a spark come alive. Sean staunchly believes a person’s financial wealth shouldn’t determine how well they are able to represent themselves in the court system. He lives out that belief as a board member, a donor and a direct client volunteer, and he never expects recognition or acclaim for it. He is the epitome of a behind-the-scenes advocate and very deserving of the Volunteer Recognition Award.

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

Sean has been involved with Legal Aid since 2015. To demonstrate his impact, let’s look at all he did in 2017. Direct Impact: Last year alone, Sean was able to save or obtain nearly \$13,000 for clients, giving his time and talent as a volunteer attorney. This great outcome was the result of more than 30 hours of donated time, helping five clients and their families navigate complex legal issues. Indirect Impact: With Sean’s help in 2017, Legal Aid saw its best fundraising year in recent years. He



personally extended invitations to fundraising and community outreach events, called both financial and community supporters and wrote letters or placed personal phone calls to countless individuals, thanking them for their ongoing support. He gave up his time to attend not only board meetings, but also monthly committee meetings, serving on multiple sub-committees of the board.

Tell us a story that exemplifies the nominee’s extraordinary service and commitment.

The best way to demonstrate Sean’s commitment and service is by sharing the story of one of his pro bono clients. This client came to us when she was sued by her landlord for alleged damages to an apartment. Her landlord was seeking nearly \$2,000 with no proof for her claims. While \$2,000 might not seem like a lot, to our clients it is. In order to qualify for our services, our clients live at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$24,000 in income per year for a household of one. This claim would have equated to more than 8 percent of the woman’s annual income at that level. This was a significant issue for our client. The best way to demonstrate Sean’s impact in working with this client is to share her own words, which she sent in a thank you note to him the week of her trial: “Mr. Keenan, I just want to thank you for your representation with my small claim. You really went to bat for me, and win or lose I am grateful.” This client’s words underscore the true importance of Legal Aid’s and Sean’s work — that it isn’t always about the outcome. Rather, it’s about the process, the equity in accessing a system that is fundamental to America’s democracy. By providing her with representation, what Sean really was giving this client was an advocate, a teammate, someone in her corner. Instead of being intimidated or uncertain, she felt that she was afforded a just process. That’s the true impact of Sean’s service. (As “the cherry on top,” Sean did, in fact, win this client’s case!)



Logan Kuhn

Nominated by: Maureen Tate, Stark County Hunger Task Force

Volunteers for:
Logan’s Lunches, Stark County Hunger Task Force

Why do you believe this nominee is worthy of special recognition?

Logan Kuhn is a 9-year-old kid. Three years ago, he started his own group called Logan’s Lunches. This group was created to help raise money and collect food to feed children in our community. Logan feels that if he can eat, then all kids

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

should be able to eat. The idea started from a simple commercial about Harvest for Hunger that Logan saw; he asked his grandmother what they could do. With help from a local Rotarian, they were able to start Logan’s Lunches, which supports the Stark County Hunger Task Force Backpack for Kids Program. Over the past few years, because of Logan’s help not only in collecting donations but in increasing awareness of our agency and programs, the Hunger Task Force has been able to grow its Backpack for Kids Program to feed more than 900 kids every week during the school year. Logan’s hard work through Logan’s Lunches is not the only reason why this volunteerism needs to be recognized; he is also an incredible person. He displays more compassion and understanding for others and their struggles than many adults are capable of. He started and continues his program for all the right reasons, mainly to help others. He truly has a heart made for service.

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

Logan’s Lunches has made significant contributions to the Stark County Hunger Task Force. Not only has he directly and indirectly raised tens of thousands of dollars for the organization, but he also has been a huge source of inspiration. He has empowered other adults

and children to join in the fight against hunger right here in Stark County. We have been sent many volunteer groups and individual volunteers who have reached out to get involved because they saw what Logan was doing. If he can do it, why can’t they? They said. Without his positive outlook and determination to end hunger in our community, these volunteers would not have felt empowered to take action as well. He has been responsible for the incredible growth the Stark County Hunger Task Force has seen in its backpack program. Through Logan increasing awareness across our community and helping to bring in all the donations he has, the program in one school year has doubled in size. He has done all of this through many different activities; for example, setting up a table at First Friday events, presenting at different workplace lunches, working with community groups to bring in direct support to our agency as well as encouraging them to build and increase their support to our agency as a whole. He stays busy and has an unending source of energy. He is never ready for a break and always keeps up his fight against hunger.

Tell us a story that exemplifies the nominee’s extraordinary service and commitment.
Logan’s life story is an example of extraordinary service and commitment. Everything he does

through Logan’s Lunches shows exemplary dedication and commitment to his fight against hunger in our community. His main desire to ensure that all of his friends and neighbors are fed — and trust us, everyone is Logan’s friend or neighbor — is paramount in all of his actions. His acts are done out of pure selflessness. His gives up so much of his free time – time that many other 9-year-olds would spend playing video games or watching TV — in dedication to the incredibly important fight against hunger. He always delivers all of his donations and rarely lets anyone help him unload. His compassion is unmatched, not only in other children, but in simply other humans. He is the perfect definition of what everyone should strive to be. His own philosophy is to “just keep doing good and kind things and you can do anything.” Such strong words of advice and empowerment from our youth.

What else should we know about this nominee related to his or her volunteer work?
Logan does receive a lot of support from his family, specifically his grandmother, but all of the activities and actions of Logan’s Lunches are based on his interest in fighting hunger and his dedication to all that is within his reach to feed people. He truly is a person who can teach all of us so many important life lessons.



Sue Boettler

Nominated by: Carol Jones, Children's Dyslexia Center of Canton

Volunteers for:
Children's Dyslexia Center of Canton

Why do you believe this nominee is worthy of special recognition?

Since becoming an Orton-Gillingham approach certified tutor of children assessed with dyslexia or its indicators in 2011, Sue successfully has taught six children of varying degrees of reading difficulties to read fluently and to spell and comprehend materials at age-appropriate levels. She has done so without pay as a volunteer tutor at the Canton location of the Children's Dyslexia Center. Each of these children has been able to apply the skills learned from Sue. They have become successful in school work and have gained confidence in themselves. Staying to tutor at the Children's Dyslexia Center is not a requirement of individuals in training; however, Sue chose to

OUT OF THE BOX WINNER

do so. In her words, she wanted "to give back for her training and to support other parents in their struggle." Sue had faced many challenges in regard to her son's learning disability of dyslexia, giving her personal awareness of various situations. Having gained knowledge of the Orton-Gillingham tutoring approach and learning more about educational legislation, she has become an advocate for parents. Her knowledge of current legislation in education is evidenced by her active involvement in the International Dyslexia Association: Northern Ohio (IDANO) branch to the extent of her serving as a board member. She also maintains a Facebook page: Decoding Dyslexia, Canton. Her volunteer activities in support of quality tutoring and educational interventions for children go beyond her volunteer tutoring time at the Children's Dyslexia Center, as she personally offers workshops for parents and teachers seeking help for children with learning disabilities.

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

The allotted time to tutor a child per year is twice a week for 34 weeks, plus an additional six summer weeks at an estimated cost of \$5,000 per child per year. Sue has been assigned six children who have completed the two-year program in the past six years. Over the six years of her certified tutoring, Sue has tutored eight children, compiling 453 hours of volunteer tutoring in the Orton-Gillingham approach. The children who did not complete the program were withdrawn for

family reasons. Our tutors are compensated at a rate per hour lower than private tutors by about 50 percent. Sue accepts no monetary compensation for her time. Because of this, her volunteer tutoring has allowed at least six children to receive tutoring from other certified tutors at the Center. Additionally, she manages her own business during normal working hours. At the Dyslexia Center, she takes time to speak with not only the parents of the children assigned to her but also with other parents who are in need of resources to help them negotiate the paperwork of the educational system.

Tell us a story that exemplifies the nominee's extraordinary service and commitment.

The Children's Dyslexia Center is a self-funded program receiving money in the form of grants and personal donations and through fundraisers. The annual fundraiser is held in the spring and most recently raised a little over \$7,500. This is from the sale of admission, sponsorships, concessions and a silent auction. Sue has never failed to provide items for the silent auction that have brought in \$100 or more each year. She brings in seasonal plants (pumpkins / gourds) and such, allowing us the opportunity of visuals and incentives. Sue will also attend IEP meetings with a parent who feels there is concern the accommodations for a child are not being followed, thus not following the education plan created in the best interest of the child. She does this without compensation of her time and will meet before and after such a meeting with the parent to

become fully aware of the situation and to see it is resolved.

What else should we know about this nominee related to his or her volunteer work?

Being involved in the educational fairness was because of her personal experience with her son's need for individualized intervention. Her desire to know what does and doesn't happen for a child needing specific guidance and the seeking of knowledge of how best to present strategies for building a solid learning process for the child's success in all matters was the driving force for Sue to seek help for her son, and then her interest to continue to help him brought her to the training for tutor certification. She continued to follow his involvement with Boy Scouts as an active volunteer and helped other Scouts with projects. She serves on the fundraising committee for Troop I. Her background in natural sciences has added interest to many projects by the troop. Additionally, Sue has nearly 16 years of working with the Stark County Hunger Task Force. Her professional occupations is that of manager of the business started by her family, North Canton Repair, where she applies her love of the natural resources as well as beauty of gardening. It is her love and care for all growing things, rooted in fairness and equality of education for children, that is so evident in Sue's willingness to help. The giving of her time to others and for others makes her an outstanding volunteer and individual.



Hank Kozub

Nominated by: Heather Weaver, Certified Family Life Educator - Catholic Charities Serving Portage and Stark Counties

Volunteers for:
Catholic Charities Serving Portage and Stark Counties

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR WINNER

Why do you believe this nominee is worthy of special recognition?

Hank is always looking for ways to help Catholic Charities. Whether he's helping with our monthly food bank order, recruiting volunteers to help in our pantry, spending time at our Adult Day Services center or taking charge of volunteers at our annual fundraiser, he's rushing to our aid.

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

Hank has worked as a liaison with the Knights of Columbus, helping to secure and schedule our food bank order, which ensures our office

has food to distribute to our clients every month. Hank has helped recruit volunteers to help sort and stock our food pantry, enabling us to serve more of the underprivileged population in our community. He also is responsible for ticket sales at our annual fundraiser, ensuring that tickets are sold and money collected in a respectful, responsible manner.

Tell us a story that exemplifies the nominee's extraordinary service and commitment.

Hank has made it his mission to keep a steady flow of volunteers helping at both of our Stark County offices. He gathers and distributes our brochures and makes sure all of the churches

and organizations he encounters are aware of us and the services we offer. Thanks in part to his work, we have secured a spot on the sign-up genius for one of the largest Catholic churches in our area. A year ago, we had no volunteers. This year, we will hold our first volunteer appreciation luncheon due to his efforts. We are eternally grateful to him.

I know Hank does much more in our community than we realize. I wonder what other organizations he's advocating for in the background. He's a good man with a great heart, and he deserves to be recognized!

IMPACT AWARD WINNER



Katrina Fitzgerald
Nominated by: Kevin Smith, PPI Graphics

Volunteers for:
United Way of Greater Stark County

Why do you believe this nominee is worthy of special recognition?

Katrina Fitzgerald has decided to get more involved in her local union, Golden Lodge 1123, in Canton. In 12 months, she has worked with others to organize car washes that raised money for domestic violence victims, served meals at the local Salvation Army and donated items to the homeless in the area. Katrina, while working with United Way staff, helped create the Labor CARES program within United Way. Labor CARES stands for Community, Activism, Resources, Education and Service. United Way of Greater Stark County's Labor CARES is a new volunteer advocacy group that

focuses on Stark County's labor community and bringing this community together to give back and lift up each other. The Labor CARES Leadership Board dedicates its efforts to building and unifying the arms of labor: community, activism, resources, education and service. Labor CARES' first event was a grocery collection drive — collecting the most needed groceries for our local veterans and delivering them to the SAM Center in Massillon. Ms Fitzgerald also volunteered to be a member of the 2017 United Way Campaign Cabinet. She has agreed to head the labor division for 2018, continuing her commitment to help others.

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

As noted above, Katrina worked with United Way to create Labor CARES (Community, Activism, Resources, Education and Service.) That group has established a relationship

with many of the local unions and has tapped into a resource of manpower and additional volunteers to make a big impact in the Stark County area.

Tell us a story that exemplifies the nominee's extraordinary service and commitment.

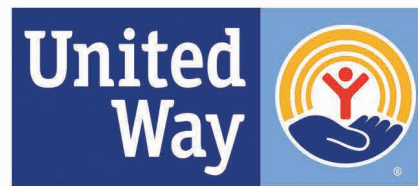
Labor CARES first event was a grocery collection drive — collecting the most needed groceries for our local veterans and delivering them to the SAM Center in Massillon. Under Katrina's leadership, they delivered enough grocery items to feed 60 veterans for a week. Katrina also organized a Stone Soup event with the Women of Steel and prepared more than 100 meals that were delivered to the Total Living Center.

What else should we know about this nominee related to his or her volunteer work?

I had the fortune to meet Katrina several years ago while she was organizing a Women of Steel charity golf outing held at Clearview Golf Course. There was something very special about her. I guess it was her passion and energy to help others that I remember most.

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United Way
of Greater Stark County



United Way of Greater Stark County fights
for the Health, Education, and Financial Stability
of every person in our community.

We win by living United.
By forging unlikely partnerships.
By finding new solutions to old problems.
By mobilizing the best resources.
And by inspiring individuals to join the fight
against our community's most daunting social crises.

To live better, we must
LIVE UNITED®

