



MEDIA ADVISORY

Indiana's outstanding community servants honored with Governor's Service Awards

Awards program serves as kick-off to the 2012 Governor's Conference on Service and Nonprofit Capacity Building

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INDIANAPOLIS – The state's most prestigious award for volunteer service has been granted to eight Hoosier organizations and individuals, including one of the state's leading automotive companies and a Marine veteran who has provided 20,000 hours of community service over 40 years.

The Governor's Service Awards honor the exemplary work of statewide nominees on behalf of their communities and the state. The 2012 awards were issued at an awards dinner on Monday, Oct. 1, 2012, at the Governor's Residence in Indianapolis.

The awards ceremony is one of three events over two days that comprise the [2012 Governor's Conference on Service and Nonprofit Capacity Building](#), co-sponsored by the [Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives](#) and the IUPUI Polis Center's [SAVI Community Information System](#).

More than 200 people attended the awards dinner, including winners, their families and supporters, faith and community service leaders, nonprofit professionals and representatives from state and local governments.

WFYI Indianapolis radio host Matthew Socey emceed the awards dinner, and videos created by Sonar Studios spotlighting each recipient were featured.

2012 Governor's Service Award Winners – embargoed until 6 p.m. EST Monday, Oct. 1

Volunteer Award

Krystal Shirrell – Brownsburg

After her grandmother was diagnosed with cancer, Krystal Shirrell began a life of service. Her first project collected 10,000 hats, which were distributed to cancer patients whose chemotherapy caused hair loss. Today, the nonprofit Hats for Hope continues to make a difference. Krystal has addressed other causes, too, creating such organizations as VETSupport to serve wounded military members and their families, and leading a movement to sew lap blankets for dialysis patients to help them control their body temperature during treatments.

Faith-based Volunteer Award

Eugene Potter – Indianapolis

As assistant pastor at Mt. Zion Apostolic Church, Eugene Potter has led collaborations with numerous local organizations to serve criminal offenders from the time of their incarceration to their return to civilian life. Potter's focus is on long-term rehabilitation for his clients. Specifically, he has taught ex-offenders construction-related job skills that not only benefit the clients but the community to which they contribute.

Youth Volunteer Award

Amber Kriech – Carmel

Amber Kriech started volunteering almost as soon as she could walk, first collecting shoes for kids in third-world countries through a program at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Now in high school (with a 3.8 GPA), her numerous service works include collecting more than 4,000 food items and 2,000 books to benefit the children at the East Tenth United Methodist Church Children and Youth Center, and building a volunteer

team of 45 people ages 6 to 80 who give 2,000 volunteer hours supporting homeless children through the Spiritual Life Center, a center she and her team created.

Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award

Bob McIntosh – Jeffersonville

Friends and colleagues estimate that Bob McIntosh has served nearly 20,000 hours as a volunteer in his 40 years of service. McIntosh has volunteered with the Clark County United Way since 1974. He's also volunteered as a Jeffersonville Rotary Club member and on numerous boards of directors, including the Clark County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Haven House and 21st Century Scholars of Clark and Floyd Counties. In 2012, after March tornadoes devastated Southeast Indiana, Bob took a leading role in the relief effort, providing 4,000 hours of safety training to volunteers who provide debris removal and other services.

Service Learning Award

Jagdish Khubchandani, Ph.D. – Muncie

Jagdish Khubchandani, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of Community Health Education at Ball State University, a post he's held since 2010. The university selected Khubchandani to serve as an inaugural Faculty Fellow for its Global Health Institute for the 2011-12 academic year. In the role, using his research background and grants secured by his office, Khubchandani began identifying such community needs and issues as preventing domestic violence and engaging his undergraduate students with efforts to meet the needs. His students have combined for some 10,000 hours of community service to date.

National Service Member Award

Judy Miller – Greencastle

A member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program since 2006, Judy Miller was assigned to local service at the Putnam County Emergency Food Pantry (PCEFP). Her experiences at the pantry motivated Miller to take a more active role, and she has served as PCEFP board president and director of Volunteer Services for the last three years. Under her guidance, PCEFP has provided some 61,000 meals to 440 households, and she has given more than 3,000 volunteer hours at the pantry.

Community of Service Award

Irvington Terrace Neighborhood – Indianapolis

Irvington Terrace consists of about 425 homes on the east side of Indianapolis and had for many years battled abandoned storefronts and blighted properties. The neighborhood began its current turnaround in 2005 with the creation of a neighborhood crime watch. One year later, neighborhood block captains with the Green Sheets program began delivering community announcements on sheets of green paper to residents each month. Since 2007, the neighborhood has hosted Clean Up Days in coordination with a local nonprofit organization. Numerous other community projects have followed, with community volunteers contributing some 1,300 hours to neighborhood service each year.

Corporate Service Award

Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc. – Lafayette

The good works of the employees of Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc., as encouraged by the company's executive and management teams, are too numerous to list. Employees raise \$40,000 annually to support 150 kids through the Lyn Treece Boys and Girls Club. They support teams for nearly a dozen annual charity walks, raising tens of thousands of dollars for medical research, hunger initiatives and more along the way. In 2012, Subaru team members partnered with other organizations to fund and build the 1,500-square-foot Safe Haven Home, an emergency shelter for families displaced by disaster. This December, employees will once again participate in Holiday of Hope to grant more than 1,000 Lafayette children their holiday wishes.

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About the Governor's Conference

[The Governor's Conference on Service and Nonprofit Capacity Building](#) is co-sponsored by the [Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives](#) and the [SAVI Community Information System](#), a program of The

Polis Center at IUPUI. The two-day program is comprised of three key events: the Governor's Service Awards and a Human Needs Summit between leaders of state government agencies and faith-based and community-based service organizations, which are both by invitation only, and the Conference on Service and Nonprofit Capacity Building, which is open to the public via registration.

The conference on Oct. 2, 2012, brings together leaders in the nonprofit sector, volunteer coordinators and innovative thinkers to explore best practices, receive meaningful training, establish fruitful partnerships and celebrate success stories. You can follow the latest on the conference using the Twitter hashtag #INGovConf.

For media inquiries

Andrew Hayenga
Bohlsen Group
ahayenga@bohlsengroup.com
317-519-3334

Derek Trovillion
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
dtrovillion@ofbci.in.gov
317-234-4031