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RUBÉN CASTILLA HERRERA

1992 - 2019

"To be able to face our fears,
To be able to face our unity,
To be able to face our grief,
To be able to face our love (*nuestro amor*),
We must remember how to perform ritual.
And to remember how to perform ritual, we must slow down."

-Rubén Castilla Herrera

AWARD WINNERS

The following people and agencies have been selected as our regional award winners. Tonight, we will be giving special recognition to the state-level winners for each category.

Student of the Year

Taylor Good, Bluffton University (Region 1)

Taylor Good successfully balanced her commitments academically and as a student athlete, while leading Bluffton's social work club and planning several events to bring awareness to child abuse. Taylor was a true leader on campus and highly respected by her peers. Taylor has accepted a full-time position at Allen Co. Children Services, after demonstrating exceptional competence in her senior placement there.

La'Shardae Scott, Eastern Michigan University (Region 1)

La'Shardae is a dedicated advocate for those affected by sickle cell disease. She provides hemoglobinopathy counseling, education outreach and school interventions, and is also the mother of two children with the disease. La'Shardae has even authored a children's book about Sickle Cell. In every aspect of her work and advocacy, La'Shardae offers empathy, empowerment, and selfless support.

Daphne Ayers, University of Akron (Region 2)

Daphne has been an exemplary student, continually demonstrating social work values and ethics, setting a high standard of academic excellence, and supporting her classmates during her Advanced Standing Program. She is a leader in class and in the community, all while working a full-time job. Daphne's passion is clear as she serves as a trained peer supporter and coordinator for recovery coaches.

Matthew Rich, Ursuline College (Region 3)

As a Veteran, Mathew's career goal is to become a social worker in Veteran's Affairs. In order to gain experience, Matthew interns at the VA in addition to his BSW field placement at Ohio Living working with older adults, and maintaining an excellent academic record. The professional skills Mathew possesses, of relationship building, critical thinking, and teamwork will surely make him an exceptional social worker.

Jordan Sterman, Case Western Reserve University (Region 3)

As an MSW, Jordan took it upon himself to learn about human-animal interactions, joining Professor Aviva Vincent and her research team. Jordan co-authored a soon to be published paper pushing the language of the NASW Code of Ethics to validate the human-animal bond - a major accomplishment as an MSW. Jordan is a self-starter with a deep love of learning, and is well respected by peers and faculty.



Student of the Year Recipient **Jordan Sterman**

Case Western Reserve University congratulates Jordan Sterman, who has been selected as the 2020 National Association of Social Workers - Ohio Chapter Region 3 MSW Student of the Year. Jordan has demonstrated exceptional commitment to serving the community and exemplifies the social work values of social justice, dignity and worth of the person.



JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL
SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES
CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

Katie Allen, Youngstown State University (Region 4)

As both a BSW and MSW Katie has been highly involved on campus and the community. As leader of the BSW association and YSU's Dance Marathon, Katie raised more money for local charities than previous years and founded a new social work scholarship. Katie is also engaged in research and is submitting articles for publication.

Katie has a huge heart, compassionate spirit and tireless energy.

Tamara Tyree, Ohio University (Region 5)

As a BSW Student at Ohio University, Tamara shows outstanding insight, competence, and superior critical thinking skills. Tamara has excelled in a challenging senior field placement, serving vulnerable youth involved with Jefferson County. She has also volunteered as a mentor to at-risk children, with domestic violence victims, and serving the homeless. Tamara will have a remarkable and impactful social work career, without a doubt.

Emily Witt, Xavier University (Region 6)

Emily Witt has shown extraordinary leadership and dedication to the field of social work as a BSW student. In her field placement, Emily's background in special education along with her maturity and attention to detail made her a trusted member of the team. Emily has also engaged in advocacy work in Washington D.C and continues to show her commitment to developing and growing as a social worker.

Meg Vonada, University of Cincinnati (Region 6)

As a BSW student, Meg has spent countless hours investing in her community and on campus, while remaining on the Dean's List. She has tutored Latino elementary students, been a peer leader on campus, volunteered with a program offering art therapy to seniors, ran a campaign to increase student voting and engaged in a research project with older Bhutanese refugees. Meg is a role model to many.

Bob Hurless, Malone University (Region 8)

Bob came to Malone three years ago as a disabled veteran, looking for an opportunity to serve in a new way. He is known for being passionate about all things social work and embraces every opportunity through internships, Social Work Club, and other community outreach. Bob is particularly interested in food deserts, and spent his junior field placement working on projects to tangibly address this issue.

Public Elected Official of the Year

Robert Cole Sprague, State of Ohio Treasurer (Region 1)

Robert Cole Sprague has been a champion and committed community partner in the battle against Ohio's opioid epidemic. As the 83rd District Representative in the Ohio House, he contributed to legislation to expand and improve life-saving addiction treatment services. As Ohio Treasures, he continues to exhibit a determination to do the right thing for all, especially our most vulnerable.

Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands, Summit County Common Pleas Court (Region 2)

Judge Rowlands leads an Ohio Supreme Court certified Re-entry Court, providing intensive supervision, support and direction to recently released inmates. In 2017 Judge Rowlands was selected as an international Association of Women Judges' delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Overcoming barriers to gender equality and access to justice are among her highest priorities.

Councilwoman Jasmin Santana, Cleveland City Council (Region 3)

Ward 14 Councilwoman Jasmin Santana is the first Latina council member in Cleveland's history. She has dedicated her career to advocating for her community - working to promote health and nutrition and developing the first grassroots Latina breast cancer education program in Northeast Ohio. As Councilwoman, Santana's passion for improving her community's well-being continues to guide her.

Councilwoman Anita Davis, City of Youngstown (Region 4)

Councilwoman Davis of Ward 6 was one of the first female officers on the Youngstown Police Department to be assigned patrol duties and the first female to receive a "gold badge" with her promotion to Detective Sergeant. She also volunteers in the community and is an outspoken advocate for under-served residents. As a Councilwoman, she continues this work and is committed to improving police-community relations.

Justice Melody Stewart, Supreme Court of Ohio (Region 5)

Justice Stewart is the first African American woman elected to the Supreme Court of Ohio. She holds a PhD in Social Welfare from CWRU and a law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, CSU. She works to make our justice system more truly just and equitable, and speaks out against marginalizing individuals who have been incarcerated and not given the opportunity to contribute positively to their communities.

Aftab Pureval, Hamilton County Clerk of Courts (Region 6)

In his personal and professional life, Aftab is dedicated to advancing equality. He is the first county office holder in Ohio to offer comprehensive paid family leave and has saved over \$1.6 million by ending nepotism, cutting waste, and making the office more professional. Aftab has volunteered offering legal aid to domestic violence victims and is the first man to serve on the board of the Women's Fund.

L. Sue Herman, Wooster City School Board (Region 8)

L. Sue Herman is a former high school English teacher who now serves on the Wooster City District School Board. She understands the role that poverty plays in education, particularly in a district which a large number of low-income families. Sue makes herself available to listen to the people she represents and never forgets to keep their best interests at the forefront of any decision she makes.

Emerging Leader of the Year

Brent Johnson, Blanchard Valley Regional Health Association (Region 1)

Brent has excelled in multiple roles as both an intern and employee, while completing his social work education.

Brent is an excellent communicator and excels in diagnostics and documentation. Currently, he works in the hospital setting, screening patients in the ER, medical floors, and psychiatric unit. He is supportive of colleagues and always willing to go the extra mile for the agency and for his team members, but especially for his clients.

Sarah Balser, Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (Region 2)

Only a year and a half into her social work career, Sarah Balser has already managed the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) project for OMHAS, where she led a team of researchers across the state in tracking the latest drug trends that influence state policy. Sarah enjoys serving as an Akron Torchbearer, Akron Snow Angel volunteer, and PACE member. Sarah is excited to return to Akron for the next chapter in her career.

Travis Scott, VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (Region 3)

Travis serves as the VA's LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator, ensuring the best possible care for LGBT veterans. As part of his role, Travis works with the Gender Identity Veteran Experience (GIVE) clinic. He has been instrumental in increasing LGBT Veterans' access to services. Travis' clinical skills and competency with this community of veterans is a tremendous asset to his team and community.

Caroline Jones, VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (Region 4)

Caroline serves hospitalized and home-bound Veterans dealing with illness and significant mental health challenges. She provides counseling, education, emotional support, and resource connections. Caroline constantly strives to find more efficient ways to provide excellent quality service, as well as supporting other staff and mentoring new hires. Caroline is the epitome of what a VA staff member should be.

Sarah Lang, Perry Multi-County Juvenile Facility (Region 5)

Sarah is a selfless leader whose dedication to her clients and the social work profession is unmatched. Throughout her studies, she was a leader in student groups, and the recipient of multiple awards for outstanding achievements. As a new LSW and CGRS, she created and facilitated a grief recovery group. She continuously works to empower and advocate for others while also expanding her own knowledge.

Brandi Lewis, Easterseals (Region 6)

Brandi has led Easterseals' Prosperity for All, a program helping individuals break the cycle of poverty, since its inception three years ago. Her compassion, high expectations, and resiliency-building expertise have made the program a success in helping clients secure quality, stable employment. Beginning as the programs only staff member, Brandi now manages two employees - all while working towards her MSW.

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Public Citizen of the Year

Michelle Stratton, Blanchard Valley Health Systems (Region 1)

Michelle is a nurse and passion for advocating for victims of human trafficking. She chairs the Hancock Co. Northwest Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition and has been essential in establishing relationships between multidisciplinary teams to work towards ending this type of violence. Michelle was also instrumental in starting Hancock Co.'s first SART team, to support victims of sexual violence.

Shirley Finney, Summit Lake Community Center (Region 2)

Ms. Shirley Finney is a grassroots leader and true asset to the Summit Lake Community of Akron Ohio. After retiring in 2018 from nineteen years of service at Summit County Community Action, Ms. Finney started volunteering as a "Community Connector" serving people in need and filling gaps in services. She is also a macro-level leader advocating on behalf of the Summit Lake Community

Jon Hyman, Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis (Region 3)

Jon Hyman is an attorney who pens the blog "Ohio Employer Law Blog" in which he provides progressive and hard-hitting coverage of issues such as gender discrimination, LGBTQ rights, and employee privacy. His blog provides advocacy that is highly consistent with social work values and couched in ways that impact major decision-makers in corporations, reaching many of the people social workers may not.

Rebecca Banks, Volunteer & Advocate (Region 4)

Rebecca is a youngstown native who spends her time volunteering for St. Elizabeth's Hospital, mentoring at the Academy of Urban Scholars High School, and working with Pete's Pride at YSU. Rebecca spent time on the airwaves with YSU's "Rookery Radio" where she used her platform to promote nonprofits and community events. Rebecca is also a 2019 Trumbull County WIC Breastfeeding Advocate award recipient.

Matt Parrish, Columbus Division of Fire (Region 5)

Lt. Parrish leads the RREACT team, the Columbus Division of Fire's opioid response program. The program, started in 2017, has received national attention as a model program to respond to the opioid crisis in our community. Under Lt. Parrish's skillful leadership, the Division earned a \$799,000 grant from the DoJ in 2018 to expand addiction treatment services

Reverend David Meredith, Clifton United Methodist Church (Region 6)

As lead pastor at Clifton United Methodist Church, Rev. David Meredith calls his congregation and the community to action in response to injustice. Rev. David is a strong advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and has worked with the Amos Project, fighting for economic justice and criminal justice reform. Rev. David is a community leader and steadfast voice for love and mercy in the Cincinnati area.

Neah Rainey, Volunteer (Region 7)

Neah demonstrates selflessness and a strong commitment to her community. After tornadoes devastated the Dayton area last May, Neah began providing meals, essential goods, and comfort to victims and volunteers, using her own money. After other aid groups had left, she continued to provide help to her community seven days a week while still running her bakery, Sweet Rain Desserts.

William Johnson, Coshocton County Fatherhood Initiative (Region 8)

William chairs the Fatherhood Initiative in Coshocton County and has dedicated his work and countless volunteer hours to the betterment of the community. He is very active in social service events and always greets you with a handshake and smile. Mr. Johnson is a true asset to the community and to the families served. He sets an example of celebrating not only fatherhood, but families.

Outstanding Service Award

Stacy Simera, Kent Psychological Associates (Region 2)

Stacy has been a committed member of NASW since 2012, serving as the Region 2 (Akron Area) Director for two consecutive terms, during which she made an effort to have programming in each county in the region. She also served as a trainer for NASW and is a therapist with Kent Psychological Associates and an adjunct instructor at MSASS. She is also highly active in campaigns to start school later.

Moira Dugan, Visiting Nurse Association Health Group (Region 3)

Moira is an incredible supervisor, building connection among all levels of staff. She has been a social worker for many years and, although she primarily works in administration now, never hesitates to help where she can. Moira recognizes areas of weakness among her staff and promotes helpful activities for improvement. Moira is a strong advocate for her staff and the social work profession as a whole.

Nancy Withers, retired from private practice (Region 5)

Nancy is a person who sees a need and moves to create a solution. She was a major player in the creation of NASW Ohio's free CEU program and worked with the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless to create the Street Card. She has a unique gift to foster, facilitate, and fuel the expanding of self-awareness and self-determination. She helps make social workers and NASW Ohio members stronger.

Pamela Miller, Center for Child Policy (Region 6)

As an attorney and clinical social worker, Miller now serves as a Senior Policy Analyst at a national think tank- the Center for Child Policy- where she serves child abuse victims at the macro level. Miller has served as Director of Region 6, Cincinnati, for four years, and built robust NASW programs in continuing education, fundraising, political action, and special events to celebrate the social work profession.

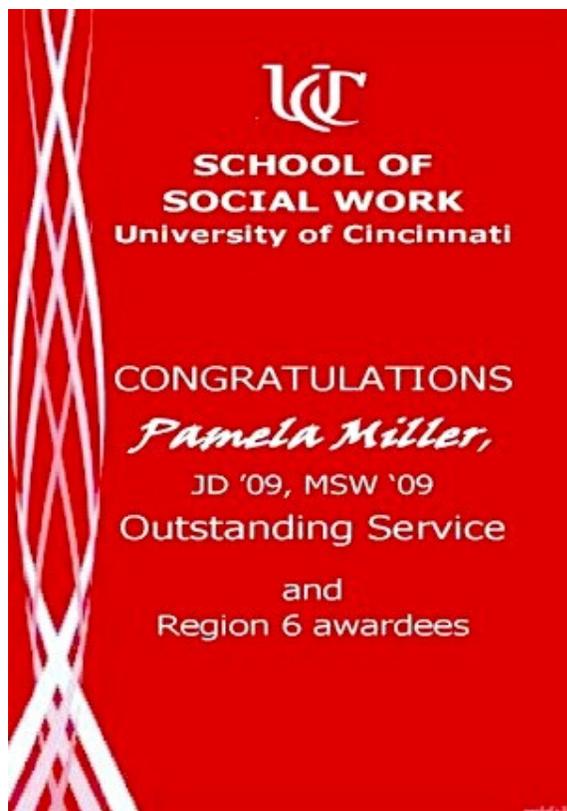
Jane Eckels, retired from Alzheimer's Association, Miami Valley Chapter (Region 7)
In both her work with the Alzheimer's Association - Miami Valley Chapter, from which she is now retired, and as an associate professor at Wright State University, Jane has always worked with competence and integrity. Jane is an ardent promoter of the social work profession and embodies the values that we, as professionals, hold dear.
Jane is highly regarded for her dedication to service, wisdom, and warmth.

Alzheimer's Association, Miami Valley Chapter (Region 7)

The team at the Alzheimer's Association, Miami Valley Chapter is dedicated to serving those with Alzheimer's disease and their care givers. They provide education, resources, support groups and advocacy. The staff is committed to increasing quality of life for older adults, treating clients with dignity and respect, and advocating for the over 30,000 people living with the disease across the Miami Valley.

Debbie Dickson, private practice (Region 8)

Debbie, a social worker and chemical dependency counselor, works in direct practice, specializing in child and family counseling, stress and anxiety disorders, depression and mood issues, and addiction. As NASW Region 8 Director from 2016-2018, to be inclusive in networking and connectivity of social workers -providing support and learning for the needs of social workers in every area.



Agency of the Year

Wood County Community Health Center (Region 1)

The Wood County Community Health Center embodies the spirit of the NASW Code of Ethics. They provide services to vulnerable populations and are committed to treating their clients with dignity and respect. The agency also has a strong relationship with the BGSU Social Work Program, providing opportunities for students to enrich their learning and advance the social work profession.

Hickman & Lowder Co., LPA (Region 2)

Hickman & Lowder Co., L.P.A., is a law firm in Northeast Ohio serving children and adults with special needs, older adults, and their families. A pioneer in the area of elder law, the firm was among the first in the state to establish a social work position in an effort to better meet their clients' whole life needs. As advocates for people whose lives are complicated by special concerns, the attorneys and staff of Hickman & Lowder believe that everyone deserves the best life possible.

New Bridge Center for Arts and Technology (Region 3)

New Bridge is a community-based social-emotional art infused after school education program and workforce training center. They are a pioneer in the growing integration of social services and workforce development, and employ cutting edge social-emotional learning interventions. The staff at New Bridge are passionate and creative in their approach to improving the quality of life in their community.

Crossroads Health (Region 4)

Crossroads Health serves over 4,000 clients in an outpatient treatment setting for substance abuse and mental health. During a time of transition the staff handled themselves with grace and remained dedicated to their mission. Crossroads Health is committed to expanding their treatment approaches in order to best serve their clients, while maintaining a supportive environment for staff to thrive in.

Kaleidoscope Youth Center (Region 5)

KYC is celebrating 25 year of servicing LGBTQIA+ young people - offering case management, housing programs, a drop in center, and more. All KYC's services are inclusive, affirming, and culturally responsive to clients' intersectional identities. In a culture that perpetuates oppression and inequity, KYC seeks to dismantle binaries, harmful hierarchies, and barriers to the wellness of young people.

Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (Region 6)

Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC) educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust local, national, and global systems, and promotes the creation of a nonviolent society. Through a framework of nonviolence, IJPC works to end the death penalty in Ohio, educate about human trafficking, promote immigrant justice, and foster peace.

Montgomery County ADAMHS Board (Region 7)

Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services provided essential support to hundreds of people in person, through a 24/7 telephone hotline and smartphone app in the wake of the devastating tornadoes of last May and the mass shooting in the Oregon District. All the while providing community trainings, referrals, crisis services, and leadership in the fight against opioids and addiction.

A New Day (Region 8)

A New Day provides alcohol and substance abuse addiction treatment, medical services, mental health services, and Triple P-certified parenting classes. The staff at A New Day truly cares about each individual and works hard to meet their needs. They are committed to finding the right treatment and resources for each unique individual, even if it requires them to drop what they are doing at a moment's notice.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment to improve the world”

~Anne Frank



Social Worker of the Year

Cindi Orley, Family Resource Center (Region 1)

Cindi years of experience in child welfare and forensic social work have prepared her well for the role of Director of Compliance and Training. She is vigilant in her duties to ensure that staff are receiving ongoing training and provides supervision for LSWs working towards LISW licensure. Cindi stays true to her ethical practice and is a force of calm and stability for all those she works with.

Sharon Shumaker, Metro Health System Community Trauma Program (Region 2)
Sharon Shumaker is a dedicated advocate for refugees and undocumented immigrants, both in her private and professional life. Sharon is the Social Work Coordinator for Project RISE (Resilience for Immigrants through Support and Education). Her ability to speak fluent Spanish and her expertise in trauma informed care make her a valuable leader in working with this vulnerable population.

Alison Black, America SCORES Cleveland (Region 3)
Alison Black is a courageous and whole-hearted leader, social worker, and professional. In her prior role at Case School, CMSD Alison brought countless community partners to the school, providing students and the community with essential resources. In all her roles, Alison's dedication and passion are transformative. Alison has an MSSA from Case Western and is an alumnus of the University of Dayton.

Brian Hudzik, US Department of Veterans Affairs (Region 4)
Brian has been a committed member of NASW since 2010. He previously served as the Region 4 Director, actively champions NASW, and purchases memberships for students. He recently began a position at the V.A and previously worked at PsyCare. Brian is a kind, passionate social worker, who is committed to the values and ideals of the social work profession and an active advocate in combating human trafficking.

Chanté Meadows, private practice (Region 5)
Chanté Meadows' work in the field of mental health is truly remarkable. As a private practitioner, she meets her clients where they are with empathy and empowerment. As an advocate, trainer, and speaker, Chanté works to destigmatize the need for mental health support, especially in the Black community. Chanté truly embodies the values of the social work profession in all areas of her practice.

Karen Rumsey, Cincinnati Police Department (Region 6)
Because of Karen's advocacy, innovation, and commitment to employing only the best research based practices, the Victims Assistance Program is thriving. She has also helped create a program to support witnesses of violent crimes throughout the legal process. Karen provides sidewalk support to victims of violence, her staff, and the police officers working in this area. She also serves as a UC field instructor.

De'Asia Thompson, private practice (Region 7)
De'Asia is a black woman entrepreneur whose agency, Rise Counseling Group, focuses on the wellbeing of teen girls and women of color. She believes that mental health care is essential for a good quality of life. She is a passionate advocate for social justice and works hard every day to improve her skills to best serve her clients and effect change on a higher level.



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Tressa Arnold, Central Ohio Technical College (Region 8)

Tressa is the Human Services Program Director at COTC, managing the academic program at the main campus and three regional campuses. In 2016, she secured a five-year accreditation for the program through the Council for Standards in Human Service Education. Tressa is an exemplary leader, attentive to students, easy to approach, and dedicated to helping students be the best they can be.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Nancy Yunker, retired from Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio (Region 1)

During her time as CEO Nancy was admired for her strong leadership and ability to meet the needs of the community, for food, mental health and addiction services, and other needs. Nancy always took the time to invest in her team, and has dedicated herself to educating the next generation of social workers. She has done so both as a faculty member at the University of Toledo and through offering supervision. She continues to be a model of social work competence and skill, by continuing to learn and taking on leadership roles in her community, her church, and with the Council on Social Work Education.

Shelley Walker, Akron Children's Hospital (Region 2)

During her 42 year career at Akron Children's Hospital, Shelley Walker has been an exemplary social worker. Since becoming the Director of Social Services, she transformed the Social Work department into a more positive and welcoming environment. She has advocated endlessly for patients, their families, and staff and has applied for countless grants. Shelley is incredibly accomplished; she has received numerous awards, held a variety of elected and appointed positions, been invited to give over 30 professional presentations, and held academic appointments with five universities.

Edward McKinney, Professor Emeritus, Cleveland State University (Region 3)

Dr. McKinney is a distinguished author, researcher, advocate and educator in the field of social work. He has worked tirelessly to address social justice issues not only at home but also abroad, participated in the Street Children Project in Ethiopia and receiving faculty appointments in Botswana and Kenya. Dr. McKinney is dedicated to social work, holding our profession to the highest of standards through his work with the National Council on Social Work Education, several National Scholarly Editorial Boards, in leadership and faculty positions at multiple universities, and other capacities too numerous to recount.

Sue Little, Genesis Healthcare Systems (Region 5)

Sue has been a social worker since 1985 and will be retiring this year. Throughout her career, she has inspired her co-workers with her compassion, empathy, and love towards vulnerable populations. She was appointed to the hospital's Cancer Committee for her ability to always think about the patients' needs and perspectives in her work. Sue always advocates for patients and does not get intimidated by those who do not understand the social work profession. She is an unsung hero who inspires the younger generation of social workers to be bold in the name of social work and their clients.

Kathleen Calderon, retired from Cincinnati Children's Hospital (Region 6)

Recently retired, Kathleen Calderon dedicated 38+ years to the field of social work. Her love for the profession led her to working at the University of Cincinnati where she aided in shaping the next generation of social workers. She has also published articles and provided workshop trainings. Kathleen is a change agent, leader, and mentor, worked in many capacities such as clinical practice, academia, and medical social work. Kathleen prides herself on advocating for vulnerable individuals, even off the clock. Kathleen has done phenomenal work in the field of social work and made a profound impact.

William (Bill) Wall, Wright Patterson Medical Center (Region 7)

Beginning his long and distinguished career as a social worker in the United States Air Force, William (Bill) Wall has gone on to serve in a wide range of dual leadership and clinical roles with the military. Bill has spent his career offering essential mental health services to members of the military, veterans, and their families both as a clinician, leader, and administrator. He also serves his community as a volunteer, providing supportive services to first responders. Bill's career has been characterized by his integrity, willingness to embrace change and promote leadership on every level, and dedication to service.

Karen Boyd, retired from Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Region 8)

After 27 years at MVNU as Associate Professor of Social Work and department chair, Karen Boyd retired in 2015. Karen was instrumental in establishing the traditional and nontraditional social work programs and obtaining accreditation and first affirmation from CSWE. Prior to working at MVNU, Boyd was active in the field for 10 years. She has shared her expertise in published periodical articles and book chapters and has advised, mentored, taught, and supported countless students. Karen Boyd has spent her career investing in the next generation of social workers, who are stronger because of her commitment

CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS!



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