

CELEBRATING PEOPLE IN ACTION

STARK COUNTY  
VOLUNTEER  
WEEK

APRIL 10-16, 2016

THE CANTON  
REPOSITORY  
CantonRep.com

With support from





Event sponsored by



*Save the Date*

# ONE DAY CAN CHANGE A COMMUNITY

Stark & Carroll Counties

# DAY OF CARING FRIDAY, MAY 20



Agencies, nonprofits & schools: Submit your projects by April 11  
at [www.uwstark.org/DayofCaring2016](http://www.uwstark.org/DayofCaring2016).

Workplace volunteer sign-up begins April 18.

# Celebrating people in action

National Volunteer Week, April 10-16, 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 Repository, with support from United Way of Greater Stark County, is recognizing outstanding volunteers in Stark County. In March, a community-wide call for nominations went out through the pages of The Repository and at CantonRep.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

This award recognizes an individual who has made an impact on our community that goes far beyond typical 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 Award

The Youth Volunteer Leadership Award recognizes an individual who demonstrates outstanding volunteer leadership in their school, community or group and is 15-21 years old.

## Behind-the-Scenes Volunteer

This award will go to a volunteer who assists with essential office or behind-the-scenes work. This individual is the glue of the organization or effort, giving others the ability to be on the front lines without worry of completing routine tasks that are necessary for success.

## The Impact Award

This is open to any project, event or individual who 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

This award goes to any project, event or activity that has been organized by two or more coming together to make an impact. The nomination should demonstrate examples of effective teamwork, how each group contributed to the activity and show how the project and community benefited from collaboration.

## Outside the Box Award

This award recognizes 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. 🐼

# United Way Volunteer Resource Center Organizations

*Are you thinking about volunteering, but just want to see what opportunities are available? This is an alphabetical list of the organizations listed in United Way's Volunteer Resource Center online database.*

Access Health Stark County  
Adaptive Sports Program Of Ohio  
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank  
Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter  
American Red Cross Stark  
& Muskingum Lakes Chapter  
Arthritis Foundation  
Aultman Health Foundation  
Aultman Hospice  
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Stark County  
Boys & Girls Club Of Massillon, Inc.  
Buckeye Council, Boy Scouts Of America  
Canton Calvary Mission  
Canton City School District  
Canton City Schools ABLE Tutor Program  
Canton Development Partnership  
Canton Museum Of Art  
Canton Palace Theatre  
Canton Symphony Orchestra  
CASA STAR Association Inc.  
CASA/GAL Program Of Stark Co.  
Family Court  
Catholic Charities Serving Portage  
And Stark Counties  
Child And Adolescent Behavioral Health  
- OH - Canton  
City of Canton  
Community Harvest of Stark County  
Community Hospice Stark County

Community Services Of Stark County,  
Inc.  
Crossroads Hospice  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
- Northeastern Ohio  
Department Of Theatre University  
Of Mount Union  
Domestic Violence Project, Inc.  
Early Childhood Resource Center  
- OH - Canton  
EchoingU  
EN-RICH-MENT  
Faith In Action Of Western Stark County  
Family & Community Services, Inc.  
GentleBrook  
Girl Scout Of North East Ohio  
- Girl Programs  
Girl Scouts Of North East Ohio  
Girl Scouts Of North East Ohio  
-Adult Training  
Girls On The Run Of Stark County  
Goodwill Industries Of Greater  
Cleveland & East Central Ohio, Inc.  
Habitat For Humanity East Central Ohio  
Hammer & Nails  
Hartville Thrift Shoppe  
Hope Whispers Community  
Organization Inc  
Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center  
ICAN, Inc.

Interfaith Child Development Center  
J. R. Coleman Early Learning Center  
Jackson Township Recycling Station  
Jades Rescue  
JRC Adult Day Center  
JRC Learning Center  
JRC-StarkFresh  
Junior Achievement of East  
Central Ohio  
Kent State University's Upward Bound  
Math Science Bio-Scholars  
Lake Township Historical Society  
Lighthouse Visions, Inc.  
Love The Children Ministries (LTCM)  
Make-A-Way, Inc.  
March Of Dimes Northeast  
Ohio Division  
Massillon Museum  
McKinley Presidential Library  
& Museum  
Meals On Wheels Of Stark  
& Wayne Counties  
Mercy Medical Center  
Meyers Lake YMCA  
Minerva Area YMCA  
Monroe Community Center  
Mt Pleasant Community Garden  
Multi-Development Services  
Of Stark County

NAMI Stark County  
National First Ladies' Library  
North Canton Heritage Society  
Pathway Caring for Children  
Peace Corps  
Peace For Pets  
Pegasus Farm  
Players Guild  
Pregnancy Care Of Summit County  
Prescription Assistance Network  
Of Stark County, Inc.  
Pro Football Hall Of Fame  
Pro Football Hall Of Fame Marathon  
Project REBUILD, Inc.  
Prostate Awareness And Cancer  
Support In Stark County  
Quest Recovery And Prevention  
Services  
Reach Out And Read  
Rebuilding Together Northeast Ohio  
Refuge Of Hope  
Save A Mom Pregnant Dog Rescue, Inc.  
SCCAA  
Serenity Hospice  
Stark County Board Of Developmental  
Disabilities  
Stark County CASA/GAL Program  
Stark County Community Action Agency

Stark County Court Of Common Pleas  
- Reentry Court  
Stark County Honor Court Mentor  
Program  
Stark County Hunger Task Force  
Stark County Job & Family Services  
- OH - Canton  
Stark County Probate Court  
Stark Parks  
Stark Social Workers Network  
Summa Health System  
Susan G. Komen Northeast Ohio  
The Children's Network Of Stark County  
The City Of Massillon Parks  
& Recreation Department  
The First Tee of Canton  
The Salvation Army Canton  
The Stock Pile  
The Wilderness Center  
TIQVAH Hands Of Hope  
United Way Of Greater Stark County  
United Way's 2-1-1 Information  
& Referral  
Walsh University Office of Service  
Learning  
YMCA Of Western Stark County  
ystark!  
YWCA Of Alliance



# Volunteer Week Finalists

## **Pat Webb, Sauder Elementary School**



"Mrs. Webb is always able to tell if a student needs encouragement and she takes the time to listening them the extra boost of confidence that they need."

- Sarah Hamilton

## **Sally Paquin, Prescription Assistance**

"The presence and involvement of Sally, who is a positive, energetic and purposeful person, impacts all she comes in contact with."

- Carol Risaliti

## **Ward Snyder, Meals on Wheels & Restore**

"I hope everyone sees Ward as the committed person he is and his un-conditional caring and service for others."

- Nancy Snyder

## **Todd Civiello, Community Harvest of Stark County**



"His enthusiasm and passion is contagious and a smile that lights up the room. He has a love for people and helping others that many have benefited from."

- Christina Furney

## **Mel Stewart, Turnaround Community Outreach**

"She is always there behind the scenes cooking, managing and arranging wonderful meals for our guests. We could not function at Turnaround without Mel. She is one of the pillars of our organization."

- Brenda Gowens

## **St. Michael's Outreach Team:**

**Gary Martzolf, James Bates, Bruce Gordon**

**St. Michael Catholic Church**

"St. Michael's truly could not successfully execute our outreach efforts without their selfless gift of time, effort, and sweat."

- Rev. Donald King

## **Craig Sanders, Progressive Chevrolet Breast Cancer Awareness**

"Craig lead the charge to raise money and awareness for Breast Cancer education in Stark County."

- Andrea Katusin

**Christiane McCormick, Sauder Elementary**

"It takes a special person to be able to encourage a child academically but Mrs. McCormick goes above and beyond to encourage all aspects of the child."

- Mrs. Burdeshaw's 3rd Grade Class

## **Aaron Williams, Canton City School and United Way**

"By being relentless and believing in getting books into children's hands, Aaron has been a force for good. Hard work and the ability to ask when others may not has made a tremendous impact for our children."

- Elizabeth Ramsburg

## **Mark Kobelt, United Way of Greater Stark County's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program**

"Mark is an asset not only to the taxpayers he services, he is also a great team player and role model for college students that have trained and certified to prepare taxes, but sometimes need assistance."

- Elizabeth Ramsburg

## **Jim Kavelaris, Stark County Park District**



"He is also serving as a mentor to other volunteers interested in the Eagles, two of which were brand-new volunteers in 2015 – it's amazing to see Jim pass his knowledge on to others."

- Corianne Kocarek

## **Bobbi Jo Kintigh, Oakwood M.S. PTO**



"Her smile is contagious, her kindness is heartwarming, and her compassion for all people exemplary. Mrs. Kintigh makes everyone believe in the human spirit. Her goodness and loyalty to the stakeholders of our school are appreciated and felt by all!"

- Jeanne S. McNeal

## **Jay Spencer, Canton Palace Theatre**



"Not only is he a constant and dedicated volunteer, which is already so amazing, but he gives the theatre so much more. He assists us in being the best theatre we can be and helps us showcase our beautiful organ so that our community can experience its greatness."

- Cassie Ausperk

## **George Downes, Canton Palace Theatre**

"George is not just a volunteer, he loves the Palace and volunteers his time and talent weekly to guarantee that our community can continue to enjoy its history and beauty."

- Cassie Ausperk

## **Caitlyn Tipple, Salvation Army**

"Caitlyn always goes over and above anything we ask her to do. She is very kind and helpful

and many of the kids light up when she walks in to the building."

- Sharman Hedges

## **Doug Froelich, Many Community Organizations**



"The scope of his volunteer efforts have certainly had a significant impact on the Enshrinement Festival as well as other community events and organizations he is involved with."

- Judy Froelich

## **Guy Bertram, The First Tee of Canton**

"Guy's impact is felt by all of the kids that have come through our program by focusing on the life skills components as well as mentoring. The First Tee of Canton would not be where it is today without Mr. Bertram."

- Angela Palomba

## **Lauren Safreed, One Voice Club Lake High School**

"Lauren is committed to seeing fellow students within her school overcome addictions, be free of depression, and every student be known by someone."

- Jordan Smucker

## **Allison Parshall, Mercy Medical Center - Teen Tag Program**



"As a volunteer she has played keyboard for patients and visitors to enhance the therapeutic initiatives of our Regional Rehabilitation Unit's Healing Harmonies Program and has recently contributed as a writer to Mercy Medical Center's diversity newsletter, Tapestry."

- Stephanie Williams

## **Annette & Bart Brumma, Meals on Wheels of Stark & Wayne Counties**

"They know the need for a smiling face to someone who might otherwise not see anyone on a daily basis. They truly have a heart for helping the homebound in their community with their dedication to serve others."

- Sheri Cattarin

## **Anjali Ta, Mercy Medical Center**



**- Teen TAG Program**

"In all capacities, Anjali has demonstrated an extraordinary level of professionalism and talent, exemplifying a giving spirit and desire to utilize her gifts for the betterment of her community."

- Stephanie Williams

## **Maddie Berrey & Michelle Umbaugh, N.Canton YMCA gymnastics**

"Both girls approach the sport & teaching with enthusiasm that is contagious. Besides teaching the basics of gymnastics Maddie & Michelle know our policy/creed of raising great individuals that can be proud of their accomplishments while showing respect for all."

- Holly Russo

## **Gwyneth Douce, United Way of Greater Stark County**

"Gwyneth Douce, age 12, has a deep love of helping others. She has cheered on Canton Marathon racers, made whisper phones to help kids read, been in freezing temperatures to help at Light Up Downtown and so much more"

- Elizabeth Ramsburg

## **Darlene Violet, Stark County District Library Foundation, JRC, Meals on Wheels, Shared Blessings, Stark Community Foundation Women's Fund Advisory**



Darlene often acts as a behind-the-scenes organizer and doer, and it is obvious that she does not do this work for the recognition, social reasons, or with any self-serving motivation. She helps organizations because she believes in them and she wants to make a difference in the community.

- Stephanie Sodik





# Collaboration Award

**DEREK GORDON, STACI MARTIN, EMILY GORDON, FELICIA FULLERTON, ALISHA DAVIDSON, MANDY PELGER, KATIE CERRONE ARNOLD, RYAN MCMICHAEL, JENIFER HILL, DARIN HILL, JOEL DANIEL HARRIS**  
**NOMINATED BY: CARRIE CLEMENS, UNITED WAY OF GREATER STARK COUNTY**

This nomination recognizes United Way's Young Leaders Society (YLS) and the volunteers that have spent the past year launching YLS and implementing events and activities that benefit our community while offering opportunities for individuals age 45 and under to give back to our community. In just one year, these volunteers have been instrumental in bringing unique and innovative service projects and events such as: NFL Play 60, Hoodies for the Holidays and Stark SOUP.

Over the past year, Young Leaders Society, through our Steering Committee, committee members and volunteers have donated well over 450 hours of time towards the planning and implementation of our activities. These volunteer hours are valued at over \$10,000 of service to our community! Through our NFL Play 60 event we reached over 50 youth to help encourage healthy lifestyles and eating habits to fight childhood obesity. Hoodies

for the Holidays brought school hoodies, college information and letters from alumni to 200 local high school students. And, our first ever Stark SOUP event provided a \$2,400 grant to a local non-profit to implement a new idea into practice working with the homeless in our community.

Hoodies for the Holidays is a unique concept designed around providing encouragement and inspiration to local high school students. YLS decided that they wanted to play a part in motivating junior and senior high school students to continue pushing towards their dreams of college and a better future. Our intent was to let these students know that there are people rooting for them and their success and that it IS possible, even when it may seem like it's not. Students provided us with the college/university of their choice and YLS members went to work. We collected hoodies from not only Stark County, but all over Ohio and even had donations com-



ing from Pennsylvania, Colorado and Washington! In the end, we provided 200 students with a hoodie from the school of their choice, a packet of college admissions information and a letter from an alumnus offering words of advice.

A quote from a recipient: "Words cannot describe how grateful I am to have received my hoodie from you! It's so nice to have someone to back up and support our future life decisions. Thanks again, it means so much to me!" - Haley

This group of volunteers have proven

their dedication to the Stark County community. They are working hard to bring new and engaging events to the community that not only provide volunteer opportunities to engage young professionals, but that also make an impact on our community. Their passion for our community is contagious and they serve as role models for so many. The work that they are doing through Young Leaders Society goes a long way in showing what our community has to offer and why Stark County is such a great place to live, work and play! 🌟

"WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET,  
 BUT WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE."  
 — WINSTON CHURCHILL

**VOLUNTEER AT THE  
 PALACE  
 theatre**

**RECEIVE FREE ACCESS TO EVENTS  
 BY VOLUNTEERING AS:**  
 Concession Stand Workers • Ticket Takers • Box Office Operators • Ushers

**FOR MORE INFO ON VOLUNTEERING, CONTACT:**  
 605 MARKET AVENUE NORTH, DOWNTOWN CANTON  
 330-454-8172 📞 CANTONPALACETHEATRE.ORG  
 info@cantonpalacetheatre.org

THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS  
 TO 2015 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR  
**GEORGE DOWNES**

**Habitat for Humanity®**  
 East Central Ohio

**every volunteer**  
 can offer a family the opportunity to build  
 a better life and a brighter future.

**HabitatECO.org** | **(330) 915-5888**



# Youth Leadership Award

ELENA LEWIS, HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL

NOMINATED BY:

DEBORAH GARROTT, PATHWAY CARING FOR CHILDREN

Elena's character has always impressed me and I have witnessed first-hand how it shines when she is helping others.

Elena is a self-starter and required minimal guidance while planning Project Pathway, an event that had over 160 guests. Elena's passion to make a difference in her community motivates her to follow through with tasks, even when she faced many challenges planning the fashion show. After years of volunteering at Pathway Caring for Children in various capacities, Elena was inspired to create an event where proceeds would benefit Pathway to continue therapeutic programs and groups for children and families.

Elena's Project Pathway fashion show had over 160 guests in attendance, all which had the opportunity to learn

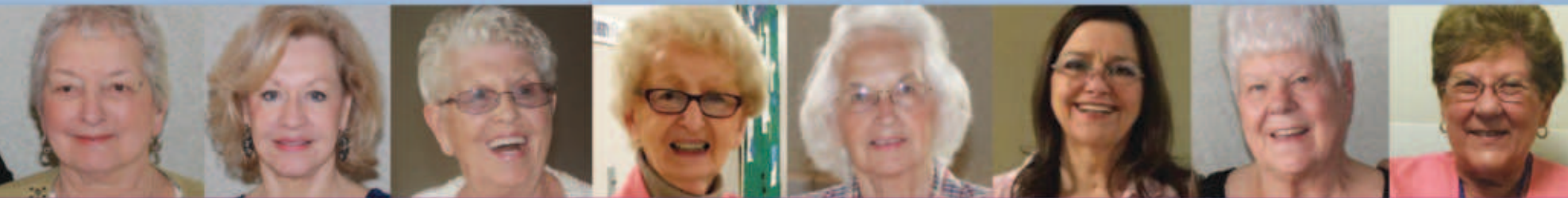
more about the services Pathway offers to our community. Elena rallied the help from peers, family and her community to make Project Pathway possible. Elena starts with the end in mind and then recruits others to share their ideas, perspectives and motivates them to get involved. Proceeds from the event went directly to Pathway Caring for Children to continue therapeutic groups for children and families.

Elena was the visionary and creator of a fashion show event in September 2015 named Project Pathway. Elena created this fundraising event for Pathway and to create awareness in the Stark County community about the programs Pathway offers to children and families.

Elena maintained a positive and enthusiastic attitude and work ethic during her countless hours planning

Project Pathway. Elena included teenage girls involved in Pathway's foster care and mental health counseling programs to be part of the fashion show planning and event day implementation. Again, Elena maintained a mission-focused mindset in the midst of all the details and stress of planning an event.

Elena faced many barriers and challenges while planning Project Pathway, but I never once saw her falter. Actually, the challenges she faced gave her more drive and incentive to problem-solve and explore alternative resources. Elena maintained her commitment to her academic responsibilities, extra-curricular activities, work and other community involvement while planning Project Pathway. 🌟



## Thank you Aultman Volunteers!

*Your hard work and dedication make a lasting impact on our patients, staff and visitors.*



**AULTMAN**

Healthier, together.™



# United Way Volunteer Resource Center Connects People and Projects

BY ALICIA MEYER, Marketing & Communications Intern, United Way of Greater Stark County

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to honor the people sacrificing their time and effort to improve Stark County. United Way is proud to recognize their service and act as a resource for both volunteers and community agencies.

United Way of Greater Stark County's Volunteer Resource Center is a free, online resource connecting volunteers with service projects in their area of interest. Agencies post a diverse group of volunteer opportunities at [www.uwstark.org/Volunteer](http://www.uwstark.org/Volunteer). Volunteers then search opportunities by topic or agency and are provided with an array of services they could fill, and there are currently 1566 active volunteers in the resource. Registered volunteers can also sign up for special alerts when new volunteer opportunities become available.

"Volunteers help advance the community in every area of life. Their willingness to serve in any capacity moves Stark County to be stronger, healthier and more vibrant," said Elizabeth Ramsburg director of the United Way Volunteer Resource Center. "Through diverse opportunities, we can strengthen our community in the Education, Income and Health impact



areas."

There's a volunteer opportunity for everyone available through the Volunteer Resource Center. You can find opportunities ranging from after school programs to model train education and sewing blankets to driving dialysis patients. Regardless of your physical abilities or time availability, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for every member of the community through United Way's partnership with 116 agencies.

One upcoming event requiring volunteers is the Pro Football Hall of Fame Race Weekend, April 22-24. People of all age groups are needed for this one-time volunteer opportunity. Volunteers are needed to prepare race packets, distribute bibs and shirts, work information booths, man water stations and coordinate parking. Looking for an indoor, physically active opportunity? Then sign up for United Way Young Leaders Society's NFL Play 60



event. Now through April 23, volunteers can sign up to volunteer as part of the setup crew, registration team, activity booth monitor or cleanup crew. Then, Saturday, April 30, community children and volunteers will come together at the Edward "Peel" Coleman Community Center to inspire 60 minutes of play every single day.

Workplaces can volunteer together May 20 at United Way's Day of Caring. Volunteers will be matched with 501(c)(3)

agencies needing assistance on projects ranging from weeding gardens to reading children's books. The sky is the limit for these opportunities.

If you are interested in enjoying time at the Pro Football Hall of Fame while also benefiting others, check out the first-ever Canton Craft Beer Invitational sponsored by United Way's Young Leaders Society. Anyone age 21 or older can help make the June 4 event a success as a judging assistant, VIP assistant, beer pourer or so much more. With 25 craft breweries from across Ohio in attendance, this is one event sure to be a success.

No matter the type of service you have to offer, the Volunteer Resource Center is your connection to making a difference in Stark County one volunteer opportunity at a time.

The volunteer match tool is available 24/7 online at [www.uwstark.org/Volunteer](http://www.uwstark.org/Volunteer) and is partnered with the Hands on Network to promote the gift of volunteering in Greater Stark County. Opportunities are also posted in the volunteer column printed each Saturday courtesy of The Repository and The Timken Company. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Ramsburg, Director of United Way's Volunteer Resource Center, at 330-491-9953 or [elizabeth.ramsburg@uwstark.org](mailto:elizabeth.ramsburg@uwstark.org).





# Behind the Scenes Award

**M.L. WEAVER**

**NOMINATED BY: MARY ELLEN BROWN**

As Volunteer Coordinator of Massillon Public Library, my heart is to make the nomination of M.L. Weaver, a true "Behind-the-Scenes Volunteer", an outstanding tribute to him and to his 25 years of service at Massillon Public Library. M.L. is a book mender, a uniquely gifted teacher, and a mentor to young adults and retirees.

He has more volunteer hours than any other volunteer ever at the Library and will be recognized at this year's Volunteer Recognition Night on May 19th with 3312 hours of volunteer time. If you have been fortunate enough to know M.L., you already agree with me that he is worthy of more special recognition than we could possibly give him.

I often see M.L. as a kind of skilled surgeon. He feels every book and magazine is worth careful examination, and his hope is to save each one for more shelf life for readers. Whether it is a child's picture book, a young adult novel, a valuable reference book from years ago, or a Bible someone asked him to preserve, he treats that book as his own treasure. Even very difficult cases aren't impossible for this amazing man to repair.

M.L. is not only a book mender, but a teacher. Imparting his skills to others is one of his greatest assets to the Library. He delights in sharing what he knows with those who also see books as tools for learning, as avenues for traveling the world, and even as safe places to hide for awhile from the stresses of life.

Currently M.L. is training a fellow MAPS Museum volunteer to become his replacement. At age 90, he is ready to sleep in on some Tuesday mornings, rather than be at the Library before 8:00am. Faithfulness is another attribute that describes this man. If it is Tuesday, he will be at his mending table diligently at work. In so many ways, he is a role model for all of us.

Finally, I characterized M.L. as a mentor. A mentor is a wise and loyal advisor or coach. One particular example stands out. A young man in his early 20's talked with me about becoming a volunteer; however, he made it very plain that he did not want a job dealing with the public. He was quiet and shy and found it difficult to make eye contact. He slowly explained that he had gone through some extremely difficult family situations and felt he needed a place to work and heal. His grand-

mother suggested the Massillon Library.

Immediately I knew he needed to be under the love and instruction of M.L. It was the perfect fit. For the next 2 years, this young man was at the Library every Tuesday morning. He became quite skilled in mending even the most challenging materials. But he had no confidence that he could handle the job without M.L. beside him.

In the true wisdom of a mentor, M.L. devised a way to correct the problem. He began to leave early with a stack of books still to be repaired. His student now had to complete the task alone with M.L. not checking his work until the next week. His student became confident and developed an entirely new self image. Soon he decided he was ready to get a real job to begin to live a productive life and has been very successful. Last week he was in our computer center and let me know that not only has he applied for a responsible marketing position with a large food company, but also is planning to begin college at Malone University. Because M. L. was a mentor and friend, this young man is forever changed.

M.L. is a kind and humble man. He has



never sought praise or recognition, but simply uses the gifts God has given him to bless and mold the lives of others. M.L. knows the value of reading and what books can do for people from children to working moms, from business professionals to presidents. His talent of mending books helps to leave a legacy of knowledge for all people willing to read.

M.L. is a true listener. He takes the time to hear what people are saying and then gives them encouragement. We will sincerely miss the love and commitment he has brought to Massillon Public Library when he retires. As Volunteer Coordinator, I will personally feel the loss on Tuesday mornings of this great man. 🐼

## Impact Award

**JJ RHOADES**

**NOMINATED BY:**

**DEBORAH GARROTT, PATHWAY CARING FOR CHILDREN**

JJ Rhoades is one of Pathway Caring for Children's faithful and humble volunteers who has become a favorite attendant among Pathway's Independent Living Group for teens. When asked why he chose to volunteer with Pathway he says, "I can't say there is one specific reason why I want to volunteer, but I can say the kids today are the future of our tomorrow and should be an important part of all our lives. It doesn't matter where they come from, what their background is, or what their beliefs are, they need guidance and need to be taught. One of the simplest and best ways to learn is to be taught by someone who has made

those mistakes, learned from their past, and can share how to avoid those mistakes. By volunteering I hope they can learn something from me, I know I can definitely learn something from them."

JJ connects with the teens served by Pathway. The teens in our program are naturally drawn to JJ because he is personable and follows through with what he says he is going to do. These qualities build trust, which our teens are hesitant to give freely. JJ is fun and outgoing and his playful personality encourages even the most shy teens to participate in group activities.

JJ initially came to teach foster teens

about car maintenance and repairs but he has since come to every Pathway Independent Living Group and continues to make an impact on our teens. He says, "Perhaps the most enjoyable experience is watching the kids' attitudes go from "I don't care about any of this" to becoming eager to participate and learn more about a situation or project. I really am just glad to help and hope the kids get something out of my being there."

JJ works full-time and has a family of his own. However, he makes time to volunteer to invest in the lives of teenagers in foster care. 🐼







## MAKING THE COMMUNITY BETTER TAKES HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND MORE PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

At Huntington, we believe it's important to do more for the community – whether it's rolling up your sleeves and getting involved, or helping in other ways. That's why we're proud to support all community volunteers and their tireless efforts to help those in need.

# Outside the Box United Way Young Leaders Society

**JOEL DANIEL HARRIS**

NOMINATED BY: DEREK GORDON

Joel has consistently brought thoughtful and progressive concepts to the community in both his personal and professional life. He works tirelessly at his non-profit, TomTod, to improve the lives and create opportunities for middle school students. However, his most recent concept, SOUP has brought an innovative program to Stark County that has been successful in providing micro-grants to community minded businesses and organizations in multiple large city's across the United States.

Joel's passion, organization, and creativity have shined through as the Chairman of SOUP. With the support of the United Way of Greater Stark County staff (Cassie Ausperk), the Young Leaders Society, and a fantastic project committee, Joel helped develop a dynamic project from scratch. By utilizing his organizational skills and connections in the community he was able to pull together a sell out event that provided over \$2,000.00 in funds to the winning micro-grant applicant. With two more SOUP events coming this year, I cannot wait to see what he and his committee deliver.

Joel is a selfless and tireless worker. While much of his time is spent supporting his community minded non-profit, he does not limit his efforts to his job. His fingerprints can be seen on initiatives all over town including the BikeSmart bike share program, and the passage of the recent Canton Park and Recreation levy in which he provided his time and talents to promote the cause. I could not have been more grateful to



have Joel by my side in freezing temperatures for nearly two hours handing out literature during First Friday to educate visitors on the levy. He could have easily decided to leave early in the evening but instead he walked all over downtown Canton to drum up support. His commitment to any cause he chooses is unparalleled, which I believe is his greatest asset.

Joel is the type of young leader we need to retain in Stark County. He deeply loves his community and does not ask for recognition for any of his efforts. I hope that he receives this award to validate all of his hard work and to encourage him to continue in all of his personal, professional, and volunteer initiatives. 🌟



# Volunteering Benefits for Health and Business

BY ALICIA MEYER, Marketing  
& Communications Intern, United Way  
of Greater Stark County

Volunteers create a stronger community through their dedicated service. By partnering with local agencies in need of resources, volunteers bridge the gap between innovative ideas and implementation. Their service leads to positive change in Stark County.

Volunteering does not just help the community, however. It also provides physical and mental health benefits for the participants. A 2013 study by United Health Group found 94 percent of volunteers said their mood is improved after volunteering, and 76 percent of the volunteers said they actually feel physically healthier after volunteering.

Some fear sacrificing time to volunteer will add stress to their already full workload, but with 78 percent of volunteers enjoying less stress through volunteering that myth is busted. Even more, Carnegie Mellon University released a 2013 report reviewed by Harvard that found adults who volunteer have significantly lower blood pressure and reduce their risk of mortality by 47 percent. Clearly, volunteering comes with some incredible health benefits!

Service is not just an individual act, though. Groups of volunteers can come together to accomplish larger projects and advance the community. One of the best ways to engage large groups of volunteers is through corporate social responsibility initiatives. Corporate volunteerism is a great investment in both employees and the community.

In the same United Health Group study, employers said workers who volunteered had better time management skills, stronger relationships with colleagues, enhanced people and teamwork skills and increased professional job skills. Of the employees engaged in social responsibility, 81 percent said they felt more connected to their workplace as a result.

Huntington Bank's Greater Akron/Can-

ton Region has long been committed to community engagement.

"At Huntington, we believe in connecting with the communities we serve," said



William C. Shivers, President of Huntington Bank's Greater Akron/Canton Region. "We are committed to volunteerism and desire to work together to build stronger communities. Volunteering is eye-opening and inspiring; working together as colleagues, neighboring business, friends and fellow citizens to enhance our community is extremely rewarding."

Corporate volunteerism may actually grow a business as well. Nielsen's 2014 Global Survey on Corporate Social Responsibility found that 55 percent of global consumers will elect to work with or purchase from companies and organizations committed to positive social impact. Volunteering is an important piece of developing a reputation for social responsibility. One easy way to engage corporate volunteerism is through United Way's annual Day of Caring. Set for May 20, Day of Caring, sponsored by Huntington, joins caring community companies with agencies, schools and organizations in Stark and Carroll counties.



"At Huntington, we're grateful for the opportunity to give back. We invest our time, talent, and resources where we live and work, because together, we can make a difference," Shivers said as a longtime Day of Caring Partner.

Volunteers and organizations come together to make a positive impact on the community through shared service, and a single day makes a massive impact. Projects ranging from weeding and planting at a neighborhood school to painting walls at a day care to conducting mock interviews for low-income job seekers offer a service opportunity for every group and greatly needed by the community.

Local 501(c)(3) organizations may submit project requests through April 11

at [www.uwstark.org/DayofCaring2016](http://www.uwstark.org/DayofCaring2016) including a description of the project, the volunteers needed and the hours required. Starting April 18, workplace volunteers may then select the project they wish to serve with through United Way's Volunteer Resource Center.

"When community businesses and local agencies come together, everyone benefits. Corporate community engagement leads to long-term partnerships that improve daily life in Stark County. Social responsibility benefits agencies, business and community members and advances Education, Income and Health in our community," said Maria Heege, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Stark County. 🌱



# Volunteer of the Year!

**THOMAS SCHMIDT, PROGRESSIVE CHEVROLET**  
NOMINATED BY: CHYLECE HEAD

There isn't enough space here to shout the reasons that Tom Schmidt should be named Volunteer of the Year! Tom donates so much time and energy to multiple committees, boards and organizations. That I'd be hard pressed to name them all. Tom uses these boards, committees and organizations to not only do good for the community at large, he also uses them to help other people become recognized in the community through him involving them in things that matter. Tom seeks volunteer opportunities to not only promote worthy causes, he also assists the cause itself by encouraging those in the business communities in which he's involved to also become involved to better the cause and to use such as an opportunity to meet and work with others, which has the side effect of growing relationships around him to everyone's benefit.

Tom is a tireless volunteer and also a strong advocate for volunteerism, getting others involved to help promote the causes

in his efforts as well as the efforts of others. Tom works tirelessly to promote causes with the chambers and committees in which he's involved, to advance the causes by placing his best work in front and leading the way for others to follow him in doing the same. Tom leads by example by being involved on multiple committees promoting worthy causes, then being the cheerleader in promoting the event and involving the right people to further the causes he champions. Tom has an innate knowledge of how to recruit the best people to advance a cause and by doing so, advances their volunteer and professional goals by connecting people together to promote a common cause by creating a network of volunteers who can gain by working together.

One example is Tom's first "Progress4TheCure" event in October 2015. Tom organized the entire event to raise money for Breast Cancer education in Stark County by putting together the right combination of people and businesses to make this huge event a complete success. He quarterbacked an outstanding group of individuals and businesses that came together to promote this outstanding cause. This one event (his first!) raised

over \$3,500, which is a HUGE amount for one event to raise for this cause. This one event had attendance of over 350 guests, the collaboration of 40 businesses, proclamations from Massillon Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry and Congressman Bob Gibbs, the collaboration of two hospitals and two local chambers of commerce, and included free food, kid-friendly activities and 500 free shirts given away to bolster community awareness of this outstanding cause. That is only one example of Tom's volunteerism; there are many more.

Tom is a tireless volunteer who donates his time to a countless number of volunteer-driven committees and organizations. His community-minded outlook is a valuable asset to our community and he is deserving of much recognition for all he does in our community. Tom is friendly, very hardworking, extremely organized and has a unique ability to promote worthy causes by leading by example. He creates teams, improves and grows the relationships around him, and he encourages and includes others. By doing all of that, the organizations he assists receive outstanding support and recognition while advancing their cause. 🙌

## NOMINATED ALSO BY: JANE VASSAS

Tom is an amazing coordinator of events and networking. Tom is always thinking of ways that he can help the community of Stark County, Canton, Massillon, Jackson Township, etc, to improve in many ways and help to make it strong and thriving. He is a selfless volunteer and always puts his efforts to volunteer and contribute to our community before himself. 40 hour work weeks are not in his vocabulary. He can be seen volunteering and working well after normal business hours and on the weekends. I know that I need something or need someone to help me with volunteer opportunities, Tom is the first person I think of and call without hesitation!

Tom has volunteered for the Canton Chamber of Commerce, the Jackson-Belden Chamber of Commerce as well as the Massillon WestStark Chamber of

Commerce. He has devoted much of his time outside of his role as Director of Business Development and Community Relations at Progressive Auto Group to our community. He has spearheaded and chaired the Pink Duck Campaign for Aultman and Mercy Medical Center Hospital, and is a strong leader on the Jackson-Belden Chamber Board of Directors. He has chaired several events including the AultCare Quick Connect Luncheon series, the Fast Break Breakfast series, the annual JBCC Business Show at Kent State Stark and the JBCC annual dinner. I am honored to work alongside Tom and learn from him as he is also an amazing mentor to young people entering the business force in Stark County. 🙌

(ALSO NOMINATED BY ROBIN HARPER)

*The Junior League of Stark County, Ohio, Inc.*  
*Cordially Invites You To Attend*  
**THE SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL  
WOMEN OF THE YEAR EVENT**  
**HONORING**

**Natalie Weinaz**

COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENT  
NOMINATED BY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

and

**Renee Skinner**

PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENT  
NOMINATED BY FAIRLESS LOCAL SCHOOLS

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016 - GLENMOOR COUNTRY CLUB  
GATHERING TIME 11:30 A.M.

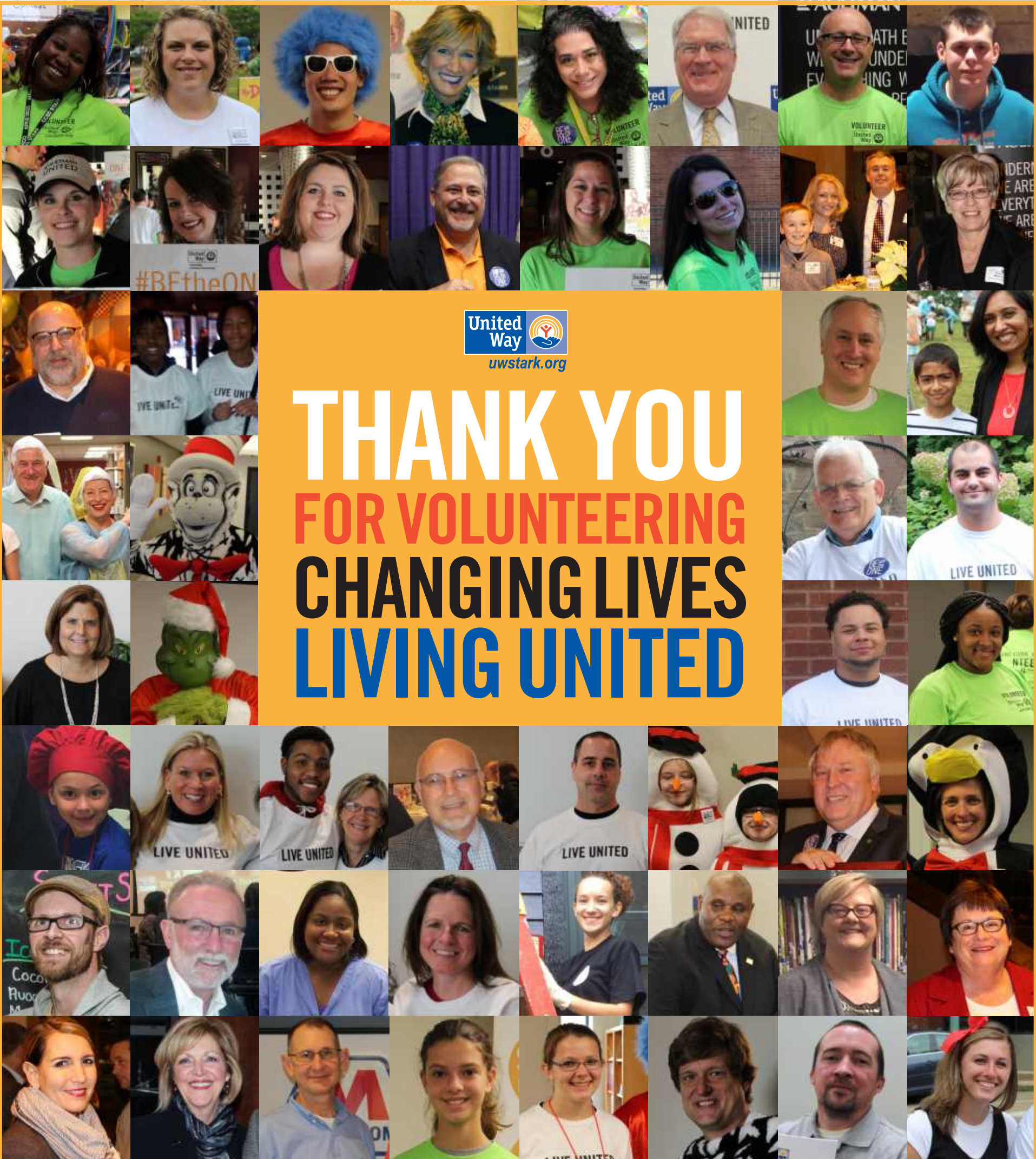
**SPEAKER**

**Robin Swoboda**

A POPULAR MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, FORMER TELEVISION NEWS ANCHOR,  
TALK SHOW HOST, RADIO PERSONALITY, ACTRESS AND  
HUMOROUS COLUMNIST FOR THE AKRON BEACON JOURNAL.

*\*For tickets or more information, visit [JLstarkcounty.org](http://JLstarkcounty.org)*





**THANK YOU**  
**FOR VOLUNTEERING**  
**CHANGING LIVES**  
**LIVING UNITED**