

SPIRIT OF PORT HURON AWARDS PROGRAM



March 24, 2014

SPIRIT OF PORT HURON AWARDS PROGRAM

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Mayor Pauline M. Repp

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Mayor Pauline M. Repp

BROTHERHOOD AWARD

Christine Youngblood

Nominated by Patricia Moss

The Brotherhood award is given to a person or persons who have displayed leadership in fostering understanding and promoting harmony and good will among all. A retired nurse, Christine Youngblood volunteers two or three days at month at the Peoples Clinic in South Park and has done so for over 20 years. She helps with the Visiting Nurses flu clinic and the Red Cross every Monday afternoon at the blood center.

Christine also gives generously of her time to the Port Huron Museum, having worked to save the Fort Gratiot Light Station. She also helps out with the Port Huron Garden Club and the art gallery in St. Clair.

Having raised four children of her own and one foster child, she is always thinking and doing things to help her fellow human beings. Young at heart, Christine is a wonderful example in her quest to provide support and assistance to others and is well-deserving of the Brotherhood award.

CIVIC AWARD

Katherine T. E. Duffy

Nominated by Lynn Secory

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. Kathy Duffy has certainly done that.

Moving back to her native city in 1988, Kathy quickly became involved in efforts being made to counteract the effects of a major mall being built in Fort Gratiot which could be potentially devastating to the downtown businesses. Those involved recognized the need to enhance what the downtown had that the mall did not – history! Behind those 1960s facades were wonderful historic storefronts that would reveal our downtown’s architectural charm and beauty. Kathy reconfigured or enhanced existing facades for many downtown businesses.

Kathy served as MainStreet’s President from 2000 through 2002; served as Chair of the Festival of Trees in 2005 and 2006 and has been a tireless volunteer and supporter of the Port Huron Museum. One of her most ardent passions has been McMorran Place, joining the many others who recognize the complex’s significance in our community. She was a key player in the major fundraiser in 2001 which made a vast renovation project for the Auditorium possible.

Kathy was on the Board of the YMCA leading up to the eventual construction of the new facility; serves as Chair of the Grants Committee of the Blue Water Arts Council and serves on the Blue Water RiverWalk Art Committee.

If she thinks she can make a difference, Kathy gets involved and makes it happen! We are blessed to have her as part of our community and thank her for her many contributions.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS AWARD

Mueller Brass Company

Nominated by Dan Casey

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.

A long-standing fixture in our community, Mueller Brass continues to thrive. In order to keep jobs in our area and remain competitive, Mueller Brass will make \$18.5 million in investments by the end of 2014. The new technology will increase production throughout and improve quality, allowing Muller Brass to stay competitive in a very demanding global market.

Employing approximately 250 people, their 2014 investment will make Port Huron the flagship plant for brass rod production.

Mueller Brass is deserving of the Economic Achievement award for their years of remaining stable in a very challenging market, investing in our community and providing jobs to our citizens. Since opening their Port Huron plant in 1917, Mueller's has provided a living for many and has contributed much to our community. We thank them for their commitment and wish them continued success.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

Jim & Lisa Smith

Nominated by Dorothy Porrett

The Good Neighbor award is given to a person or persons who have gone out of their way in an unsolicited manner to help a neighbor in an extraordinary manner. Jim and Lisa Smith certainly qualify for this award.

For the last several years, Jim and Lisa have taken care of a small piece of property, an “island” if you will, that is across from their home. While many might ignore this City-owned property, Jim and Lisa have taken it upon themselves to purchase and plant flowers and plants in this area. Jim cuts the grass, waters and help plants, while Lisa chooses the flower theme, plants and weeds. They display several themes throughout the year such as Independence Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, etc., making a delight from what could well be an eyesore.

In addition to caring for this property, Jim also cuts grass for several seniors on their block in addition to blowing their leaves and shoveling snow. Lisa makes meals and treats for these seniors. Their efforts are much appreciated by their neighbors and their example certainly inspires others to care for their yards and their neighbors. Jim and Lisa truly exemplify the “spirit” of Port Huron as neighbors of the very best kind.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Gerry Kramer

Nominated by Kristi Hazard

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. Gerry Kramer is a shining example of a lifetime achiever!

In the early 1990's, Gerry Kramer was instrumental in bringing the original MainStreet program to Port Huron. That program restored new life into a depressed downtown that needed more than a shot in the arm. As a driver of that program, he encouraged the removal of thousands of feet of aluminum from the front of many historic buildings, revealing a museum of historic facades throughout the downtown. His effort led others to follow.

Gerry was also responsible for establishing a loan pool for building rehabs and a façade grant program which lives on today at the Economic Development Alliance. He has encouraged many property owners to invest in their buildings and properties in the downtown area. Gerry researched tax credit, grant and preservation information that made many building restorations possible. He always leads by example and people follow his lead.

Gerry and his wife, Mino, quietly contribute to a myriad of organizations including the Port Huron Museum, the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, Visiting Nurses, McMorran Place, the Port Huron Yacht Club, the Antique Boat Society and many others. Gerry gives freely of his time and effort to many boards and organizations. One of his most lasting contributions is his promotion of entrepreneurship – he has encouraged numerous businesses to locate (or remain) in

this community. More than just the practice of real estate – Gerry’s love of his community leads him to make a difference that most of us are well aware of.

Gerry’s contributions have made long-lasting improvements in our community and have led to a brighter and more stable future. Combined with his great sense of humor, professionalism and drive to create a better sense of place, Gerry’s contributions will last more than a lifetime. We commend him for his efforts and thank him for his many contributions.

YOUTH SERVICE

Alesondra Christmas

Nominated by Tracey L. Hopp

The Youth Service award is bestowed upon a young person who has displayed outstanding citizenship, principally through community service activities. Alesondra Christmas, known as Alex to her friends, is described by her high school guidance counselor as a “very bright young woman, who is very well respected by staff and students”. Alex excels academically and chose to follow a rigorous curriculum during high school so that she is well prepared for the demands of a university.

A well-rounded student, Alex is involved in Student Council, the National Honor Society, Key Club and is Treasurer for Port Huron High’s Class of 2014. She has clearly demonstrated strong leadership abilities and is currently taking a “Building Tomorrow’s Leaders” class.

A heart for the community and volunteering, Alex teaches dance class at the after-school program, she plays Princess Tiara at the “Enchanted Ball” for elementary school girls, teaches Sunday School, participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, is involved in the Port Huron Civic Theater and The Nutcracker Ballet and mentors at elementary schools.

In addition to serving her community, Alex has two younger siblings with autism and helps care for them. An exceptional young lady with a passion for her community, Alex is a great role model for young people and we honor her today with the Youth Service award.

YOUTH SERVICE

Rebecca Richards

Nominated by Mary Taylor

The Youth Service award is bestowed upon a young person who has displayed outstanding citizenship, principally through community service activities. An exceptional student and caring individual, Becca joined the Knights Daughters St. Clare Council #008 at St. Mary Church in Port Huron in 2006. Since that time, Becca has grown and taken on leadership roles, becoming Vice President of the group in 2007 and President in 2008-2009, Treasurer in 2010-2012 and again Vice President in 2013-2014. Since 2009, she has chaired the group's main fundraising activity – a Christmas Greeneries Sale each fall. Those funds support “Roof Sit” each year. Becca has had many ideas for fundraising and works tirelessly for those less fortunate.

In addition to her involvement with her church, Becca is also an outstanding athlete; having played soccer, volleyball and basketball in local youth leagues, AAU and on high school teams. At Port Huron Northern, she is involved in Student Council, the National Honor Society and band.

Becca has delivered Thanksgiving Day Meals on Wheels and been part of Relay for Life's walk. She has helped pack backpacks for the backpack give-away and serves on the Youth Advisory Council.

An inspiration to others, Becca continues to expand her involvement – truly a wonderful example of Youth Service that we're sure will continue through her adult life. Congratulations, Becca!

SPIRIT OF PORT HURON

PREVIOUS YEARS' WINNERS

BROTHERHOOD (added in 1993)

2011 - Reverend Alex Crittenden
2009 - Donald F. Daniels
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

2011 - Jacquelyn Hanton
2009 - Alice Rieves & Port Huron Hospital Foundation
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

2011 - Lee A. Jones
2009 - The Port Huron Museum
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 - Lynn 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

2011 - Earl Smith Distributing Company
2009 - Kinney Management Group/Icehawks
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 (added in 1988)

2011 - Donald Lee
2009 - No nominees
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

2011 - None selected
2009 - Ethan Booms, William Muncell
2007 - Nick Podgers, Alex Christensen,
Aaron Christensen
2006 - George Stracener
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 Nishimiya
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)

2011 - Carolyn Crowe
2009 - George Y. Duffy, Jr.
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)

2011 - Nithin R. Tumma
2009 - Ryan Tibble
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)