



of EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Hearts of Gold Gala

A CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY

WELCOME TO THE 2016 HEARTS OF GOLD GALA

Social Hour

Welcome

Brooke Didier Starks, Board of Trustees Chair

Dinner

Community Foundation Update

Joan Dixon, President & CEO

Awards Presentations

Joan Dixon, Emcee



2016 HEARTS OF GOLD AWARDS

2016 RECIPIENTS

Peggy Campo

Rose Gates

Anita Hochberger

John Muirhead

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Youth Group

2016 KYLE & PHYLLIS ROBESON PHILANTHROPY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Helen Levin, Emily Levin and the Ezra Levin Foundation

Class of 2016 Hearts of



PEGGY CAMPO

**Administrative Assistant, Cunningham Children's Home
Urbana resident**

**Nominated by Cloydia Hill Larimore,
Cunningham Children's Home's Vice President
of Advancement, *emeritus***

Peggy Campo's father, Don McCall, is one of the survivors of the 1,197 men on board the USS Indianapolis which was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in the Philippine Sea on July 30, 1945. Of the 900 men who went into shark infested waters, only 317 survived to be picked up four days later. Since she was 15 years old, Peggy has attended reunions and become increasingly involved with the *USS Indianapolis Survivors Organization*. She serves as its secretary and has been a passionate volunteer planner and organizer of the past two annual Survivors Reunions.

In 2015, the group celebrated its 70th Anniversary with 14 (Don McCall included) of the living 31 survivors in attendance. Peggy was the chief volunteer and organizer for this reunion, and her focus was on getting as many of the now octogenarian heroes' special needs met so they could attend and comfortably enjoy the fellowship of their old friends. Sadly, each reunion brings fewer survivors (though their families still attend) and more moments of silence for those who have passed over the previous year. Her efforts also included working with a brewery in California to create a commemorative USS Indianapolis brew that was presented to all survivors and their families, coordinating interviews for National Geographic and other national and regional reporters. She also coordinated the schedules of the high ranking Naval dignitaries and other honored guests who paid tribute to the survivors and their families.

Peggy's tireless commitment to these heroes is her way of expressing appreciation to the brave young seamen who were instrumental in bringing the war with Japan to an end. The eighteen year old boy, Don McCall, who somehow survived those five nights and four days of pure terror adrift at sea, gave her the greatest gift - her life. Peggy shares her love and gratitude with others through her reunion work and the many presentations she gives each year about the true USS Indianapolis story.

For her tireless and heartfelt efforts to honor the survivors of the USS Indianapolis and all veterans, the Community Foundation is proud to present Peggy Campo with a Hearts of Gold Award.



ROSE GATES

**Retired Nurse and Founder,
Food for the Children backpack program
Danville resident**

**Nominated by Patrick O'Shaughnessy,
President, Vermilion County Title, Inc., Danville**

Rose Gates truly has a heart of gold. Yet if you asked her why she does what she does, her response may very well be, "Because it needed to be done and no one was doing it."

After a career as a nurse, helping others, giving out hugs and loving care to her patients, Rose retired. But upon retirement she knew there had to be more for her to do. Rose volunteered with the summer Breakfast in the Park Program that feeds children when away from school. When the summer ended, Rose thought, "Who is going to feed these children on the weekends?" And with that thought, *Food for the Children* was born.

Rose found a minister to listen to her idea. And with him came a church to house the program, volunteers ready and willing to help her, businesses and individuals willing to donate food and funds to help get started and keep going.

Rose and her dedicated volunteers have now adopted six District 118 schools into the weekend *Food for the Children* backpack program. On Fridays over 200 children pick up backpacks filled with enough nutritional food to last them the weekend. When the children return the backpacks, the volunteers pick them up and repeat the process. The program works with social workers to identify those children most in need. Teachers report increased attention spans, improved attitudes and harder working children, all attributed to being properly fed for the weekend.

Rose works tirelessly to spend each dollar received to benefit more children. Quaker Oats in Danville gives her "all they can" and tells others "If anyone wants to help children in need in Danville, get behind Rose and fund her. She does it better, cheaper and with more love than you could ever imagine." A group of philanthropic Danville individuals has "gotten behind Rose" financially. Why? Because Rose is in charge. Even at 82 years old, there is no doubt other schools will be taken care of before Rose is finished.

The Community Foundation salutes Rose Gates for her tenacity in seeing a need and filling it and enthusiastically endorses her as an amazing spokesperson for children of Vermilion County and a Hearts of Gold award recipient.

Gold Award Recipients



ANITA HOCHBERGER

**Resident and Chief Volunteer at Home Meadows
Rantoul resident**

**Nominated by Katy Kavanagh,
former Office Manager, Hope Meadows, Rantoul**

Anita Hochberger is a dedicated volunteer who works in the Rantoul community and beyond. An active participant in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Anita lives and volunteers at Hope Meadows where she contributes over 100 hours each month. Anita's devotion to the children is evident. She works with the younger children three days each week in the after-school program, helping with homework and organizing games and activities. Last fall, she collaborated with another volunteer to launch a successful middle school group for the older children. Since then, they have been able to enjoy game nights, cooking, baking, and most recently a field trip to Chicago, where Anita shared her knowledge and history of the city.

Beyond the organized activities, Anita has forged a special bond with the children at Hope Meadows, and is a most dependable source of affection and guidance. On most weekends she takes one or more of the kids to local plays, activities, shopping, or out to lunch, making each child feel special. She is an active member of a small quilting group that makes hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind quilts for each child. She helps in the office once a week and still stays busy knitting sweaters for World Vision and scheduling fundraising events ranging from Community Days to Christmas toy drives.

In addition to everything Anita does for her Hope Meadows family, she serves as a member of the board of directors of the Rantoul Public Library, she is President of Friends of the Library, and volunteers at the library several days weekly. She also volunteers at the Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County emergency food pantry and reads to and helps children with homework at the Multicultural Community Center.

For Anita Hochberger's gigantic capacity to care for children and her generous volunteer spirit, the Community Foundation welcomes her into the 2016 class of Hearts of Gold Award recipients.



JOHN MUIRHEAD

**Retired volunteer and Board Chair, East Central
Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center
Champaign resident**

**Nominated by Deborah Hlavna,
Co-Director, East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual
Assistance Center, Urbana**

John Muirhead is an unsung hero who doesn't realize he is one. He is the East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center (ECIRMAC) board president. He runs the meetings and helps recruit new members, complete grant requests, and organize fundraising dinners. He has even recruited his wife, Becky, to decorate tables. John does whatever it takes to ensure that ECIRMAC continues to provide services that enable immigrants and refugees to succeed in their new environment.

Many newly arrived immigrants, refugees and low income individuals need beds. John has collaborated with another friend to fill that need. Through their grapevine they found someone in Decatur with recycled beds from colleges and universities in storage. John went to Decatur to see first-hand and arranged to have beds delivered and stored in Urbana/Champaign to be distributed as needed.

A retired adult education director for Urbana School District, John Muirhead has been a longtime champion of adult and family literacy programs to expand employment opportunities and facilitate immigrant assimilation into their new communities. In addition to his work to support those efforts at ECIRMAC, John is also involved in supporting the English as a Second Language program at the First Presbyterian Church in Champaign, where he is an elder and is on the Mission Team.

John is highly involved in many aspects of his church. He is a volunteer church van driver who picks up and delivers families who do not have transportation to church functions. He also serves on the visitation roster and makes calls to those who are sick and in medical facilities.

John and Becky are avid fans and boosters of Illinois volleyball. John is also active in the Urbana Rotary.

John Muirhead gives back to his community in countless ways without expecting any recognition for the good he does. John is truly deserving of a Hearts of Gold Award.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Gary Maxwell, Leader

Residents of Gifford, Rantoul and the surrounding area

Nominated by Karen Kelly, Service Coordinator

Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County, Rantoul

St. Paul's Youth Group in Gifford, made up of middle school and high school youth, draws kids from many towns in northeast Champaign County, as well as northwest Vermillion County. About five years ago, the members decided to stop spending one week during summers going away to do mission work. Instead, they decided to spend their time and resources serving their own greater community year round. They jumped in and have not stopped since.

Each year St. Paul's Youth Group sponsors two or three food distributions for residents of northern Champaign County. They purchase food from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank and hold distributions at Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County. With the help of leader Gary Maxwell and other church members, the food is purchased, set up, packed in nearly 100 pound parcels and carried to the cars of the 150 recipient families.

During the summer, the groups take weekly shifts distributing food in the CSCNCC Emergency Pantry. They help deliver Peace Meal meals to seniors each Friday and take food to seasonal farm workers and families in the migrant housing in Rantoul.

The Youth Group's efforts include shoveling snow for senior and disabled citizens, delivering food to families ineligible or unable to go to the food pantry, raking leaves, collecting food door to door at Halloween, picking apples, pears and corn for the food pantry, providing after-school programming at a low income neighborhood kids' club, finding resources for furniture and delivering it to people in need, and giving Christmas gifts to needy families. They also volunteer at other local agencies, such as C-U at Home, Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries, Generations of Hope, and the Canteen Run. They also started a food pantry at St. Paul's.

Recently St. Paul's Youth Group has made a huge impact in the life of a local woman battling cancer and having difficulty breathing and eating. Using their youth mission funds, they purchased a lift chair and a few weeks supply of liquid nutritional supplement. The day after the teens delivered the lift chair, she posted on facebook, "THE BEST NIGHT'S SLEEP" and a picture of the crew surrounding her in the chair.

The Youth Group generally assists people in Rantoul, but on November 17th, 2013 when a tornado struck Gifford—the homes of the leader and several of the group's members were damaged or destroyed—they focused on helping each other. Still, they continued helping in the food pantry during the post-tornado weeks. They cleaned up debris and helped provide food for other volunteers.

For their ongoing commitment and tireless efforts to improve the lives of so many in need of assistance, the Community Foundation is pleased to present St. Paul's Youth Group a Hearts of Gold Award.

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