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Senior Home Sharing
www.seniorhomesharing.org | 630-407-0440 x11

Resident Peter Gilea leads the St. Patrick's Day Parade car on behalf of Senior Home Sharing.

WSPN mission:

Offering support to development professionals and advancing philanthropy since 1986.

Celebrating Philanthropy: 15th 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 15th Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon on **Tuesday, May 23 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.

Philanthropists of the Year

Elizabeth Hamill Bramsen (Barrington Hills) and Nancy Hamill Winter (Stockton, Ill.)



Elizabeth Hamill Bramsen at Hamill Family Play Zoo at Brookfield Zoo.

“After a parking lot has been paved or a building foundation is laid, it is too late to ‘save the land.’ My goal is to protect land, wildlife and nature for future generations.”
— Elizabeth Hamill Bramsen



Nancy Hamill Winter

“Local conservation is important to me and my family. We grew up near the Fox River and understand and appreciate the value of preserving our community's natural areas, open spaces, streams and rivers.” — Nancy Hamill Winter

(continued on page 8)

Philanthropic Leadership Award

Sally Pentecost (Naperville)

“Any philanthropic contributions I have made are the result of the influence and motivation of the many outstanding models of community contributors in Naperville. I am one of many and am humbled by this recognition. The work with Naper Settlement is especially rewarding because the Settlement captures all those important values and stories which make Naperville a unique and very special community.”

Sally Pentecost has demonstrated visionary leadership to nonprofits since starting her four-decade career in education. She served as a teacher, principal, education consultant, workshop facilitator and administrator in Naperville Community Unit School District 203, Valley View Community Unit School District 365 and Community Consolidated School District 146.



(continued on page 9)

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

Inspiration

Every day in my role I am inspired. Sometimes it happens in the form of hearing the story of a mom served by Northern Illinois Food Bank. Not only is it difficult for her to make ends meet, it is even harder to ask for help and even tougher to be willing to open up about these challenges to a stranger.

Every time a neighbor shares their story with us, they do it for two reasons—to show appreciation for our supporters and to help others in similar circumstances. The strength and compassion of our neighbors is remarkable.

Sometimes my dose of daily inspiration comes from our donors. I am fortunate to be able to meet so many humble and giving people who give their time or money to help others.

More often than not, these charitable neighbors are thanking me for my role, even as I am trying to thank them for their generous support. I am continually impressed by philanthropists in our community.

Inspiration can come from anywhere. It can be from a heartbreaking story that compels action or a beautiful ending that comforts the soul. Either way, it fills me up and enables me to continue serving—my hungry neighbors at work, my family at home, and my network of development professionals through WSPN.

I hope each of you find inspiration as you read the bios of our 15th Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon honorees and use it to catapult you, whatever your passion may be.

Respectfully,



Maeven Sipes



Philanthropy Collection News

Social Media "Hamster Wheel"

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

Feel like you are constantly tweeting, posting and blogging? It might be time to get off the "hamster wheel" and tweak your efforts. Consider stopping by the COD Library for these resources:

- **Connected Causes: Online Marketing Strategies for Nonprofit Organizations** by Walter Wymer and Stacy Landreth Grau. Provides examples on how to gain more exposure on the Internet.
- **Content Marketing for Nonprofits: A Communication Map for Engaging Your Community, Becoming a Favorite Cause, and Raising More Money** by Kivi Leroux Miller. Identifies ways to plan, create, share and manage content that inspires and motivates people to support your nonprofit.
- **Social Movements for Good: How Companies and Causes Create Viral Change** by Derrick Feldmann. Learn to create a winning social movement highlighting reasons why people join a cause and the strategy and support network to have for a movement to flourish.
- **Mobile for Good: A How-to Guide for Nonprofits** by Heather Mansfield. Packed with 500 best practices to help you write, implement and maintain a successful mobile and social fundraising strategy.

The Philanthropy Collection is on the upper floor of the Library, which is open anytime the Library is open. **Our next FREE workshop "Introduction to Finding Grants" is at 9:00am Wednesday, June 28.** If I can help you become more familiar with our non-profit resources, please contact me at (630) 942-2313 or kickels@cod.edu. ●



Blasts From the Past - Program Highlights

Board Development & Engagement



In March, **Marcy McKay**, chapter board recruiter for Gift of Adoption Fund, and **Steve Pratapas**, president of Pratapas Associates,

LLC, provided insights on recruiting and engaging an ideal board. The program was hosted at Robert Crown Center for Health Education in Hinsdale.

Their key takeaways include:

- Board members should have diverse skill sets, a sense of ownership and should have the opportunity to be immediately engaged.
- Be clear about board expectations. Fundraising is a primary goal. I.e. Give \$5,000 and bring in \$5,000. Every board member should have a portfolio and use their networks and spheres of influence.
- Resources for finding ideal board candidates: Volunteermatch.org; BoardSource.org (membership organization with free resources); LinkedIn's advanced search; LinkedIn Sales Navigator; SurveyMonkey.com (create any type of survey).

Restructuring for Success: Mission Sustainability through Restructuring & Collaborations

In April, at NAMI DuPage, **Jean Butzen** of Mission + Strategy Consulting; **Mike Havala**, executive director of Loaves & Fishes; and **Linda Zager**, executive director of Back Office Cooperative, presented the benefits of using collaboration and strategic organizational planning. Highlights include:

- Consider using experts to manage and decrease overhead expenses, which will improve efficiency and outcomes and result in better service. The average cost saving of consolidations is 20 percent.
- The successful merger between Loaves & Fishes and Naperville CARES included: determining criteria for the merger decision; the board was aligned in the process, vision and timeline; smaller teams had authority to make decisions; undertaking due diligence including financial and legal considerations; strategic internal and external communications; and finalizing the merger agreement based on stakeholders' feedback. One year later, community reaction has been overwhelmingly positive.
- After a restructure, overall giving usually increases because there is greater interest, visibility, efficiency and respect. The organization may be better situated to apply for larger grants. ●

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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
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Humanitarian of the Year

Rich Dickson (Carol Stream)

“I am just one of many contributing to the success of DuPage Habitat for Humanity and accept this award as a representative of all the volunteers, staff and partners of our affiliate. I invite you to attend one of our home dedications so you can see why I am involved and why we do what we do. Everyone deserves a decent place to live.”

Rich Dickson began “pounding nails” as a construction volunteer in 2009 and, after a couple of months, became the volunteer relations committee chair, recruiting volunteers and organizing volunteer recognition events. He’s not only an effective “boots on the ground” frontline force for mission engagement, but also is a big-picture strategist who provides exceptional leadership and governance.

Their mission states, DHFH brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. Becoming a Habitat homeowner is both a privilege and a responsibility. Each family meets established criteria, invests 250 or more hours of “sweat equity” on the construction site and pays the mortgage, insurance and taxes.

In 2010, Rich worked with the construction and special events committees to improve existing processes. He helped take their golf outing from a fun, fundraising event to a robust fundraiser that sells out each year. He joined the board in 2012, became vice president in 2013 and has served as president since 2014. As president, he juggles many responsibilities as DHFH functions as a residential homebuilder, mortgage lender, retail operator and neighborhood activist.

As board president, he helped create their strategic plan that increased the number of families served annually by more than five times. Over the past four years, DHFH has served as many families in DuPage as they have in the previous 17 years. He is a tireless spokesperson and fundraiser spending over 40 hours monthly in service and recruitment.

While on the board, he has served on the advisory committee for ReStore, which opened in 2011 to sell discount-building materials with proceeds going to DHFH. Over the past four years, the committee elevated the Addison ReStore to the top 6% of stores across the country. As well as helping with that effort, he takes shifts driving the truck to pick up donations.



Honoree Rich Dickson and Dave Neary, executive director of DuPage Habitat for Humanity, helping a family become new homeowners.

Over the last two years under Rich’s leadership, DHFH has undergone many internal improvements to increase its effectiveness in the delivery of services and community impact. As a result, DHFH was recognized with the Affiliate of Distinction Award (the Malcom Baldrige of the Habitat world) last year. Only 25 of the nearly 1,500 affiliates earned this achievement during 2015-16.

Rich believes housing is part of the holistic approach to the well-being of individuals and the communities in which they live. Therefore, he organized the Chicagoland Habitat for Humanity affiliates to work together to be a louder voice for affordable homeownership. This resulted in three events that, over the past few years, have raised over \$3,000,000. His efforts helped secure the participation of celebrities, fortune 500 CEOs and garnered regional media coverage from major outlets.

He established a Neighborhood Revitalization program, which concentrates DHFH’s housing investments in specific neighborhoods and finds community organizations with which to collaborate. The leadership team established a partnership in the Greenbrook Tanglewood neighborhood of Hanover Park, which will result in a concentrated effort to bring together the private sector and municipalities. As a result, NGOs will make significant investments in this area over the next three to five years to achieve a thriving and sustainable community.

Rich’s legacy will be one of creating a great team of directors to provide guidance to a team of devoted staff members dedicated to the provision of decent housing to those in need.

WSPN is pleased to honor Rich Dickson as Humanitarian of the Year for his exemplary leadership, guidance and commitment to issues of affordable housing. ●

Nonprofit Executive of the Year

Kay McKeen, executive director of SCARCE (Glen Ellyn)



“I am so humbled to receive this award. Making sure we all have clean air, clean water and healthy soil, books to read and a connection with nature is just who I am. I’m always energized by the number of people we reach through our education and are able to inspire to take action.”

In 1990, as a result her passion for environmental issues, **Kay McKeen** founded SCARCE (School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education) to provide teachers with resources to teach environmental education and to work with local municipalities and businesses to improve their environmental practices.

There were no municipal recycling programs in DuPage County 27 years ago. Most trash was either burned or buried in landfills. Kay recognized the need to conserve resources and enact community recycling efforts. She saw that teachers needed more resources to help students understand the ultimate impacts to the earth. SCARCE was her dream to address these important issue.

Through meeting with city leaders, organizing recycling efforts and drives and providing composting education, we now have:

- Curbside recycling in most municipalities.
- Curbside pick-up of composted food is beginning in Naperville.

- Environmental Commissions in many communities. Kay started with Wheaton and this led to recycling centers in other locations.

Senior Home Sharing

The need for affordable housing is well documented at the national, state and local levels. This issue is particularly relevant for low-income older adults living on fixed incomes.

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 and Lombard. Their homes are an integral part of the neighborhood life with access to parks, recreational activities, houses of worship and shopping.

Each home can accommodate seven to eight seniors. Each resident has a private room and the common areas of the home are shared. A live-in residence manager at each home prepares three meals per day, performs light housekeeping, provides medication reminders and oversees the activities of the home. They also have a social worker that completes an assessment on each new resident, links the senior with community, health and social services as needed and works with the resident throughout their stay to ensure their needs are met.

Senior Home Sharing provides a unique service model that is unduplicated in the Chicagoland area and addresses a critical need for affordable senior housing in a county that has the highest cost of living in the state.

During 2013, there were 67,069 senior households in DuPage County. Seventeen percent (17%) of these senior households are renters and nearly 60% of them are in units with rents that are 30% or more than their household income.

These cost-burdened seniors have difficulty

affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.

All of Senior Home Sharing residents meet low-income guidelines issued by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Their residents are independent in functioning although they suffer from chronic health, mental health and cognitive impairments.

Through the program, these older adults receive three daily nutritious meals shared in a family style setting, the camaraderie and socialization opportunities provided in a shared home, as well as the oversight and linkages to health, social and community services that staff provide as needed.

The average monthly rent is \$1,200 and includes utilities, three daily meals and snacks, housekeeping and the support services of the residence manager and social worker.

There are very few options for affordable independent living for low-income seniors living in DuPage. According to the 2015 Genworth Cost of Care Survey, the average cost of assisted living in the Chicago area is \$4,895 per month.

Senior Home Sharing's program model enables low-income, frail seniors to live independently and with dignity in a family style home, maximizing their health and wellness as they age.

Please email Executive Director Courtney Simek at csimek@seniorhome-sharing.org to learn about openings. ●



Residents at Senior Home Sharing Naperville home gather together for some laughs before lunch.

- Thousands of presentations given at schools, libraries, cities and park districts. Topics include worm composting, water resources, organic composting, sustainability, gardening, etc.

- SCARCE stores and recycles books at SCARCE-run environmental fairs. Books are also sent to Africa, Haiti and to school districts in the United States.

- Super Crayon Project sorts donated crayons by color, melts them into molds, and creates large crayons that are used for people with disabilities.

- Prescription bottles are recycled and sent to Doctors Without Borders.

- Pumpkin recycling keeps pumpkins out of landfills.

- Sustainable Design Challenge is a contest for high school students to design areas and buildings that are sustainable.

- Kay has been involved with most environmental legislation in Illinois. Recently passed is a bill that allows public areas to create no-idling areas so children avoid inhaling exhaust fumes. Effective January 2017, another bill allows schools and organizations that serve reduced or free-lunch programs to recycle uneaten, untouched food to other students instead of discarding it.

- Earth Flag is a program that works with schools, park districts and businesses to improve their environmental practices so they may earn a flag.

- Green audits is a program where SCARCE goes to an organization to review their procedures and provide money-saving tips and improvement ideas.

- Translating Recycling Education is a grant-funded program to produce videos in different languages explaining why recycling is important and how to recycle.

- Get Your Garden Growin' Green organizes a spring opportunity for gardeners to get seeds and seedlings, high-quality compost, learn how to make compost, rain barrels, compost bins, worms for indoor composting and lead-free garden hoses.

- Green Fair, an annual fair held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, showcases environmental products and services such as cars, solar bikes, solar powered popcorn machines, kids' nature activities, recycling events, plants, etc.

For her leadership, life-long dedication to protecting the environment and inspiring others to preserve and care for the Earth, WSPN is pleased to present Kay McKeen as Nonprofit Executive of the Year. ●

Foundation Philanthropic Award

Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation (Burr Ridge)



Ronald L. McDaniel, president of Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation

“It is indeed an honor to accept WSPN’s Foundation Philanthropic Award for the Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation. The foundation’s mission is to make philanthropic awards to organizations working primarily for the benefit of children, and I enjoy working with nonprofits to realize that goal.”

– Ronald L. McDaniel

In 1995, Ronald L. McDaniel established the **Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation** to make philanthropic awards to organizations primarily for the benefit of children directly and indirectly. The original purpose was to make impact donations where they may not have happened otherwise. In the early years, donations were small and mostly supportive to the recipient organizations.

Since then, Ron has made an impact in many organizations assisting children including Bridge Communities, CASA of DuPage, DuPage Children’s Museum, Educare of West DuPage, Family Shelter Services, HCS Family Services, Healthy Kid’s Camp, Hillcrest School Playground, Hinsdale Community Service, Indian Boundary YMCA, Literacy of DuPage, Salvation Army, and West Suburban Community Pantry.

In 2008, Ron made his first foundation gift to the DuPage Children’s Museum in support of their School Programs. DCM’s mission is to ignite the potential of all chil-

dren to learn through hands-on exploration by integrating art, math and science. Ron not only was motivated to make a difference in the lives of children, but also he wanted to become an active participant in DCM and be a support to their staff.

As a result of his passion, Ron joined the DCM’s board in 2010. As a board member, Ron draws from his professional experience as president and owner of Western-Cullen-Hayes, Inc., manufacturers of railroad products and safety accessories. From his expertise, he offers valuable guidance, insights and direction to DCM’s leadership. Ron’s work and involvement accomplishes his primary goal: to provide children in need with engaging, hands-on educational activities.

Since that first gift, Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation has provided over \$2 million to DCM. As a result, DCM’s School Programs’ staff members were able to develop new learning labs. They also visited more Title I schools to provide children with hands-on, educational exhibits. He also supported the building of their new cafe, which increased revenue.

Ron’s gift was also instrumental in bringing the *Dream With Da Vinci* exhibit—designed by Curious Kids’ Museum in St. Joseph, Michigan—to DCM as it traveled outside of Michigan for the first time. His leadership donation inspired other donors to support educational and cultural programs to support the scientific/artistic (STEAM) based concepts around the *Dream With Da Vinci* exhibit.

“He gives freely of his time to ensure children have an equal and engaging education,” said Sarah Orleans, president and CEO of DCM. Through his support, DCM provides those children whose education often does not extend outside the classroom with the opportunity to learn through play and their interaction with the world in daily life.

Because Ron McDaniel provides support and encouragement and has made a positive and lasting impact on many nonprofits, WSPN is pleased to honor the Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation with the Foundation Philanthropic Award. ●

Service Club Philanthropic Award

Naperville Noon Lions (Naperville)



Naperville Noon Lions Foundation

“The Naperville Noon Lions Club has been quietly raising funds over the last 68 years to benefit blind, deaf and diabetes related charities, often without publicity or fanfare. Our club membership is delighted to receive this significant recognition from the West Suburban Philanthropic Network.” – Stephen R. Hertzberg, DDS, MS, president of Naperville Noon Lions Club

Naperville Noon Lions’ mission is simply expressed in their motto, “We serve.” Their purpose is to help those in need, and their primary emphasis includes sight and hearing impairment, diabetes awareness and programs for youth.

The International Association of Lions Clubs began in 1917 as the dream of Chicago businessman Melvin Jones, who believed that local business clubs should expand from purely professional concerns to the betterment of their communities and the world at large. In 1925, Helen Keller challenged Lions to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.” Since then, Lions clubs have been actively involved in service to the blind and visually impaired.

In addition to sight programs, Lions Clubs International is committed to providing services for youth. Lions clubs also work to improve the environment, build homes for the disabled, support diabetes education, conduct hearing programs and, through their foundation, provide disaster relief around the world. Lions Clubs International has grown to include 1.4 mil-

Grantmaker of the Year

Kristin Carlson Vogen of Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation (Oak Park)

lion men and women in 46,000 clubs located in 192 countries and geographic areas.

In 1948, the Naperville Noon Lions Club was established and has helped those in need. The Naperville Noon Lions raise funds through Candy Day, funnel cake sales at Naperville's Ribfest, Summer Raffle and Thanksgiving Day 5K Turkey Trot.

In 2016, the Naperville Noon Lions donated over \$190,000 to local nonprofits. Annually, many thousands of dollars are directed to individuals through their social services committee for needed eye/ear exams, glasses and hearing aids and other needed services and equipment.

Since 1994, the Naperville Noon Lions Club has supported Donka, Inc.'s computer training programs with assistive technology, which has helped to change the lives of hundreds of people with disabilities. In the last two years, the Club has helped Donka raise over \$40,000, which has supported scholarships for their assistive technology computer training for those with visual, physical or other disabilities. In addition, the Club offers volunteer engagement, board leadership and an unwavering commitment to end barriers of disabilities.

In 2016, the Naperville Noon Lions assisted about 375 people with sight and hearing needs and organizations including Angelman Syndrome Foundation, Beep Baseball, Bridge Communities, CASA DuPage and CASA Kane, Camp Lions for the Blind, Hear Us, Easter Seals (Naperville), Edward Foundation, Feed My Starving Children, Humanitarian Service Project, Little Friends, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Midwest Eye Bank, Loaves & Fishes Community Services, St. Baldrick's to benefit Pediatric Cancer Research, We Grow Dreams, diabetic testing strips for in-school testing at School Districts 203 & 204, Naperville 360 Youth Services, Operation Support Our Troops, Organ Transplant Support, Ski for Sight, Spectrios Institute for Low Vision, Western DuPage Special Recreation Association, and YMCA before- and after-school Safe 'n Sound Child Care Program in District 203.

For their service to the community and their philanthropic spirit, WSPN is pleased to present Naperville Noon Lions with the Service Club Philanthropic Award. ●



“I am extremely honored to be recognized by WSPN, especially as I and the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation were nominated by one of our area social impact organizations, The Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest. The art of grantmaking requires both an inquiring mind and a compassionate heart. Thanks to WSPN for elevating all forms of philanthropy through your annual awards.”

In August 2014, **Kristin Carlson Vogen** was appointed president and CEO of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, which was officially launched in 1960. Their mission is engaging people and mobilizing resources to strengthen community.

Under her leadership, the Foundation has enhanced their vision of creating a vibrant, sustainable and caring community. In addition, she increased the number of funds it advises to 110, a nearly 20% increase. Also, the Women Leaders in Philanthropy has transitioned from an endowment-generating group to one that collaboratively decides how and where to target resources.

The Foundation has begun offering a number of grants to impact social services and arts organizations. The most recent project is The Big Idea, a \$50,000 grant to an organization that positively influences the community. A network of area business executives, Entrepreneur Leaders in

Philanthropy, pooled their resources to have a larger community impact.

Kristin has focused her philanthropic energy in helping agencies network to increase their effectiveness. For example, Success of All Youth is a partnership of agencies that deals with youth issues and includes a youth board. With an expanded emphasis on young people with the Future Philanthropists program, high-school juniors and seniors raise funds and offer grants as a board. The Foundation continues to offer scholarships.

Kristin has also developed NextGen Leaders in Philanthropy, which brings together emerging leaders and philanthropists to identify social issues and raise funds to address them. Their Impact Excellence Programs offer workshops and seminars to nonprofit executives and board members to address core elements of capacity building.

The Foundation has expanded the use of technology in its programs with grant applications, evaluations and reporting moving online to ensure their resources are used efficiently. This effort supports the Foundation's PlanItGreen project, which focuses attention on environmental sustainability.

Kristin continues to expand the Foundation's role in community affairs, through efforts such as talks with faith-based groups. Last spring, the Foundation established a Volunteer Meet 'n Match, which matched 40 nonprofit agencies with about 400 potential volunteers.

This spring, the Foundation is offering the first “Share the Warmth” relay to raise awareness of the Foundation as well as local nonprofits. There is also a fundraising aspect, which will help participating groups generate additional resources to support their missions. The Foundation also offers a new program for arts agencies to improve their managerial capabilities.

As a result of her commitment to the Oak Park-River Forest community, she was awarded the 2015 River Forest Villager of the Year.

With her vision of transforming resources for nonprofits and the clientele they serve, WSPN honors Kristin Carlson Vogen with Grantmaker of the Year. ●

Through the Hamill Family Foundation, **Nancy Hamill Winter** and **Elizabeth Hamill Bramsen** have actively supported conservation efforts for decades.

These dynamic sisters provide volunteerism, leadership and financial support to several nonprofits in the Chicagoland area, and they are considered among the elite conservationists in the area.

Their parents, Corwith and Joan Smith Hamill, both of whom were staunch supporters of environmental causes, cultivated this passion in their children. Their brother, Jonathan Hamill, is also a generous supporter of area nonprofits.

Elizabeth is a founding board member of the Barrington Area Conservation Trust. She was recently selected as a member of the Illinois Conservation Foundation's Illinois Outdoors Hall of Fame.

In 2016, Elizabeth donated a parcel of land to the Village of Wayne, along with a conservation easement to The Conservation Foundation. This critical parcel connecting Dunham Forest Preserve and Wayne Equestrian Center ensures that the land will be kept as open space in perpetuity.

Nancy sat on the board of Openlands, which supports community gardening, biking and paddling trails, farmland protection and many other conservation initiatives. Nancy is also a trustee emeritus of the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and a past and founding board member of the Prairie State Conservation Coalition.

Nancy served on the board of The Morton Arboretum from 1999 to 2007. The Hamill Family Foundation has recently committed a \$1 million challenge match to encourage support of the Arboretum's Growing Brilliantly campaign to support science, education and conservation programs.

In 2010, Natural Land Institute honored Nancy with the George and Barbara Fell Award, which recognizes accomplishments that significantly

advance natural area preservation, protection, management and restoration. Nancy also helped create Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation as well as Equine Land Conservation Resource.

Three generations of Hamill family members have served continuously on the board of Chicago Zoological Society, which was founded in 1921 and operates Brookfield Zoo. Elizabeth has served as vice chair since 2003, and Nancy is a governing life member of the Society.

The family was the lead donor in the campaigns for Hamill Family Play Zoo (2001), Great Bear Wilderness (2010), and Hamill Family Wild Encounters (2015). Last year, the Society honored Elizabeth, Jon and Nancy with the Outstanding Conservation Philanthropy award.

In 2014, The Conservation Foundation received a \$1.5 million donation from Nancy and Elizabeth to support community education and outreach in the Fox River watershed. With the donation, they created a matching challenge in that the final \$500,000 would be contingent upon the The Conservation Foundation raising \$250,000 of new donations, which galvanized efforts and motivated many donors to increase their giving.

They also contributed \$160,000 to help The Conservation Foundation purchase a 253-acre land parcel along the Fox River near Ottawa, Ill., which is now known as the Dayton Bluffs Nature Preserve.

The Hamill Family Foundation has also supported Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center, ACLU, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, and Environmental Law and Policy Center.

As a result of their commitment to conservation efforts, motivating others to conserve our resources and for providing volunteerism, leadership and support to many nonprofits, WSPN recognizes Nancy Hamill Winter and Elizabeth Hamill Bramsen as WSPN's Philanthropists of the Year. ●

Nonprofit Volunteer of the Year

Theodore E. Lind (Woodstock)



“I am honored to be chosen for this award from among the 2,400 PRC volunteers who are dedicated to creating a future of hope and opportunity for our clients. In these troubling times, I feel it is of special importance we help those who are in need.”

Theodore E. Lind has been an active volunteer at People's Resource Center since 1999. Throughout his nearly 18 years of service, he has provided more than 6,800 hours of service, which equates to more than three years of full-time work. Yet, those who know Ted agree that this is an underestimation of his actual volunteer hours. They can't accurately count his hours because he has done and continues to do so much behind the scenes.

When Ted began volunteering at PRC, he was recruited to help raise PRC's collective "computer literacy." He patiently taught the growing PRC team, cheerfully accepting a challenging environment as PRC grew and physical space became more limited. Ted was years ahead of the curve as technology began to reshape the landscape of nonprofits. He spent hours tutoring PRC leadership and staff, helping to craft a technology plan, which became essential as their growth continued.

Ted has been a dedicated volunteer in PRC's computer training program since its inception. He spent many hours in his early years overseeing the initial curriculum development and providing support for volunteer instructors. He developed the student survey system that provides

feedback about each class and instructor. In addition, he created guidelines for teaching computer skills to adults and provided tools for the growing team of volunteer instructors PRC relies upon today. He remains a data whiz and responds to questions about data, charts, tables and graphs at a moment's notice.

Having a longer tenure than most of the current staff, Ted is PRC's link to the computer training program. In addition to being a steady expert advisor, he continues day-to-day, week-to-week work that is a critical sustainability factor in PRC's high-quality computer training program. Ted is a key factor in the maintenance and ongoing functionality of important aspects of PRC's client database.

He understands the programmatic needs and translates those needs into effective and efficient database improvements. He is credited with making it possible for PRC to closely examine programmatic success, enrollment and impact within the computer training program.

Other examples of Ted's stellar volunteerism include creating two databases for the computer training program and the computer refurbishing program; planning for the data network and servers during PRC's move to Wheaton in 2004; integrating the computer training database with overarching PRC client and volunteer databases; and providing input and analysis for the evolution and improvement of PRC's various databases in response to changes.

Ted patiently works with various personalities and maintains a deep compassion for adult learners. He has an uncommon ability to communicate complicated topics in understandable ways. He is incredibly humble while being exponentially impactful with the value and expertise he provides. On a daily basis, Ted consistently is available to guide everyone at PRC in virtually any technical area.

As a result of the direct and indirect impact Ted Lind has had on the lives of thousands of DuPage County neighbors through his volunteerism at People's Resource Center, WSPN is pleased to honor him as Nonprofit Volunteer of the Year. ●

Known for her tough but fair and approachable style as principal at Madison Junior High School in Naperville, Sally transitioned after retirement in 2002 into a student-advocate and expulsion hearing officer for the Naperville and DeKalb school districts, a role she currently holds.

Looking to serve the broader community by sharing her passion for education, Sally joined the Naperville Heritage Society board in 2001. During the past 16 years, she served as assistant treasurer, vice chair, chair and currently serves as immediate past chair.

Her outcome-oriented vision and successful fundraising efforts impacted:

- Barn Raising Benefit, the largest fundraising event in NHS history in 2016 to support a new Agricultural Interpretive Center at Naper Settlement; over \$250,000 raised in addition to commitments of nine leadership campaign gifts.

- The "silent phase" of Never Settle, a \$30 million capital campaign in 2016 to fund construction and program development of agricultural history, diversity and inclusion of a changing population, suburbanization and impacts of the I-88 technology corridor.

- Updating NHS's vision in 2014 to "Live History, Inspire the Future" in advance of hiring Naper Settlement's President & CEO Macarena Tamayo-Calabrese. Board and staff collectively completed an update to its five-year strategic plan as an outgrowth of the new vision.

- The Rita (Fredenhagen) and John Harvard Early Learning Playscape opened in 2014 as a result of her focus on early learning at Naper Settlement. The 10,000 sq. ft. exhibition offers physical, social and imaginative play for children ages 2-7. It received Illinois Parks and Recreation Association's Outstanding Facility & Parks Award.

- Upgrades to Naper Settlement's museum including \$2.3 million in storm-water management improvements in 2011 and site-wide electrical infrastructure replacement in 2014. Implementing these sustainable practices earned awards from Chicago Wilderness Foundation, US Environmental Protection Agency, Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District, and The Conservation Foundation. The infra-

structure supports large-scale community arts and cultural events such as Naper Settlement's summer concerts, Naperville Woman's Club Art Fair, Midwest SOARRING Foundation's Pow Wow and Christkindlmarket Naperville.

- Development and construction of the award-winning Naper Homestead Interpretive Park completed in 2013 featuring the town's settlement based on professionally led archaeology digs in 2006 and 2007 incorporating over 200 volunteers. The downtown Naperville park features interpretive signage, demarcations highlighting the original locations of Naper's trading post, log cabin, native landscaping and bronze sculpture of Captain Joseph Naper designed by Pulitzer Prize-winning artist Dick Locher.

- American Alliance of Museums' national museum accreditation in 2002 and 2012—the only outdoor history museum in Illinois and the only accredited museum in DuPage to receive such distinction.

Sally's lifelong calling to improve lives through access to education and resources has led to numerous leadership roles with organizations including Naperville Education Foundation, First Congregational United Church of Christ, PEO Sisterhood, Naperville Sister Cities Commission, and Naper Settlement Museum board.

Sally has been a powerful force behind Naper Settlement's dramatic growth. Annual attendance has grown from 105,000 in 2012 to over 350,000 in 2016, and \$4.5 million has been raised outside of operational budgets to support growth in educational programs, community outreach, expanded events and capital projects.

As a result of Sally's proactive nature to share resources and work collaboratively, partnerships have been forged with school districts, DuPage Children's Museum, Edward Hospital Cancer Foundation, Loaves & Fishes, NCTV17, Naperville Jaycees, Naperville Park District, Naperville Public Library, Rotary Club of Naperville and North Central College.

For her visionary philanthropic leadership and service to community, WSPN is pleased to present Sally Pentecost with the Philanthropic Leadership Award. ●

Scholarships

The world of philanthropy is teeming with substantial information. Let WSPN help you access it!

If your philanthropic organization doesn't have sufficient funds to send you to the latest AFP conference, Forefront course or other philanthropy educational event, WSPN can offer financial assistance for these skill-building workshops and trainings.

HOW TO APPLY:

Scholarships for training and continuing education opportunities are available to WSPN members. Scholarships can be applied to a variety of educational opportunities related to fundraising and non-profit management.

If you are a member of WSPN and interested in applying for a scholarship, please complete an application form found at www.wspnonline.org. ●

Editor's Note

Dear *Cultivate* readers:

On behalf of the WSPN board, it's a privilege to congratulate this year's slate of outstanding and deeply deserving honorees.

They all graciously contribute to our community and serve as role models for what it means to be philanthropic with their resources, talents and time.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” – Elizabeth Andrew

Enjoy the 15th Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon.

Sincerely,



Jill McWilliams

Thank you to *Cultivate* proofreaders Sarah Kimes and Sarah Lichtenwalter.

Young Philanthropist Award

Rebecca Vogt (Elmhurst)



“Receiving the WSPN Young Philanthropist Award is such an honor. Seeing the impact and influence on people from the organizations that I serve and raise money for is what motivates me to continue to give back to my community and beyond.”

Rebecca Vogt, a junior at Elmhurst College majoring in Spanish and special education, is more than a stellar college student—she is a role model young philanthropist. She uses her leadership, management skills, participation and dedication of her time volunteering for several organizations including Elmhurst College Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter; Elmhurst College Office of Leadership, Service and Engagement; Best Buddies; and Elmhurst Learning and Success Academy.

DuPage Habitat for Humanity recognized her outstanding work as coordinator of education and advocacy for the Elmhurst College Campus Habitat Chapter, which is a student-led, student-initiated organization that educates, advocates and raises funds for affordable housing and participates in the building process.

As coordinator in 2015, Rebecca organized student leaders to attend Habitat on the Hill, an annual legislative conference where advocates converge on Washington D.C. to discuss affordable housing and meet with lawmakers. Elmhurst College's group was the largest group from any college chapter at this national event.

As an intern with the Office of Leadership, Service and Engagement at Elmhurst College, she organized campus-wide volunteer days known as Bluejays Care Service Projects. She

recruited and coordinated volunteers for Feed My Starving Children and Northern Illinois Food Bank, and she recruited and managed 126 volunteers for Elmhurst College's annual recycling extravaganza.

Elmhurst Learning and Success Academy (ELSA) offers post-secondary education experiences at Elmhurst College to young adults with developmental disabilities. Rebecca is a life coach for ELSA students and a classroom aid. Her work contributes to the end result of developmentally disabled adults who are more equipped to find employment and live independently.

Serving as acting vice president of her sorority, she helped plan philanthropic events including a book drive to raise awareness for literacy. In her role as vice president of Leadership, Service and Engagement on Elmhurst College's Panhellenic Council, she provided service and leadership opportunities to students.

In August 2016, Rebecca served as an Orientation Student Leader, acting as a role model and guide to first-year students as they adjust to campus life. She also organized and directed an on-campus Women's Empowerment Week, which provided educational events while raising funds for Panhellenic Council.

Rebecca served as coordinator of Elmhurst's Best Buddies Friendship Walk, an annual event that raises awareness and funds to support individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. Under her leadership, Elmhurst's 40 student participants raised over \$1,500.

As a role model of international altruism, she studied abroad in Costa Rica in January 2016 and spent her afternoons providing after-school care in an impoverished community. She spent the Spring 2017 semester in Ecuador. Though she had only been there a couple of weeks, she arranged to tutor Ecuadorian students.

She maintains a 3.8 GPA. Last summer, she was a coordinator and lead counselor at a YMCA Day Camp, mentoring a group of young campers.

It is with honor that WSPN recognizes Rebecca Vogt with the Young Philanthropist Award for her advocacy with HFH, fundraising efforts, leadership roles at Elmhurst College and serving individuals with developmental disabilities. ●

WSPN Distinguished Service Award

Ann E. Spehar (Aurora)



“It’s an honor to receive recognition for my WSPN volunteerism. I am deeply humbled and accept this award on behalf of all previous winners who have given so much to our profession. Every day there is inspiration around you to empower and serve others—including your colleagues. It’s a privilege to do so.”

After starting a job in the suburbs in 2008, **Ann E. Spehar** began looking for an organization in the suburbs that would fill the

void left when she stopped working and commuting downtown, where she was active in Association of Fundraising Professionals, and Association Forum of Chicagoland, now called Association Forum. That void included building a network of professional colleagues and friends.

She began attending WSPN educational events and networking. Her first involvement was on the awards luncheon committee then assisting on the membership committee.

In 2011, Lora Vitek, former WSPN president, recruited her to serve a two-year term as membership chair. To clean up the data from multiple Excel spreadsheets, she decided to learn Wild Apricot, WSPN’s website platform and put all the data into the platform’s member database.

In 2013, Ann served a one-year term as vice president, which was followed by a two-year term as president. As president, Ann’s focus was the sustainability of WSPN, and therefore, she diligently worked to recruit new volunteers for committees and board positions.

During her term as president, she helped streamline administrative processes, increase transparency, execute a strategic planning review and assisted with bringing the funders educational track idea to fruition.

She also completed duties associated with the programs and communication committees as needed. Ann did all of this while serving as the executive director of a “one-and-a-half-woman shop” at Naperville Education Foundation.

During her tenure, membership remained strong while WSPN’s net income grew to afford the board with a chance to pursue new initiatives such as funders programs, the Ask the Attorney program and Partners in Philanthropy Day.

Currently serving as immediate past president, Ann handed WSPN over to new leadership with a robust opportunity to grow and evolve. She is an active leader, attends many programs, represents WSPN in the community and has improved collaboration with South West Suburban Philanthropic Network, and AFP.

Ann has worked for or with nonprofits her entire career, and after almost nine years of being involved with WSPN, she says she has met and worked with inspiring leaders, motivating volunteers, bright thinkers, and of most importance, she found her professional home.

She currently has her own company, Change a Life, Make a Gift, where she conducts strategic and annual planning workshops, crafts speeches and guides fundraising architecture and planning sessions for small- to mid-sized organizations.

With honor and appreciation for her dedicated service, WSPN is pleased to present Ann E. Spehar with WSPN’s Distinguished Service Award. ●

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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.

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

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

West Suburban Philanthropic Network 15th Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, May 23

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. Visit www.wspnonline.org.

Thursday, June 15

Topic: Funders Panel

Moderator: David McGowan, CFRE, president and CEO, DuPage Foundation

Panelists: Allen M. Gustafson, president, Gustafson Family Foundation
Timothy J. Kolschowsky, president, Gerald A. & Karen A. Kolschowsky Foundation
Barbara S. Szczepaniak, vice president for programs, DuPage Foundation

Location: NIU Naperville, 1120 E. Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563

Save these dates, too. More details to follow.

September 21 • October 19

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