





# OUTSTANDING SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS

*Cincinnati, Ohio*

September 22, 2022



# YOUR COMMUNITY — IS — OUR COMMUNITY

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**“Mutual” is more than part of our name.**

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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.

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# OUTSTANDING SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS

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## MAKING AN IMPACT, LEAVING A LEGACY

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For 30 years, Medical Mutual has recognized older adults in Ohio who selflessly volunteer their time and talent to help others. During the Cincinnati 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. These volunteers exemplify Medical Mutual's commitment to improving our communities through service and leaving a positive legacy for future generations.









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# BILL AND HARRIET FREEDMAN

Nominated by  
**ANONYMOUS, FRIEND**

## Words of Advice

“Everyone has something they can contribute. Everyone has a skill or knowledge that, as long as they can spare a little time, they can use them to truly transform their community into a better place for everyone.”

## More People Should Know

“How to answer three questions to find their passion and make a difference in their community.

- 1.) What am I good at?
- 2.) What opportunities are available where I can make the most meaningful impact?
- 3.) How do I spread the word so that friends and acquaintances can become volunteers themselves?”

Bill and Harriet Freedman are a humble and dynamic couple who assist their Cincinnati neighbors and strengthen their local Jewish community. Through their involvement with the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati and the Northern Hills Synagogue, they have worked to help others understand their ability to make a difference and the responsibility they have to the greater community. As a result of the Freedmans’ involvement with both organizations, Bill and Harriet have witnessed the needs of the broader region. With this deeper understanding, they are better equipped to help their neighbors. They feel fortunate that, as spouses, they share a commitment to bettering their community and enjoy making a difference together.



# GERALD HARRIS

Nominated by

**NICOLE HARRIS, DAUGHTER**

## Words of Advice

“Become a volunteer. Enrich your life and that of your neighbors.”

## More People Should Know

“They are capable of making a big impact on people’s lives by volunteering. It may not always be easy, but the work is important. We can all make things better for someone else.”

Gerald came into his own during the time of Martin Luther King Jr. and President John F. Kennedy. He credits the socio-political environment of that era for prompting him to take to heart Kennedy’s famous words: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” Gerald responded to that call by volunteering and giving back to his neighbors.

For the past 10 years, much of his time has been spent volunteering at Mercy Health Anderson Hospital and Hospice of Cincinnati. At Mercy Health, he transports patients, escorts visitors, operates the front desk and helps wherever else he may be needed. At Hospice of Cincinnati, Gerald brings comfort and calmness to those at the end of their life by sitting vigil with them. While providing this service may seem emotionally challenging, he understands the compassion he brings has a profound and positive impact on both him and the patient.

When it comes to volunteering, Gerald sees it as a wonderful gift. He encourages everyone he meets to find something they can do to help their communities. “Everyone has something to offer, so don’t be shy about what you can bring to the table,” he said.





# SHIRLEY OGLESBEE

Nominated by  
**LIBBY TURPIN, DAUGHTER**

## Words of Advice

“Just be aware of what’s going on in your area and be willing to help.”

## More People Should Know

“Hannah’s Treasure Chest is ready to accept high-quality community donations of clothes, shoes, books, safety equipment and hygiene care items such as diapers.”

Shirley found her way to Hannah’s Treasure Chest in 2011 after a four-decade career in retail. Hannah’s Treasure Chest is dedicated to “enriching the lives of children in need by providing care packages of clothes, shoes, books, safety equipment and hygiene items, including diapers, through a network of more than 70 partners throughout Southwest Ohio.” This mission resonated with Shirley because she had previously helped with similar work for the City of Centerville. With an awareness of the needs throughout the community, she knew she could help make a difference at Hannah’s.

Beyond the typical hours she spends at Hannah’s Treasure Chest every month, Shirley goes out of her way to ensure the organization’s shelves are always full and that items are in good condition, even if this means providing it out of her own pocket. Last year, Shirley helped Hannah’s Treasure Chest create nearly 4,000 care packages. She is quick to credit the generous community for making that possible. Shirley volunteered at the height of the pandemic, and she was proud to help families that may have been displaced from their homes and in a moment of need. “It’s incredibly important to train the next generation of volunteers to continue making progress in our communities,” she said.



# STINEY VONDERHAAR

Nominated by

**DIANE CUNNINGHAM REDDEN, PARTNER**

## Words of Advice

“How you feel once you’re done with volunteering, knowing that you’ve helped people out, is great.”

## More People Should Know

“My hometown of Evendale is a wonderful community in which to live. More people should visit and take in the history.”

Stiney has a deep connection to his hometown, the Village of Evendale. His family has roots dating back 100 years. That connection is apparent in Stiney’s dedication to Evendale’s residents and broader community. He served as a police officer for 26 years, where he focused on crime prevention and safety education. This experience led to a role on the Governor’s Council on Juvenile Justice, an appointed position.

In addition, Stiney served on the Evendale Village Council for 15 years and was elected the Village’s Vice Mayor. While on Council, Stiney saw that Evendale lacked an organized system for preserving its rich history and for supporting the arts. Understanding the need to fill these gaps and attract more people into town, he became a founder of both the Evendale Historical Commission and the Evendale Cultural Arts Center.

Another pursuit of Stiney’s has been helping the SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery modernize its records. For the past 13 years, he served as the cemetery’s General Manager, Treasurer and President of Board. Under his leadership, the cemetery developed a new website and digitized its files so that they could be added to the historical archives of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.



# CHIA-NIEN (CHARLIE) YU

Nominated by  
**MARY YU, WIFE**

## Words of Advice

“This quote by Dr. Barbara Lowe, licensed psychologist and educator, recently resonated with me. ‘Do everything with a good heart and expect nothing in return, and you will never be disappointed.’”

## More People Should Know

“The mind-body practice of tai chi is great for strengthening the lower body to avoid falls.”

Both Charlie and his wife, Mary, are avid students of tai chi and found the Mason Community Center to be the perfect place to practice after moving to Cincinnati in the 1990s. There, they encountered other older adults who were interested in learning the discipline. Soon after, the Center’s director asked the couple to teach the class. As their own tai chi teacher had done, Charlie and Mary offered the course free of charge as a way to give back to the community. Since 2003, the Mason Friendly Tai Chi classes have led to a close-knit group of students who work toward better physical and mental health — and understand the benefits of connecting with others.

The Mason Community Center introduced Charlie to another major volunteer activity in his life, the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, which has contributed over \$11 million to charitable organizations in recent decades. Charlie serves as a Co-Chair of the Western & Southern Racquet Club Committee and volunteers each day of the tournament, in some cases working 12 hour shifts. Charlie’s dedication and hard work continue to inspire those around him.



