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WSPN mission:

Offering support to development professionals and advancing philanthropy since 1986.

Celebrating Philanthropy: 14th Annual Philanthropy Awards Honorees

By Jill McWilliams, *Cultivate* editor

The West Suburban Philanthropic Network's board is proud to present the recipients who will be honored at our 14th Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon on **Tuesday, May 17 at Embassy Suites, 1823 Abriter Court, Naperville, IL 60563**. This year's honorees represent all of the generous philanthropic leaders who set the example of giving and engaging community support for nonprofits.

Philanthropic Leadership Award

Dorothy O'Reilly (Wheaton)



“It is overwhelming to be given the philanthropic award; it is such an honor. To me philanthropy is not just about giving money, but more about giving of myself to my various charities and to be able to help where needed.”

Those who know **Dorothy O'Reilly** are likely familiar with the phrase *anam cara*. With a strong Irish heritage, O'Reilly often references this Gaelic term that translates to soul friend. According to Celtic wisdom, an *anam cara* is a trusted companion who possesses a deep awareness of your feelings, offers spiritual guidance and liberates your soul to explore new possibilities.

Tens of thousands of adults and children with disabilities and mental illnesses in the

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Humanitarian of the Year

Bob Russo (Geneva)

“I feel humbled and honored about receiving this award. I am motivated to volunteer because it is a good thing to do.”

Robert (Bob) Russo is synonymous with the definition of humanitarian: concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare. He embodies the ancient Athenian notions of seeing citizenship as an active relation with specific privileges and obligations.

Russo's profound roots with People's Resource Center (PRC) began when the agency was first founded in 1975, when he strategically worked with other founding members to identify areas of need and developed relation-



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WSPN mission:

Offering support to development professionals and advancing philanthropy.

WSPN core services:

EDUCATION, NETWORKING and ADVOCACY

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We invite your membership. Annual, non-transferable dues are \$40. Register online or make checks payable to West Suburban Philanthropic Network and mail to:

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President's Message

Appreciation

“Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.” – Voltaire

Spring is definitely here, and we all know that it's time to enjoy the warmer weather and appreciate the change of seasons. WSPN's Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon traditionally takes place this time of year and celebrates our community's volunteerism, talent and generosity.

We gather together to honor the people, businesses, foundations and organizations that provide so much to sustain and enhance the rich philanthropic environment that is fundamental to the quality of life in our communities. Please take some time to read through this motivating issue of *Cultivate*, learn why we're applauding this year's honorees and learn about their stellar philanthropic contributions.

Speaking of spring, WSPN is in a growth phase, too—a time of renewal, and we're recruiting new committee members so that we ensure WSPN's sustainability for years to come. Since 1986, WSPN volunteers have been dedicated to inspiring our area's non-profit community. If you're interested in giving back to our profession and becoming involved in setting WSPN's direction, improving communications, growing our membership, expanding our programming, spurring income through sponsorship, monitoring our finances, planning next year's Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon or if you'd like leadership experience, simply reach out to me or any board member.

My term as WSPN president will be coming to an end soon, and I'm extremely enthused about our future. A heartfelt thank you to our terrific board for their dedication, smart work, time, leadership and good humor. I truly enjoy their company!

Maeven Sipes – Vice President and Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon Co-Chair

Catherine Voigt – Treasurer

Laura Naab – Secretary

Chrissie Howorth – Immediate Past President

Jessica Noe – Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon Co-Chair

Jill McWilliams – *Cultivate* Editor and Designer

Mark Dyer – Membership Chair

Katie Michel and Kim Spayer – Program Co-Chairs

Hopefully, you're in the audience today celebrating with us but, if not, please know that we appreciate you, too! A huge thank you for continuing to meet the growing needs of those we serve!

Sincerely,

Ann E. Spehar
WSPN President



Philanthropy Collection News

\$1,000 Donations

By Christine Kickels, Librarian
College of DuPage's Philanthropy Collection

Personal contributions by your board members are the most common method of fundraising even though it typically doesn't account for more than 10% of total donations.

A board's involvement ensures adequate financial resources and a public commitment to the organization. But how much is enough? What are the trends in giving by board members?

According to a 2015 Nonprofit Research Collaborative report, six in 10 organizations require board members to give a gift with the most frequent minimum amount being \$1,000.

Larger organizations also received higher personal donations by board members. Nonprofits in education and the arts have the highest annual gifts at \$12,520 and \$5,655, respectively.

If it is time to assess your board's annual giving, BoardSource suggests that you have a personal giving policy that is familiar to the board, enforceable and not necessarily articulating equal donations by all.

In addition to the content available from BoardSource, the Philanthropy Collection has many resources for developing your board's engagement in fundraising.

- **The Ultimate Board Member's Book** by Grace
- **Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards** by Ingram (Appendix includes a thorough sample self-assessment tool for individual board members.)
- **Fundraising Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards** by Greenfield
- **The Nonprofit Board Answer Book: A Practical Guide for Board Members and Chief Executives, Third ed.** by BoardSource

The Philanthropy Collection is located on the upper floor of the Library and is open to the public. If you live or work in DuPage County you are also eligible for a COD Library card so that you can borrow materials. For an introduction to its print and online resources, contact me to make an appointment at (630) 942-2313 or kickels@cod.edu. Need more info? Watch our 15-minute intro at <http://tinyurl.com/codpc2016>. ●



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People's Resource Center
The Conservation Foundation
VNA Health Care

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Advertising in Cultivate

A limited number of business-card size (3.5" x 2") advertising spaces are available in *Cultivate*.

\$190 - four issues
\$160 - three issues
\$125 - two issues
\$ 70 - one issue
\$325 - double ad size, four issues
\$475 - four-issue insert ad (8.5x11)

To place a newsletter ad, please visit
<https://tinyurl.com/ookj7vk>.

Nonprofit Executive of the Year

Angela Adkins, executive director of NAMI DuPage (Wheaton)



“I am deeply honored and want to express my heartfelt gratitude for receiving this award. I dedicate this award to the thousands of DuPage County individuals and their families who struggle with the effects and stigma of mental illness. This award is not only a source of encouragement to me but is also a recognition that the program and services we provide offer hope and recovery to the many people who may suffer in silence.”

Since 2008, **Angela Adkins** has been a strong and passionate advocate for those living with mental illness—as well as their families. Through her leadership, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) DuPage has become a cutting-edge organization.

The pinnacle of her leadership came last year when, through her dedication and resourcefulness, she brought about a historic public-private partnership with the DuPage County Health Department. Through this partnership, both agencies now share office space while remaining fiscally independent. More importantly, they provide complimentary services that address mental health needs, and thereby, double their impact and conserve resources.

Through the collaboration, they provide Health Department clients alternative, recreational programs in the mornings. These interactive programs allow individuals with mental illness to interact with their family members in a creative activity that's unrelated to mental health issues, which provides another way to support families in a fun, non-judgmental environment.

The new community center allows NAMI DuPage to expand existing programs and add new ones. For example, Living Room is a program designed as an alternative to the local emergency room for someone experiencing a non-emergency mental health crisis.

Another program, Ending the Silence, educates teens and young adults about the signs and symptoms of mental illness and offers strategies for helping themselves or others. It is now offered in 17 high schools and 33 middle schools in the county and has reached nearly 100,000 students since its inception. It is the first locally created program that was adopted by NAMI National in 2014 and was made available to other chapters around the nation.

Since January, they have also provided evening recreational programs through the community center. Activities such as yoga, cultural arts, line dancing, art classes, basketball, volleyball, game and movie nights, music classes and self-defense.

Through Adkins' visionary leadership, she has introduced innovative solutions such as assisting NAMI into the field of social entrepreneurship via the creation of a print shop and café—two enterprises with the altruistic goal of providing job-preparedness training for those with mental illness while generating profits. In-house printing saves costs and produces revenue by taking on external orders from local businesses. The café, which opened in February and has quickly become the heart of the community center, trains those living in recovery as baristas and food service workers.

Under Adkins' leadership, NAMI DuPage went from serving 12,000 people in 2010 to over 34,000 people in 2015. Without state or federal funding, she has achieved this growth by creating collaborations, making connections and leveraging resources.

As an advocate, Adkins does whatever it takes to provide the best possible care for those suffering with mental illness, and NAMI has become the voice for mental illness in DuPage. Through awareness, NAMI DuPage will continue growing and expanding, and more importantly, making a difference in the lives of families and individuals affected by mental illness.

Because of Angela Adkins' leadership, dedication, compassion and relentless efforts to help those in need of support, WSPN is pleased to present her with the Nonprofit Executive of the Year award. ●

Corporate Philanthropic Award

Allstate Insurance Company (Northbrook)



Allstate®

CHICAGO'S OWN GOOD HANDS

“Even though Allstate has a network of small businesses throughout the country, Chicagoland will always be our home, and that's why we're especially proud to support local nonprofits.”

– Vicky Dinges, senior vice president of corporate responsibility at Allstate

Allstate Corporation is the nation's largest publicly held personal lines insurer. In the 20 years since Allstate became a fully independent public company, The Allstate Foundation, Allstate, its employees and agency owners have donated more than \$405 million to support local communities.

In 2015, Allstate Insurance Company invested more than \$4.6 million directly in support of the Chicagoland area. Benefiting organizations include Northern Illinois Food Bank, Morton Arboretum, DuPage Children's Museum, YMCA of Metro Chicago, American Red Cross of Chicago & Northern Illinois, Boys and Girls Club of Chicago, Chicago Community Trust and We Day Illinois. Allstate was named a top 25 United Way of Metropolitan Chicago Corporate Citizenship Award and was the sole recipient of the Executive Service Corps 2015 Corporate Citizenship Award.

Nationally, Allstate is a leader championing youth as well as empowering survivors of domestic violence. As national co-title sponsor of We Day, Allstate's involvement more than doubled the number of youth participating in We Day service projects across the country to 880,000. Allstate's 2015 Purple Purse campaign to bring awareness to domestic violence reached 949,000 people countrywide and raised a

record-breaking combined \$3.1 million for domestic violence survivors.

In highlighting Allstate's involvement in a local nonprofit, they support the Northern Illinois Food Bank through grant funding, event sponsorship and volunteerism. Bob Wasserman, senior vice president of marketing, has served on the Food Bank's board since 2014 and has helped increase Allstate's involvement with the Food Bank.

Allstate Insurance sponsors the Food Bank's Foodie 5K and A Taste That Matters events, and last September, offered a \$5,000 matching gift to encourage people to pledge to take action for Hunger Action Month. Allstate employees even helped Food Bank staff with the technical execution of the pledge on their website.

In 2015, Allstate employees donated more than \$20,000 to the Food Bank through payroll deductions, and because of an Allstate agent coordinating a volunteer event, the Allstate Foundation donated over \$25,000 through their Agency Hands in the Community program. This event and the enthusiasm of one of the Food Bank's local Allstate agents also resulted in a national commercial being filmed at the Food Bank.

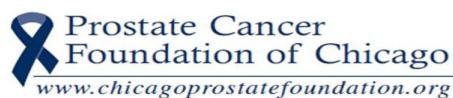
Allstate recently launched a skills-based volunteer program called Allstate Fellows for which the Food Bank was fortunate to be selected as a participant. A team of three Allstate employees were matched with the Food Bank to develop a digital strategy, and the team went above and beyond expectations. The Food Bank received expertise on analytics, SEO, social media, content marketing, and the Fellows also helped implement some of the changes.

"We could not be more appreciative of the all-around support provided by Allstate Insurance, their employees and local agents. We know the Food Bank is not the only nonprofit who benefits from their dedication to service. Allstate is committed to making a difference in the Chicagoland area—its hometown," said Julie Yurko, Food Bank president and CEO.

For their dedication to giving back to the community through donations, service and volunteerism, WSPN is pleased to honor Allstate Insurance Company with the Corporate Philanthropic Award. ●

Spotlight

Featuring a WSPN Member Organization



In his mid-fifties, Eddie shared, "I felt so hopeless and when I found out I had prostate cancer, I didn't know what to do and was very nervous." He decided to explore a support group for men and families facing prostate cancer and its many treatment options.

"It really helped having a hands-on physician available to help answer my questions," he said. "It gives you peace of mind knowing there are different methods of treatment for prostate cancer and that other men have many of the same concerns."

Ten years later, Eddie still benefits from a welcoming Patient Support Group, hosted by **Prostate Cancer Foundation of Chicago** (PCFC). Since the Westmont nonprofit was established in 2006, PCFC has hosted over 100 monthly support group meetings as a way to fulfill its mission to promote public awareness, cancer prevention, detection and treatment options to prostate cancer patients and families, and medical professionals involved in the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 250,000 men in the U.S. are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year. Second to skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer in men, affecting one in seven over their lifespan. Over the last 20 years, the U.S. has seen a six-fold increase in younger men receiving a diagnosis of aggressive, life-threatening prostate cancer, making early detection even more important.

Prostate cancer is highly treatable, especially when detected at an early stage. To promote prostate cancer detection, PCFC offers a Prostate Cancer Screening Event each September during national Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Free services include a PSA blood test and digital rectal examination for prostate abnormalities with consultation.

Since initiating the annual event in 2009, PCFC has screened over 450 men, averaging age 63. The event often bridges the prostate screening needs of underserved men. Despite current policy debates on whether and when to check for prostate cancer, PCFC advocates screening for all men beginning in their fifties. Men with a family history of prostate cancer and African American men, for whom prostate cancer tends to be more aggressive, are advised to consider prostate screening starting at age 50 or younger.

The Foundation's outreach also advances awareness of prostate cancer through employer and corporate well-

ness programs and community, church and other organization meetings. Educational presentations by PCFC's director of research and education are tailored to each audience and can range from general health and cancer awareness to prostate health and prostate cancer.

PCFC works hand-in-hand with Westmont-based Chicago Prostate Cancer Center, which is the only freestanding, full-service medical facility in the world solely dedicated to minimally invasive prostate cancer treatments. The Center has served over 20,000 men from across the nation.

Together, they conduct clinical research and have trained hundreds of physicians to continually advance best practices in brachytherapy (also known as seed implant), a convenient, effective option for many men seeking to remain productive during prostate cancer treatment. PCFC has participated in publishing and presenting results for over 35 clinical studies, contributing to prostate cancer treatment advancements for men worldwide.

Among their transformative research studies, PCFC helped pioneer a biopsy mapping technique allowing more precise tumor location and targeting; examined genomic testing to gauge tumor aggressiveness; studied the interaction of diabetes with prostate cancer; and demonstrated patients treated with seed implants have excellent long-term survival rates.

PCFC's current studies include those designed to: 1) further refine seed implant techniques and better monitor patients with slow growing tumors contained within the prostate; 2) investigate options for men with locally advanced cancer outside the prostate; and 3) analyze outcomes in patients younger than 62—men more likely to have fast-growing prostate cancer and who stand the best chance of survival with early detection. To learn more about PCFC, please visit www.chicagoprostatefoundation.org. ●



Prostate Cancer Foundation of Chicago Patient Support Group

Service Club Philanthropic Award

Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club (Hinsdale)

“The Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club strives to enrich our community, the lives of our members and their families through volunteer and philanthropic service. It is an honor to be recognized for our efforts.” — Kirsten Douglass, president of Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club

Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club (HJWC) was founded in 1949 and quickly recruited 101 charter members, each of whom paid a fee of \$5 in dues and initiation fees. The group immediately jumped into fundraising and volunteering to support local



charities. Since then, they have been transforming the lives of women and children.

Averaging 200-plus active members each year, HJWC is the largest club in the Illinois General Federation of Woman's Clubs (GFWC). In 2006, HJWC received numerous awards at the GFWC

Convention and has consistently been recognized for its outstanding children's programs, leadership, membership and fundraising.

HJWC is a community service organization that strives to enrich its community and the lives of its members and their families. HJWC's mission is to offer members a network of resources and opportunities and serve as a leader of volunteer and philanthropic service. The HJWC Charitable Foundation seeks to identify, support and financially contribute to charities and organizations in need.

Each year, HJWC has grown in its membership, funds raised and volunteer impact throughout DuPage County. Since its inception, HJWC has raised more than \$2,700,000 for local women and children's charities. They provide hundreds of volunteer hours to multiple charities throughout DuPage.

For example, in 2014, HJWC chose Bridge Communities, which serves to transition homeless families to self-sufficiency, as a charitable partner for a two-year cycle. In 2015, HJWC raised \$200,000 for Bridge Communities to create a Children's Education Fund within the Bridge Communities' endowment fund, and it will continue to give for many years to come by providing counseling, tutoring, education and scholarships to homeless children. In addition, HJWC raised an additional \$18,000 to provide over 400 children with holiday gifts and other donations to local children's charities.

During 2015, HJWC members gave more than 1,000 hours of community service to local organizations such as Bridge Communities, Hephzibah House, HCS Family Services, Family Shelter Service, food pantries and many other organizations. In addition, they awarded academic scholarships to high school senior women in Hinsdale.

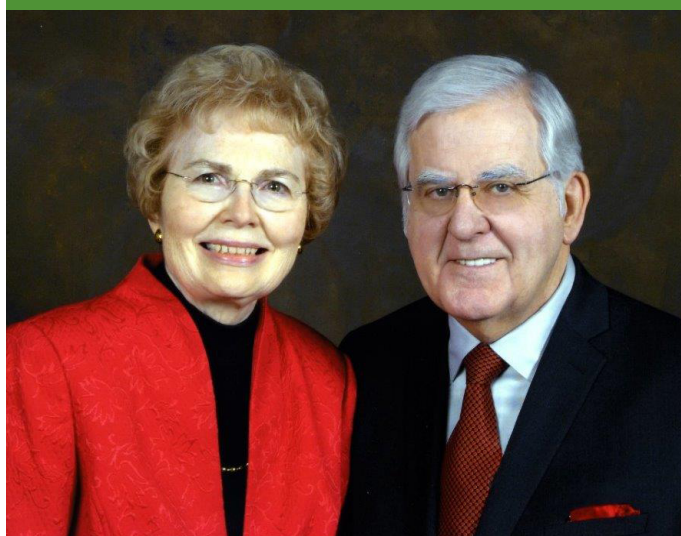
During HJWC's two-year philanthropic partnership from 2012 to 2014 with Hephzibah House, an organization that provides foster care to children in need, HJWC raised more than \$418,000 to support their children's services and programs.

HJWC regularly sponsors a holiday Giving Tree, Thanksgiving meal deliveries, Easter Egg Hunts, and Gift of the Season fundraising and volunteer events to benefit the children and families served by HCS Family Services, which has the goal of preventing homelessness.

For their work in transforming the lives of thousands of families and for their generous support of local nonprofits, WSPN honors Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club with the Service Club Philanthropic Award. ●

Nonprofit Volunteers of the Year

Weldon and Judy Johnson (Glen Ellyn)



“It is an honor to receive recognition for our efforts over many years to protect and preserve the history of our village as a conduit between the past and future generations regardless of the demographic constructs. History can be powerful and helps us to better understand the present and shape values and beliefs through our collective memories. We accept your award on behalf of all those who currently contribute or have gone before.”

Weldon and Judy Johnson have been volunteering at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society since 2003 and 2000, respectively. They administer the Glen Ellyn Center for Historical Research, which is maintained by Glen Ellyn Historical Society's Archives Committee. The Johnson's primary work is in the archives, but they also assist where needed. It is not unusual for them to each volunteer 20 or more hours per week.

The Johnsons began volunteering when the Historical Society was transitioning from a room at the Glen Ellyn Public Library to an independent facility with a separate archival area. In addition, they spent many years faithfully serving on the Historical Society's board.

Judy, who retired after nearly 20 years as a special education teacher from the middle schools of Wheaton School District 200, researches local homes to see if they qualify for their historic house-plaquing program. Weldon, a retired pharmacist, is an expert with the Indus Book Scanner 9000, which he helped the Historical Society secure at a reasonable cost, and he is chair of the technology committee and Archive Digitization Project.

They have been instrumental in scanning much of the paper documentation and microfilm into electronic and digital records. Their work is at the core of what the Historical Society does. In addition, they are responsible for the Historical Society's 10,000 photographs, and thousands of newspapers, maps and other historical documents.

They dedicate many hours recruiting, meeting and training volunteers. They conduct research to answer the numerous emails, phone calls and drop-in visits from people inquiring about family background or the history of a home or a local business. Whether it's calling on a volunteer who lives alone and did not show up when expected or offering a sympathetic word to someone researching a recently deceased family member for an obituary, the Johnsons live with compassion and kindness for others.

The Johnsons provide in-kind donations, financial support and time and actively recruit new members and donors. They offer innovative ideas that could benefit the organization, including programming and communication. They truly honor the Glen Ellyn Historical Society with their commitment and believe in its value in the community.

The Johnsons' generosity extends beyond the Glen Ellyn Historical Society. They were active volunteers and officers with the DuPage County Genealogical Society, where Weldon was treasurer and Judy was concurrently secretary. They have also volunteered with the Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois, where Weldon was treasurer. They have volunteered extensively with St. Petronille Parish in Glen Ellyn.

Weldon also served on the Village of Glen Ellyn's anti-vandalism committee and was chair of the environmental protection committee. He served on the Glen Ellyn Public Library board for four years. They have also volunteered for the Parents Association Cerebral Palsy Residential Homes, and Weldon has been board president from 2004 to present. They also volunteered for the group that preceded PADS and they assisted clients in finding transitional housing and securing a job. Weldon has extensively volunteered for the DuPage area Boy Scout Council in Wheaton as a Scoutmaster.

For Weldon and Judy Johnson's long-time volunteer service, board leadership, philanthropy and passionate commitment, WSPN honors them as Nonprofit Volunteers of the Year. ●

Grantmaker of the Year

Marilyn A. Foote (Aurora) grant consultant to the Alfred Bersted Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee



“I am deeply honored to have been chosen for the Grantmaker award. Volunteerism has been a way of life for me for many decades beginning when my children were young and I was a stay-at-home-mom. This gravitated into my work with the Bersted Foundation where I could help nonprofits that I deeply respect secure resources necessary to fulfill their missions.”

Since 1985, **Marilyn A. Foote** has been serving as a grant consultant for the Alfred Bersted Foundation. Bank of America, N.A. is the Trustee of the Foundation, which distributes approximately \$900,000 in grants annually.

The Foundation was established by Alfred Bersted, who resided in Elgin until his death in 1972. He and his wife, Grace, were well known philanthropists. He was associated for many years with McGraw-Edison in Elgin, where he was chairman of the board until his retirement. His success in business made possible his generous support of many charitable organizations. To ensure that his charitable giving would continue after his death, he established a private foundation, which concentrates its resources in DuPage, Kane, DeKalb and McHenry counties. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed over \$25 million in grants to many worthy organizations.

Foote has been a dedicated, lifetime civic leader who inspires with vision and integrity. Her range of expertise and service covers childcare, child and family abuse

and support, philanthropy for the State of Illinois, mental health and local and statewide initiatives resulting in important collaborative milestones in programs.

Aside from Foote's Foundation work, she has been involved with numerous volunteer capacities over the past several decades, in particular with issues involving women and children. She was board membership chair and president of Child Welfare Society in the Fox Valley area. She fostered development of the child abuse program Breaking Free, child care services at Jack & Jill Nursery School, Migrant Services, Aurora Children's Dental Services and advised many other agencies in the Fox Valley area.

For eight years, she served on the Aurora Area United Way board, serving as distribution committee chair and also president. Following that tenure, she served on the United Way of Illinois board for 19 years and was board chair for two years. During her tenure, she was selected by the Governor to serve on a statewide committee to address the state of human services in Illinois. She presented the issue at a leadership symposium, which became an important step in the redesign of the human services system in Illinois and across the country.

She also headed the Illinois Donor Advisory Committee, created by United Way of Illinois to combat charity fraud during the Gulf War. In 1993, she chaired the committee that developed and designed the John P. Walsh Memorial Internship in Government Relations, a program that annually selects an undergraduate or grad student to intern at UWI in Springfield, focusing on the relationship between government and the nonprofit sector.

For 18 years, she served on the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley board as well as on the distribution committee. Most of this involvement was concurrent with her work for the Bersted Foundation.

In an effort to commend Marilyn Foote for her hands-on dedication, passion and commitment to many organizations including the Alfred Bersted Foundation, WSPN is pleased to recognize her as Grantmaker of the Year. ●

Member News



After 12 years in the business industry **Cindy Allston** made a career move to the nonprofit sector. Then after almost 11 years at Western DuPage Special Recreation Association, she left to pursue new challenges with the DuPage County Bar Association as their membership director, and recently, as the associate executive director of the DuPage Bar Foundation, which was established in 1997 and now offers grants to law-related charitable organizations and scholarships to law students.

Allston has managed and marketed fundraisers, social events and educational meetings while working with member volunteers and committees. She is also a Literacy of DuPage volunteer, an active member of Carol Stream Woman's Club, 100+ Women Who Care, Young Men's Service League of Glenbard North High School and was the 2012 Carol Stream Special Citizen of the Year and now serves on the Citizen of the Year committee.



Child's Voice is celebrating and they're hoping you'll celebrate too! 2016 marks the 20th Anniversary of Child's Voice, a nonprofit that serves children with hearing loss and their families.

Programs support 150 to 200 children annually as they learn to listen, speak and transition to their home school districts successfully. They also have an Audiology Center that offers newborn/infant testing to diagnosis hearing loss.

As Child's Voice celebrates with their 20th Anniversary: 20 Years of Smiles, they are asking for your help! #SmileyCV20 (think Flat Stanley/the Travelocity Gnome) is looking to see the world! Please visit childsvoice.org/hearing-from-us/ for more details.



Elmhurst College Names Its 14th President. The Elmhurst College board of trustees announced that, by unanimous vote, they have selected

Dr. Troy VanAken to serve as the 14th president of Elmhurst College.

Dr. VanAken will begin his presidency this summer. Chosen through a nationwide search, Dr. VanAken currently is the president of Thiel College, in Greenville, Pennsylvania, where earlier this year he announced that Thiel had surpassed the largest fundraising goal in its 150-year history.

His career in higher education includes a wide range of experience, including years as a senior administrator, a mathematics professor, a business entrepreneur and an athletic director. Dr. VanAken will succeed Interim President Larry A. Braskamp.

Elmhurst College is a leading four-year college that seamlessly blends liberal learning and professional preparation to educate students for life in a global society and help them to reach their potential. Elmhurst College is the one of the Top 10 Colleges in the Midwest, according to *U.S. News & World Report*; and *U.S. News, Money* and *Forbes* magazines consistently rank Elmhurst as one of the Midwest's best values in higher education. Visit www.elmhurst.edu.



In February, **Nicole Louis** joined Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry as their development and communications associate. This newly established position will help manage and implement communications and special events for the pantry while supporting development activities such as sponsorship and grant writing.

Nicole has worked with nonprofit organizations for over a decade, focusing on education and research. She was most recently director of education and exhibits at the Lombard Historical Society where she specialized in event planning and social media outreach. She earned a master's from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

This year, Aurora Food Pantry is celebrating its 35th anniversary of working to reduce food insecurity and hunger by ensuring that everyone has access to nourishing food. For more information, visit <http://aurorafoodpantry.org/>.



Courtney Simek is the new executive director of Senior Home Sharing. Her major priorities include educating the community on the benefits and affordability of their shared living model, establishing new partnerships to enhance support services offered to their residents as well as offering a series of mini-fundraising events showcasing friends of Senior Home Sharing. Simek has spent the last thirteen years in human services including

Teen Parent Connection and Positive Parenting DuPage.

Established in 1981 as a nonprofit, Senior Home Sharing's mission is to provide low-income seniors an opportunity to live independently in an affordable family style home. They own and operate homes nestled within the residential communities of Naperville, Downers Grove and Lombard. Their service model allows each resident a private bedroom while the common areas of the home are shared.

For more information, visit www.seniorhomesharing.org.

Share your Member News:

Tell us about your job change, promotion, professional development, awards and honors. Please email your news and photo to Jill McWilliams, Cultivate editor, at jillm@elmhurst.edu. ●

Building Our Membership

Your membership in WSPN provides two main benefits: opportunity for professional growth and the ability to network with peers.

Our monthly programs provide the opportunity for growth and education, but often leave little time for networking. To expand our networking options, the membership committee is now planning several more social activities throughout the year. Look for notification of upcoming events in your email and please invite a coworker to come along.

Thank you,
Mark Dyer, membership chair, mdyer@dupageforest.org

Blasts from the Past

Program Highlights

Ask the Lawyer: Compensation for Executives and Other Things You Want to Know

On March 17 at Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva, **Lisa Stegnink**, attorney at law, presented on legal obligations that apply to nonprofits when setting executive compensation and contracting with “insiders.” She also reviewed issues concerning Form 990 reporting, limitations on lobbying and political activities and creating and maintaining good records.

Her counsel includes:

- Compensation and contracts with “insiders” must be reasonable; if not, the IRS can sanction nonprofits for paying unreasonable compensation or entering into unfair transactions, which could result in revocation of their tax-exempt status.
- AFP Code of Ethical Principles and Standards, provides guidance with compensation bonuses and finder’s fees. With tax reporting, understand the role of staff vis-à-vis outside auditors.
- When creating and maintaining good records, establish retention periods for each kind of record. Mandate that records can only be destroyed in accordance with the written policy.



Celebrating Your Milestone Anniversary: Inventive Ways to Increase Visibility and Impact

On April 21, **Elizabeth D. Richter**, president of The Richter Group, presented at Robert Crown Center for Health Education, Hinsdale.

Consider these tips to leverage an anniversary and maximize impact:

- Identify why you are celebrating: honor the past, celebrate activities and accomplishments of the present, share how your organization has evolved or position your organization for the future by promoting new initiatives, programs, buildings, etc.
- Identify who in your organization will actually plan the event.
- Who are you trying to reach? Who will attend?
- Understand the importance of the anniversary. Is everything worth the effort?



Here are some key points to deliberate when plotting out the elements of your plan:

- Obtain resources that will help make your event successful.
- Scale your communications to your target audience.
- What is the story behind your organization and the compelling message, logo, tagline for your anniversary year?
- Create initiatives to motivate your staff.
- What is your budget?
- Are there relationships to another anniversary that could be cross-promoted with yours?
- Most importantly, what is the message you’re trying to convey to the audience?

Identify the outcomes you hope to achieve throughout your anniversary year. Some common ones: raise organization’s visibility, attract more volunteers, launch a new initiative, change behaviors, increase impact, attract new donors and stimulate donations, and energize staff. ●

Philanthropic Leadership Award

(O'Reilly continued from page 1)

western suburbs have found an anam cara in O'Reilly. Her philanthropic leadership spans more than three decades, and she has been a tireless advocate for those with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities and mental illnesses, namely through Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, NAMI of DuPage County and the DuPage Foundation.

O'Reilly first became involved with Marianjoy in the early '80s, when she began volunteering and joined the Marianjoy Auxiliary, devoted individuals who organize fundraising events and manage the hospital's gift shop. She became president of the Auxiliary in the late '80s and held that position into the early '90s. Under O'Reilly's leadership, the Auxiliary grew in presence and evolved to become an invaluable asset to Marianjoy—one that has raised over \$1.5 million to date.

In 2009, O'Reilly leant her passion and creative spirit to the Marianjoy gala committee. In 2011, she became the committee's chair, leading planning meetings and making a meaningful investment in the event's success. With O'Reilly as chair, every Legacy Ball since 2011 has raised more than the last—totaling over \$980,000 in revenues.

Since 2011, O'Reilly has also served on the Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital board, most recently as board secretary. Her faithful leadership and ardent support for Marianjoy's mission led the way for other board members and stakeholders. A leader by example, O'Reilly has devoted countless hours, contributed generously to the organization and funded a Marianjoy scholarship for college students with disabilities.

O'Reilly's commitment to Marianjoy, however, is matched by her longtime dedication to NAMI of DuPage County. One of NAMI's earliest supporters, O'Reilly has served on their board since the formal board was established in the early 2000s. As an involved and committed board member, O'Reilly is instrumental in the planning of NAMI's special events.

In her long history with NAMI, O'Reilly has overseen NAMI volunteers as she served as the operational leader of the resale store. In addition, she is one of a select few members of NAMI's Diamond giving society.

“She is philanthropic and generous; NAMI of DuPage County is a better place because of Dorothy O'Reilly,” said Angela Adkins, executive director.

O'Reilly has also made community-wide contributions with her involvement in the DuPage Foundation. For over 20 years, she has been donating to DuPage Foundation initiatives and networking with other philanthropists to address issues facing the western suburbs. O'Reilly has also served on the Foundation's events committee for the past two years.

As an anam cara and for her history of advocacy and support spanning over 30 years to Marianjoy, NAMI and DuPage Foundation, WSPN proudly honors O'Reilly with the Philanthropic Leadership Award. ●

Young Philanthropist Award

Juliette E. Ambrogi (Elmhurst)

“I am honored to be the recipient of the 2016 WSPN Young Philanthropist Award. It is a deeply gratifying feeling to be recognized for doing something so close to my heart and good for my community. Thank you all for your guidance and support.”



Juliette Ambrogi, a senior at Elmhurst College (EC) majoring in international business, witnessed the devastation of a young life being taken too soon. On Aug. 26, 2015, Ambrogi's boyfriend's sister, Annie LeGere, age 13, passed away from a severe allergic reaction, most likely food related. Ambrogi watched Annie suffer in the hospital for nine days before passing away, and even more heartbreaking was witnessing the grief-stricken LeGere family's pain.

As a result of this heart wrenching loss and with Annie as her inspiration, Ambrogi directed her energies into the inaugural Miracle Network Dance Marathon, which was named Bluejay Thon (EC's mascot is the Bluejay). Miracle Network Dance Marathon is

a movement that has been sweeping the nation since 1991. Every year across America, student-run, student-led events raise funds and awareness for their local children's network hospital. Its slogan is “We dance for those who can't.”

A group of EC students with limited fundraising experience organized Bluejay Thon, with Ambrogi serving as external director. Since it was a first-time event, she took on more responsibility and attended many lengthy late-night meetings brainstorming on how to make the fundraiser a success. The planning committee, Ambrogi's major responsibility, organized the actual dance marathon reception held on Nov. 22. The all-day reception planned with games, food and entertainment accommodated about 200 EC students including recipient families from the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

On her giving webpage, Ambrogi was the top fundraiser securing \$4,195 in donations. The second highest was about \$1,000. Committee members solicited about 100 local businesses, and 30 of them provided donations of gift card, jewelry, food, etc. Of those 30 donations, Ambrogi secured 25. She was relentless in soliciting monetary and silent auction items from businesses, neighbors, friends and family and through her contacts on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Towards the end of the Bluejay Thon reception, the final amount raised was revealed by a representative of Lurie Children's Hospital: \$25,321. That is an impressive accomplishment for a first-year event at an institution with about 3,000 students, when in comparison, Loyola University, with 15,000 students, raised \$23,500 in 2015.

“Juliette has always had a passion for helping those less fortunate,” said Elizabeth Ambrogi, Juliette's mom, “and this year that passion was raised tenfold with the passing of Annie LeGere and the knowledge of how many children rely on good medical resources, facilities and staff as provided by Lurie Children's Hospital. The level of dedication Juliette put into this task was remarkable.”

Juliette Ambrogi's passion for those in need also extends to DuPage PADS, Habitat for Humanity, PAWS, Northern Illinois Food Bank, USPS Letters to Santa program, and delivering Christmas gifts to children on the south side of Chicago. Currently, Ambrogi is fulfilling a semester-long internship in Washington, D.C. at TechnoServe, a nonprofit that provides business solutions to poverty by linking people to information, capital and markets.

As a result of Juliette Ambrogi's leadership, dedication, compassion and fundraising efforts, WSPN is pleased to present her with the Young Philanthropist Award. ●

WSPN Distinguished Service Award

Michael Sitrick (Lombard)



“It is an honor to be recognized with this award. WSPN has been an invaluable resource to me throughout my career providing opportunities to work with, befriend and learn from some truly remarkable people who care deeply about our community. It has been a privilege to further their efforts and help WSPN foster partnerships with people and organizations who share its commitment to supporting development professionals and advancing philanthropy.”

Michael Sitrick became a member of WSPN in 2003. For Sitrick, WSPN has been an invaluable resource from where he gained knowledge and mentorship from former, dedicated WSPN members and founders such as Joe Skvara, Mike Trench, Dave McGowan and the late Bill Conrad,

In 2004, Michael Sitrick began serving on WSPN's awards luncheon committee after being recruited by one of WSPN's founders, Rob Taylor. In 2006, Sitrick joined the WSPN board as the awards luncheon chair taking over from Taylor. Sitrick served for a couple of years before becoming a full-time student at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where he earned a Juris Doctor with Advocacy Certificate in 2011.

In 2014, he began serving on WSPN's program committee and planned and moderated “Engaging Professional Advisors in the Fundraising Process.” Also in 2014, he collaboratively co-planned a half-day workshop featuring Bill Sturtevant with the Suburban Chicago Planned Giving Council.

In 2015, he joined the Partners in Philanthropy Day planning committee collaboration between WSPN, Suburban Chicago Planned Giving Council and Southwest Suburban Philanthropic Network featuring Penelope Burke. About 150 attended the full-day, professional development workshop.

He has also assisted with the DuPage Foundation-planned WSPN funders panels, moderated by Dave McGowan. The popular, annual program features a question-and-answer format with local foundation representatives.

“Mike is a terrific WSPN volunteer and has given both his talents and time to improve the organization while always bringing fresh thinking to the table,” said Ann E. Spehar, WSPN president.

Sitrick is vice president for advancement at the DuPage Foundation in Downers Grove. In this role, he works closely with the Foundation's board, committees and senior leadership to devise and implement successful development, marketing and organizational strategies to grow the Foundation, effectively communicate the impact of its programs, educate the community about the benefits of charitable planning, and help individuals and organizations accomplish their charitable goals.

Because of his longtime dedication and commitment to WSPN's mission and for his ongoing service and support, the WSPN board is pleased to honor Michael Sitrick with the Distinguished Service Award. ●

Humanitarian of the Year

(Russo continued from page 1)

ships to help close those gaps. Russo is still a board member, sits on the finance committee and spends two days a week traveling from Geneva to Wheaton to provide one-on-one tutoring to those who desire to gain knowledge.

Whether working with a single mom going back to school for her GED or a refugee with minimal schooling trying to attain his/her citizenship, Russo will selflessly share his time to help them achieve their goals. Since 1975, he has provided thousands of hours to ensure the success of PRC and the individuals who seek assistance.

Russo is concerned about the students' learning and success, and he will not only pick up the phone and call students who have missed class, but he will also send a written note to ensure students know he is available to help them work through any barriers that may hinder them from accomplishing their dreams.

"He's great at connecting with all learners," said Julie Wachowski, PRC's literacy coordinator.

In addition, Russo meets with students from Benedictine University's Middle East Partnership Initiative, a program that brings students from the Middle East for a study abroad experience in the U.S. He teaches them about PRC, but he is more fascinated by what the students share with him. He asks poignant questions and encourages purposeful thinking.

Russo is a lifelong learner himself. No matter where you see him, you will always find him carrying a book. He spends his free time participating in three book clubs and has even been known to make public television appearances discussing books he has read.

When he first became involved with PRC as a volunteer in the Literacy Department, he knew the quickest way to learn about the changing landscape was by having lunch with the staff. He would open his lunchbox, share sandwiches and engage in lively conversations.

It's unusual to find a neighbor who will commit to extended volunteerism, it's even more rare to find a neighbor who serves as a longtime board member, and it's extraordinary to find a neighbor who will do both for over 40 years while taking the time to break bread and learn with others.

Russo is a visionary who continues to set a new direction for PRC and protect the safety net for those who are most vulnerable. His extensive reach to connect with others is inspiring and remarkable.

As an innovative businessman, dedicated philanthropist, lifelong learner and devoted volunteer who continues to assist the underserved and broaden our philanthropic culture, WSPN is pleased to recognize Bob Russo as Humanitarian of the Year. ●

Editor's Note

Dear *Cultivate* readers:

It's a privilege to congratulate this year's slate of outstanding and deeply deserving honorees. They all graciously contribute to our community in their own unique ways and serve as role models for what it means to be philanthropic with their resources, talents and time.

We look forward to seeing you on May 17 to celebrate these distinguished honorees.

Sincerely,



Jill McWilliams

Thank you to *Cultivate* proofreaders Janisa Hicks, Sarah Kimes and Evan Munch.

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Save These Dates . . .

West Suburban Philanthropic Network Programs

Please save these dates . . . and join us for the exciting events we have planned.



WSPN programs are free to WSPN members and \$20 for non-members.

Programs are usually held on the third Thursday of each month.

For more information or to register, visit www.wspnonline.org.

West Suburban Philanthropic Network 14th Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, May 17

LOCATION: Embassy Suites, 1823 Abriter Court, Naperville, IL 60563

Networking begins at 11 a.m., luncheon follows. Register online—\$50 per person or \$500 for a table of 10 which includes a business card ad in the program. Sponsorship opportunities are available from \$500 to \$5,000.

Registration and refreshments begin at 8 a.m. and the program begins at 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 16

Topic: Funders Panel
Moderator: David M. McGowan, CFRE, president and CEO of DuPage Foundation
Panelists: Cathy McCann, Chicago Program Officer, Topfer Family Foundation;
Lora Vitek, director of philanthropy and community relations, Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation
Sally Wiarda, founder, 100 Women Who Care, DuPage County
Location: Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, Conference and Education Center, 26W171 Roosevelt Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

Save These 2016 Dates, too.

More details to come.

Sept. 15 • Oct. 20 • Nov. 17 • Dec. (After Hours Holiday Party)

No programs in July and August.

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