



OUTSTANDING SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Cleveland, Ohio

October 20, 2022

YOUR COMMUNITY — IS — OUR COMMUNITY

“Mutual” is more than part of our name.

It reflects a philosophy — people caring for people — that drives our dedication to improving the communities around us. As one of the largest health insurance companies in Ohio, we understand the vital role that economic, social and environmental factors play in the health and well-being of a community. We are committed to making Ohio a better place through our charitable giving, collaborations with community partners, and the volunteerism of our staff. We believe that by improving our neighborhoods today, we can positively impact tomorrow.



OUTSTANDING SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS

MAKING AN IMPACT, LEAVING A LEGACY

For 30 years, Medical Mutual has recognized older adults in Ohio who selflessly volunteer their time and talents to help others. During the Cleveland Outstanding Senior Volunteer Awards luncheon, we honor individuals age 60 or better who serve their communities in extraordinary ways, enhancing the lives of those around them.

Outstanding Senior Volunteer Award nominations are submitted by friends, family, colleagues and community organizations throughout the region that have firsthand knowledge of these exceptional volunteers. They exemplify Medical Mutual’s commitment to improving our communities through service and leaving a positive legacy for future generations.





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ROBERT S. ALLEN SR.

Nominated by
CHARLES S. MODLIN, M.D., MBA, COLLEAGUE

Robert has long focused on the health and well-being of minority men throughout Cleveland, where he dedicates his time to organizations and programs such as 100 Black Men of Greater Cleveland, the Cleveland Clinic Minority Men’s Health Center and the MetroHealth Minority Men’s Health Fair. Robert is also one of the founding members of the Northern Ohio Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, where he is Chairperson and President.

Dr. Modlin, the founder and former Director of the Cleveland Clinic’s Minority Men’s Health Center, has been impressed with Robert’s volunteerism. “Mr. Allen has taken on the leadership role as a volunteer and has been instrumental in promoting the Health Center and Fair to thousands of African American men,” he said. “The Health Fair has served more than 35,000 men, providing them with a variety of free, preventive health screenings which have saved and improved countless lives.” Dr. Modlin credits Robert’s community leadership and advocacy for bringing in so many men who otherwise might not have discovered serious or life-threatening medical conditions. “Diagnosis has allowed them opportunities to be treated and cured,” he added.

In 2019, Robert was recognized by the Center for Community Solutions for his volunteerism and by Cleveland.com as a Community Hero in 2013. There’s been no shortage of inspiration for his devotion to helping others and building community. Robert’s deep faith in God, his mother and grandmother, and historic community activists like Martin Luther King Jr. — who visited Robert’s junior high school in the 1960s — have guided him through his volunteer journey.

Words of Advice

“Making change is all about cooperation and collaboration.”

More People Should Know

“The information that will allow them to take care of themselves, especially regarding preventative care and healthy living. People don’t have to let these ailments kill them.”



DR. BEN BROUHARD

Nominated by
DANIELLE BEGALLA, VOLUNTEER MANAGER

Ben’s desire to serve others began at a young age and led him to practice pediatric medicine until his retirement in 2016 as the Executive Director for Women and Children’s Health and the Associate Chief Medical Officer for MetroHealth. Ben was further inspired to find a passion outside work while watching his wife’s deep commitment as a Rotarian.

In retirement, Ben’s charitable spirit brought him to the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL). He started as a dog walker and quickly branched out to other roles, including becoming a coach for other walkers. Ben found great joy in teaching new dog walkers while sharpening his own skills along the way. Eighteen months later, Ben was volunteering at the adoption desk, where he had the opportunity to participate in dog-to-dog “meet and greets” and witness the wonderful and often emotional process of dogs being adopted into their new homes. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, Ben quickly adapted and became a shelter ambassador, educating guests on new health and safety protocols and interacting with those seeking veterinary services.

It should come as no surprise that the APL named Ben its 2016 Volunteer of the Year and 2020 Hall of Fame Volunteer of the Year. Volunteering at the APL has become Ben’s happy place. Helping animals and spending time with people from different backgrounds who share a common goal has enriched his life more than he can express.

Words of Advice

“The APL is a very welcoming place. Even if you find it a little intimidating to get started, if you like animals, just go for it. You never know what you might find that you enjoy.”

More People Should Know

“The APL offers a large range of services beyond adoption. For example, Project Care provides the community with low-cost veterinarian services such as vaccinations, evaluations for illnesses, and referrals to other vets for additional care.”



REGINA CARDELLO

Nominated by
CHAPLAIN CHARISSA PRUNTY, COLLEAGUE

Regina views volunteering as a way to live out the blessings God has given to her and her family. She has volunteered with Southwest General Health Center’s Spiritual Care Services Department for 15 years and has been a part of the Strongsville Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for nine years. Volunteering with these groups requires a deep level of commitment, dependability and compassion that many might shy away from, but Regina continues to rise to the occasion. “Even when it’s hard, volunteering is something I look forward to during the week. I can make friends and stay active,” she said. “Volunteering also makes me more appreciative of life. One’s life can change with the bat of an eye or a heartbeat.”

At the Spiritual Care Services Department, Regina primarily helps in the Emergency Department. Her natural empathy allows her to tend to the spiritual needs of patients, their families and even hospital staff. Something as simple as offering a smile or as meaningful as comforting someone after their loved one has passed means so much to everyone she comes across. Regina describes the Emergency Department as being like a box of chocolates, since you never know what kind of situation you might be entering at the start of a shift — it could be one of beauty or tragedy. Regina believes that God has given her a gift to help others, and her faith and family keep her strong and able to push through the hard times.

Through the Strongsville CERT, Regina assists safety officials during large-scale emergencies and provides first-aid services at many of the city’s community events. Her admiration for emergency service officials has led Regina to continue expanding on her own emergency-response knowledge by scheduling a 10-week class with the Strongsville police department.

Regina’s dedication to her community and those around her has even made an impression on her granddaughter, who affectionately refers to her grandmother as “Mighty Nonna.”

Words of Advice

“Enjoy life to the fullest, smile, love. . . just have a feeling in your heart to love one another and have respect for the next person you see in life. Love is the key to life. You may not like a person, but you have to love them.”

More People Should Know

“If you have the time and talent, there’s something out there that you can help with. There is so much satisfaction in giving of your time.”



TONY LOUIE

Nominated by
LISA WONG, FRIEND

Tony is a resident of Brunswick who grew up in the heart of Cleveland’s Asia Town, where his volunteerism is rooted. After retiring from a successful career as a driver and warehouse worker for Discount Drug Mart and UPS, Tony knew that he wanted to give back and get more involved in his community. His volunteer resume goes back 35 years and ranges from participating in neighborhood cleanups to spiritual services at the Cleveland Chinese Christian Church, but Tony wanted to do more in retirement. Enter his dear friend, Lisa Wong, who recruited Tony for what has become his most passionate role.

Lisa is a co-founder of the popular annual Cleveland Asian Festival and President of the OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates, Greater Cleveland. The festival is a decade-old, community-wide event that celebrates the diversity of Asian culture, music, dance and food. Tony is one of the volunteer supervisors who makes this huge undertaking run smoothly. He oversees all aspects of volunteer duties from scheduling to guest experiences.

Tony also volunteered for OCA’s 2020 census and get-out-the-vote efforts. “Every vote counts, and every vote is powerful,” he explained. Tony’s work has helped the organization advance the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Northeast Ohio through civic engagement, cultural heritage and social justice initiatives.

Tony is an inspiration to his fellow volunteers. His attitude toward community service and love for people is clear in everything he does.

Words of Advice

“Be kind to each other. Follow the Ten Commandments and love thy neighbor.”

More People Should Know

“That their vote counts. You have the power to changes people’s lives and the issues that affect them.”



DAN MAXSON

Nominated by
DEBRA ESKER, COLLEAGUE

For more than 30 years, Dan was a teacher in the Euclid City School District as well as an interim administrator and the Athletic Director. As an educator, he cultivated a love for sharing knowledge and tidbits of history with anyone willing to listen. This passion serves him well in his post-retirement life.

In 2016, Dan began volunteering as a docent and curator of Concord Township’s Old Stone Schoolhouse. The historic Old Stone Schoolhouse, built in 1840, was in need of rehabilitation after being incorporated as a museum. Dan assisted the Board of Trustees with the preservation process for the building and its archives. Thanks to Dan’s efforts, museum attendance has increased by at least 200 visitors each year. Debra Esker, Concord’s Assistant Director of Recreation, is a big fan. “Dan is a walking inspiration for public service,” she said. “He gladly gives free, personal tours of our schoolhouse frequently. He has researched and studied Concord Township history and brings it to life in his lectures and programs. He makes sure our guests know our treasured past.”

In addition to his work at the Old Stone Schoolhouse, Dan serves as a trustee, curator and docent for the Fairport Harbor Historical Society, which oversees the Fairport Harbor Marine Museum and Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is not only the first Great Lakes Lighthouse Marine Museum in Ohio, but it’s the first in the United States. Dan is proud to give the gift of his time. “There’s always more to do and be improved upon,” he said. “Often, time can be more valuable to organizations than money.”

Words of Advice

“I have always liked the phrase ‘everything counts.’ You never know what a simple ‘hello’ could mean to someone.”

More People Should Know

“To just go and try something. Use the ‘read the first 20 pages of a book’ approach. You might find something you’re passionate about.”



JOANNE WEILER

Nominated by
MARY S. KASE, COLLEAGUE

As a child, Joanne watched her mother volunteer in the community. Later, she was impressed with how involved her husband was in their children’s school activities. Once they became empty nesters, Joanne started looking for ways she could give back.

That was more than two decades ago. Today, Joanne is a well-known and respected volunteer for a variety of organizations. Joanne has volunteered with and served as a board member of Birthcare Medina since 2005; she is a former Secretary and current board President of Let’s Make a Difference; and she has been a tutor, board member and board President for Project Learn of Medina since 2005. Joanne’s role at Project Learn was pivotal for the organization, as she helped them establish and promote the first BookShelf, a used bookstore that uses proceeds to support adult literacy programs in Medina County. Joanne’s leadership has helped BookShelf expand to Brunswick and Wadsworth. In 2007, Joanne received the United Way Volunteer Award for her efforts at Project Learn.

Joanne prides herself on learning how to cultivate relationships with the people receiving services and with the community as a whole. She’s made it a point to teach herself new skills — such as the use of MailChimp and Google applications — to fill technology gaps for the organizations where she volunteers. Her amazing insight and knowledge allow Joanne to connect with a variety of organizations to expand programming and resources. “Yet with all this administrative help, Joanne continues to take a regular duty or shift wherever she volunteers,” said Mary, a fellow volunteer. “She has a great sense of humor and can make anyone feel completely at ease with her friendly demeanor.”

Words of Advice

“Pay it forward.”

More People Should Know

“There are so many people who want to help. Find the people who need that assistance and figure out how you can best meet their needs. Build relationships with the community that you’re serving.”