

2009 Governor's Service Awards Finalists

Governor George Romney Lifetime Achievement Award

This award, the most prestigious of the Governor's Service Awards, honors an individual who has taken his or her volunteer service to the highest level – year after year. It honors an individual, usually a senior citizen, who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community involvement and volunteer service. Individuals nominated in this category have made service a way of life for many, many years.

John Duley of Okemos has made significant contributions to Capital-area communities since the 1960s. While employed at Michigan State University (MSU) as a professor and campus minister, John was instrumental in the development and implementation of the *Student Tutorial Education Project* (STEP), a program that used MSU students and faculty at summer tutorial programs at Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. In the 1970's, he worked to incorporate service-learning to MSU's curriculum and helped create the National Society for Experiential Education – which led to the future creation of Campus Compact. In the 1980's, John founded the Greater-Lansing Housing Coalition, a community-wide organization dedicated to prompting quality, affordable housing. And in the 1990's, he led an initiative to provide low-income residents with access to computers and the Internet, thus forming *Closing the Digital Gap*. He is still involved in this effort today at age 88. John has consistently gone above community expectations as he aims to encourage voluntary action in all citizens.

Joseph (Joe) Hudson, Jr. of Grosse Pointe Farms first became engaged in service to the community when he was elected as a trustee at Harper Hospital at just 25 years old. Since then Joe has given vision, energy, and enthusiasm to a variety of organizations in the Metro-Detroit area. He is the founding chairman of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, which has awarded nearly \$300 million through more than 29,000 grants to charitable causes. Joe is also the founding chairman of New Detroit, America's first urban coalition representing the Detroit-area's diverse racial and ethnic communities. One of its first tasks was integrating the city's police department to reflect the city's population. Additionally, this coalition spawned new organizations such as the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation. Other leadership roles Joe has fulfilled include those for the Hudson-Webber Foundation, City of Detroit Arts Commission, Detroit Institute of Arts, and the United Foundation.

Robert (Hans) Schuler of Marshall was given the 2008 Marshall Main Street Hall-of-Fame Award for his generous support to better the community as a whole. But it's not just the city of Marshall that has been affected; Hans' volunteer efforts have extended far beyond his community. In fact, he has served in leadership roles for a variety of organizations and/or events for over the past 40 years, including AAA Michigan, the 1985 Governor's Annual Conference on Tourism, Calhoun Economic Development Forum, Marshall Forward, Marshall City Planning Commission, Detroit President's Organization, and Optimist Club...just to name a few. And, his efforts have helped to promote tourism in Michigan, plan strategically for Marshall's future, and raise money to assist organizational programming. Part of Hans' generosity stems from his family's business – Schuler's – and the opportunities its success has provided over the last 100 years.

James Willoughby of Detroit was a dedicated mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit (BBBSMD). Starting in 1961, he mentored nine young individuals through the organization and served as Board Chairman during its modest beginnings. BBBSMD honored James by creating the *James Willoughby Volunteer of the Year Award* in 2000 in recognition of those who exhibit an extraordinary commitment to children in the metropolitan Detroit area. In addition to his commitments to BBBSMD, he also donated his time to organizations such as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Oakland County 4-H, the Detroit Zoological Society, and Meals on Wheels. James' contributions to southeast Michigan and BBBSMD have changed how youth come of age in the community. Sadly, James passed away in September 2008 from complications due to an injury sustained in an automobile accident.

Mentor of the Year

This award honors an individual who has made a significant difference in a child's life over time through mentoring. For the purpose of this award, mentoring is defined as a structured and trusting relationship that brings a young person together with a caring individual who offers guidance, support, and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the mentee.

Jonathan Crawford of Detroit serves as a mentor for two young men, Austin and Raekwon, through the Wayne County 4-H Mentoring Program. Jonathan communicates on an ongoing basis with his mentees and their parents to work on their emotional impairments and academics. He often takes them to Oakland University basketball games, local events in the Detroit area, Wayne County 4-H Mentoring Program activities, and other opportunities. Jonathan has found other ways to give back to the Detroit community as well, such as providing tutoring for the Academic Achievement Tutoring Service and Pro Literacy Detroit, mentoring through the Burns Seventh-Day Adventist Church Pathfinder Program, and assisting with area Boy and Girl Scouts. At age 74, Jonathan has established a life-long legacy of helping others and enjoys expanding the opportunities of young people.

Mike Fitzpatrick of Sterling Heights mentors because he believes it positively influences those who need it most and because it greatly enriches his own life and the world in which we live. He has mentored continuously for the past 12 years with *Winning Futures*, a school-based mentoring program based in Warren. Mike originally began mentoring in 1977 when he bought his company, Fitzpatrick Manufacturing, and hired co-op students from the local high school. Through *Winning Futures* he has personally mentored 45 students through its group mentoring program. Mike spends one hour each week with his group where they discuss various topics including character value identification, goal setting, and strategic planning. They also work on five-year plans to help them achieve their career aspirations. Mike's mentoring goals include helping students see the connection between academics and the world of work. In fact, he continues to use his company to serve as a learning tool for mentees by offering tours and potential employment.

Laura Fletcher of Flint has mentored five Little Sisters through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint (BBBSGF) since 1991. In 1996, she was honored with the organization's Big Sister of the Year and has served on its Board of Directors since 1994. It is obvious her commitment to mentoring is strong. Laura's current Little Sister is Georgie, whom she has been matched with for three years. Together they attend BBBSGF sponsored activities, community events, and learning opportunities. Laura has also made time for Georgie's brother, whose BBBSGF match closed in 2008, by inviting him to join them on several occasions. Over the past 17 years, Laura has contributed more than 2,000 volunteer hours to her Little Sisters. And, countless more have been given to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint's Board of Directors.

Herman May of Detroit was matched with Nicholas in 2006 when he began mentoring at Spain Elementary as part of VIP Mentoring's school-based program. Since then, Herman has changed his match to community-based once he realized Nicholas needed a stronger male role model in his life. Previously Nicholas was behind a grade in school – thanks to diligent studying and support from Herman, he will be promoted to the sixth grade at the end of this school year, allowing him a chance to graduate from high school on time. Aside from working on school projects, Nicholas and Herman enjoy attending sporting and theatrical events, and going to the movies. Their relationship has become a model for others engaged in VIP Mentoring's programs and the two have been featured in a Public Service Announcement for the agency.

Michele Ripka of Grand Haven joined Michigan State University Extension's Journey 4-H Youth Mentoring Program eight years ago, bringing with her mentoring experience in a variety of settings with both youth and adults. She has mentored three young women since 2001, devoting two to four hours per week with each mentee for a minimum of one year. Michele's current mentee is Jamie, who shares Michele's love for reading, volunteering, and crafting. And, they have shared many experiences with each other over the past few years. In 2006, they were one of 20 mentoring matches to participate in the annual Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Run with Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. Despite their Bridge Run accomplishment, Michele has also helped Jamie through several personal and family issues, continually providing her with the support and confidence she needs. Since joining Journey in 2001, Michele has dedicated more than 1,650 hours of time to mentoring.

Outstanding Mentoring Program Award

Mentoring programs are responsible for developing and maintaining high-quality experiences for both the mentor and mentee. Outstanding programs have systems in place for recruitment, retention, background checks, ongoing support, evaluation, and more as recommended by the Mentor Michigan Quality Program Standards.

Art of Leadership Foundation (ALF) of Redford inspires vision and leadership in young people, giving them the skills to succeed in their lives and to be community leaders. ALF was developed by PMP, Inc., a team of professional leadership coaches, who believe leadership is a gift each person, young and old, has been given and should utilize. The program currently provides mentoring to more than 150 young people in middle and high school and has reached more than 300 young people since it was created nine years ago. The program, which begins in middle school, includes orientation, a leadership development retreat, coaching sessions, and a

community service project. Once these steps are completed and mentees advance to high school, they take on leadership roles by mentoring the newer ALF participants.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region (BBBSMCR) of Lansing positively changes the lives of at-risk children in Clinton, Eaton, Ionia, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties by creating structured and trusting relationships that bring young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support, and encouragement. BBBSMCR offers two types of mentoring opportunities – community-based and site-based. In community-based, “Bigs” meet with their “Littles” once a week to share time, experiences, and activities that enrich the lives of both. In site-based, area schools and businesses partner with BBBSMCR to provide adult and youth match activities that take place on-site. Mentors meet weekly with students during lunch or after school, providing social skill building and academic enrichment. In 2008, BBBSMCR served more than 730 youth in quality matches. Based on a survey of parents and volunteers, 83 percent of matched youth showed improved self-confidence; 70 percent showed improved decision making; and 67 percent showed improved academic performance, attitude towards school, and relationships with peers.

Duncan Lake and Kraft Meadows Middle Schools of Caledonia began a mentoring program in 1992. The program is housed in the schools’ Student Support Centers and is open to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Students can be recommended for mentoring for a number of reasons – to obtain help with organizational skills, schoolwork, self esteem; or because a parent makes a request. Volunteer mentors engage their mentees in a variety of activities, whether that is working on homework assignments, playing games, or sitting and visiting. On certain special occasions, mentors may take their students on special outings, such as out to lunch. For the 2008-2009 school year there are 80 mentoring matches at both Duncan Lake and Kraft Meadows Middle Schools.

Keeping the Doors Open of Kalamazoo began in 2006 as a partnership between Kalamazoo College and Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) to support the academic achievement and college access of students traditionally underrepresented in higher education, particularly in the math and science fields. Each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon during the school year, a group of students from all three of the district’s middle schools gather together for this enrichment program. Since 2006, 94 KPS students have participated in *Keeping the Doors Open* (KDO). Each year, more than 20 Kalamazoo College students – working through the college’s Mary Jane Underwood Stryker Institute for Service-Learning – serve as KDO mentors while four students serve as Civic Engagement Scholars/Program Coordinators. KPS students who participate in the program have been able to maintain or excel in their courses at school and gain much needed peer support as they work together to advance their academic options.

Michigan State University Extension Journey 4-H Youth Mentoring Program of West Olive has been focusing on positive youth development since it was created in 1992. The program pairs Ottawa County youth exhibiting delinquent behavior with caring adult mentors in an effort to reduce criminal behavior. Youth participate in the program voluntarily and are referred by probation officers, therapists, and other community agencies through Journey’s partnership with the 20th Judicial Circuit Court, Juvenile Services Division. The adult-youth matches spend at least two hours a week in a variety of community activities. And, matches are

expected to continue for at least one year. In 2008, 20 youth and 24 volunteers were involved with the program and mentee court records document the program's effectiveness. Additionally, during the 2008 program year, 53 percent of mentored youth did not commit any delinquent offenses during their match and 74 percent of mentored youth decreased the frequency and severity of offenses during their match.

Outstanding Volunteer Program Award

This award acknowledges the importance an organization or club makes in community life. The nominees in this category strive to make communities better places to live through a variety of activities or by focusing on one issue of primary importance in their community. Schools, faith-based organizations, national service programs, nonprofit organizations, and service clubs are potential nominees.

Accounting Aid Society of Detroit provides tax assistance and promotes the economic self-sufficiency of low- and moderate-income families, seniors, and others. The organization has returned more than \$157 million to low- and moderate-income households in Southeast Michigan since 1976 and has been recognized nationally as a leader in providing free tax preparation assistance. In Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, and Livingston counties more than 25 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites are volunteer-driven. Each year, more than 700 trained and certified volunteers join the Society to prepare federal, state, and local income tax returns. In 2002, the Accounting Aid Society developed a financial literacy program to meet growing community needs for financial education and asset-building services. Since it was created in 1972, the group has engaged more than 9,000 individual volunteers. In 2008, more than 12,500 low- and moderate-income households utilized the Society's free tax assistance. These families directly received \$10.8 million in tax refunds and credits thanks to these efforts.

Capital Area Literacy Coalition of Lansing helps children and adults learn to read, write, and speak English, with the ultimate goal of helping them achieve self-sufficiency. The Capital Area Literacy Coalition (CALC), which serves Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties, has helped thousands of adults and youth since its creation in 1985. In 2007-2008 alone, 470 new adult students received tutoring, while 950 adults received training for pretests, interviews, parenting, and reading. The agency's *Read to Succeed* program provided more than 220 children and teens with tutoring services and mentoring in reading and writing in that same year. CALC has been able to reach those individuals thanks to the help of more than 8,000 volunteers who have been trained to work with adults and children since the agency's inception. In the past two decades, CALC has proven volunteer-based, low-cost literacy services can be effective. As a result, the efforts of the Coalition have been shared locally, statewide, and nationally.

Good Samaritan Pantry and Resale Shop of Ellsworth has been in existence since 1990 to provide food, clothing, emergency heating fuel, and basic necessities to needy families. It was created by Mary Peterson (current program director) and a group of concerned neighbors with the realization their community was touched by significant poverty. The Pantry and Resale Shop relies solely on area volunteers to stock, sort, and serve clients. In 2008, 69 volunteers contributed more than 16,000 hours to ensure those in need would be helped. The number of families the Pantry and Resale Shop assists on a monthly basis has steadily increased and now is more than 500. In 2008, the Pantry had 5,572 family visits, while 435 families received help

with their utilities and heating fuel. The Good Samaritan Pantry and Resale Shop has blossomed into a mainstay in the lives of many Antrim County residents.

South Oakland Shelter of Royal Oak is a nonprofit organization that provides a rotating emergency shelter program for homeless men, women, and children. It was created in 1985 by a group of seven churches in southern Oakland County – services today are provided by 67 Christian and Jewish congregations. South Oakland Shelter's (SOS) mission aims to break the cycle of homelessness by providing temporary shelter and supportive programs to help individuals and families live independently. The shelter cares for approximately 30 homeless individuals each week and provides safe, supervised overnight accommodations, three meals each day, and daily transportation to jobs, school, and appointments. Volunteers are key to the success of SOS as each week requires 60 to 100 individuals to donate their time. Some of their efforts include clerical work, cleaning, sorting, and computer assistance. SOS cares for more than 300 homeless individuals annually, of which 25 percent are children.

Western Upper Peninsula Electronics Recycling Program of Hancock was created in 2004 by the Western UP Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) as a way to address an increased interest by local consumers for environmentally-friendly solutions to dispose of non-working and obsolete electronic devices. The program holds e-waste collections in the U.P. counties of Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw, and Ontonagon where households and certain small businesses drop off items such as automobile batteries, cell phones, computer monitors, fax machines, and fluorescent bulbs. After 22 RSVP and community volunteers sort and process the donations they are then shipped to a facility in Wisconsin where 100 percent of the materials are recycled. Since the program's first e-waste collection in 2005, 63 businesses and 1,231 households have participated, recycling a total of 144,616 pounds of electronic waste. The Western Upper Peninsula Electronics Recycling Program has prevented more than 72 tons of electronic waste; containing lead, mercury, cadmium, and nickel from entering the waste stream.

Senior Volunteer of the Year

This category honors individuals who are age 65 or older. These nominees may be involved with many activities or have given significant time to one particular cause.

Frederick (Fred) Davis of Kalamazoo recently turned 85 years old, yet he keeps himself just as busy as those many years his junior. Fred has volunteered within the Kalamazoo community since he relocated there more than 15 years ago. He has been a handyman and maintenance assistant for the Comstock Community Center for 15 years where he builds, repairs, landscapes, and reupholsters – among other things. For the past five years Fred has given time to the Air Zoo where he works in the Children's Room playing with toys and assisting with rides. And, for the past 11 years he has devoted time at the Borgess Health & Fitness Center where he helps with maintenance, painting, and the *No One Dies Alone* program. Further, Fred has dedicated time for more than 10 years to the First Presbyterian Church of Richland where he recently was appointed member of the property committee. Each year, Fred typically devotes more than 1,100 hours to those organizations.

Edward Deeb of Warren helped create “The Pied Piper of Belle Isle”, or Metro Detroit Youth Day, back in 1980 as a way to ease tensions among Detroit business owners and youth. Metro Detroit Youth Day is an annual event where youth engage with businesses and community organizations – the 2008 opportunity was attended by more than 34,000 area youngsters, 1,200 volunteers, 220 businesses, and 240 civic and community organizations. Beyond Metro Detroit Youth Day, Edward has been involved with Boy Scouts since 1972 and founded the Trailblazer Division of the Boy Scouts of America for physically and mentally challenged boys and girls. He has volunteered at Detroit’s Eastern Market since 1984, been involved with Salvation Army for more than 30 years, Boys and Girls Clubs of Michigan since 1970, and been a board member for United Way of Southeastern Michigan for more than 30 years as well. Edward’s long list of volunteer efforts proves he is ready and willing to help the Detroit community wherever he is needed.

Richard (Dick) Parks of Saginaw was motivated to begin volunteering because of his love for people, his church, and “numbers.” Those loves has propelled him to be an asset to the communities of Detroit and Saginaw for a number of years. Since the 1970’s, Dick has volunteered in a variety of ways for a variety of organizations, including the Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, First Congregational Church, United Way, Downtown Saginaw Rotary, Saginaw Children’s Zoo, and Junior Achievement. For the past 12 years, Dick has offered a tremendous amount of time and energy managing Saginaw Habitat for Humanity’s (SHFH) \$2.5 million (and growing) in mortgage receivables. Thanks to his assistance, SHFH’s homeowners, volunteers, board of directors, staff, and communities have benefited directly and indirectly. Dick’s volunteer efforts over the past 30 years have impacted hundreds of thousands of individuals and saved organizations hundreds of thousands of dollars in potential costs.

Frederick Jackson (Jack) Rowan of Topinabee worked diligently for several years to provide the community of Indian River with a recreation, meeting, and education center. In 2007, Jack’s dream became a reality in the form of the Rowan Athletic Center (RAC). To support his dream, Jack created The Bulldog Group in March 2004 to raise funds in the hopes of developing RAC. RAC would be available for the entire community to use, but primarily it would provide positive, alternative after-school activities for youth in the area. In September 2007, RAC was completed and open to the public. Jack’s reality was a 10,000 square foot recreation athletic facility valued at \$1.1 million. Throughout those three years he worked to acquire funding, labor, and materials to provide Indian River with a much needed resource. On a daily basis more than 60 teenagers visit the RAC to participate in provided activities – much to the thanks of Jack.

William (Bill) Yaeger of Ann Arbor has spent the past 22 years as a Volunteer Counselor for the Michigan MMAP (Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) and as a Catholic Services Tax Aide Volunteer. As an 85 year old, he still offers much of his time to these efforts – often devoting 30-40 hours a week from May through November and 40-60 hours a week from November to December and February to April 15. Over those 22 years, it is estimated Bill has provided help to thousands of people in Michigan in a variety of ways: assisting with their Medicare plans and problems, applying for special low-income help programs, completing Medicaid applications, resolving medical bills, and completing yearly taxes. His life-long volunteer efforts have also included working at St. Thomas Church in Ann Arbor, Veterans Administration Hospital, Knights of Columbus, and St. Vincent de Paul Society. Bill believes

everyone can benefit from volunteering, “People will miss the best part of their life if they don’t do volunteer work.”

Volunteer of the Year

This award is reserved for an individual who strives to improve the lives of neighbors, friends, community, or congregation. Individuals nominated for this award could be adults, national service members, educators, and more.

Linda Brennan of Highland has been donating more than 40 hours a week at Spring Mills Elementary School since 2004. Linda gives time in a variety of capacities, but most notably to the school’s kindergarten students. She works to enhance the elementary curriculum by creating fun and meaningful activities for students to complete. She is instrumental in planning the annual Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony as well as Kindergarten Time Capsules for each student, every year. But Linda is also active in other building needs, helping with clerical duties for all Spring Mill educators, which might include making copies, preparing projects, or filing student work. She also helps set up, make sales, and clean the Second Grade Store which rewards hard working students for excellent behavior and school work. Spring Mills Elementary School can also count on Linda for “March Is Reading Month” as she keeps track of every book each student reads during the month and decoratively honors them throughout the school’s hallways.

Kathy Cole of Mason has been an advocate for families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty since losing her husband, Sargent Paul Cole in 1996. Kathy first joined the police survivor support group Michigan Concerns of Police Survivors (MI-COPS) following this tragedy and was elected to their Board of Directors in 1998. This led to her involvement in the National COPS, who provide immediate help to families during a line of duty death as well as help rebuild their lives after a death. She was instrumental in the enactment of the Surviving Spouses Remarriage bill, passed in 2003, and was appointed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm as a chairperson of the Michigan Law Enforcement Memorial Monument Commission in 2005. Most recently she requested legislation to provide an option on Michigan Tax Returns to help provide funds for the Commission. This legislation was passed in 2008, allowing people filing 2009 tax returns the option of funding the memorial.

Marianne Tanis of Wyoming has devoted herself to prisoners housed in West Michigan correctional facilities since the 1980s. Originally Marianne provided worship services through the Crossroads Ministry Team, but upon further engaging the prisoners, she decided to create a program that would inspire them and their futures. In 1999, Marianne created art programs at the West Shoreline Correctional and Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facilities. She developed two distinct programs to meet the needs of the prisoner population: a program teaching pencil drawing and a program teaching acrylic painting on canvas. Since the program’s initiation, more than 500 prisoners have had the opportunity to participate with many more on waiting lists to join. Marianne offers the art program to prisoners to help them discover problem solving through drawing and painting.

Francine Watts of Lansing has given countless hours at the Allen Neighborhood Center (ANC) since 2003, volunteering with a variety of programs. Francine is one of ANC’s most helpful

“neighborhood resource specialists,” providing information and referral services to visitors and callers three days every week. In 2004, Francine assumed responsibility for facilitating ANC’s Kinship Care program, which provides support for kinship and nontraditional families through guest speakers and materials. In 2008, she took on the additional task of running ANC’s Bread Basket program which distributes free bread and gleaned produce to hundreds of Eastside residents every week. Last year Francine donated more than 1,750 hours of service to ANC – the Bread Basket program served 8,313 people, while 20 families took advantage of the Kinship Care program every month. Due to the lack of paid staff at ANC, many of these accomplishments would not have occurred without Francine’s help.

Kay Woodiel of Ypsilanti believes strongly that education is key to healthy lifestyle choices. Kay is a tenured, associate professor in Eastern Michigan University’s (EMU) School of Health Promotion and Human Performance. When she was asked last spring to get EMU involved in the American Heart Association’s (AHA) annual Start! Heart Walk, she knew she could spread that passion to others. Through Kay’s efforts, EMU registered 11 teams of administrators, deans, department heads, faculty members, staff, and students to participate in the Walk. Participants raised \$26,000, making EMU the sixth highest university contributor in the country in 2008. EMU’s efforts for the 2009 Start! Heart Walk are already off to a great start as Kay continues to lead their efforts. Thirteen teams are already registered and participant numbers are expected to be higher than 2008. Kay has an amazing impact on EMU, AHA, and the community as a whole.

Corporate Community Leader Award

Corporations and businesses that excel in community involvement are honored with this award. The commitment to serve is made by employees, both hourly and salaried, and can take many forms including, but not limited to, corporate volunteer programs, monetary contributions, in-kind gifts, and employee-driven volunteer service.

Amway of Ada, a leader in the global direct-selling industry, believes wherever they do business, communities benefit. For the past 50 years the company has looked to give hope through business and philanthropic opportunities. In 2003, Amway launched the *One by One Campaign for Children* which makes a difference in the lives of youth around the world. In fact, more than six million children have been affected thus far. Other community efforts supported by Amway include building three KaBOOM! Playgrounds in the greater Grand Rapids area; helping Kids Food Basket provide thousands of sack meals to children who would otherwise not receive dinner; and partnering with a Grand Rapids Public School to provide the following programs: Pen Pals, Tutoring, Multicultural Day, Job Shadow Day, Career Day, and Santa Secret Workshop. In 2008, 50 percent of Amway’s employees in Ada volunteered, giving 17,037 hours at more than 70 nonprofit organizations, impacting the lives of more than 135,000 children.

Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Michigan - Detroit is a not-for-profit health insurance company uniquely committed to supporting the communities in which its employees live and work. BCBS’ current and retired employees are members of a group of volunteers called *The Blues Caring Crew*; who give their time, talent, and resources to improve and support community projects, neighborhoods, and nonprofit organizations throughout Michigan. BCBS’ Corporate Volunteer Program motivates and enables *The Blues Caring Crew* to engage in

effective community involvement through large group activities, short- and long-term projects, family-oriented events, and other opportunities. Additionally, the company's Executive Volunteer Program is designed to facilitate BCBS' executives' participation in Michigan communities as members of nonprofit boards. In 2008, more than 2,500 employees volunteered more than 53,000 hours. Through employee's combined efforts of service, financial pledges, and donations, more than \$2 million was provided to Michigan organizations last year.

Hagerty Insurance of Traverse City has been giving back to the Grand Traverse region through volunteerism and philanthropic support since the agency began 40 years ago. Hagerty's founders played crucial roles over the years in civic organizations such as Northwestern Michigan College and the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce. Recently, the agency donated land to Traverse City and the State of Michigan to create a parking deck in the Old Town district where Hagerty is headquartered. Hagerty's corporate social responsibility is three-dimensional; corporate giving to promote the professional development, health, well-being, and lifetime fitness of the people of the Grand Traverse area community and its employees; promotion of the collector hobbyist through the Collectors Foundation; and its employee volunteer program, Hagerty Cares, which assists the agency's 400 employees in finding their passion for service through more than 300 area nonprofit organizations. Since 2000, Hagerty has provided paid time off for community service to its employees, allowing them to use 16 hours each year.

South Haven Community Hospital (SHCH) of South Haven has been serving rural communities in Southwest Michigan for 100 years. The SHCH aims to improve the health of these communities by providing exceptional customer service, high quality, cost-effective, appropriate and accessible health care services. However, those services extend far beyond the hospital's doors, as residents and visitors also benefit from a variety of programs offered for free or at a reduced cost, including: Immunization Clinics, Go Red Celebrations, Health Screenings, Health Fairs, Disease Specific and Healthy Lifestyle Programs, Corporate Wellness Programs, Kids Camps, Wellness Center membership scholarships, and an annual 5K Run/Walk. SHCH employees also support the United Way, Michigan Harvest Gathering, and Relay for Life as well as various school sporting activities, summer camp programs, activities for senior citizens, Kiwanis, and Rotary Club programs.

Yeo and Yeo of Saginaw, a certified public accounting and consulting firm, has made community service a top priority since 1965. The company's culture is one of giving back to the community with time, talent, and resources. The more than 200 employees housed in nine offices throughout Michigan serve on boards and volunteer for numerous civic, arts and humanities, community, and church organizations. Some of the major projects and/or organizations engaged include: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program instructors, Adopt a Family, area annual Blood Drives, Adopt a Garden, American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk, Leadership Kalamazoo, Habitat for Humanity, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Goodwill. Yeo and Yeo employees have contributed more than 15,000 hours of community service during business hours, and, more than 13,000 hours have been contributed during employees' personal time.

Youth Volunteer of the Year

This category honors individuals who are age 21 or younger. These nominees may be involved with many activities or have given significant time to one particular cause.

Kyle Barnhart of Comstock Park engages in many volunteer efforts through Comstock High School's Student Volunteers – a 150-member group that provides a vehicle for students to become active in their community while providing valuable service to worthwhile organizations. One of the organizations Kyle has helped impact is Kids Food Basket, a hunger relief agency in Grand Rapids. In 2007, through Kyle, the Student Volunteers sponsored a trail mix collection at Pine Island Elementary School, collecting more than 344 pounds of food and assembling 1,300 bags of trail mix. In 2008, Kyle helped launch *Hunger Takes Flight* at Pine Island and Stony Creek Elementary Schools to raise money for Kids Food Basket. These two schools raised \$1,400, enough to cover the cost of 2,500 meals. This spring Kyle will engage Hunger Takes Flight at Comstock Park Middle and High Schools as well.

Marcus Alan Brown of Coleman has devoted the past 13 years of his life to volunteering – and he's only 19! Marcus entered the foster care system as a young child and was adopted. He is one of the original members of the Midland/Isabella Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI) Youth Board, a collaborative of youth that have been or are currently in the foster care system. These youth work together to raise community awareness of the need for foster parents and mentors for teens, to recruit and assist in the training of foster parents, and to help each other and fellow teens as they transition to adulthood. Prior to his service efforts with MYOI, Marcus gave time to his local soup kitchen and his local 4-H club, where he still volunteers today. He also volunteers in classrooms at the elementary and high schools in Coleman where he shares his personal experiences and wealth of knowledge. Marcus is currently attending Mid Michigan Community College.

Justin Brownlee of Muskegon, currently a senior at Muskegon High School, has been a member of the Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) since he was in sixth grade. YVC is comprised of area youth, ages 12 to 18, who voluntarily serve to meet the needs of their community. Justin engages in a variety of volunteer opportunities through YVC, with one of the primary projects being his involvement with Pioneer Trails, a day camp for people with disabilities. Other YVC projects have included a food mobile, Child Abuse Council Family Furry Day, and Muskegon's Winter Sports Day. Justin also serves on the Youth Advisory Board of YVC where he helps lead and plan projects for his peers. To date, Justin has volunteered more than 1,137 hours during his time with YVC – more than any other member in Muskegon. Some of his other community efforts have included Men's Health Day, African American Health Day, and Computer Recycling Day.

Kaylee Place of Marquette began volunteering at a young age in the Upper Peninsula. While a senior at Marquette Senior High School (MSHS), she created the Environmental Club after realizing the connections between Earth's ecosystems and the impact humans can have on them. Kaylee rallied her fellow students to join the Environmental Club and led participants on a number of projects including outdoor clean ups, a MSHS recycling program, National Bike to Work Day, creation of "Be the Change" Day, and Earth Hour. Despite graduating last June from MSHS, Kaylee was able to pass the torch to her fellow Environmental Club members as they are currently planning all of Kaylee's original projects for the 2008-2009 school year. Kaylee is

now a freshman at Northern Michigan University where she continues to give back, helping annually with the U.P. 200 Sled Dog Race, participating in a food-drive awareness event for homelessness, and working at several voter registration drives.

Pratyusha Yalamanchi of Rochester Hills has a passion for making a difference locally and globally, and it is evident in all that she does. Her international effort, Dental HygIndia, is a non-profit organization Pratyusha founded to increase awareness and improve dental care in India. Over the past several years, she has raised funds to build more than 200 dental hygiene awareness camps in Andhra Pradesh, India which have treated the dental needs of more than 290,000 people. Additionally, Pratyusha has volunteered in her community with a variety of organizations, including BuildOn, the Grace Center of Hope, Toys for Tots, Recycle Detroit, and Beyond Basics. She has also planned large-scale community service projects, worked to raise monies for several initiatives she feels passionately about, educated citizens on important issues, and given countless hours to the local community. Additionally, she is an exceptional student and leader; receiving a perfect score on her SAT, maintaining a 4.0 grade point average, and serving as her senior class' Co-President.