

SPIRIT OF PORT HURON AWARDS PROGRAM



January 25, 2010

BROTHERHOOD

Donald F. Daniels

Nominated by Alex J. Taylor & Port Huron Lions Club

The Brotherhood award is given to a person who has displayed leadership in fostering understanding and promoting harmony and good will among all. Don Daniels is a wonderful example of such qualities.

A lifelong resident of Port Huron, Don Daniels served in the U. S. Army in World War II and received an honorable discharge. For many years, he was active in the American Legion post as “Sergeant at Arms”, ensuring that the family of any veteran that passed away received a U. S. flag in honor of their service to our country. Don served as a Scout Master for over 25 years and received the Silver Beaver Award for his work in scouting. He still belongs to the Scouts as a volunteer.

Don joined the Lions Club in 1968 and since that time has worked with the eyeglass program which helps the less fortunate with vision problems get the eyeglasses they need. He has assisted those in need to obtain financial aid to purchase hearing aids and has participated in the hospital’s visitation program in the children’s ward. Don also belonged to the Michigan Eye Bank as a transporter. For many years, he was available on a 24-hour call basis, transporting corneas from Port Huron Hospital to an Ann Arbor hospital, giving someone a chance to regain their sight. He was also active in the Secretary of State’s organ donation program.

Don selflessly gives of himself to others and has always been available to help those in need, day or night.

We thank Don for his devotion to others and in raising awareness of what brotherhood is truly all about.

CIVIC

Port Huron Hospital Foundation

Nominated by Thomas DeFauw

The Civic award is bestowed upon a person/business/organization that has significantly contributed time, talent or investment to make Port Huron a better place to live, work and play. The Port Huron Hospital Foundation has devoted itself to supporting the mission of Port Huron Hospital by raising funds for the health, education and enrichment of our community. Foundation members represent the eyes and ears of Port Huron Hospital and help to identify local health needs and give them priority in the hospital's overall operations. Similarly, Foundation members serve as ambassadors for the hospital in communicating to area residents the resources available from the hospital that can improve the community's health status.

Consistently numbering over 700 members and volunteers, the Foundation has committed its efforts to such important work as the Women's Wellness Place, the Family Birth Place, cancer and other health screenings, pediatric care, diabetes education and the development of a number of clinical centers of excellence.

Foundation members also dedicate themselves to fulfilling our community's health education interests in much more personal ways. During its last fiscal year, the Foundation's three community health teams collected and distributed over 30,000 pounds of food to area residents. Their back-to-school program provided 660 backpacks with school supplies to area students. The list of activities the Foundation provides is impressive.

We thank the Port Huron Hospital Foundation for their good work in our community and the interest shown in the health and welfare of our citizens.

CIVIC

Alice Rieves

Nominated by Jack Heck & James Acheson

The Civic award is bestowed upon a person/business/organization that has significantly contributed time, talent or investment to make Port Huron a better place to live, work and play. Alice Rieves has done just that.

For over 17 years, Alice has been the Executive Director of the Mid City Nutrition Program at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Port Huron. She has been the driving force behind this very successful community supported service, overseeing all phases of the entire ecumenical ministry. From requesting and receiving food donations to preparing and serving meals in the "soup kitchen", Alice has worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth-running operation. Always sensitive to the nature of the program, she insists on integrity and respect for all clientele. Alice also coordinates volunteer work crews from church congregations, service clubs and other organizations in the community. Over the past year, 58,500 meals have been provided to 1,726 individuals, with Alice being on-site for most of them.

Over the past five years, Alice has also been involved with the county mobile food pantry which is associated with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, headquartered in Flint. Utilizing volunteers, they distributed over 557,000 pounds of food to 11,785 families. It is unfortunate that the need for these services is so prevalent but we are lucky, indeed, that Alice stepped up to the challenge with such devotion.

Alice has said that she is blessed to work with so many wonderful volunteers, grateful clients, generous donors and the support of so many. She deserves to be recognized for her selfless commitment to those less fortunate and we thank her today for her dedication to others.

CULTURAL

Port Huron Museum

The Cultural award is given to a person or group who has encouraged the appreciation and advancement of the arts or heritage of Port Huron and its citizens.

Founded in 1967, and officially opening its doors in 1968, the Port Huron Museum is housed in the historic Carnegie Library, built in 1904, and provides exhibitions and programs relating to local history, fine arts (with an emphasis on regional art), decorative arts, natural history, and Great Lakes marine lore.

Port Huron Museum's mission is to celebrate the history and culture of the Blue Water Area and foster an appreciation of other peoples and places. Through exhibitions, education, and public programs, the Museum inspires knowledge of the past, participation in the present and an imagination for the future.

While actively promoting and educating the public about cultural aspects of our community for years, the Museum has brought in many new and large attractions and displays in the recent past, including dinosaurs, CSI, maritime artifacts and The Enemy Within which chronicled terrorism in the U. S. since our country's founding. These new attractions bring visitors back to the Museum with enthusiasm for learning and we appreciate the Museum's efforts in sustaining an interest in history with our citizens and visitors alike.

There truly is "something for everyone" at the Port Huron Museum's various sites throughout the City and we encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunities the Museum presents to us.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS

Kinney Management Group / Icehawks

The Economic Progress award is given to a person or business that has invested or encouraged an investment in the community that has stabilized or enhanced the economic climate and quality of life in Port Huron.

Larry Kinney, owner and founder of the Kinney Management Group (KMG), made his first investment in our community through the ownership and support of the Port Huron Icehawks, our local hockey team. With enhanced marketing, the Icehawks have enjoyed several thriving seasons and we look forward to their continued success.

Larry continued to invest in our community by founding Kinney Charities, which donates money for the underprivileged, non-profit organizations, and youth sports.

Larry's interest in Port Huron grew as he contracted with the City for the co-management of McMorran. With Kinney Management Group's guidance, McMorran was recently updated with new signage, a new "Under the Ice" lounge area, and many aesthetic improvements.

An entrepreneur by nature with a great desire to give back and be a positive part of his community, Larry Kinney and Kinney Management Group have become a wonderful addition to Port Huron.

Larry is married and has five children. Even with all of the activities listed above, he is also very involved in his children's lives and activities.

The position of respect and confidence which Larry Kinney and the Kinney Management Group hold in our community has been well earned.

We thank Larry for his investment in Port Huron and wish him continued success in the future.

HEROISM

Ethan Booms

Nominated by Lt. Jeffery Tucker, Port Huron Fire Dept.

The Heroism award is given to a person who has risked personal injury or his life in a spontaneous act to save others. Young Ethan Booms did just that.

On August 16, 2008, Port Huron Firefighters responded to the scene of a call to discover Ethan Booms, at that time just 11 years old, in a swimming pool supporting the weight of an adult male who was in cardiac arrest. Not only was Ethan supporting the man, he also was performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. In an extremely difficult situation, this brave young man performed this life-saving skill and managed to keep calm and composed throughout the ordeal.

It is difficult to know if any of us would think so clearly and act in such an extraordinary manner in an emergency situation. Ethan's quick thinking and responsiveness gave that man a chance at survival.

Fire Lieutenant Jeffery Tucker stated, "This was one of the most impressive things I have witnessed by a child during my career." Who would ever ask so much of an 11-year-old? Who would ever guess that an 11-year-old would have the knowledge, maturity and ability to know what to do in such a situation? Ethan Booms knows. Ethan Booms did exactly what was needed.

We thank Ethan today for his efforts and honor him for his heroic actions.

HEROISM

William R. Muncell

Nominated by Captain Mark White, Port Huron Fire Dept.

The Heroism award is given to a person who has risked personal injury or his life in a spontaneous act to save others.

Walking home from work at the Village Tavern on November 1, 2009 at approximately 1:20 a.m., William Muncell became aware of a fire at 833 9th Street. Even though heavy smoke conditions posed extreme risk to him, he approached the residence and pounded loudly on the door, waking 86-year-old Evelyn Stalker and assisting her in leaving the house. William then returned to the home and retrieved some personal effects for Mrs. Stalker prior to the Fire Department arriving on scene.

Mrs. Stalker's home was one of three that burned that night and it was later determined that the fires had been set by an arsonist. Although three homes were destroyed that night, Mrs. Stalker's life was not. She lives today because of the heroic action of William Muncell. We honor him today for reacting quickly and bravely and for saving Mrs. Stalker -- a treasured mother and grandmother greatly loved by her family. They will be forever grateful to him.

Thank you, William, for the heroism you exhibited that evening.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

George Y. Duffy, Jr.

Nominated by Joseph Mericka

The Lifetime Achievement award bestows special recognition on the rare individual who has consistently and unselfishly given an extraordinary amount of time and personal effort over the course of many years toward the betterment of their community and fellow man. George Y. Duffy, Jr., (better known as Sandy) certainly exemplifies that criteria and has, indeed, exhibited a lifetime of achievement.

In 1975, Sandy joined the South Park Community Center Board, serving as Treasurer. This multi-racial group was formed to help that area of the community which sometimes felt forgotten.

In 1978, Sandy started the Antique and Classic Boat Society's Michigan Chapter, which gave local owners of this classic wooden watercraft a chance to share and gather information.

In 1982, he was instrumental in creating the first annual Antique and Classic Boat Show in Port Huron. This event brings in over 100 wooden classic boats which are moored in Black River for all to admire.

In 1980, Sandy joined the Southside Coalition and helped draft the grants that the organization needed to apply for (and subsequently received) from the Michigan State Housing Development to help improve the neighborhood. Through the Coalition, he was instrumental in starting two important events. The first was begun in 1987 - the annual Musicfest held in July to encourage community involvement, to promote unity and to provide a forum to discuss local neighborhood issues. The Southside Coalition celebrated the 23rd annual Musicfest last July. The second event begun by Sandy was the formation of Candidate's Night, which coincided with the City Council elections every two years. This gave south side residents a chance to listen, and present their questions, to candidates running for City Council seats.

In 1985, Sandy formed the Irish-American Club of St. Clair County which provides opportunities for this group to get together and share special interests relating to Irish culture and heritage: history, music, dance, cooking, etc. The Club eventually took over the responsibilities of running Port Huron's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, originally started by John Brown and organized by the local Rotary. That parade later blossomed into Irish-American Week, with added events such as the Pub Crawl, the Erin Queen Contest, musical venues, and other activities in surrounding communities.

In addition, Sandy also served on the Board for the Blue Water Center for Independent Living, started the Dome Reunion in the late 1980's, which is still going strong today, started the Cinco de Mayo dance held each year at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the Latino culture in St. Clair County (and especially in Port Huron), served on the Blue Water Land Conservancy, joined the Trails Committee of the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Department and formed the Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Historical Society.

Not only is Sandy extremely active and well-known in our community, he is also an inventor! In 1984, he invented the first four-wheel suspension wheelchair. This unique wheelchair was built for active users - farmers, ranchers and outdoor enthusiasts. Forming "Iron Horse Productions, Inc.", he built a fabricating assembly plant on the south side of Port Huron and for 16 years, he sold wheelchairs to hospitals, the Veterans Administration, medical device dealers and those who wanted a longer-lasting more comfortable wheelchair.

Sandy's achievements span over 30 years and he remains an active, vital member of this area - setting a wonderful example of selfless dedication to the community in which he lives. For his many contributions, a Lifetime Achievement award is being bestowed upon Sandy today and we thank him for his efforts on behalf of his fellow citizens.

YOUTH SERVICE

Ryan Tibble

Nominated by Keith Bricker

The Youth Service award is bestowed upon a young person who has displayed outstanding citizenship, principally through community service activities.

Ryan Tibble has made quite an impression at Port Huron Northern High School where he is currently a senior. Described as “a full cut above really good students”, Ryan has been involved in the Quiz Bowl, after-school tutoring, Student Council, Key Club and the International Science and Engineering Fair. He is an AP Scholar with a 4.0 grade point average, a Phi Theta Kappa at SC4 and he served as the National Honor Society President for two years.

Not only does Ryan excel at school, he also volunteers at the Port Huron Museum, the Festival of Trees fundraiser for the local hospitals, and Angel Food Ministries.

Dr. Terry Parks, Assistant Director for Mathematics and Science Programs for RESA, states that, “Ryan is focused on doing his best at everything he does... and is wise beyond his years”.

An excellent model for what it means to be a thoughtful, positive, and contributing member of his community, we present the Youth Service award to Ryan Tibble and congratulate him on his success.

SPIRIT OF PORT HURON
PREVIOUS YEARS' WINNERS

BROTHERHOOD (added in 1993)

2007 - Jack C. Heck, DDS
2006 - William R. Johnston
2005 - Reverend Allen White, Jr.
2004 - Reverend John L. Portis
2003 - Reverend Martin Doorn
2002 - Reverend Thomas J. Seppo
2001 - Robert & Elizabeth Rock
2000 - Helen R. Weischler
1999 - Mary Pochodylo
1998 - David & Donna Schwartz
1997 - Tyrone Burrell & Daniel Lundblad
1996 - Howard H. Colby
1995 - William "Buddy" Sutherland, Jr.
1994 - Marilyn Abernathy
1993 - K. C. Norman

CIVIC

2007 - Port Huron Beautification Commission
2006 - Nigar Hussain, Mike Geno
2005 - Franklin "Chip" Mortimer
2004 - Sharon Bender
2003 - James Currier, The Rotary Club of Port Huron
2002 - Carl A. Moss
The Salvation Army's Youth Basketball Program
2001 - James Acheson
2000 - SEMCO Energy, Inc.
1999 - Bethany Belanger, Dr. Daniel Wilhelm
1998 - Albert L. Renaker
1997 - Charles Meeker, Rev. Kevin Zaborney,
Jon Howard
1996 - Ila Shoulders
1995 - Bernadine N. Noetzel, Patricia L. Balogh
1994 - Ervin Kreutziger, Community Paint Works
1993 - William A. Pierce
1992 - Eleger Harvey,
North American Benefit Association,
League of Women Voters
1991 - Howard Sloan, Dorothy Porrett
1990 - Kenneth Thomas, Mid-City Nutrition Center,
Richard Cogley, posthumously
1989 - Blue Water Women's League,
American Red Cross & Volunteers
1988 - Frank J. McCabe & John Wismer
1987 - John W. Shier & Blue Water Garden Club
1986 - Eugene Moak, Bessie Mueller, Helen David

CULTURAL

2007 - Michael R. Artman
2006 - Peggy Payton
2005 - *First Night* (Laurie Sample-Wynn
& Karin Mayer)
2004 - David Teeple
2003 - Port Huron Museum Music Makers
2002 - Robert Hanford
2001 - Glenn A. Ulrich
2000 - Andy Pochodylo,
Anna Jacobs Garrett
1999 - Gerry & Mino Kramer
1998 - Marguerite I. Stanley
1997 - Jake & Edna Wade
1996 - Cindy Lowrie
1995 - Sushma Reddy, M.D.
1994 - Walter & Mary Brooks &
Donna Galbraith
1993 - Harry & Rose Burgess &
Port Huron Town Hall
1992 - Lynne Secory
1991 - Capt. Ted Richardson &
Huron Lightship crew
1990 - Michele Duffy Kramer
1989 - Robert & Sharon Bender
1988 - Charles Stephens
1987 - Robert E. Dierks, Marcia Haynes
1986 - Mary Davis, Stephen Williams,
Evelyn Sawyer,
George & Kay Duffy

ECONOMIC PROGRESS

2007 - Georgina & Dave Witt
2006 - ALD Thermal Treatment, Inc.
2005 - Mary Maxim, Inc.
2004 - Meriturn Partners
2003 - Ted Pozios &
Citizens First Savings Bank
2002 - Collins & Aikman
2001 - Bill Deligianis & Leo Deligianis
2000 - Royal Oak Boring Company
1999 - Huron Lady River Tours
1998 - MainStreet Port Huron
1997 - Donaldson Company, Inc.
1996 - HP Pelzer Inc.
1995 - Waltec American Forging, Inc.
1994 - Dualex, Inc.
1993 - Frederick S. Moore
P. J. Wallbank Springs, Inc.
1992 - Gerald J. Kramer, Jr.
Davidson Interior Trim
1991 - Petri Inc., Citadel Mall Antiques Group
1990 - John W. Wirtz
1989 - Isaac Lang, Jr., Sperry's & Brian Harris
1988 - E. B. Eddy Paper Co.
1987 - Mueller Brass Co., Carol VanCamp
1986 - Industrial Development Corporation

GOOD NEIGHBOR

2007 - No nominees
2006 - Carolyn Holley
2005 - Joe Sharba, Jack Denomy, David Robinson
2004 - No nominees
2003 - Jerry & Alice Landschoot
2002 - Al Gaulin
2001 - George & Donna Harris / Kevin & Amy Banker
2000 - Rogelio Lopes Rodriguez
1999 - Betty Oberstar
1998 - Effie Crawford
1997 - Mike Abro & Louis Angerbrandt
1996 - Shirley Kincaid
1995 - Robert & Mary Bright
1994 - Adopt-a-Park Program
1992 - Blue Water Citizens Against Crime
1991 - Rev. Fred D. Butler, Jr.
1990 - Clarence Daggett
1989 - Douglas Treadgold, Patricia Benedict
1988 - Henry & Virginia Meyers

HEROISM

2007 - Nick Podgers, Alex Christensen,
Aaron Christensen
2006 - George Stracenrider
2005 - Nicole Perugia & Jamie Lynch
2004 - Barbara Kelly and John J. Smith
2003 - Wayne Arnold
2002 - Charles Marzolf
2001 - David Losinski, Joseph Murphy,
Mike Preston
2000 - Herbert Robbins IV
1999 - Fawn Williams
1998 - George D. Main
1997 - Charles McCoy
1995 - Kenneth & Meredith Washington,
Donald H. Kress & Scott A. Kress
1993 - Gregory Roy, Steve Gordon
1991 - Liz Nishimiyia
1990 - Gerald E. Bateman
1989 - James A. Brown
1987 - Charles D. Burge
Daniel J. McVety
Brenda Stoner
1986 - Dennis Thomas, Robert Lawrence

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT (added in 1996)

2007 - Mary J. Brooks
2006 - Glenn Weaver
2005 - Lawrence Dean Fredendall
2004 - Morris Snider
2003 - Frank Gerbig, Jr.
2002 - Larry J. Moeller, Sr.
2001 - Betty Smith
2000 - Glen London
1999 - Clayton Berdan
1998 - Helen David
1997 - John F. Wismer
1996 - Mary A. Davis

YOUTH SERVICE (added in 1995)

- 2007 - Angelina Taylor
- 2006 - Tiffany Hering
- 2005 - Victoria Castillo
- 2004 - Abby McIntyre
- 2003 - Rahim Merchant & Rahil Merchant
- 2002 - Joseph Marcero & Karri Whipple
- 2001 - Melissa Marcero
- 2000 - William Worden & Gary Jones
- 1999 - Tiffany Jacobs
- 1998 - Inga A. Hofer
- 1996 - Karen Grinder
- 1995 - Tinna Moue

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR (added in 1994)

- 2001 - Discontinued
- 2000 - David Lowrie (For 1999)
- 1999 - Ray Dickinson (For 1998)
- 1998 - Doug Cole (For 1997)
- 1997 - Thomas J. Ruedisueli (For 1996)
- 1996 - Diana L. Tramski (For 1995)
- 1995 - Sgt. Ronald Donaghy (For 1994)
- 1994 - William Robinson (For 1993)