



Awards Ceremony

Friday, October 25th

11:45am – 1:30pm

Hilton Polaris Ballroom

The OPRA Awards celebrate the great professionals who display an unbelievable dedication to the people they support and the team they work with.

Sponsored by





The OPRA team, Board of Directors, and the entire OPRA community are excited to honor the incredible professionals, partners, and volunteers who support Ohioans with disabilities in living their best lives. This year's award recipients exemplify the passion, commitment, and resilience that define the excellence of Ohio's DD service community. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing efforts of OPRA members and thrilled to gather in person to celebrate these exceptional honorees!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

There are many people that have impacted our field and the OPRA community over the years. The following award winners are well deserving of special recognition for their contributions. Their dedication to excellence in our field sets the tone for the rest of us and inspires us all to strive for continuous improvement. Their impact will be long lasting, leaving a legacy that shapes the future of our community.

Let's celebrate the following award winners...

**SPECIAL
RECOGNITION
AWARD WINNER**

Greg Ferrall
Auglaize Industries



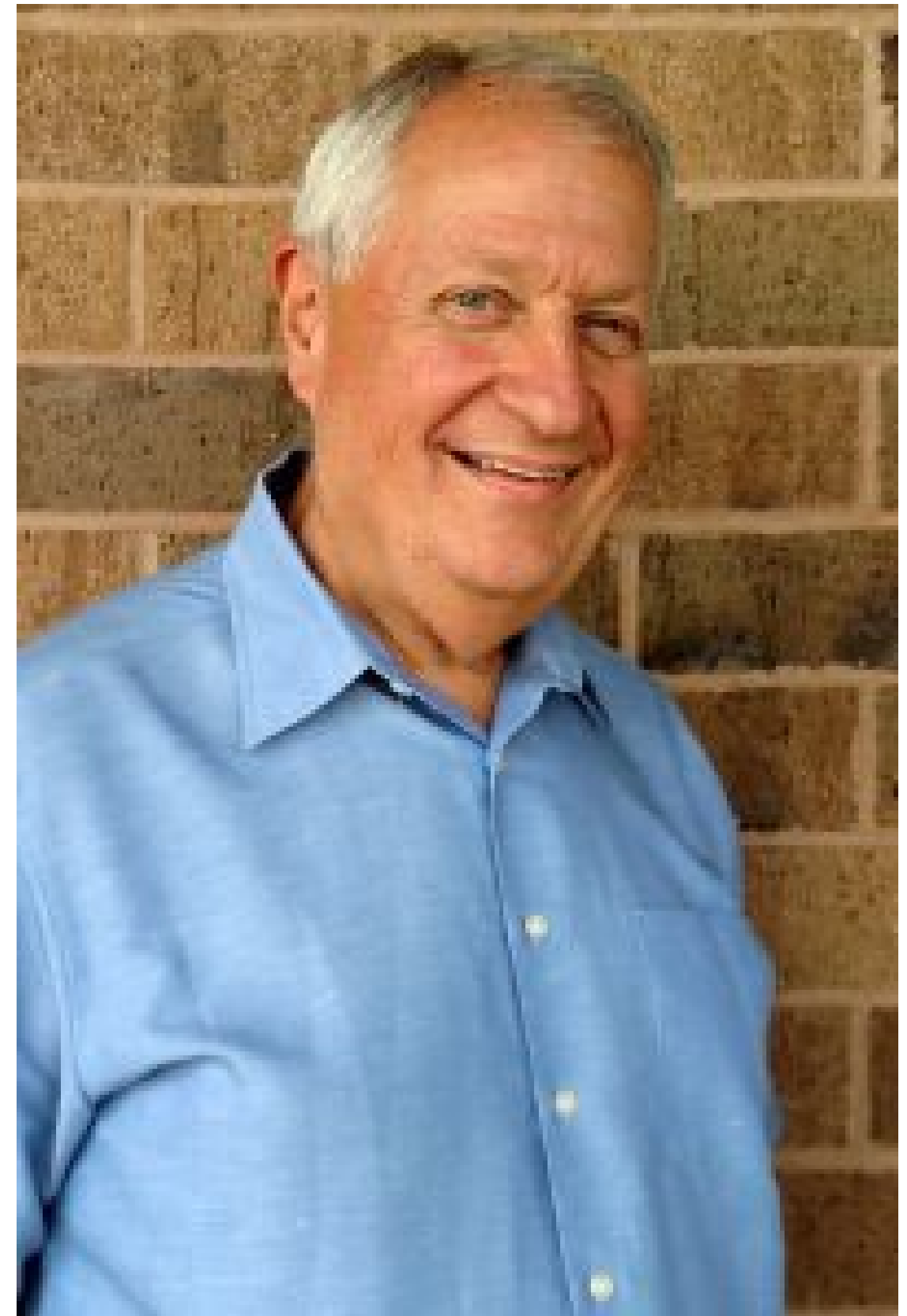
**SPECIAL
RECOGNITION
AWARD WINNER**

Melanie Kasten-Krause
The Society



**SPECIAL
RECOGNITION
AWARD WINNER**

Phil Miller
United Network Alliance



**SPECIAL
RECOGNITION
AWARD WINNER**

**Tony Thomas
Welcome House**



DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARD

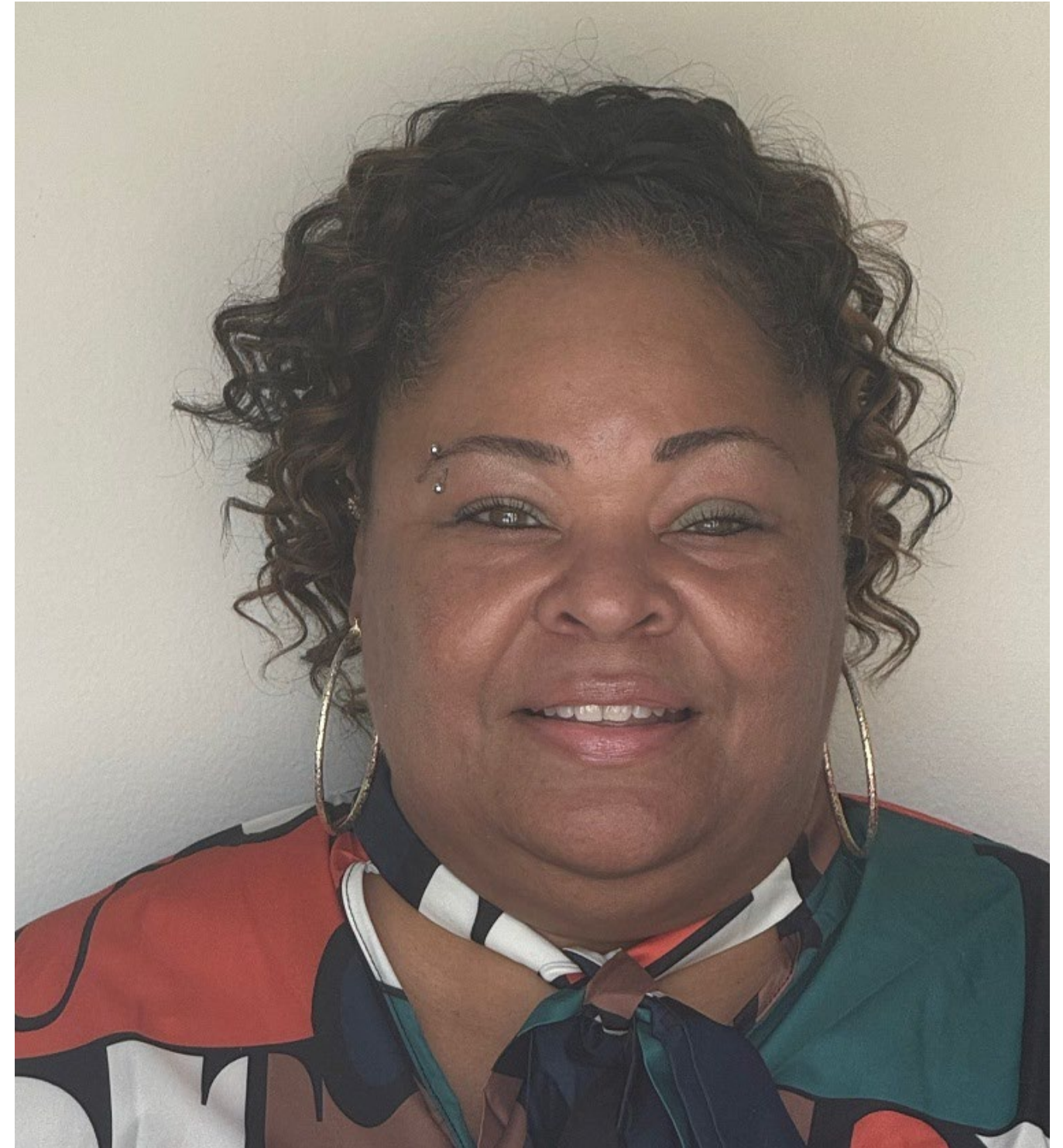
This Award is devoted to recognizing the outstanding performance and dedication of those who are on the front lines every day, helping to make a real difference in the lives of people they support. Their hard work and devotion helps the people who are around them excel when confronted with challenges and find calm when all else may be in chaos. Their value is immeasurable.

Let's celebrate the following award winners...

**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL
AWARD WINNER**

DISTRICT 1

Linda Barnfield
(Envision)



DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARD WINNER

DISTRICT 2

Wendy
Vonderhuevel
(RT Industries)



**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL
AWARD WINNER**

DISTRICT 3

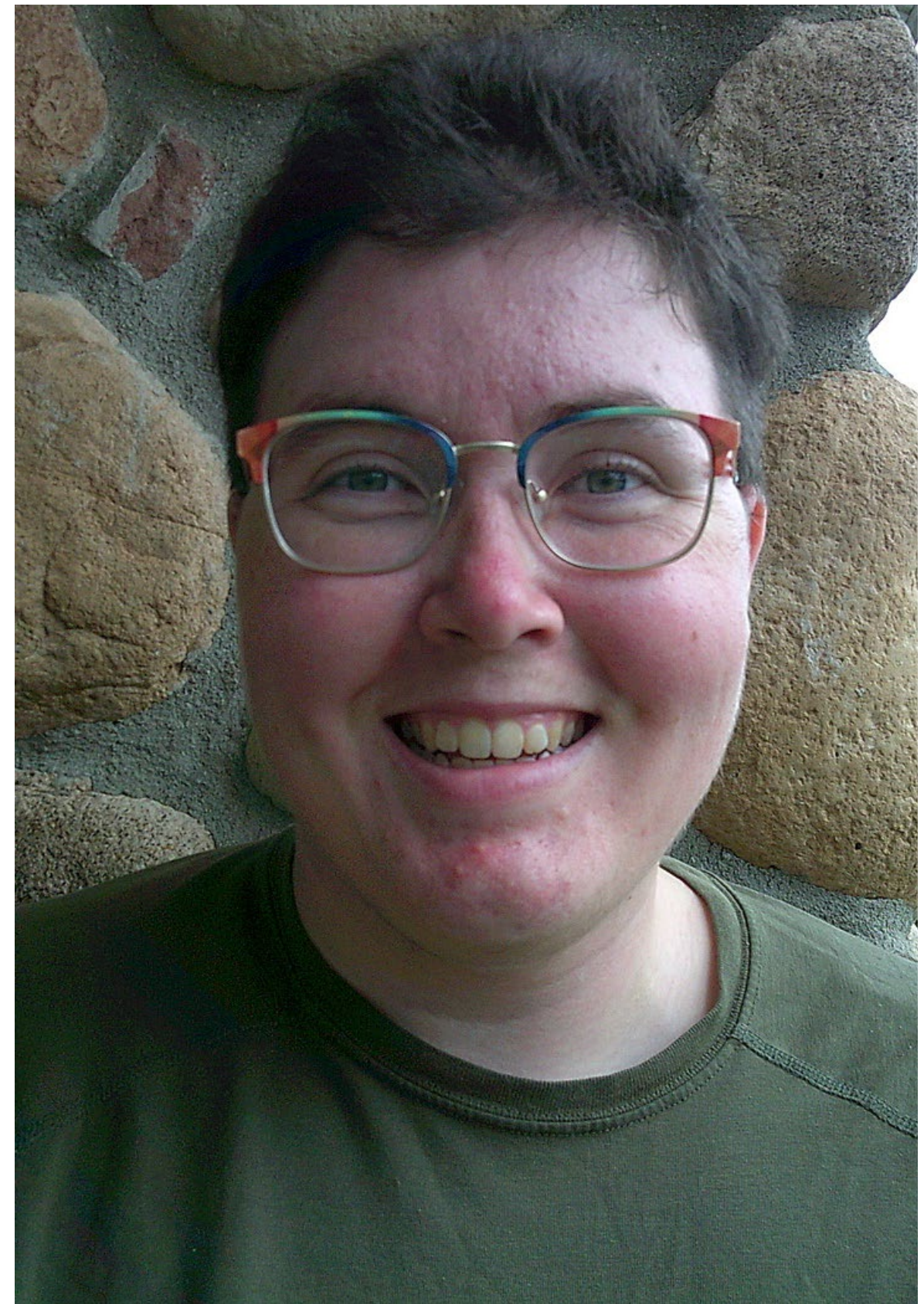
**Marsha Tyhurst
(Echoing Hills Village)**



**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL
AWARD WINNER**

DISTRICT 4

**Laine Evans
(Bittersweet)**



**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL
AWARD WINNER**

DISTRICT 5

**Dawn Clevenger
(The Society)**



**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL
AWARD WINNER**

DISTRICT 6

Amadou Sow
(Open Door)



DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARD WINNER

DISTRICT 7

Felicia Contreras
(I Am Boundless)



FRONT-LINE SUPERVISOR AWARD

This Award is for those individuals who make it all come together. They are the supervisors who energize their staff and whose staff want to come to work. They help those around them feel appreciated and safe. They lead by example and celebrate hard work when they see it. They are also sacrificing their own personal lives to cover shifts and prepare their team to take on whatever comes their way.

Let's celebrate the following award winners...

FRONT-LINE SUPERVISOR AWARD WINNER

DISTRICT 1

Phyllis Thomas
(LADD, Inc.)



**FRONT-LINE
SUPERVISOR
AWARD WINNER**

DISTRICT 2

Stanley Oliver
(Champaign Residential
Services)



**FRONT-LINE
SUPERVISOR
AWARD WINNER**

DISTRICT 3

Tara Wolfe
(Havar, Inc.)



**FRONT-LINE
SUPERVISOR
AWARD WINNER**

DISTRICT 4

Ruby Grey
(Wiley Homes)



**FRONT-LINE
SUPERVISOR
AWARD WINNER**

DISTRICT 5

Mamie Tollas
(Threshold Residential
Services)



**FRONT-LINE
SUPERVISOR
AWARD WINNER**



DISTRICT 6
**Amanda Amyx &
Jamye Griffin**
(Center for Disability
Services)



FRONT-LINE SUPERVISOR AWARD WINNER

DISTRICT 7

Jill Riegelmayr
(Vocational Guidance
Services)



QIDP AWARD

This Award recognizes an outstanding Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional who exemplifies dedication, compassion, and excellence in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. This professional goes above and beyond in advocating for person-centered approaches, fostering independence, and ensuring the highest quality of care. Their leadership and commitment have made a profound impact on the lives of the individuals they serve and the broader community.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

QIDP AWARD WINNER

Christian Peake
(Welcome House, Inc.)



BEHIND THE SCENES AWARD

This Award is dedicated to individuals who work 'behind the scenes' to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their co-workers. They never have to be asked to step up, and you will never hear them say 'that's not my job.' Their unwavering commitment and selflessness create a lasting difference, with undeniable influence on the success of the team and the people they support.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

BEHIND THE SCENES AWARD WINNER

Paul Soprano
(UCP of Greater
Cleveland)



JOB COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

This Award goes to a Job Coach who demonstrates exceptional skills in providing on-the-job supports to individuals in integrated, competitive employment. This award winner displayed outstanding job coaching skills to successfully assist individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment in the community.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

JOB COACH AWARD WINNER

**Frank Shelton
(PALS)**



NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD

This Award is OPRA's most recent addition to our list of awards. This award recognizes the outstanding service and commitment of those nurses who ensure the health and safety of the individuals they serve. Ohio's nurses are the forefront of healthcare services and in particular, the fight against the COVID pandemic. Their extraordinary willingness and dedication to those they serve cannot be overstated.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Denise Benight
(Dungarvin Ohio)



TEAM AWARD

This Award is devoted to exceptional Teams that work industriously and conscientiously together to directly and positively impact the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Let's celebrate the following award winners...

TEAM AWARD WINNER

Watts Home Team
(REM Ohio)



Left to Right: Joshua Fuhrman, Nancy James and Nichol Smith

Not Pictured: Heather Harden & Ozella Miller

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This Award is to recognize community entities (non I/DD provider agencies) who go above and beyond in offering volunteer and recreational opportunities in the community to the individuals we support.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Richwood Bank
(Community Partner RTC
Industries)



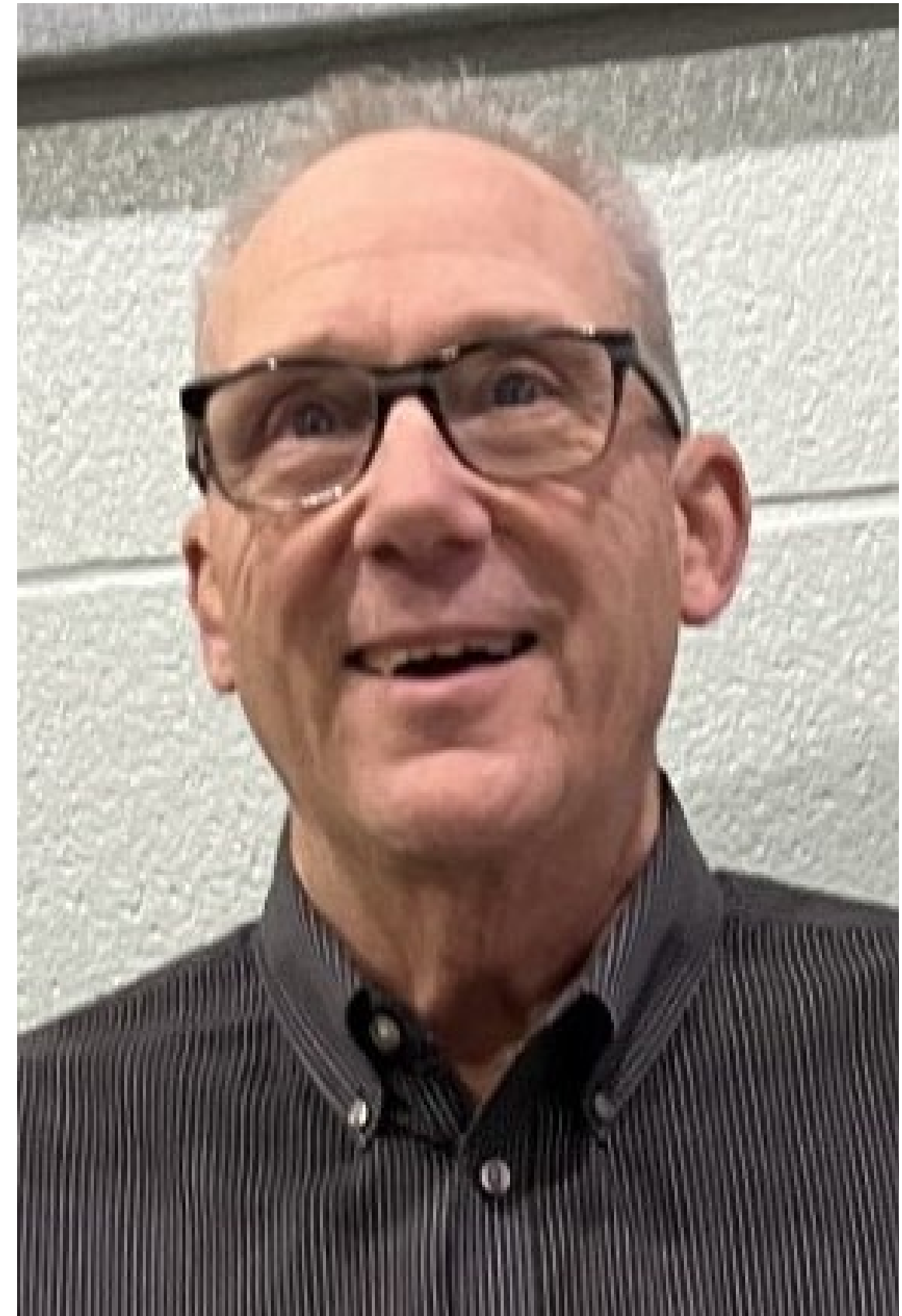
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This Award focuses on the recognition of non-paid community partners who could be family members, community support persons or friends whose contributions are deemed invaluable to persons with developmental disabilities.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Dave Baird
(SAW, Inc.)



LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD

OPRA's provider community is blessed with so many amazing leaders running great organizations. This Award is presented to a professional who has exhibited extraordinary leadership, advocacy and passion as a provider of disability services in Ohio.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

Diane Beastrom
(I Am Boundless)



THANK YOU
FOR EVERYTHING!

ADVANCE / Provider Leadership Training

10th YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

2024 ADVANCE Graduates

Jamie Steele, ADVANCE Coordinator

10th YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

De'Shaun Adair L'Arche Cleveland	Camilia Adams Echoing Hills Village	Tiara Bagley SAW, Inc.	Cory Berney The Society	Laura Borows Riverview Industries
Nicole Clark-Longville Blick Center	Penny Cline Anne Grady Services	Hailee Dunlap Anne Grady Services	Amie Fegly Star, Inc.	Jaime Graham ARC Industries
Jenha Graska Achievement Centers for Children	Kim Headrick Medina Creative Housing	Bev Jeffries Highco	Lance Justice Star, Inc.	Jack Karner Heinzerling Community
Lisa Leining Anne Grady Services	Joe Lusher Goodwill Columbus	Erin Montanye Hattie Larlham	Anita Murphy Onebridge Support Services	Angie Obenour MARCA Industries
Olusola Opeseitan Dungarvin Ohio	Ashleigh Putney Monarch Lifeworks	Tracy Reece Hattie Larlham	Tonya Ruggles Star, Inc.	Amylynn Smith New Avenues to Independence
Chris Stone St. Joseph Home	Tonya Thomas Starlight Enterprises	Ashleigh Watson Monarch Lifeworks	Shari Weber Medicaid Billing Solutions	

Congratulations to all 2024 Nominees!

Direct Support Professional Nominees	
John Awuah	Kerry Brown
Gloria Cade	Patrick Cost
Tenisha	Dandridge
Teresa DePew	Sonya Erwin
Nina Graves	Emily Gray
Dave Grimm	Madison Harper
Eddra Jones	Mbalu Kante
Connie Lesniak	Leah Liston
Melvin Massie	David McCrory
Karissa McElroy	Molly McGuire
Paul Nyochembeng	Justin Prather
James Ring	Ella Romine
Audrey Shrock	Sam Thompson
April Torrance	Robert Upchurch
Gene Wilker	Amanda Williams
Paula Young	

Front-Line Supervisor Nominees	
Camilia Adams	Dani Barnett
Kendra Causby	Bradley Furlong
Angela Hall	Courtney Holland
Kevin Ingram	Brenda Mack
Kristina Manis	Heather Peters
Maria Prentice	Michele Robinson-Wolfe
Brooks Schumann	Ebony Skipper
Danielle South	Cindy Squire
Tamla Varner	Peggy West

Behind the Scenes Nominees	
Leslie Amyx	Sandy Bennett
Rebecca Campbell	Susan Chutes
Nicole Clark-Longville	Mary Dearing
Kristie Gerbic	Matt Goforth
Kim Green	David Knight
Chassity Marche	Christena Moore
Joe Muscaro	Cheryl Owens
Michael Pfoutz	Darrell Richert
Lisa Robarge	Quentin Wilkins
Julie Diamond	Natalie Witherspoon

QIDP Nominees	
Jaida Ballard	Donna Busic
Rachel Gilmore	Rachael Hawkey
Amy Koneval	Emily Spuhler

Job Coach Nominees	
Denise Brown	Laura Grimes
Josh Jividen	

Lifetime Leadership Nominees	
Jacqueline Ellis	Victoire Fife
Misty Goins	Arlene Goodwin
Angela Hall	Sam Howard
Laura Lamb	Robin Malin
Randy Shively	Mary Jo Smith
Peggy Smith	Tony Thomas
Lisa Ward	Sherry Werkin
Amelia Zarate	

Team Award Nominees	
Center for Disabilities ADS Team	Echoing Hills Marketing Team
Hattie Larlham Twinsburg CC Team	Life Builders Sunbury Day Program Team
Medina Adult Day Program Team	PALS Gallipolis ADS Team
REM Ohio Pleasant Springs Team	RHDD "Fabulous Five" ADS Team
Welcome House Clinical Services Team	Welcome House DSP Council Team

Nurse of the Year Nominees	
George Adusei-Bonsu	Jennifer Brewer
Brittany George	Cassi Haworth
Eboni Kennedy	Joyce King
Christine Munroe	Stephanie Retamar
Susan Reynolds	Robin Sponhaltz
Anita Stewart	Carson Stobart
Debbie Thompson	Dawn Yohey

Volunteer of the Year Nominees
Barbie Bolyard – Volunteer for PALS
Keith & Kathy Harrig – Volunteer for Hattie Larlham
Megen Leigh – Volunteer for PALS
Liz Nardi – Volunteer for Welcome House
Kim Vincent – Volunteer for LADD

Community Partner of the Year Nominees
Harbourtown Community Church
Harrison County Board of DD
Rent to Own
Chippewa Lake Lions Club