





"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it."

-Marianne Williamson

Many thanks to all Stark County volunteers for giving your time and talents to make our community a better place to live and work.

With special recognition and sincere gratitude to coalition members of these StarkMHAR-affiliated community organizations who volunteer to make a positive difference in the health of our neighbors:







Kevin Smith knows what it's like to face tough challenges.

Kevin Smith knows what it's like to face tough challenges. He grew up in an unstable household with limited resources. He started working at an early age to help his single mother with five children make ends meet. Although he is mindful of his humble beginnings, he also acknowledges a work ethic instilled by his grandfather and how this helped him become resilient and determined. Not one to use a difficult past as an excuse, Kevin eventually earned a computer technology degree and designed software systems for the accounting industry. He started as a sales representative for PPI Graphics in 1976 and purchased the company in 1995.

Kevin has always supported United Way through the workplace giving campaign at PPI Graphics, and in 1997 he was asked by then-CEO Steven Miller about donating the campaign printed materials. Mr. Miller asked Kevin and his wife. Linda, to tour the YWCA and have their picture taken.

During the tour of the YWCA, Kevin and Linda started learning more about the important work being funded by United Way throughout the community. The experience inspired them to do something to help. They were distressed seeing the number of people struggling with poverty in the community and realized with their backgrounds and his business success it was time to get involved.

Kevin began serving on the United Way Health Impact Council and now serves as co-chair. He has served on the Finance and Leadership Committees and Board of Directors, working to guarantee that funds are spent responsibly. He knows that there is a level of trust established between those who donate to a nonprofit organization and those who accept accountability for assuring that the funds are handled responsibly.

In 2015. Kevin was honored with the United Way 2015 Gold Key award. He was nominated by Tena Wilson, Executive Director of the Stark County District Library. Tena says Smith is a "great advocate for the children and families of Stark County." She admires Smith's get-it-done attitude and always remembers his quote, "I would rather run head first into a wall than sit on the sideline."

Kevin's wife, Linda, shares Kevin's dedication to the United Way mission and goals. She is an active United Way volunteer, serving as Chair of

that would lead to great action and have a big the Women's Leadership Council, an emotional response. Well, I don't see myself as organization dedicated to lifting being able to stand up like a great football coach women out of poverty. Linda is and win one for the Gipper. But, what we can do passionate about the group is look each and every one of you in the eye, and which is about to announce tell you Linda and I took on this challenge a new name and enerbecause YOU all inspire US. Your day to day gized mission statepassion for what each and every one of ment, "WLC provide a you do every day that makes forum for our members Stark County one of the most to promote the exgenerous and forward change of ideas and thinking areas in our experiences, provide networking opportunities, offer educational W UNITED and cultural programs. enhance the LIVE UNITED growth of our members as leaders and decision makers." she explains. "We strive to make a positive contribution to a suicide is inspiring. the next genera-Working a family through a tion of women financial crisis and helping leaders and to our them get on their feet is community." inspiring. Providing free When Kevin and prescription medication to Linda were apthose in need is inspiring. proached about And countless other proserving at 2017 grams United Way helps Campaign Co-Chairs, provide is inspiring. How he admits that he was could the two of us top caught off-guard. He that?" * wondered what they saw in him and his wife to entrust them with such responsibility. He was told that they were inspiring. "I guess I never saw myself as inspiring." Kevin explained to attendees at the 2017 United Way of **Greater Stark County** Annual Meeting Breakfast: "It is my belief that most people when asked to accept a challenge would like to stand up and be inspiring and make inspiring remarks

entire county, is

inspiring."

He men-

tioned some

of the work

being done

every day in

our communi-

ty. "Teaching a

child to read is

inspiring. Saving

one person from a

life of addiction is

inspiring. Preventing

IMPACT AWARD WINNER

Kelly Williams Sr.

NOMINATED BY MICHELLE EMERY

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

I met Kelly three years ago at a Canton Charge game. After talking with him, I found out he is a musician and shares his gift with city youth through summer music programs and most recently with a group called HolyWood Music Academy. I found out Kelly does a lot of volunteering throughout the city of Canton, but this is one of his bigger projects because it involves different age groups not focusing on one particular area

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

Having a daughter go through Kelly's

summer music program, she learned aspects of music and has been able to express herself more. In the Music Academy you see kids from different aspects of life coming together and sharing different degrees and levels of music. You see kids that might not have been given chances have a chance when they step in to his music class. They are shown positivity, and if they feel like they're ready to give up, Kelly steps in and just encourages them even more.

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

Through the Music Academy, students have been able to perform before

audiences, tackle their fears of performing in front of large audiences and have gone to New York. These kids are getting opportunities that they would never have without Kelly.

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

Kelly does a lot more than just the music program, but this is one of his bigger volunteering project. He uses money from his own pocket. He uses his own vehicles. He doesn't ask for handouts or donations. Everything is done on his dime and his time. He wants to help kids in his own community because



when he was growing up he wasn't given a lot of opportunities. Giving kids these opportunities helps them stay off the streets and gives them a positive outlook as opposed to the negatives that they sometimes see.

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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.

Absolute Hospice Access Health Stark County Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter Alzheimer's Assoc. Greater East Ohio Chapter 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 Parks and Recreation Canton-Stark County THRIVE 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 City of Massillon Parks & Recreation Department

Community Harvest of Stark County Community Hospice Stark County Crossroads Hospice Cystic Fibrosis Foundation - Northeastern Ohio Department of Theatre University of Mount Union Domestic Violence Project, Inc. Early Childhood Resource Center - OH - Canton **Encore Career Network EN-RICH-MENT** Extra Life Akron Guild 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

Cleveland & East Central Ohio, Inc.
Habitat For Humanity East Central Ohio
Hammer & Nails
Hartville Thrift Shoppe
Haven of Rest Ministries
Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center
ICAN, Inc.
Jackson Township Recycling Station
JRC Adult Day Center
JRC Learning Center

Girls On The Run of Stark County

Goodwill Industries of Greater

-Adult Training

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. Massillon Museum Wm. McKinley Presidential Library & Museum Meals On Wheels of Stark & Wavne Counties Mercy Medical Center Meyers Lake YMCA Minerva Area YMCA Monroe Community Center Mt Pleasant Community Garden National First Ladies' Library North Canton Heritage Society Partners Against the Trafficking of Humans Stark Pathway Caring for Children Peace For Pets Pegasus Farm Players Guild

Pregnancy Care of Summit County

Pro Football Hall of Fame Marathon

Rebuilding Together Northeast Ohio

Prescription Assistance Network

of Stark County, Inc.

Project REBUILD, Inc.

Reach Out And Read

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- Court Angels Stark Parks Stark Social Workers Network Stuckey Family Interfaith Child **Development Center** Summa Health System The First Tee of Canton The Salvation Army Alliance The Salvation Army Canton The Salvation Army Massillon The Stock Pile The Wilderness Center TIQVAH Hands of Hope TomTod Ideas United Way of Greater Stark County YMCA of Western Stark County YWCA of Alliance YWCA Canton

Save A Mom Pregnant Dog Rescue, Inc.

Stark County Board of Developmental

Refuge of Hope

Celebrating people in action

National Volunteer Week, April 23-29, 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.

CommQuest Services, Inc.

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 Award

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.

The Impact Award

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 benefitted from the collaboration.

Outside the Box Award

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.

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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.



COLLABORATION AWARD WINNER

Keli Cary, Noah and Michelle Schumacher, **Restoration (Dream Center Canton)**

NOMINATED BY DANIEL BRAXTON

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

Keli Cary, joined by Noah and Michelle Schumacher, have led "Restoration," a faith-based outreach to the young adults and families living in the Chips Townhomes / Harmont Park area. After five years of actively building relationships and programs in the Chips area, a vision to start a dream center was placed on their hearts. In December 2016, "Restoration" began a partnership with The Los Angeles Dream Center and is now part of the Dream Center Network. Dream Center Canton builds relationships and provides resources to those at risk of violence, substance abuse, family conflict, economic hardships and those with a desire to meet their potential through education. Their dedication to restoring the young adults and families in the community they serve is worthy of recognition because of their demonstrated commitment to the community they serve. They have come alongside families affected by violence, substance abuse, family conflict, economic hardships and have stood with them as a support network through the unpleasant realities these situations present.

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

The dedication Keli Cary and Noah and Michelle Schumacher have demonstrated has motivated many others to take up the cause of pouring back into the at-risk families of the Harmont Park area and beyond. Each Wednesday, Restoration provides a meal, a safe space, friendship and a chance not only to hear the gospel, but also to experience it put into practice via a support network that these young adults would not have otherwise.

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

Each year, Restoration has "Home Week," where leaders and young adults from Restoration come together and live as a traditional family. The experience provides a new sense of "normal" for kids who otherwise live under the specter of violence, substance abuse, family conflict and economic hardships. This enriching experience and consistent outreach provides invaluable life experience, insight and a sense of self-worth needed to counter the pitfalls these young adults face each day.

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

Restoration is doing a great service to Canton's Northeast community. The work of Keli Carv and Noah and Michelle Schumacher deserves recognition that they are too selfless to seek. They truly are changing the trajectory of at-risk lives. .





Chuck Ducey worked for Diebold 35 years and supported United Way of Greater Stark County through the annual workplace campaign.

Chuck Ducey worked for Diebold 35 years and supported United Way of Greater Stark County through the annual workplace campaign. He heard about United Way's work in the community work at campaign rallies, and it piqued his curiosity about volunteering. Chuck checked out volunteer opportunities and decided that he was interested in the area of education. He spoke with Kim Douce of United Way's Education Impact Council.

"Kim is a wonderful lady. She encouraged me to come and join the Education Impact Council. That's how I started out with volunteering with United Way. It was really a great experience."

Chuck was shocked and amazed at the amount of work involved in the allocation process. "That Education Impact Council is composed of different folks with different levels of education...all local folks," Chuck explains. "The funds allocation process, I can assure you, is an unbelievably rigorous process. I was extremely impressed with it. The people are just unbelievable to work with." He also speaks highly of the agencies and programs that receive funding from United Way. "Stark County is very blessed." He learned that there are numerous agencies operated by people who don't make a lot of money - but bring lots of passion and hard work, and help a lot of people. "United Way staff and agencies are wonderful people just trying to do good." Chuck enjoyed the EIC sessions, keeping quiet at first so he could listen and learn as much as possible.

Around this time, United Way was revising the existing Strategic Plan with BOLD GOALS in Education, Income and Health unique to each community being served. To accommodate this, the Education Impact Council adjusted its framework to support sustainable progress toward two local BOLD Goals in Education by 2020: 100 percent of eligible students being kindergarten

ready and 100 percent of students graduating from high school. "We believe very strongly that hitting those two goals would have a very big impact on the community, says Chuck. "We had a lot of support, great people. "

Chuck's opportunities to volunteer kept increasing. United Way's Dee Shelton reached out to Chuck about the MyBudgetCoachTM program. "It seemed like a great way to get involved and help people." He met with Dee and Chrisann Leaman and learned about the tremendous support given to volunteers. He was immediately impressed with the excellent training and great program.

Dee and Kim encouraged Chuck to participate in Bridges Out of Poverty, a full-day training program offered by United Way of Greater Stark County for anyone working with those in poverty. Chuck believes this is one of the most helpful tools to help him work with clients, because he learned about the differences between social-economic classes. The specialized training enhances sensitivity to individuals' situations, behaviors, thinking, coping skills. "These folks live in the moment. If you want to try to talk with them about five or 10 years out, they're not going to hear you. They're not going to be receptive to it." Chuck explains, "Without that training, I never would have had that type of sensitivity."

Chuck was also made more aware of the reliance upon relationships among those struggling with poverty. "They don't rely on the written word, contracts, or anything like that. They rely very heavily on relationships." He saw the level of his clients' trust increase with the MyBudgetCoach sessions, which led to success in the program. He is inspired by the resourcefulness and can-do attitude of his clients. Understanding that helps make the program more relevant.

The biggest payback for Chuck is working with the clients. "Fantastic, hard-working people who want to learn and do better." Chuck finds it very rewarding helping people improve their situation. "It's the best feeling in the world. I hope to have many more, I hope to do more!"

Chuck encourages everyone to get involved with United Way of Greater Stark County. "It's been a wonderful experience. I suggest that everybody to either support United Way financially or do both – support financially and work as a volunteer, because it does great things for the community. Volunteering with caring and compassionate people at United Way gives me an opportunity to help the community and feel good about the work I am doing. It's all about the people you work with and serve."



How to find the right volunteering opportunity

Millions of people volunteer every year. Some parents may volunteer to coach their children's athletic teams, while other volunteers work with nonprofit organizations in need of assistance to help turn their mission statements into reality.

Though many people may spend a lifetime volunteering with the same organization, many others find their initial foray into volunteering does not meet their expectations, and such volunteers might walk away in search of another organization or opportunity. Because the turnover rate of volunteers can be so significant, many charities, in particular those that work with children, ask volunteers to make a minimum commitment before coming on board. But the reason many volunteers walk away from a volunteering opportunity has little to do with time and more to do with finding a volunteering opportunity that's right for them. The right opportunity differs for everyone, and men and

women who want to give back to their communities can ask themselves a series of questions in an effort to find a volunteering opportunity that best suits them.

What causes am I passionate about?

A cause you are passionate about is often a great place to start when you search for a volunteering opportunity. For example, people with a love of animals may find that working with a nearby animal shelter, whether it's working at the shelter or fostering animals in need of temporary homes, is a great way to give back. Sports fans and athletes whose playing days are largely behind them may want to volunteer with their local youth leagues or coach at a nearby school. When you are passionate about a cause, you will likely be passionate about volunteering to advance that cause.

What do I want to do?

What you want to do while volunteering is another factor to consider. Men and women who work in an office all week may want to get outdoors on the weekends, so volunteering opportunities with the local park system might be an

It's also important to determine what you don't want to do. Some people are uncomfortable asking others for money, so such men and women should avoid volunteering positions that focus on fundraising. If a volunteering opportunity involves activities you don't enjoy, you're less likely to stick with it.

How much time do I have to volunteer?

It's not a crime to have a hectic schedule. Prospective volunteers whose time is already stretched thin may want to avoid ongoing volunteer opportunities that require significant time commitments. Such people might be more suited to one-time projects or

those opportunities that allow volunteers to decide at the last minute if they will attend. Honestly assess your schedule to determine how much time vou have to devote to volunteering before choosing an activity.

Where do I want to volunteer?

Cities typically have more volunteering opportunities than the suburbs, so men and women should determine if travel is a deterrent before choosing a volunteering opportunity. A nearby city might have opportunities that are more suitable to your skills, but if you are averse to traveling, then you may not stay committed to such projects. When looking for a volunteering opportunity, determine where you would like to volunteer, and be honest with yourself when assessing if travel is a potential deterrent.

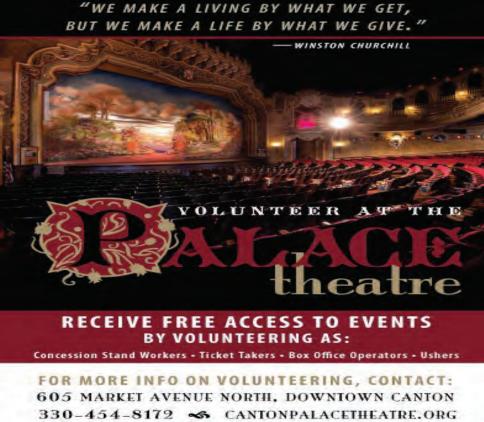




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BEHIND-THE-SCENES AWARD WINNER

Barb Edwards, parent tutor/show decorations/school character store/PTO

NOMINATED BY DEANNA HARRIS

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

Barb Edwards has given countless hours of volunteer work at Middlebranch Elementary. She has helped Miss Lauren Graham's second-grade classroom by running reading and math small groups, helping with testing strategies and reading accelerated books with students so they can hit their nine-week goals. She helps Mrs. Gerianne Lane's firstgrade classroom weekly with preparing crafts, filing papers, preparing and assembling bulletin boards, and individual tutoring of students. She also helps Mrs. Lane's class twice a week with the VIP reading program to help struggling readers. In addition, Barb serves weekly through the PTO by working in the character store, where children spend

character dollars earned for tangible items they choose. She also planned room parties for the fall party, holiday party and Valentine's party in her volunteer position as head room parent. She is an active member of the PTO and has helped with functions such as Special Person Week. She graciously helps with school music programs by creating decorations to go with the show, helping to decorate and staying to help clean up (a task rarely covered by any volunteers). Barb has even given up weekends to help with district functions, such as the Kindergarten Fair at Plain Local.

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

Barb's creativity and willingness to do

anything that is needed has helped students and staff members to establish and achieve high levels of growth at Middlebranch Elementary. Through her dedication, she continues to impact our school by decorating the hallways, the stage and the hearts of many children. She brings a kind gentleness that attracts children to her. That, coupled with her teaching expertise, has helped many students reach goals that would not be attainable without her help.

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

When volunteering to help decorate for a program, she not only showed up after not feeling well all day, but also created decorations and props (like a



scarecrow) to go with the barnyard theme of the show. She is dependable and dedicated. We at Middlebranch trust her to do what she says and go above what is asked of her.

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

Barb is currently attending college full time to be a teacher, and thus comes to us with the latest teaching strategies, fully qualified to help students in an effective manner. We are thankful for her numerous hours and the impact she has made on many lives at Middlebranch Elementary.



Thank you to all the volunteers! We thank you for your service!





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YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

Eli Abboud, Volunteer in Mercy Gift Shop

NOMINATED BY CINDY TROMPOWER

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

Jackson High School senior Eli Abboud has been a regular volunteer in Mercy Gift Shop since last July. Eli earns high honors academically and plans to attend college this fall to major in political science, public policy and economics. Yet, beyond classroom work, he devotes much of his spare time to serving area children and adults, which he describes as both fun and a great way to live life. He also believes learning how to interact with all kinds of people is the key to success with his future goals in business, economics and — someday — politics.

"I've always liked to be involved in my community and interact with people," Eli says. "That's part of the reason I chose to volunteer at the Mercy Gift Shop. It has been a good place to talk with people who usually are in the shop because of something positive, such as buying a gift for a friend or someone who just had a baby. They tend to be optimistic."

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

In addition to Mercy Gift Shop, Eli also volunteers at Open Waters Math and Science Center, a nonprofit that helps late elementary and middle-school students who perform well in STEM (science (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects to apply their knowledge in real-world applications. From dissections, electrical networking and physics experiments to presentations from STEM professionals, like engineers and brain surgeons, Open Waters encourages students to develop a passion for math, science and STEM careers. The program is open to students from all area districts and is offered free of charge. About 30 are currently enrolled.

Together with four other area high school students, Eli helps manage Open Waters. He says, "I was inspired by the student who originally started the program. His ability to motivate the kids about STEM projects and career opportunities was impressive. Today we run Open Waters with the help of a dozen

volunteers and Stark State College. Everything is focused on the children and their success."

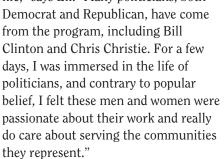
Tell us a story that exemplifies the nominee's extraordinary service and commitment.

At Jackson High School, Eli is CEO of the business club, founded a history club and has participated on the speech and debate team. He also holds a black belt in martial arts.

Last year, Eli was selected for the American Legion Buckeye Boys State, an eight-day program that gives about 1,200 high school boys hands-on experience in the operation of state government. From among those attendees, Eli was chosen for a similar experience at the federal level as one of only two students to represent Ohio for the prestigious American Legion Boys Nation, held in Washington, D.C. Similar programs are offered for girls, as

"Because of Boys State and Boys Nation, I am definitely considering a career in public service, probably later in

life," says Eli. "Many politicians, both Democrat and Republican, have come from the program, including Bill Clinton and Chris Christie. For a few days, I was immersed in the life of politicians, and contrary to popular belief, I felt these men and women were passionate about their work and really



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

Kelly does a lot more than just the music Because of his academic achievements and community service, Eli recently received TimkenSteel's top college scholarship of \$20,000 per year for four years. These scholarships, which range in amount, are open to the children of TimkenSteel employees; Eli's father is Nathan Abboud, a TimkenSteel unit manager of process improvement. His mother is a dietitian at Western Community Hospital.

How to give back even when time isn't on your side

Men and women want to give back to their communities, but too often find themselves strapped for time. Commitments to work and family can make it hard to find time to volunteer. But hectic schedules do not have to prevent people from doing good in their communities and beyond. The following are a few simple ways time-strapped men and women can give back to their communities.

* Promote a good cause. Shedding light on a good cause can help the less fortunate. When a local nonprofit organization is having a fundraiser or an event to raise awareness, men and women who won't be able to participate can still chip in by promoting such events via social media or by encouraging friends and family members to go in their stead. It won't take long to post a link to a favorite charity's Website on your social media profile, and doing so

can raise awareness of that charity among family and friends.

* Make a donation. While making a donation may not seem like the most creative way to give back, men and women who are short on time should not downplay the significance of such donations. Writing a check to a favorite charity may be a less than satisfying way to support a good cause, but nonprofit organizations cannot succeed and continue their missions without donations. So while a financial donation might not seem like an active way to give back, that does not mean such donations are not as appreciated as volunteering time.

* Work with organizations that host **short-term projects.** Volunteering is often a significant commitment, as many organizations prefer volunteers to promise a certain number of hours per week or per month. But many other

organizations host short-term projects that may last only a day. Habitat for Humanity, for example, often allows volunteers to sign up for one-day projects that are ideal for those who want to give back but don't have the time to make long-term commitments. Signing up for such projects well in advance allows time-strapped individuals to clear their schedules in advance without having to rearrange their daily

* Become a mentor. Mentoring is a great way to give back without making a significant time commitment. Mentors can take young persons under their wings and offer advice on careers, education and many other areas where they might ask for some guidance. Such advice can be offered over a weekly lunch, through email or weekly phone calls, none of which will eat up too much time. Mentoring is a significant

responsibility and one that provides an invaluable service, and it's a great way for busy professionals to give back to their communities.

* Make it a family affair. Parents who find it difficult to volunteer because it takes away from time they can spend with their families can combine the two activities and volunteer as a family. Bring your children along when volunteering at the local park, beach or soup kitchen. You will still get quality time with your kids, and you will be instilling a sense of social responsibility in your children.

Finding time to volunteer can be difficult. But even the busiest men and women can still give back to their communities in a variety of ways.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR! WINNER

Maryann Daurelio, Domestic Violence Project Inc.

NOMINATED BY CHELI CURRAN

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

Maryann has been volunteering in our Founding Mothers Room at DVPI for five years and consistently gives 10 to 15 hours a week making sure that our clothing donation room is stocked, neat and full of all the items our clients need to feel at home. Often our clients come to us with only the clothes on their backs, and yet they are expected to present in court and often times need work-appropriate clothing. Maryann goes above and beyond in this respect, and we cherish all the work she does for victims of domestic violence.

Describe the impact this person has made as a volunteer:

The work Maryann does at DVPI is very, very impactful. She might not see clients directly to

provide services, but what she does behind the scenes to make basic needs available to survivors makes them feel more at home while they are here.

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

Through the Music Academy, students Maryann makes the experience in our Founding Mothers Room like a shopping experience. She creates outfits and accessorizes them. She also works with the clients and their children to find what clothing style they need to feel empowered.

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

All of DVPI staff agree that Maryann is a very special gift to DVPI.

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Thank you Aultman Volunteers!

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

















LIVE UNITED

United Way of Greater Stark County fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. Because change doesn't happen alone. Hope isn't a one-man band. and there's no such thing as self-taught or self-made. We have one life. To live better, we must Live United.

