



Press Release

For Immediate Release

To: Journal Review, The Paper of Montgomery County, Crawfordsville Radios

From: Montgomery County Community Foundation

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Subject: 2011 MCCF Volunteer of the Year Awards

MCCF honors Volunteers

A highlight of the Montgomery County Community Foundation's Annual Meeting each year is the naming of the "Volunteer of the Year". Local nonprofit organizations are invited to submit nominations for the award and after careful review; the executive committee makes their selection. This year, for the first time, a category was opened for youth. With six outstanding nominees, each making significant contributions to their respective organizations, the choices were difficult to make.

After careful consideration, Isobel Arvin was selected as the winner of the sixteen MCCF Volunteer of the Year. In their letter of nomination, Bill and Becky wrote about what a vital force this person has been in many local organizations, including the First United Methodist Church through the Thrift Shop and Women's Society, the Crawfordsville District Public Library, as well as the Women Legacy Fund which is held here at MCCF.

However, she is being nominated for her role with Christian Nursing Service, in particular, the Meals on Wheels Program. She has been a volunteer for CNS in a variety of capacities for the past two decades, including serving as president of the board, and writing grants to secure funding for updates to the dated facility. Most notably, she has coordinated the CNS Meals on Wheels since 2000. She has been in charge of the program which delivers meals to homebound individuals five days a week, all year round, for eleven years. She takes the phone calls from those inquiring about the service, coordinates volunteers who prepare the meals at the hospital as well as those who make the meal deliveries, including planning the routes.

In a letter of recommendation, Chris Amidon, President of the CNS Board, pointed out that Isobel has served as the board's media contact for many years and has "quite a knack for getting the right notices in the local news, whether it's about Meals on Wheels and the need for more volunteers or the Well Baby Clinic hours." Chris added that Isobel has also helped to elevate awareness of the program by having people like the Mayor, the hospital CEO, and the editor of the local newspaper deliver meals. She's so good at it that Chris often teases her that she missed her calling by teaching elementary school for all those years!

MCCF President, Roy Kaser presented a \$1,000.00 check to the Christian Nursing Service in honor of Isobel's volunteer accomplishments.

Others nominated were:

Robyn Henderson was nominated by the Women's Resource Center where she has been a volunteer since 1991. She currently serves as a Counselor/Client Advocate, receptionist and much more. She is described as an "active committed volunteer who has a heart and passion to help others."

Joann Spragg was nominated by the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum and Lew Wallace Preservation Society for her extensive and meticulous research on Lew Wallace. Museum Director, Larry Paarlberg describes her as a clearinghouse for information requests about Wallace and his Study and says that her writings are indispensable to the training of new staff and volunteers. As a gardening enthusiast, she has made wonderful contributions of heirloom plants that grounds manager, Deb King, is able to utilize in the Study's historic setting.

Patti Perkins was nominated by the Montgomery County Chapter of the American Red Cross for her service and leadership on their board for the past six years, the past two years as president. She has been instrumental in keeping the board focused on the ever changing needs in our community and ensures that we are meeting those needs with excellence and compassion. Denise Maxwell, Director of the Red Cross, says, "that as adults, we need role models too, and Patti is a shining example for many of us."

Last year, for the first time ever, an outstanding young person was nominated for the Volunteer of the Year Award. Although the young lady, nominated by Mike Scime, past Exec. Director of the Youth Service Bureau, ultimately was not selected as the winner, it drew attention to the importance of recognizing our youth for their volunteer efforts.

Peggy Herzog worked for many years as the Drug Prevention Educator for the schools, working with groups such as Youth to Youth, D.A.R.E. and PRIDE, to name a few. Upon her retirement, a group of colleagues and many others established a fund here at MCCF to honor her work. An advocate of developing leadership in our youth, Peggy Herzog has elected to direct the income from the fund to support an annual Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. From here forward, the award will carry Peggy's name and the not-for-profit agency nominating the winner will receive **\$500.00**.

Legend Johnson was selected as the winner of the inaugural award for her work through the Teen Court and Youth as Resources programs at the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau. Jennifer White, Teen Court and YAR Program Coordinator, says that Legend first began volunteering as a Teen Court juror and quickly progressed to the role of attorney. Teen Court provides first-time juvenile offenders an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system. Jennifer says that, "we believe that sometimes young people make mistakes which, with the appropriate education, in all likelihood will never be made again." Teen Court allows these youth to learn about the consequence of their mistake without having that mistake follow them into adulthood in the form of a juvenile record. She goes on to say that, "Legend has quickly adopted this philosophy, and prefers to serve as defense attorney rather than the harsher prosecuting attorney." She takes time to get to know her "clients" before forming opinions about the offense.

In addition to her work with Teen Court, she is a member of Youth as Resources. This is a youth-led, philanthropic program of the Youth Service Bureau. They conduct various fund raising events throughout the year and with the money they raise, they grant it out to other youth in the community with a service project in need of funding. Since she has been a part of YAR, the group has raised and granted out more than \$4,300 to other youth in the community.

Lauren Haffner was also nominated for the award for her work with the National Honor Society at Southmont High School. According to Jean Ann Craycraft who nominated her, Lauren served as the co-chairman of the National Honor Society's Service Committee. This committee organizes the "Stuff the Turkey" good drive in the fall. Lauren was involved in all areas of the effort, from providing organizational leadership to working out details of collecting and distributing the food. She has also been active in the tutoring program. While the requirement was to tutor junior high students for five, one hour sessions, Lauren far exceeded that by tutoring both before and after school for most of the school year. She has also served NHS by posting keeping the website up to date and by helping with the People's Choice award at the Talent show. What has impressed Ms. Craycraft most of all, is the positive attitude with which she conducts all of her work!

The Foundation recognizes the vital role that volunteers play in the success of nonprofit organizations and our community as a whole. In addition the monetary awards given in their honor, the winners also received plaques honoring the recognition. Each nominee was presented with a certificate commemorating their selection and a small gift inscribed with the words "You're an Essential Piece". For more information about MCCF and to see pictures of this event, visit www.mccf-in.org.

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