



## 2006 Award Winners

**Mildred Corey of Battle Creek** received the **Governor George Romney Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteerism**, which is the most prestigious of the Governor's Service Awards, was

presented to. This award honors an individual who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community involvement and volunteer service—someone who has made service a way of life. Millie began volunteering when she completed high school in the 1930's and continues today at 90 years of age. Her volunteer service began at her place of worship where she was a greeter and helped children with their homework. As a young married woman she and her family provided a home for two troubled teenage boys. She helped start the Extension Committee for Women in Menominee in the 1940s and taught money management, childcare, and other life skills. She then became a 4-H youth leader, a volunteer position she maintained for more than 35 years. She served on the Menominee County 4-H board and became a founding member of the Menominee County 4-H Foundation where she served for more than 30 years and helped develop their endowment fund. She is a founding member of the Menominee County chapter of the Farm Bureau, leading efforts to give farmers a voice in farm policy. When she moved to Battle Creek in 1991, Millie pursued her passion for gardening. She completed the Master Gardener program through the Leila Arboretum Society at age 78 and she continues to volunteer there two mornings a week. She also volunteers one morning a week at the greenhouse at the Veteran's Administration Hospital. In 2005, the hospital asked her to take on flag mending, which she currently does from her home.



**Michael McCartan of St. Clair** received the **Exemplary Volunteer Service Award**. This award honors an individual who strives to improve the lives of others—someone who goes the extra mile for their community.

Michael has embodied the spirit of volunteerism for all of his adult life. He has given his time to the local soup kitchen for 25 years, played an active role in March of Dimes fund raising for 20 years, and coached AYSO soccer for 10 years. He has been a member of the East China School Board since 1989 and has been a speaker and presenter at multiple school events for more than 15 years. He has served on many community boards including the Economic Opportunity Committee, United Way, D.A.R.E., and State Intervention Coordinating Committee. He has been critical in the success of St. Clair County's Critical Incident Stress Management program and been a passionate advocate for mental health through activities such as suicide and child abuse prevention.



**Wolverine Harley-Davidson HOG Chapter #1332** received the **Exemplary Community Service Program Award**. This award honors an organization that effectively uses volunteers to meet its mission. HOG Chapter #1332 is 1,600 members strong and the largest motorcycle chapter in the nation. Each year the group works closely with its sponsor, Wolverine Harley Davidson in Clinton Township, to implement four major charity rides. With the support of George De La Nuez, dealer/operator of Wolverine Harley Davidson, a typical ride attracts between 800-1,500 participants and generates \$20,000-\$40,000 for charities such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association, CARE House, Family Services at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, and St. Joseph's Hospital Pediatric Unit. Recently, members began focusing on children in need, especially those in foster care. They provide the homes with an abundance of food, clothing, and gifts for the children and family. The Chapter also organized a special ride for former foster care children who rode on a motorcycle with a member to an event where they were reunited with their foster family for a day of fun. Volunteers implemented blood drives, Toys for Tots campaigns, Harley's Angels toy drives, holiday adopt-a-family activities, and much more.



**Joshua Sharp of Kincheloe** received the **Youth Volunteer Award of Excellence**. This award honors a young person, aged 21 or younger, who has taken action to make his or her community a better place to live. Joshua is a freshman at Lake Superior State University. He is a volunteer who has committed himself to one particular cause, the From Decisions to Actions Program. This program is a juvenile intervention program where Joshua started as a program participant in 2000. He was invited back as a youth assistant because they wanted him to share the many things he learned by accepting so many family responsibilities at a young age. In his role as youth volunteer, he sets up rooms and makes sure supplies are available throughout the program. He is responsible for paperwork and helps the other youth assistants with their weekly responsibilities. He has also served as a peer mentor to the elementary-aged program participants. Through his volunteer efforts, he has touched the lives of more than 450 youth.



**Mary Clay of Grand Rapids and James Rowlett of Traverse City** received **Senior Volunteer Awards of Excellence**. This award honors senior citizens who has taken action to make her or his community a better place to live.

**Mary Clay** began volunteering 19 years ago after her husband's death. She is 82 years old and an active member of the Foster Grandparent Program where she serves 20 hours each week. She works with up to ten boys ages 14-20 who are in the Autism Program at Union High School. She often takes "her boys" to Pizza Hut, Meijer, Home Depot, etc. to give them hands-on experience with making cost-saving purchases, paying for items, and receiving proper change. She teaches them simple hygiene practices, how to eat with proper utensils, and other basic skills. She also volunteers with the



United Methodist Community House summer program, which serves economically disadvantaged children.

**James Rowlett** has been the force behind the Poverty Reduction Initiative (PRI) serving a five-county region. He coordinated a Poverty Summit to identify poverty issues and then helped more than 250 people organize to address the issues. The PRI, which operates without a budget, is working to reduce poverty by 25 percent by 2010. Jim's leadership was also vital in the development of Team Work North West, which is a collaborative with PRI, Council of Governments, and Department of Human Services designed to serve the homeless and the working poor. He also volunteers with the Maritime Heritage Alliance, Traverse Bay Alliance, and Saturday Specials at the local Intermediate School District.



**Ford Motor Company of Dearborn** received the **Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Award**. This award honors businesses that demonstrate excellent corporate citizenship by giving back to their community through corporate volunteer programs, monetary contributions, in-kind gifts, and employee-driven volunteer service. The Ford Motor Company began their tradition of community service under direction of the company's founder, Henry Ford. This commitment to community continues today. In 2005, the US Ford 16-hour volunteer program, which allows salaried employees to take two days each year to volunteer at nonprofit organizations, involved more than 11,000 Ford employees from Southeast Michigan in more than 86,000 hours of service at more than 130 nonprofit organizations. Ford's commitment to the local community is clearly demonstrated through their involvement with the Komen Race for the Cure, Super Bowl XL, United Way, Focus: HOPE, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Detroit Public Schools. Ford's commitment also impacts communities nationally and globally through their work with Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and others. Ford Motor Company and its employees financially support numerous organizations in Michigan and around the world. Since the first United Way campaign in 1949, they have been the single, largest contributor to the United Way with more than \$428 million through 2004.



**Randy Walker, Sr. of Southfield** received the **Outstanding Mentor Award**. This award honors an individual who has made a significant difference in a child's life through mentoring. Randy is currently mentoring two young men and touching the lives of hundreds more. He began mentoring Kevin in 1997 through the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit and has been a solid role model in his life ever since. Randy also took Arbie under his wing because his father was incarcerated and not involved in his son's life. Over the years, Randy and his mentees have done a variety of things including movies, go-carting, fishing, sporting events, banquets, and church events. He has stressed the importance of education and exposed them to the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. He has dragged the reluctant boys with him to community events, such as Safe Night and the American Heart Walk. Randy also integrated the boys into his family life involving his wife and two sons whenever possible. As a result of Randy's involvement, Kevin will attend Northern Michigan



University in the fall and Arbie will graduate from University of Detroit Jesuit High School this year and plans to attend college. Randy is also involved with 100 Black Men, Black Family Development, Detroit Public and Southfield schools, and church activities.

The **AMIGOS Program of Kalamazoo** received the **Innovative Mentoring Program Award**. This award honors a program that has found a unique and effective approach to mentoring children. The AMIGOS program is a bilingual mentoring program designed to generate intercultural awareness, understanding, and knowledge. The program is a partnership between Kalamazoo College and Maple Street Magnet School and is coordinated by the Mary Jane Underwood Stryker Institute for Service-Learning. The magnet school is a diverse public school with roughly 70 percent of the middle school students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. Kalamazoo College is a private college with 70 percent of its students from affluent Detroit suburbs. The 22 mentor-mentee pairs spend at least two hours together each week, last year logging 1,375 hours. The K students help with homework and practice English with their mentees. The younger students offer the college students a glimpse of immigrant life and a chance to acquire and hone other language skills. Although programming generally takes place at the school, there have also been field trips to the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, Kalamazoo College, bowling, and plays.

