



The Golden Hoosier Award

2020 Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020

Hosted by

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch

The Division of Aging, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

Indiana History Center

AARP Indiana

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The Golden Hoosier Award

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2020 Golden Hoosier Award

David Andrews

Cheryl Ashe

Frieda Bolin

Dorothy Carswell

John Cotter

Morton Dale

Margrit Figg

Helen Mundy Hudson

Betty Huelsman

Jack Kahn

Roger Kelley

Patricia Kinnett

Evalena Kuntz

Alicia & Terry Mardis

Michael McCutcheon

Tim Meyer

Shirley Stallworth Moorehead

Danny Nelson

Linda Ozier

Cynthia Streich

Irvin Stumler

Keith Swanson

Joe Swope

Robert Wulliman



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Sept. 23, 2020

Greetings!

It is my pleasure to honor our recipients of the 2020 Golden Hoosier Award.

Since 2008, Hoosiers have been recognized for service to their communities with the prestigious Golden Hoosier Award. It is not just one act of community service, but rather a lifetime of community service and commitment to serving others that we honor on this special occasion. As the 52nd Lt. Governor of Indiana, it is my privilege to continue this great tradition of expressing our appreciation to these fine Hoosiers.

In partnership with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Aging, and with our co-host, AARP Indiana, the Governor and I are so pleased to extend our gratitude and our admiration for all who have received this prestigious award. The Golden Hoosier Award is the highest honor bestowed upon senior citizens by the State of Indiana.

Please join us in recognizing these deserving individuals receiving their awards this year. These recipients are heroes from every corner of our state and serve their communities in many capacities.

Please enjoy the ceremony and the celebration of Indiana's Golden Hoosiers! It is individual Hoosiers like these who make Indiana great and are moving our state forward every day.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Crouch
Lt. Governor

2020 Golden Hoosier Award Recipients

David Andrews | Schererville (Lake County)

Nominated by Jane Dvorscak

A love for teaching, a passion for local history and a rediscovered 1800s-era schoolhouse inspired David Andrews to approach fellow Schererville Historical Society members in 1993 with an idea: “making history” by conducting 19th-century-style classes. Andrews, a retired teacher and principal of 35 years from the Lake Central School District, enlisted help to create replica desks, obtained donations from the community and recruited other retired staff to make the St. John Township School #2 (often referred to as the “One-Room School House”) a memorable field trip for over 10,000 students in the 4th grade. Andrews, along with other volunteers, guides the students through a typical 1872 pioneer school day. A 4th grade teacher commented that many of her former students tell her that one of their fondest memories is their trip to the One-Room School House and “Mr. Dave.” She reflects, “How many people can say they make such an impact on students after only meeting them for a few hours when they were 9-10 years old?” Andrews and his wife, Mary, are also involved with Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana. Although Andrews prefers not to be in the limelight, it appears that with his inner love for teaching and caring for others, he can’t help but to shine.

Cheryl Ashe | South Bend (St. Joseph County)

Nominated by Pam Harris

Retired librarian Cheryl Ashe cares deeply for those needing a second chance. As a volunteer with Dismas House, she helps ex-offenders re-enter the community by connecting them with critical services. She recognized that those with prior drug felonies were unable to receive food stamps, hindering access to good nutrition, which, she realized, was important for relapse prevention. Ashe collaborated with the University of Notre Dame and local and state agencies for six years until the law was changed. Now those recently released from prison have a better chance for successful re-entry and becoming a contributing citizen. An admirer says, “She became the friend that helped people get back on their feet and find hope. That’s big to anyone trying to start all over again.” She has also self-produced almost 90 shows entitled, “Have You Read?” where she highlights books of interest to African Americans. She has also produced a DVD for youth who are stopped by police officers so they will know how best to respond to avoid escalation. Ashe has also raised funds to produce a booklet in Spanish outlining immigrants’ legal rights and sent teachers in Ghana educational materials. Her caring extends beyond stigma and borders.

Frieda Bolin | Winslow (Pike County)

Nominated by Laura Holscher

With over five decades of serving Pike County, Frieda Bolin is known as a catalyst in making a difference. For over 35 years, Bolin has operated a senior center in her community, which provides meals, activities, education and health screenings. When the Winslow Senior Center burned down, Bolin was not deterred. She sifted through the ashes to salvage what she could and persevered in raising funds for a new senior center. Even at 83 years old, Bolin was not deterred when the Winslow Senior Center had to close due to the global pandemic. She planned meals and delivery routes, recruited volunteers to cook and deliver meals and secured funds to make it happen. Over a three-month period, 1,300 meals were delivered to those who were unable to visit the center. Bolin is also a long-time member of the Muren Church of God, where she has spread love and support within the community. When a woman who did not have family in the area had a stroke, Bolin accompanied her to the emergency room and stayed with her until she passed. Her compassion is contagious and her acts of kindness, both small and large, have impacted many in her community.

Dorothy Carswell | Bourbon (Marshall County)

Nominated by Pam Harris

Dorothy Carswell, an active 91-year-old volunteer serving at a REAL Services nutritional site for seniors, creates a welcoming environment where people are treated as family. Carswell has a servant's heart. She is content doing the small things, such as preparing the room, making sure meals are served on time, washing dishes, cleaning and completing paperwork. However, she also makes a point to interact with everyone so they know they are important, reflecting how much she cares about the total person. When someone is not in attendance, she'll call to make sure they are fine. She even planted a garden to ensure the freshest food is available. A friend says, "Guests always look forward to being greeted by Dorothy because she makes them feel so welcomed. Because Dorothy has done this for 22 years, she has become family to all those who attend lunch at this nutrition site. Invaluable." Carswell has also been deeply involved in her church, where she organized funeral meals and provided comfort to grieving families. Her commitment and compassion has enabled programs to go beyond just providing a service—as an admirer describes, "when she enters a building she spreads lots of joy, cheer and love."

2020 Golden Hoosier Award Recipients

John Cotter | Linton (Greene County)

Nominated by Cheryl Hamilton

A friend says that John Cotter often avoids recognition by refusing nominations for local awards—he simply has a love for his community. Cotter has volunteered for over three decades with the Linton-Stockton Chamber of Commerce and the Linton Freedom Festival Taskforce. He has led the chamber with strategic planning, investment and budget reviews, upgrading technology and overseeing the building of a storage facility. Cotter serves as chair of the fireworks committee, builds floats and organizes the lineup for the Linton Freedom Festival Parade, recognized as “Indiana’s Largest Independence Day Parade.” He is also active with the Linton Park Board, where residents can even see him watering young trees in the park. Cotter is a member of the Greene County tourism board, working tirelessly to promote the natural resources in Greene County and tourism opportunities. An admirer says, “Every community needs a John Cotter. Someone who doesn’t just talk the talk but walks the walk. That person in the community who might wash windows on a vacant building versus sitting at the local coffee spot complaining about the dirty windows but not offering to solve the problem. I don’t know when the man sleeps. I want half his energy!”

Morton Dale | Leavenworth (Crawford County)

Nominated by friends of Crawford County

When the Crawford County Chamber of Commerce went dormant and had its non-profit status revoked, Morton Dale chose to do something about it. He reinstated the non-profit status, recruited members for the board of directors and enlisted businesses to join. After a decade, the chamber now thrives. A resident stated, “It is not a stretch to say we only have a functioning chamber today because of Morton.” He has also been the driving force to renew the Crawford County Economic Development Partnership Corporation. He established a partnership with Radius Indiana to grow local and regional economic development. Dale has contributed to numerous local boards, served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and has spearheaded a Royal Ranger program in his church to teach children life skills. A friend mentioned, “Morton has been a great friend to me. When I lost my eyesight, Morton stepped up to help me out in many ways. So most of my volunteer activities across the last seven-and-a-half years have been due to Morton making it possible.” His friend observes, “Morton has given more to his adopted county than most people who have spent their whole lives here.”

Margrit Figg | Martinsville (Morgan County)

Nominated by Ruth Trammell

Margrit Figg is deeply committed to alleviating hunger in Morgan County and is known as the driving force behind the Morgantown food pantry for the past 25 years. Volunteering over 30 hours a week, she assesses food needs and drives to multiple stores to obtain the best prices—some stores even call her in advance to let her know about upcoming sales. She fills and delivers bags when necessary. She also assists the Martinsville Food pantry with distribution. During the first month of the pandemic, 85-year-old Figg was on the front lines devising a safe, drive-through food distribution line and even delivering some meals herself. She seeks donations and diligently sends thank you notes to each donor. Figg organizes an annual garage sale to support the food pantry—unsold items are sent to other organizations serving the community. She also cooks for the local Lions Club and for Mother’s Cupboard in Nashville. According to an admirer, “She is a dynamo in getting things organized and accomplished. I cannot express in words what all she does nor how she does it. She volunteers for these things and works so hard as her vocation in life is to serve her fellow man.”

Helen Mundy Hudson | Crawfordsville (Montgomery County)

Nominated by Gail Pebworth

Helen Hudson is an inspirational leader. A gifted writer and teacher, she challenges others to learn more, do more and be more. She led students in a project to refurbish a local Amtrak station, which not only won awards but also trained the students in leadership and advocacy. Hudson is the president of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, which encourages active participation in government. She also crafts the League’s weekly newspaper column. She is involved with the Local Food Summit team, which sponsors local food events and encourages gardening. As a leader in the Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society, Hudson elevated the Holiday Tea and Fashion Show to a treasured start to the holiday season in Crawfordsville. Hudson is a member of the Humans United for Equality board and has served with St. John’s Episcopal Church, Athens Arts board of directors and several other organizations. An admirer stated, “She is not afraid to look at challenges and find solutions that serve the greater good. She is the best kind of teacher as she is also a willing and enthusiastic student. She is a life-long learner who is constantly seeking new issues and answers to pressing concerns.”

2020 Golden Hoosier Award Recipients

Betty Huelsman | Oden (Davies County)

Nominated by Kim Herbertz

Betty Huelsman's story is as compelling as those contained in the Loogootee Public Library, where she serves on the board of directors. She was instrumental in raising funds for the opening of this brand-new facility. The library not only houses more materials and areas for community programming, but also a state-of-the-art technology area, where residents can use high speed Internet. She serves as the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program board of directors president, where she leads the vision screening project, food security projects and children's literacy initiatives. As a trainer for the Healthy Steps program, she teaches older adults how to prevent dangerous falls. As a member of the St. Vincent DePaul Society, she helps those with limited resources meet the demands of unforeseen circumstances. For the past 25 years, she has helped to provide a holiday meal for hundreds in Loogootee. One admirer states, "There are not enough words to describe the kindness and generosity of this volunteer." Another describes Huelsman as "a very hard worker with the energy of someone half her age. She is a born leader and is an incredible advocate for the causes she believes in and the agencies she supports."

Jack Kahn | Bloomington (Monroe County)

Nominated by Philip Stafford

A decade ago, Jack Kahn and a small group persuaded local officials to establish the Bloomington Commission on Aging. This group works in collaboration with diverse community members and organizations to build bridges, open dialogue, celebrate accomplishments, encourage programming and explore issues and concerns of older adults. He has since served as an officer and is still an appointed member who actively attends and advocates on behalf of older adults in many local government and community meetings. Capitalizing on his career experience as a 35-year computer programmer and engineer, he led efforts to develop a SeniorNet program of computer instruction for seniors at the Broadview Community Learning Center. He is also known as a "fitness buff" and has engaged in a lifestyle that encourages others to be physically active. He is proud of his community and, according to a friend, "proudly represents age itself and is never shy nor embarrassed to call himself old."

Roger Kelley, Jr. | Ellettsville (Monroe County)

Nominated by Rowan Creech

Marine veteran and retired Bloomington Police Department sergeant Roger Kelley is described as “a man of honor and service to his country and community.” He has served as a delegate on the Monroe County Domestic Task Force and the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. His heart to serve mothers and children was evident in a local renewal neighborhood in Bloomington. He extended hospitality to children in dire situations until they could be repatriated with their families or find a forever family—on occasion forming bonds with mothers and children for over 15 years. Kelley also volunteered with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Fraternal Order of Police, assisting with fundraising and events. One favorite event was “Shop with a Cop,” where an officer and child shop for needed items, such as clothing and school supplies, with community monetary donations. Kelley continues to serve others as he works for Monroe Hospital, providing security and assisting with COVID-19 testing. An individual impacted by his kindness says, “men like Mr. Kelley are very rare and such a blessing when they enter your life.”

Patricia Kinnett | New Castle (Henry County)

Nominated by Jenny Hamilton

A global pandemic cannot hinder Patricia Kinnett from doing what she always does—serving others in Henry County. Kinnett’s experience leading and directing involvement in the New Castle Salvation Army food pantry operations enabled her to adapt and continue serving. A friend remarked, “Patricia ensures no one will do without if she can help it.” Kinnett has served for over a decade with the Salvation Army and is currently the advisory board president. She is known for her smile and for brightening the days of others by networking with local businesses to provide pizza or donuts to anyone that comes for food assistance. Her volunteer spirit especially shines during the holiday season as she enthusiastically organizes and distributes masses of clothing, food boxes and gifts, as well as tallies donations from the iconic red kettles. She has also volunteered at the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, the New Castle-Henry County Public Library, American Red Cross and Westminster Village. Kinnett reflects, “I can tell I am helping people; over the years you get to know people.” Blessings have been given and received. A friend writes that she “volunteers with her heart and cares for others.”

2020 Golden Hoosier Award Recipients

Evalena Kuntz | Batesville (Franklin and Ripley Counties)

Nominated by Angie Harmeyer

Evalena Kuntz, known as “Evy,” recognizes and celebrates the diverse abilities of all individuals. When one of her children was born with Down syndrome, Kuntz began her decades-long advocacy work by enabling the gifts of those with special needs, strengthening their families and creating a community where all can contribute and belong. She volunteered with Tri-County Council for Special People, where she engaged in fundraising, classroom assistance and recreational opportunities. Since 2007, she has been the lead instructor with SHARE: Special Happy Adult Religion Experience. She is also the driving force of the Southeastern Indiana YMCA Special Needs Tae Kwon Do program, where students from a three-county service area experience the pride of accomplishment. Last year, she tackled a project to create seven mats, each requiring 700 plastic grocery bags, which were distributed to the homeless in her community. Kuntz also extends her passion to elevate others internationally by sewing dresses, blankets and bags to carry medical supplies and food that are distributed to impoverished families in Haiti through the Gandou Ministry. Through easing other’s burdens and celebrating differences, a friend says, “she gives her time to do good by enriching the lives of others and filling them with joy!”

Terry and Alicia Mardis | Danville (Hendricks County)

Nominated by Tami Wilson

Age and a potentially disabling disease do not deter power couple Terry and Alicia Mardis from serving the Danville community and beyond. An individual 20 years younger described them as “Energizer bunnies” and admits to some difficulty in keeping up with them. They have actively served in the Danville Friends Church for well over a decade and can be seen climbing a ladder to assist with maintenance, managing finances, sewing blankets for Riley hospital or overseas missions, organizing and serving funeral meals, singing in the choir and even hanging homemade noodles for a church-sponsored dinner. Their work with the church’s New Beginnings clothing ministry has resulted in them responding to emergencies late in the night, including an impromptu effort to pack up the entire store to serve Westpark Nursing and Rehab in Indianapolis so residents and staff could select from thousands of items. As a liaison with Family Promise of Hendricks County, the underserved or the homeless are given hospitality, clothing and food items during their stay at the church. A friend commented, “They both have love in their heart regardless of race, religion, social status or economic status. If they hear of a need, they find a solution.”

Michael McCutcheon | Valparaiso (Porter County)

Nominated by Mark Williams

U.S. Navy veteran Michael McCutcheon continues to selflessly serve others by assisting with tax return preparation for older adults and low income individuals across Porter County. For over 25 years, McCutcheon has been valued as a diligent and wise counselor by serving with AARP's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance / Tax Counseling for the Elderly. He is well-known at AARP and other service organizations, the libraries of Porter County and by hundreds of fellow residents who benefit from his guidance and desire to consistently go above and beyond with nothing expected in return. An admirer mentioned that "he has even traveled to personal residences of seniors who could not make it back into the library." He not only eases the minds of others by coming alongside to help complete an overwhelming process, but he enables fellow citizens to feel a sense of Hoosier pride by remaining compliant with their civic duty.

Tim Meyer | Warsaw (Kosciusko County)

Nominated by Michelle Goble

Financial expertise and business prowess by dedicated volunteer Tim Meyer enabled the Warsaw community to grow and prosper. In his 15-year service to the Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce, he served as treasurer on the board of directors, providing sound financial advice. As a lead mentor for Kosciusko chapter of SCORE, he works with business owners to provide them with business counseling at no charge. Meyer was instrumental in the development of the Ivy Tech Orthopedic and Advanced Manufacturing Training Center. He went beyond his advisory role and helped lead efforts to make this vision a reality. Students now learn skills in an on-the-job environment that will prepare them for valuable opportunities in Kosciusko County. He has benefited other organizations, including Kosciusko Home Care & Hospice, Kosciusko County YMCA, United Way of Kosciusko County, Warsaw Redevelopment Commission and Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation. He is also deeply involved in Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. Meyer and his wife, Marsha, recognized a need in their community for more options for women in a crisis pregnancy. They opened their home to young women, which launched their co-founding of the Heartline Pregnancy Center over 40 years ago.

2020 Golden Hoosier Award Recipients

Shirley Stallworth Moorehead | Gary (Lake County)

Nominated by Joan Marsh (on behalf of Gary Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority)

“Volunteer warrior” Shirley Stallworth Moorehead “moves quietly in the community, yet her volunteering produces a powerful punch,” says the Gary Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta sorority. The 50-year member is recognized as a national and local leader in the community service and academically based sorority. Moorehead’s servant leadership is also evident with her willingness to do even the smallest of administrative tasks as a longtime volunteer at the Urban League of Northwest Indiana. There, she supports services that improve social, educational and economic conditions of African Americans and other minority groups in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties. As an active 15-year volunteer with Sojourner Truth House, a day shelter for homeless and at-risk women and their children, she creates an atmosphere of trust to compassionately assess and refer services that will best meet needs. Moorehead, although a long-retired biology teacher in the Gary Community School Corporation, has never stopped helping young people grow and learn. She continues to tutor and mentor students through St. Timothy Community Church, where she is described as “a woman of abundant faith who moves energetically among those who need encouragement.” Friends say “her sense of altruism is second nature.”

Danny Nelson | Brownsburg (Hendricks County)

Nominated by Lori Turpin

After a distinguished 38 years of military service, Colonel Danny Nelson continues to serve the country by recognizing, celebrating and not forgetting his fellow veterans. Col. Nelson volunteers with American Legion Post 331, Hendricks County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6128 and Hendricks County Forty and Eight. He lifts spirits by visiting hospitalized veterans and those in long-term care facilities, where a flag and “Home of a Proud Veteran” decal are placed on the door to pay tribute to their service. He conducts funeral and graveside services for veterans not affiliated with religious organizations. In Col. Nelson’s own words: “Outside of being a husband, father and grandfather, being chaplain for these veterans’ service organizations is one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. I’ve had the honor and privilege to conduct 158 funerals and celebrations of life ... [and] of presenting the American flag to 26 families as we honored the fallen. It is an honor to assist the families with the daunting planning and tasks that are often required at a veteran’s funeral.” As a friend says, “It takes a very special person to give so much from their heart to help their fellow veterans.”

Linda Ozier | Warsaw (Kosciusko County)

Nominated by Alisha Oliver

Linda Ozier, founder of Isaiah 11 Ministry, takes a fresh approach to counseling by offering therapy sessions on a farm. Although Ozier is trained in equine-assisted psychotherapy, she also engages a variety of farm animals as co-therapists, in addition to horses. This may include donkeys, goats, pigs, rabbits, ducks, chickens, dogs and cats—many of which have been rescued and cared for by her efforts. For a decade, this active Christian counseling center has benefited many, particularly with the Tuesday night barn group, where all ages gather for life skills training, prayer, animal care and sharing a meal together. She is an advocate for her clients and generously provides donated food and clothing and referrals to other community resources. Payment is not an issue with Ozier—no one is turned away, although some have offered to perform work on the farm in return for the counseling. Reflecting on the effectiveness observed with families and individuals, an admirer shared, “people come to Linda because she has such a different approach... and genuinely cares for people and animals.”

Cynthia Streich | South Bend (St. Joseph County)

Nominated by Pam Harris

Life-long resident and volunteer Cynthia Streich has a “great sense of ownership in her community,” says a friend. Retirement in 2011 propelled her to further engage, leading to 14,000 hours of community service. Streich has influenced over 25 organizations serving children, veterans, older adults, firefighters and other citizens in need. She has been actively involved in event organization and fundraising, but has taken on a wide range of other volunteer roles, including baby cuddler at St. Joseph’s Hospital, greeter for veterans returning home, member of the St. Joseph County Educator board of directors, activity planner serving those with Alzheimer’s at Milton Adult Day Center, hospice volunteer at Holy Cross Nursing Home and Gleaners Food local president. She is a volunteer caregiver to a child afflicted with spinal muscular atrophy and has fun throwing monthly birthday parties. Streich also celebrates others by continuing a ministry started by her mother 50 years ago, where she “puts a party in a card” by designing and distributing encouraging cards. An admirer states, “She has given so much time, love and energy to many populations in our northern Indiana community for her entire life. She is a force for all things good.”

2020 Golden Hoosier Award Recipients

Irvin Stumler | New Albany (Floyd County)

Nominated by Jerry Finn

Irvin Stumler's "word is golden." A friend comments, "If he says he will do something, you can count on it happening and with perfection." When Stumler took on the role of volunteer restoration/construction manager with the Friends of the Town Clock Church, what started as a small renovation project became a community project and subsequently an award-winning historical preservation site. The Second Baptist Church in New Albany, known to locals as "Town Clock Church," is now recognized as a national Network to Freedom site, which confirmed its role in the Underground Railroad. The church is open to thousands of local third grade students and tourists to learn the history of the Underground Railroad and its impact in the state of Indiana. A decade ago, Stumler started the non-profit Keeping New Albany Clean and Green to clean up and beautify the local community. He has also been deeply involved with the Salvation Army for Metro Louisville. An admirer states, "Irv is a dynamo... he brings out the generosity in others. At 85 years old, he can work circles around most people who are half his age!"

Keith Swanson | Hanna (LaPorte County)

Nominated by Catherine Mrozinski

When visionary Keith Swanson shared his dreams upon joining the LaPorte County Agricultural Association executive board, he brought new life to Indiana's oldest county fair. A fellow board member stated, "The board is honored and privileged to work with such an enthusiastic and passionate person whose dream is to make a lasting legacy for 4-H'ers in LaPorte County to be proud to exhibit their animals." Under his direction and extensive volunteer hours, he tirelessly managed the recent construction of a new Cattle Barn—the first in over 30 years. He has continued to collaborate with other board members, community members and county elected officials to move forward with renovating barns at the Fairgrounds. He is not daunted by a large commitment if it benefits the community, especially when, as he declares, "It's for the kids!" His passion for the fairgrounds is contagious, as evidenced by a board member commenting, "We couldn't be more excited to work towards his vision."

Joe Swope | Columbus (Bartholomew County)

Nominated by Susan Fye

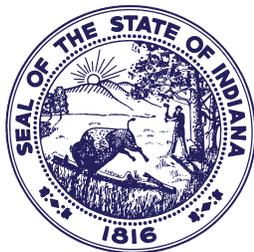
An avid sports enthusiast, Joe Swope has turned his love of football into an opportunity to benefit his community with the creation of a youth football league and assistance with Columbus North High School football program. Athletes there are encouraged in game fundamentals, physical activity and training discipline. He is a long-time member of numerous local organizations, including the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, where he engaged with local industries to establish fire brigades. Swope has volunteered with Development Services, Inc. supporting services for adults and children with disabilities and has served in numerous roles with the 4-H fairgrounds and Bartholomew County Sheriff outreach programming. As a community contributor, he was asked by Columbus Regional Health to serve as a citizen advocate on their Patient Safety Council to review hospital performance. A friend remarked that he “is involved in so many organizations that have created long-term, permanent positive results for citizens of our community. Where there is a need, Joe is there. When he gets asked to help, he has always said ‘yes’ for a lifetime of giving back to the Columbus community.”

Robert Wulliman | Winona (Kosciusko County)

Nominated by Deborah Wright

Dedicating over 50 years as a volunteer firefighter for the Winona Lake Fire Department, Robert Wulliman is a recognized leader within the department and the local community. At a time when he couldn't be as active on the front lines, he managed the station during calls and assisted with the phones to coordinate relief for firefighters and victims. Even now at 83 years old, he still attends meetings and assists whenever possible. His daughter recalled times when he had to miss family events due to fire activities; however, she stated, “he gave of himself to his community and that made us proud.” For over a decade, Wulliman has also continued to serve at his church's “community closet” to distribute personal and household supplies to those in need. As a 27-year member of the Warsaw Community High School athletic booster club, he served a variety of roles and enjoyed interacting with the kids and seeing them grow over the years—he even volunteered over a decade as a youth softball coach. He was often visible in the community, from selling Slushies at the county fair for the Winona Lake Lions Club to, of course, fighting fires.

Thank you to our partners...



**Division of
Aging**

*This event was organized by the office of the Lieutenant Governor
and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.*

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch

Dr. Jennifer Walthall, Secretary, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

Sarah K. Renner, Director, Division of Aging