



# INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



## 2019 - 2021 CLOCK AWARDS CASA AWARDS SCHOOL BELL AWARDS



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# **IRTA AWARDS LUNCHEON AGENDA**

## **Introductions**

Laura Penman

## **Recognition of past winners**

**(Clock, CASA, School bell and President's Award)**

## **Presentation of School Bell Award**

David Lennen/Jim Colvin

## **Presentation of CASA Awards**

Don Metzger/Rae Feller/Sarah Taylor

## **Presentation of CLOCK Awards**

Sally Durfee/Jim Colvin

**ASSOCIATION  
MEMBER BENEFITS  
ADVISORS (AMBA)  
OUTSTANDING  
VOLUNTEER  
CLOCK AWARD  
2021 WINNERS**

Presented by our partners at AMBA, this award recognizes the member from each IRTA Geographical area with the most volunteer hours.

**AREA 1 • Lake County**

**Christine Small** Due to the ongoing pandemic Christine completed some



Community Service using the home computer. First, as Communications chairman for three organizations - Lakeshore Concerts, Women's Association of Northwest Indiana Symphony, and Northwest Indiana Arts Association- her work involved composing and sending weekly emails with appropriate audio-video links to keep the community informed of ongoing cultural activities, organizational updates, and future plans. Secondly, using Excel-savvy, she prepares the monthly

treasurer's reports for WANISS, the fundraising arm of the Northwest Indiana Symphony. She composes daily "moment of laughter" for the Arts Association board to keep spirits up amid unexpected shutdowns. For the majority of her Community Service, she organizes and teaches Art Appreciation classes (via Zoom) for the "Knowledge Exchange" at Governor's State University – a lifelong learning program. This program offers non-credit full-length courses, workshops and "Lunch and Learn" presentations led by a team of dedicated volunteers made up of GSU faculty, alumni, and community experts.

**AREA 2 • DeKalb County**

**Lori Fox** volunteered many hours at the local COVID vaccination clinic by



helping in the areas of registration, checking on attendees, cleaning, and disinfecting areas, and assisting the nurses with their duties. She worked with the Auburn Health Department when they initially opened for 12–16-year-olds needing to receive their required immunity shots. From then on, she was on call whenever they needed her. Lori participated in many church activities throughout the year. She helped with the St. Martin's soup kitchen. She was also on the board of The

International Witness program. She spent hours and months planning food drives and making arrangements for sending animals like heifers, chickens, goats, etc. to underdeveloped countries so people could raise and care for the animals, and thus sustain their own living conditions. Lori put hygiene packets together for several disaster areas, collected eyeglasses for the Lions Club, supported the Cupbearer in Auburn, and made bags filled with school

supplies for area schools. Another area of involvement was voluntarily assisting instructors of Tai Chi in the Angola and Butler districts. Also, Lori and her husband initiated an exciting adventure in the Auburn community creating and implementing The Escape Room. They had visited and enjoyed many of these rooms. Its structure was designed to provide fun and challenging entertainment by using puzzles, mysteries, and problem-solving activities for teens and older. This has been great for families, small groups, and even corporations to improve relational skills.

### AREA 3 • Clinton County

**Patty Butler** is a hard worker who volunteers her time as a Saint Vincent DePaul secretary, works at the food pantry. She is active in her church and is a reader, and schedules weekend readers. She is also a coach and Kid mentor.



### AREA 4 • Montgomery County

**Karen Thada** is an active member of the First United Methodist Church and is president of the United Methodist Women. She sings in the church choir and plays the bells during worship. She volunteers many hours at the Wesley Thrift Shop, a consignment store which is a ministry of her church. All sales benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Montgomery County, Meals on Wheels, and the local FISH Food Pantry. In the community, Karen is co-president of the Women's Legacy Fund. She is the secretary-treasurer of the Crawfordsville Main Street's Board. She is a Montgomery County Master Gardener. She has been instrumental in establishing college scholarships for Montgomery County youth with an interest in agriculture. Karen spends time weekly with the youth as the FIRST LEGO LEAGUE ROBOTIES TEAM as their coach.



### AREA 5 • Johnson County

**Beverly Hollandbeck** - The greatest amount of Beverly's volunteer time is for the Johnson County Museum of History. She is the editor of their quarterly 24-page magazine, Nostalgia News, for which she researches, writes, does layout, and recruits writers. The museum has a large genealogy library, and Beverly assists people researching family histories. She is also on the museum's program committee, meeting once a month to plan events, and she uses her crocheting skills to create items for the Johnson County Historical Society's major fundraiser, a silent auction. She plays piano background music for another annual event, a Victorian Tea. Too, each week she researches and provides a column entitled "This Week in





Church History” for the weekly church newsletter. Beverly sings in four choirs. Voices, a community choir, Matinee Musical, and in a three-part women’s chorus, serving as treasurer in all three. The pandemic curtailed the choir but from September on, she practiced for worship, either singing or playing the flute. In addition, she is on the scholarship committee.

#### AREA 6 • Randolph County

**Linda Morris** number one passion is working with senior citizens in the community. Linda, along with five other friends, founded the Main Street Senior Center located in the Farmland Community Center. Under Linda’s guidance, the Main Street Senior Center has received 501 (c)(3) charitable organization status. The center offers monthly senior seminars, twice-weekly chair aerobics classes, bi-weekly card parties, weekly “Good Yarn: Fiber Arts” (knitting/crocheting class where many finished projects are donated to local charities), bi-monthly free Bingo (where prizes are donated by local organizations which Linda has secured) and weekly Curb side Café meals to Randolph County seniors (provided by Life Stream), These meals contain five frozen dinners, trimmings and are available to all Randolph County seniors. During the height of the pandemic, she and four other volunteers were distributing over one hundred boxes from the Parker City building and Winchester Fairgrounds weekly. Recently Linda wrote and was awarded a \$6,000 grant from Life Stream Services to support the Main Street Senior Center activities. Linda is Board president of Historic Farmland USA. She is the grant writer for this group and chairperson of the annual Farmland Christmas Walk. Paralleling her work with senior citizens, Linda has been an active member of the Life Stream (Area Aging on Aging) Advisory Council. She annually assists with packing delivering Angel Wish baskets/gifts to area seniors and assists with Life Stream’s Aging Well conferences, plus attending quarterly council meetings as a representative of Randolph County. Linda offers free math tutoring for local junior high and high school students. She remains active with students and is a writer for Indiana Super Bowl math competition questions. Many of us know Linda Morris for her work with the IRTA Foundation and as the Area 6 Director. It is notable all of her nomination achievements were for her passion for senior citizens in the community.



#### AREA 7 • Hancock County

**Kathy Bentley** is a great example of an IRTA member who continues her dedication of service to her local community through volunteerism for both youth and others. The majority of her hours were at Mt. Comfort Elementary School library in which she spent two and a half days per week working with or for students. Her assignments included checking in and out books, shelving, repairing, decorating, reading, and assisting with the Book Fair. Kathy also volunteered at the Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ by assisting with mailings, gardening, and landscaping.



## AREA 8 • Greene County

**Cindy Kvale** While teaching Cindy sponsored a robotic club. After retirement she continued to work with two junior high school robotic teams and two high school robotic teams. She is also serving as a Science Olympiad coach. Also, she became involved with the Red Cross. This involvement led to her spending many hours helping the Afghan refugees. She spent a marathon 12 hour/12day event volunteering in Baton Rouge.



## AREA 9 • Pike County

**Shirley Segert** works with church's weekly children's groups for ages 2 years through fifth grade. Children have a meal, Bible lesson, crafts, and recreation. She plans and helps the children with a craft project each week. She works with First Choice Solutions – a program that is a pro-life medical and educational center for pregnant women and young families. The Center is dedicated to meet the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of those affected by unplanned pregnancies. They provide limited medical, physical, and educational services for new parents in terms of pregnancy, child growth and development and childcare. This program coincides with Shirley's expertise from her former professional life as a Family and Consumer Science teacher. Shirley also works with the Trials, Tribulation and Redemption Center – a non-profit organization founded to help the ever growing and demanding needs of foster families, grandparents, and other kinship caring for children in the court system. She helps collect and distribute items that Foster families might need such as food, clothing, cribs, and other baby/children supplies. Shirley is a volunteer for the Pike County CASA – an organization that works with the court system and Department of Children's Services to give the child a voice in the court system. She is assigned a child who she visits monthly, and she reflects the child's best interest and needs to the court through a written and oral report as public record for the court.



## AREA 10 • Ripley County

**Sharon Martin** is a member of the church choir and praise team at Dabney Baptist Church. She was in charge of scheduling weekly children's church, teaching children's 1-2 times a month and purchasing the drinks and snacks for Children's church. Sharon was also in charge of Dabney's OCC program, Operation Christmas Child. She was in charge of shopping for, delivering to the church, and organizing the items for the shoe boxes. A total of 362 shoe boxes were packed and delivered. She was active in Dabney's Women's Missionary group which meets monthly. She was also in charge of purchasing and delivering most of the supplies donated by Tyson Methodist Church's BDFF (Back Door Friends of Faith), which gives personal care and paper products to forty-six or more families each month.



## 2020 CLOCK WINNERS

### AREA 1- Lake County

**Rosanna Fowler** volunteered at the Campagna Academy through Zoom sessions and socially distanced events. Rosanna was a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, helped supply books for preschoolers, and championed racial equality with her church activity. Rosanna also assisted the elderly within care facilities. She made phone calls and ensured placement in skilled facilities.



### AREA 2 – Whitley County

**Cheryl Stalter** was very involved with the Boomerang Backpack project by ordering food, packing the bags, and delivering to the schools. At Christmas, she helped ring the Salvation Army bell. Cheryl also volunteered at her local 4H-Fair, with setup, staffing exhibits, and cleanup. She still managed to find time to help with a friend's medical needs by fixing meals. Other volunteer activities included several months driving a homeless person to work, assisting at the local food pantry, and teaching Sunday school.

### AREA 3 –Cass County

**Pam Roller** was selected by NASA to be a Solar System Ambassador Volunteer, meaning she was trained to share NASA information with the schools. She also volunteered with preschoolers by providing STEM activities and assisting the children with their reading skills. Pam is a children's author herself and has an educational book about Diabetes. Pam also provided inspirational videos to local nursing homes volunteered with Big Kings Little Kings and helped with projects on diversity/cultural differences



### AREA 4 – Montgomery County

**Carol Homann** is an active member of the Sunshine Chorus and Community Chorus. Carol is also involved with the Philanthropic Education Organization and works at the Christmas Shop to provide money for food certificates for the Annual Gala. This event raises money for girls to attend college and further their education. She helped at the local community theater, volunteered at the historical society and helped transport the elderly to medical appointments. During COVID, Carol spent many hours calling, making window and porch visits to check on those not able to get out.



#### AREA 6 – Delaware County

**Joyce Parkison** is a sewing artist. She made 500 masks for the hospital, 10 dresses for Little Dresses for African Girls and sewed pillowcases and rice bags for Ball Hospital. Joyce made 15 winter hats for Maring-Hunt Library's Stitch Against the Cold and new pillow covers for New Hope Church. Joyce also cooked church suppers along with delivering dinners to an ALS family, judged essays for the Integrity Essay contest and found time to be an efficient secretary for the DCRTA board. Thank you, Joyce, for all the contributions you make to your community and your time and energy to DCRTA.



#### AREA 7 – Bartholomew County

**Janice Montgomery** is one of the most dedicated people you can find. Janice volunteered with several community projects including the Simmons Schoolhouse, the Dictionary Project, 3rd grade architectural tours, Philharmonic volunteer, and a local church. Janet was a co-chair on the BCSC Referendum -YES!4BCSC. People realized that education is the foundation of a great community and its future and supported the cause. Hundreds of contacts were made and the pandemic strategy was changed to phone calls. The referendum was passed in the June election. The community supported the school employees and they began receiving the benefits in January.



#### AREA 8 – Daviess- Martin RTA

**Marilyn Reed** is active with the Shoals Scholarship Foundation. As treasurer, she wrote scholarship checks, kept the checkbook, filled out forms for the Combined Federal Campaign, and prepared Honor Program certificates. Marilyn worked with applications for the scholarships, typed forms for the donations, and did the treasurer's reports. Marilyn tutored a student and helped with the angel tree project. She was also active with the public library and contributed in many ways including a soup supper, auction, bake sale, and a grant. You could also find Marilyn helping a neighbor with errands, yard work, providing transportation. Marilyn continues her selfless service to the youth and adults in her community.



#### AREA 9 – Orange County

**Connie Livingston** certainly spent a lot of volunteering time with youth within her community. In a year where so many activities were unavailable for volunteer work, Connie looked for venues that were open and seized the opportunities. She spent many hours helping children who were "home schooled" due to the pandemic. Her heart for youth and their educational needs has certainly continued beyond her years in a classroom. In addition to her work with children, she also gave of herself serving as treasurer for a local cemetery. Connie spent time helping an elderly neighbor in various ways. Connie is certainly a valuable asset to



her community and deserves recognition for all she has done.

#### AREA 10 – Dearborn County

**Mary Bradley** has participated in the making of dresses and shorts for children around the world. She presented the idea of adding a barrette to each dress made. She sews all the parts for the barrettes. Everywhere she goes, Mary is sewing on the barrettes including sending them through the mail to be included with each dress. This is not all Mary does. She is on the Board of DCRT Foundation and sends out thank you notes to donors. Mary stays involved with the local French club and makes sure each French Club member receives a tassel for their luggage on their French trip. She also assists with the Special Education classes as a chaperon on special outings and makes cookies for them. For a special friend with health issues, Mary takes her to appointments and on other outings that would not happen without her assistance. We thank Mary for sharing her time, talent, expertise, and caring nature with her community.



### 2019 CLOCK WINNERS

#### AREA 1 - Lake County

**Lucille L. Perz** is a busy lady. She teaches two CCD classes per week at St. Thomas Moore parish. Lucille also facilitates the collection and wrapping of gifts that the children present to shut in residents during their field trip to the Munster Med Inn. You will also find Lucille soliciting door to door for clothing and other non-perishable goods for the annual sit-down dinner and clothing giveaway at the Hammond Civic Center. Lucille also helps prepare this dinner for a yearly average of 300 underserved residents of Lake County. Yes, Lucille is indeed a hero for all she does for her community.



#### AREA 2 - Dekalb County

**Richard McKean** has a definite talent with things that grow. He is a groundskeeper at a local church where he does lawn weed control and fertilization. You will also find him in Berne's Plaza spending hours beautifying the landscape for activities and civic events including concerts, weddings, art fairs, and festivals. He also conducts tours about local history. During Swiss Heritage Days, he works with several hundred third graders making soap balls. Dick organizes bus trips for seniors traveling throughout the country. He researches the trips, so everyone has a wonderful experience. Dick is a hard worker and an outstanding giver of time, talent, and experience.



### AREA 3 - Howard County

**Rebecca Farrington** is very active in her local Lions organization. She works hard in the various club projects helping those who need cochlear implants, supplying Riley Hospital with needed equipment for deaf babies to hear, purchasing refractors, and testing all preschoolers for lazy eyes in two counties. The club has helped with expense travels to Haiti and supporting children in various ways including vision care. They collected 6,000 pairs of glasses which were distributed to those needing glasses. Rebecca also helped with the purchase of a canine officer bullet proof vest. To earn the funds, she helped prepare and serve rib-eye steaks sandwiches, buffalo burgers, and other assorted foods. You will also see her at a local church serving donuts, coffee, and working with the Missions Commission. Rebecca enjoys all she does taking care of those in need and feeling blessed to be able to help.



### AREA 4 - Montgomery County

**Cynda Mellish.** If you visit the Wesley Thrift Shop, you are pretty sure you will see Cynda there. She is on the Board of Directors, is Head of Sales, schedules workers, and works in the shop. At her local church, Cynda is Chairman of Meals on Wheels and participates with deliveries. She is also a member of both the bell and the adult choir. She is presently working on establishing a preschool daycare program and receiving state certification. She wrote a grant to the local community foundation for funds for the preschool. Other grants she has written include one from the Methodist Foundations and for Early Learning in Indiana. Cynda is one busy active volunteer within her community.



### AREA 5 - Hamilton County

**Michael Jenkins,** All the volunteering that Michael does shows his commitment to public service. Michael is a board member for the Cicero Christian Church and of the Hamilton County North Public Library where he also serves as its secretary. Working with Hope family care center, he is their CEO, President, and Board Member. He teaches adult Bible class, is an Elder, and a member of the Missions team, and a weekly micro-leader. He also helps prepare his church's weekly newsletter. Working with children includes being a Mentor at its Lunch program with 5th graders, and he is a member of the school's "Ryan White State Marker" program. You will also see Mike volunteering with the "Vision Program" at the school. Mike is a true advocate of giving back to his community sharing his talents.



### AREA 6 - Grant County

**Steven Stuckey** spends most of his time with the Marion-Grant County Humane Society Resale Shop. There he will be seen working in sales, recording sales on the computer, performing general maintenance, doing displays, receiving donations, delivering of purchased items, picking up donations of dog food, collecting excess animal supplies, and working with the MGCHS newsletter. He also sells tickets at school functions, mows the lawn at the school along with general maintenance. Steve keeps busy mowing his church lawn, a neighbor's lawn, and helping prepare funeral dinners. He supervises students at a national conference in various US locations along with volunteering at the Special Olympics. It's doubtful you will find him at home because he is truly a very active and dedicated volunteer.



### AREA 7 - Hancock County

**Stephen Burt** volunteer activities are wide and varied. He is treasurer of Serotoma and worked with Santa's Helpers. Steve was the Freedom Essay Chair, is a Bingo Caller, is on the Hearing aid committee, and on the Scholarship committee for college students in hearing and speech. You will find him at his local church as an usher, on the administrative board, and as a volunteer going to Kentucky and rehabbing homes for those in need. Steve is also a member of Kiwanis and volunteers in many money-making activities for their sponsored projects. You will find Steve delivering for Meals on Wheels, working with children in the Read-Up program before school, and working with the Salvation Army, including ringing the bell, being a board member, and helping gather volunteers. Steve also works with Love, INC. Transporting people and in other a needed capacity. He is active with the local hospital and Imagination Library. You would have a difficult time reaching Steve because he is out and doing all the time helping Hancock County.



### AREA 8 - Monroe-Owen Counties

**Diane Shewmaker** volunteers on many committees in Monroe County serving as board secretary for the civic theater, secretary for the executive council of the NAACP for Martin Luther King Day, and fosters animals from the local shelter. At Indiana University, Diane serves on the Swing Club Committee as well as being an escort for the summer drama program and the Boogie Woogie Festival. Diane is active in her church including the church choir and Praise Team. She participated with the local schools during the Franklin Initiative Reality Store. Diane is an active volunteer in her community. We appreciate all she does. Thank you, Diane.



### AREA 9 - Dubois County

**Victor Hurm** is a truly active volunteer in his community. On many days you can see him working with the Geology Club where he served as president and with the youth and adult programs in geology related topics including fossils, minerals, rocks, and other artifacts. He helped organize and set up annual shows in and out of state. As a member of the Optimist club, he set up flag holders and displayed the American flag six times during the year. He also cleaned, repaired, and stored the flags. Victor spent many hours during Heritage Days at the museum for all 4th graders in the county. He held many classes for the students through his geology program. He volunteered many hours at the high school with the students demonstrating how to propagate plants and teaching plant growth and care. He also found time to help transport elderly individuals to appointments and help other teachers and organizations as needed for events in the area. We thank you Victor for sharing your time and talents.



### AREA 10 - Dearborn County

**Mary Jo Sloan** is certainly an asset to her community. Upon retirement she served as a member of the local foundation which gives awards to active teachers. As a member of a local organization she kept involved with many projects in the area and state. Jo volunteers in both her and her husband's church working with one project called "Good News" which talks with students about good things happening in their lives and others in the country. Jo is also committed to teaching Sunday School classes. She works with TOPS, coaching members to improve their health, lose weight, and develop a lifelong new way of thinking. Jo works with a Chinese girl to improve her English. Her true passion is Special Olympics. She helps them build confidence, the spirit of giving, and teamwork. Mary Jo is a dedicated and worthy volunteer.





## SCHOOL BELL AWARD 2021

**Nancy Durham** is the winner of fourth annual School Bell Award.

**\$25 gift cards:**

Ilene Howard (Area 3), Cheryl Parmer (Area 10), Joanne Weddle (Area 8), Margaret Wente (Area 5) and Kathleen Whelan (Area 7)

## SCHOOL BELL AWARD 2020

**Bud King** is the winner of the third annual School Bell Award. Sadly, Bud passed away in April of 2021.

**\$50 gift cards:** Bud King (Area 7), Sherry Biddle (Area 10) and Nancy Durham (Area 10)

## SCHOOL BELL AWARD 2019

**Nancy Durham** is the winner of second annual School Bell Award.

**\$50 gift cards:** Nancy Durham (Area 10), Ilene Howard (Area 3), Rebecca Miller (Area 8)

**\$25 gift cards:** Karen Bunselmeier (Area 10), Linda Burnette (Area 4), Lynne Fleming (Area 7), Jonna Isaacs (Area 9), Keith Jones (Area 8), Heidi Sellers (Area 10)

**COURT  
APPOINTED  
SPECIAL  
ADVOCATE (CASA)  
AWARD WINNERS  
2021**

**Dan Fleming**

Bartholomew County RTA, 10 years

Dan is dedicated to his cases and having volunteered for ten years is a testament to his service. Dan is involved every step of the way and values creating a trusting relationship with the children in need of services.



**Cheryl Corning**

Ripley County RTA, 5 years

Cheryl has served on five cases for eight children during her time as a CASA. “She is one of the most reliable, knowledgeable, and resourceful volunteers we have in Ripley County. She brings her knowledge of education and law to each case by advocating the best needs of each child individually.” Melissa

Herzner, Interim Director/SEI Voices for Children, Inc.

**Anita Edenfield**

Putnam County RTA, 3 years

Anita has logged over 100 hours of service to eight children on five cases since becoming a CASA in 2019. Anita has a long list of organizations she volunteers for in her community and her work as a CASA is just one role of many that she goes above and beyond.



**Nancy Garris**

Pike-Gibson County RTA, 4 years

Nancy takes her work as a CASA very seriously. Being the voice for abused and neglected children is a meaningful role. The family court judge always asks for Nancy;s input as a CASA and takes it into consideration when making decisions for the child.



**Cherly Frak**

Monroe-Owen County RTA, 14 years

“There seems to be no end to the energy and attention that Cheryl donates to CASA. She has contributed significantly to nearly every aspect of our operations, from fundraising initiatives and recruitment efforts to menial side projects. She is an articulate and approachable spokesperson for CASA who continues to promote a positive image of CASA in our community by the way in which she conducts her child advocacy.” Lara Weaver, Case Coordinator Monroe County CASA



**CASA AWARD WINNERS 2020**

**Karen Robison**

Lake County RTA, 2 1/2 years

“Karen takes it upon herself to provide exceptional support and service to the children she is appointed to advocate for. She discerns quickly their individual needs and moves efficiently to provide key information, recommendations, and input to IN DCS Family Case Worker, parents, and providers of rehabilitation services.” - Regina Cross, Porter county CASA Supervisor



**Donna Kida**

Starke County RTA, 4 years

Over 4 years volunteering as a CASA, Donna has assisted in improving the outcome of multiple CHINS (Child in need of services) and their families. Last year Donna was the CASA for a middle school student who had not attended school for over a year. Donna was able to stress the importance of education to the child and their mother.

**Kim Nixon**

Montgomery County RTA, 3 years

Kim Nixon’s CASA Program Director, Jane Christophersen describes her as “firm, but friendly.” Kim is a dedicated volunteer that does not shy away from difficult cases and is always willing to do what it takes to help the children she works with.



**Jan Fredbeck**

Johnson County RTA, 3 years

Jan uses her background in education to go above and beyond the duties of a CASA by helping the children on her cases with their schoolwork. “Every child’s schoolwork improved during her time as their advocate due to her dedication.” - Tammi Hickman, Director Johnson County CASA Program.



**Jan Van Kley**

Hancock County RTA, 2 1/2 years

Jan goes above and beyond to make sure the children assigned to her are safe and advocates for any services they may need.” Marciann McClarnon Miller, Director Hancock County CASA



**Karen Adams**



Monroe-Owen RTA, 6 years

In her time as a CASA, Karen has advocated for 38 children! “Karen’s interest in the children she serves and her ability to traverse the child welfare system with great dignity for everyone and yet with a firm hand has made her extremely successful in finding permanency for the children.” Kristin Bishay, Executive Director Monroe County CASA

**Jimmie Merle Callahan**

Daviess County RTA, 4 years

Jimmie Merle shows a remarkable amount of dedication to his CASA cases. “Every child he advocates for really likes him and they are aware they have a true advocate backing them in the court room.” Misty English, Program Director Daviess County CASA



**David “Dennis” Whitaker**

Lawrence County RTA, 3 years

Dennis shows a passion for helping youth in his community through his work with CASA. Dennis puts a lot of time and effort into his cases and his school administrator background shows in the detailed logs he keeps on his cases.

**Nancy J. Edwards**

Greene County RTA, 7 years

“Nancy is dedicated to her cases and having volunteered for 7 years is a testament to her service. She is passionate about her work and shares her experiences with community groups such as churches, clubs, and Greene Co. RTA, hoping to spark interest and involvement with the program.” Marsue H. Ault, President Greene Co. RTA.



**Harriet Ann Hoffman**

Jefferson County RTA, 4 years

“She is one of the most reliable and knowledgeable volunteers on my team, and has often served on two cases simultaneously, spending countless hours researching all aspects of each one. “ Kimberly Courtney, Lead Volunteer Coordinator Southeastern Indiana Voices for Children, Inc.

## CASA AWARD WINNERS 2019

### **Sally Schreiber**

St Joseph County, 7 years

Sally has been actively advocating for children through CASA since August, 2014. She has assisted with five different cases, helped recruit volunteers and is a huge help in the Annual CASA Holiday Toy Drive. Nominated by - Brenda Matuszkiewicz, CASA Supervisor.

### **Elizabeth Gilbert**

Steuben County, 18 years

Elizabeth is an articulate speaker with a caring spirit for children. Elizabeth speaks to many groups about being a CASA volunteer. Her husband was a CASA volunteer. Nominated by Judy Hostetler, President of Steuben County Retired Teachers and IRTA Area 2 Director.



**Mary Lou Dawald**, Montgomery County, 10 years

Mary Lou is a fierce advocate for her "CASA kids". When there is a tough case, she is the first choice of her CASA Program Director. She visits her CASA child often. She is involved in many community organizations. Mary Lou continues to want to learn and improve. Nominated by Marilyn Spear, Montgomery County.

### **Nancy Tolson**

Marion County - Wayne Township IRTA, 12 years

Nancy has been an exemplary CASA volunteer of almost 12 years. She has volunteered in cases advocating for 41 children. Nancy estimates that on average her volunteer work takes 6-10 hours per week. She often has more than one case at a time. She attends many hours of continuing education each year. She is an ambassador for the CASA agency and even recruited her daughter, Beth, who has been an excellent CASA herself for five years. Nominated by Sally, Dunfee, Wayne Township and Marion County CASA Agency.



### **Kathleen Boggess**



Monroe County CASA

CASA volunteer 1982-1987, CASA Director 1987-1991, She participates in the events and projects of the CASA agency and is always willing to step in where needed. She works diligently with the schools to ensure that the children are receiving the educational assistance that they require. When advocating in the courtroom, she ensures that the judge is aware of all the issues surrounding the children she is advocating for and is not afraid to voice her concerns when warranted. Nominated by Kristin Bishay, Exec. Director, Monroe County CASA.

### **Debbie Byers**

Hancock County CASA

Debbie has gone about and beyond to advocate for children for whom she is a voice. She does her best to represent children assigned to her. She never leaves a stone unturned as she makes it her goal to understand her case and build a rapport with her children. She is a real mama bear when it comes to standing up for her children. Nominated by Marcianne McClarnon Miller, Director of Hancock County CASA.



### **Bob Schmielau,**

Jackson County CASA.

After he retired, Bob heard about CASA at one of the JCRTA meetings and became interested and became a CASA volunteer. He describes himself as a child advocate. Once a child is assigned to him, he researches and investigates the child from as many sources as are available to him. His main thrust is to get to know the child and try to determine how to make things better for his/her life. He follows the child wherever he is, making sure all things are working for his best interest. His investigations take him many places around the state, making sure he maintains contact with the child as long as the child is in the system or until of age. He tries to spread the word on the growing number of children that need to be served. Nominated by Ann Mahan, Jackson County RTA.

### **Cathy Briner**

Gibson County CASA

Cathy had advocated for thirty-two children going over and above what is expected of her. She always thinks through and gathers any information she needs. If not sure, she will research and question or whatever it takes to find out. She never comes to Court unprepared. She is a great mentor and role model for the other volunteers. When there is any type of activity or function for CASA, Cathy is always the first one to ask if she can help or bring something. She has delayed vacations so she could be in Court or at an important meeting. Nominated by Joy L. Jines, Program Director, Gibson County.