



Special Thanks

The UCHRC especially would like to thank
Acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park
and the Union County Prosecutor's Office
for their ongoing and invaluable support and encouragement.

UCHRC Commissioners

Co-Chairs.....Sergeant Leonard Guarino (Elizabeth Police Department) (ret.)
.....**Mark Spivey, Union County Prosecutor's Office**

Recording Secretary..Karen E. Positan (Springfield/Union County Prosecutor's Office)

Commissioners:

(Asterisk indicates former Co-Chairs)*

Lorraine Aklonis (Clark)	Constance Perkins (Scotch Plains)
Lieutenant Keith Aslin (Linden Police Department)	Virginia San Pedro (Elizabeth)
* Barbara Boyer (Plainfield)	Esmeralda Vargas (Berkeley Heights)
* Rev. Alfred E. Brown (Plainfield / Cranford)	Emma Villegas (Elizabeth)
Detective Andrew Dellaquila (Union County Prosecutor's Office Bias Unit)	Linda Weissbrod (Scotch Plains)
* Faheemah El-Amin (Plainfield)	Detective Afstratios (Steve) Zevlikaris (Linden Police Department)
Flor Gonzalez (Plainfield)	Commissioners on Leave:
Jo Ann Hamilton (Linden)	Dr. Aristo Carranza (Springfield)
Acting First Assistant Prosecutor Thomas K. Isenhour (Union County Prosecutor's Office)	Dr. Carmen Centuolo (Mountainside)
Chief Brian Mahoney, Scotch Plains Police Department (ret.)	Dr. Martin Dickerson (Scotch Plains)
Lieutenant Dean Marcantonio (Union County Prosecutor's Office)	Janice Harris Jackson (Plainfield)
Ana Martinez (Roselle)	Peter Jacob (Union)
* Peter McTiernan (Linden)	* Helene Scheuer (Elizabeth)
Nora Mislán (Linden)	Commissioners Emeritus:
* Charles Newman (Cranford); Union County Office for the Disabled (ret.)	* James F. Keefe, Esq. (Scotch Plains)
	Raul Pinto (Union)
	* Jack Weins Shanker (Clark)



Union County Human Relations Commission

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www.ucnj.org/uchrc **uchrc@ucnj.org**



15th Annual Unity Achievement Award Presentation

Monday, May 9, 2016

Elizabethtown Gas Company Union, New Jersey

The UCHRC Unity Achievement Awards

The UCHRC Unity Achievement Awards were created to recognize the programs, services, activities and efforts which foster human rights and relations among the people of Union County, and/or which promote and advance the understanding, acceptance and appreciation of cultural diversity throughout the citizenry of our 21 municipalities.

This annual event and the presentation of awards is intended to recognize and honor those individuals and organizations that have contributed in an extraordinary manner to the accomplishment of these goals in Union County.

“Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted. Setting an example is not the main means of influencing others; it is the only means.”

Albert Einstein

THE MEDIA

- ◆ Bob Braun, Star Ledger
- ◆ Robert Misseck, Star Ledger, Union County Bureau Chief
- ◆ Ralph Adinolfi, Publisher, Union County Voice
- ◆ Gabriel Gluck, Star Ledger

VETERAN

- ◆ First Sgt. Michael Philibert, USMC (ret.)
- ◆ Joseph Barbella (ret.), U.S. Army
- ◆ James Glover
- ◆ Dominick DeJohn
- ◆ Angelo Monaco

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

- ◆ Victor Richel
- ◆ Robin Parker, former Deputy Attorney General, NJ Office Bias Crime/Community Relations
- ◆ Dr. Thelma Hurd
- ◆ John Griffith
- ◆ Honorable Edward W. Beglin, Jr., Assignment Judge, Superior Court of NJ
- ◆ Honorable Rudolph N. Hawkins, Jr., Judge -- Superior Court of NJ
- ◆ Ina White
- ◆ Mary Krech
- ◆ Caroline Petrilla, Esq.
- ◆ Stuart Green, M.S.W.
- ◆ Wilson Londono, Los Faroles Restaurant, Elizabeth
- ◆ Joseph Nierle, Drama Teacher, Westfield High School
- ◆ Kevin LaMastra / Joseph E. Soehl Middle School, Linden
- ◆ In Honor of Kevin Apuzzio (posthumously)
- ◆ Robert P. O'Leary, (ret.) Executive Assistant Prosecutor, Union County Prosecutor's Office
- ◆ Karen E. Positan, Asst. Public Information Officer, Union County Prosecutor's Office; UCHRC Commissioner & Recording Secretary (1997 to present)
- ◆ Angela Scheck
- ◆ Tricia Nering
- ◆ George Castro
- ◆ Lynn Bilman
- ◆ Margarite Robinson
- ◆ Herbert T. Green
- ◆ Elisa Sananman
- ◆ Sandra Cureton
- ◆ Annie R. Lucas
- ◆ Flor Gonzales
- ◆ Clara Kramer
- ◆ Mary Beth Kelley
- ◆ In Honor of Assistant Prosecutor JoAnne Miller (posthumously)
- ◆ UCHRC Commissioner Brian Levine, Westfield High School (2010-2011)
- ◆ Hernan Agudelo
- ◆ St. Teresa of Avila Church, Summit
- ◆ Dr. Dennis Vodarsik
- ◆ Helene Scheuer
- ◆ Dr. Paula Rodriguez Rust, Spectrum Diversity LLC
- ◆ Sgt. Larry Brown Jr., Plainfield Police Division
- ◆ Former UCHRC Co-Chair James F. Keefe, Esq.
- ◆ Miguel Garcia, Carlos Cancel and Hayley Zimmermann

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- ◆ Thomas V. Manahan, Union County Prosecutor, 1997-2002

UCHRC Co-Chairs

- ◆ James Glassen, Esq., 1998-2000
 - ◆ Faheemah El-Amin, 2000-2002
 - ◆ Jack Weinshanker, 2002-2004
 - ◆ Helene Scheuer, 2004-2006
 - ◆ Reverend Alfred Brown, 2008-2010
 - ◆ First Assistant Prosecutor James F. Keefe, Co-Chair 1997 to 2014
 - ◆ Peter McTiernan, 2010-2012
 - ◆ Barbara Boyer, 2012-2014
-

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ♦Lt. Guy M. Steward, Union County Prosecutor's Office
- ♦Chief Edward Santiago, Plainfield Police Dept.
- ♦Detective Robert Segear, Cranford Police Dept.
- ♦Detective Frank Bartone, Union County Sheriff's Office
- ♦John Esmerado, Assistant Prosecutor/Supervisor, Child Abuse Unit, Union County Prosecutor's Office
- ♦Maria Esteves, Victim/Witness Unit, Union County Prosecutor's Office
- ♦James F. Keefe, Esq. (2007 NJ Human Relations Council)
- ♦Chief Robert Quinlan, Hillside Police Dept.
- ♦Lt. Keith Aslin, Linden Police Department
- ♦Sgt. Marianne Hopko and Sgt. Nancy Zimmerman (ret.), Union County Sheriff's Office
- ♦Detective Afstratios Zevlikaris, Linden Police Department
- ♦Auxiliary Chief Alexander Fitzgerald Parker, Rahway Police Department

PUBLIC SERVICE

- ♦Lewis Mingo, Jr., Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders
- ♦The Honorable Thomas H. Kean, Jr., NJ Senator
- ♦The Honorable Joseph Cryan, Jr., NJ Assemblyman
- ♦Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Vice Chair, Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders
- ♦Elizabeth Geminder, Director, Hillside Board of Health
- ♦Union County Sexual Assault Response Team
- ♦Union County Firefighters William Lavin (Elizabeth), Andy Stratton (Cranford), Al Smka (Union), Edwin Donnelly (Union)
- ♦David Klurman, Director, Hillside Recreation Department
- ♦Union County Medical Reserve Corp.
- ♦Ralph Bernardo

STUDENT

- ♦Amanda Chokov, Elizabeth High School
- ♦Cynthia Martinez, Rutgers University
- ♦Thomas Callahan, Jr., Linden High School
- ♦Hassan Edwards, Union County Vo-Tech School
- ♦Diogo Cardoso, Union County Vo-Tech School
- ♦Joseph Bonaccorso, Arthur L. Johnson High School, Clark
- ♦Johnna Booth, Hillside High School
- ♦Melissa Heron, Kean University
- ♦Marc Avena, Arthur L. Johnson High School, Clark
- ♦Dulce Cabezas, Linden High School
- ♦Benedictine Academy COR Defenders

EDUCATOR

- ♦Jordan Siegel, Roselle Public Schools
 - ♦Henry Varriano, Clark
 - ♦Esther Paden, Linden High School
 - ♦Monica Goncalves, Linden High School
 - ♦Dr. Danny Robertozzi, E.D.D., Linden Superintendent of Schools
 - ♦Zende Clark, Hillside Board of Education (ret.)
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Our Mission

The mission of the Union County Human Relations Commission is to actively encourage, develop, promote and strengthen respect for human rights and cultural diversity among the people of Union County.

The function and focus of the UCHRC is to address the issues of racism and bias and their impact on our local schools, workplaces and neighborhoods.

The Commission serves to promote and encourage a more peaceful and ecumenical society in Union County, by providing support to bias crime victims who are targets of crime because of their race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, mental/physical/sensory handicap, familial status, sexual orientation and/or sexual identity, and by intervening to eradicate the conditions that ultimately cause these biases.

Simply, the Commission celebrates the richness of life that cultural diversity brings to our communities and ourselves.

The Union County Human Relations Commission consists of a group of Union County residents and professionals from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and personal backgrounds who volunteer their time to serve on the Commission.

Program

Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance

.....Commissioner Mark Spivey (UCHRC Co-Chair)

Introductions and Remarks

...Sergeant Leonard Guarino, Elizabeth Police Department (UCHRC Co-Chair)

.....Grace H. Park, Acting Union County Prosecutor

Presentation of Unity Awards for Achievement

.....
Achievement by a Corporation/Business Enterprise

Alleum Yoga

Accepted by Gina Pachkowski, Owner

Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Faheemah El-Amin

.....
Achievement by a Community Organization

The Unique Divazz

Accepted by Barbara DuBose and Khalilah Chapman

Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Charlie Newman

.....
Achievement by a Nonprofit Organization

The Paul Jackson Fund, Inc.

Accepted by Mary Jackson

*Presented by UCHRC Co-Chair Sergeant Leonard Guarino,
(ret.) Elizabeth Police Department*

.....
Achievement by an Individual

Union County Spectrum All-Stars

Accepted by Lori Gonzalez and Joann Fruciano

Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Constance (Connie) Perkins

.....
Achievement by Law Enforcement

Sergeant Russell Gottlick, Plainfield Police Division

*Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Chief Brian Mahoney,
Scotch Plains Police Department (ret.)*

.....
Achievement in Public Service

Nancy Bates

Presented by UCHRC Co-Chair Mark Spivey

.....

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

- ◆Elizabeth Public Library -- Dir. Joseph Keenan
- ◆Muslim Community Soup Kitchen
- ◆Omega Psi Phi
- ◆First Baptist Church of Elizabeth / Elmora Presbyterian Church
- ◆St. Joseph's Social Service Center / Sister Jacinta Fernandes
- ◆YWCA of Eastern Union County
- ◆Plainfield Public Library
- ◆St. Clare's Home for Children
- ◆Cranford Family Care Association
- ◆Josephine's Place
- ◆CONTACT We Care
- ◆Furniture Assist -- Dawson Yeomans
- ◆The Relief Bus -- Juan Galloway
- ◆The Elizabeth Coalition to House The Homeless
- ◆Young Men of Resilience -- Sarah Cherry-Cadogan
- ◆Prevention Links

INDIVIDUAL

- ◆Donna Albanese-DeMair
- ◆Patricia McRae
- ◆Sally Ann Benjamin
- ◆Mary Ryan
- ◆Patricia & William Lopez and family
- ◆Sandwich Ladies aka "The Baloney Club"
- ◆Albeiro & Maria Hincaple
- ◆Debbie Marulanda
- ◆Shade Lee
- ◆Malcolm Nettingham
- ◆Rosa Floyd
- ◆Lillie Brown
- ◆Richard A. Davis
- ◆Karen Hall
- ◆Lisa Petrillo
- ◆Maureen O'Brian, Esq.

THE CLERGY

- ◆Reverend Joseph L. Adair (Elizabeth)
- ◆Fountain Baptist Church / Summit -- Reverend J. Michael Sanders
- ◆Father Donald Hummel,
- ◆St. Agnes Church, Clark
- ◆Rev. Dr. Gerald Lamont Thomas, Shiloh Baptist Church, Plainfield
- ◆Rev. Manuel Donelson, Masterpiece Program, City of Linden
- ◆Rev. Princeton H. Holt
- ◆Rev. Jeremy Montgomery

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION

- ◆Westminster Comforters, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Berkeley Heights
-

Special Recognition Award

Sergeant Leonard Guarino (ret.) Elizabeth Police Department

Recognition for

*his honorable, steadfast dedication and excellent leadership
serving as Co-Chair of the Union County Human Relations Commission
for the past two years, from 2014 to 2016*

With our sincerest thanks!

Previous UCHRC Unity Achievement Award Recipients

CORPORATION / BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

- ♦Wakefern Corporation
- ♦Hillside Auto Mall
- ♦RexPlex of Elizabeth
- ♦Union Center National Bank
- ♦ConocoPhillips Bayway Refinery
- ♦Merck & Co., Inc.
- ♦Trinitias Regional Medical Center
- ♦AGL Resources/Elizabethtown Gas Co.
- ♦Clyne & Murphy/Westfield -- Jen and Steve Quaranta
- ♦Dairy Queen of Plainfield -- Richard and Donna Albanese-DeMair
- ♦Yo-Delight Frozen Yogurt/Springfield
- ♦Pinho's Bakery

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

- ♦Volunteers of the Interfaith Council
 - ♦Occupational Center of Union County for the Homeless
 - ♦PROCEED (Puerto Rican Organization for Community Education/ Economic Development)
 - ♦Community FoodBank of New Jersey
 - ♦The Volunteers of the Center for Hope Hospice/Palliative Care
 - ♦Newborns in Need
 - ♦Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services
 - ♦Groundwork Elizabeth
 - ♦Restore Ministries
 - ♦Lin's Linens
 - ♦Raphael's Life House (Covenant House) -- Edith Coogan
 - ♦Cherished Creations
 - ♦The Birthday Box -- Stacy Bergerman and Jennifer Wilner
 - ♦Roots & Wings
-

Achievement by the Media

Utterly Global LLC
Accepted by Lorrie Sanchez and Carol Blank
Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Lorraine Aklonis

Achievement by a Student

Griffin Spielman, Governor Livingston High School
*Presented by UCHRC Commissioner /
Union County Superintendent of Schools Roger Jinks*

Achievement by an Educator

Dr. Theodore Schlosberg,
The New Jersey Workshop For The Arts
*Presented by UCHRC Commissioner /
Union County Superintendent of Schools Roger Jinks*

Achievement by the Clergy

Reverend Elizabeth Alexander
Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Barbara Boyer

Achievement by a Faith-Based Organization

Community Access Unlimited's
Union County Interfaith Coordinating Committee Council
Accepted by Sid Blanchard, Executive Director
Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Reverend Alfred Brown

Achievement by Military/Veteran

Colonel Edward Chrystal / Army National Guard
*Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Detective Andrew Dellaquila,
Union County Prosecutor's Office*

Special Achievement Award

Charles Newman
Presented by UCHRC Commissioner JoAnn Hamilton

Special Achievement Award

Captain Ralph Gregson (ret.)
Cranford Auxiliary Police Department
Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Peter McTiernan

.....
Special Achievement Award

Jim McKeon
Broken Hearts Memorial
Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Nora Mislan

.....
Special Achievement Award

Officer Gerald McDermott
Summit Police Department
*Presented by UCHRC Commissioner Afstratios (Steve) Zevlikaris,
Linden Police Department*

.....
Special Achievement Award

Andrew Ertman
and
Detective Paul Pasternak, Elizabeth Police Department
Presented by Acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park

.....
Special Recognition Award

Sergeant Leonard Guarino (ret.)
Elizabeth Police Department
Union County Human Relations Commission Co-Chair 2014-2016
UCHRC Commissioner/First Assistant Prosecutor Thomas K. Isenhour

.....
Closing Remarks

..... UCHRC Co-Chair Sergeant Leonard Guarino

*At the conclusion of the program,
we kindly ask that everyone remain seated while
we take a group photograph of the award recipients.
Thank you!*

Special Thanks

We sincerely thank
NUI/Elizabethtown Gas Company and **Colliers International NJ LLC**
for allowing us the use of their beautiful facility to host this special event,
Classic Cafe Catering for their assistance and catering excellence, and
Glenn Merritt and "Meant To Be" (www.mtbjazz.net)
for their wonderful and inspirational music.

Unity Award for Special Achievement

**Andrew Ertman
and
Detective Paul Pasternak
Elizabeth Police Department**

Recognition for

*Extraordinary service on behalf of Union County's
victimized children and their families*

Crimes against children are some of the most heinous and disturbing that law enforcement encounters on a regular basis, in great part because they affect our most vulnerable crime victims. The negative effects experienced by these victims of physical or sexual abuse can last a lifetime without proper treatment, and that's why in 1995, the Child Advocacy Center was founded. Today, nearly 30 Union County Prosecutor's Office staff members work at the state-of-the-art Center in downtown Elizabeth, N.J., tending to the more than 1,100 people who visit and utilize its resources each year.

Last year, the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center of Union County – the chief nonprofit agency offering financial and logistical support to the facility – hosted its first annual Race 4 the Children, generating vital funding for needed Center staff whose work previously had been covered by grants that are no longer available.

Front and center from start to finish during the planning and execution of the Race, which generated more than \$25,000, were Friends of the Child Advocacy Center Chairman Andrew Ertman of Westfield and Elizabeth Police Department Detective Paul Pasternak.

The fundraiser, which featured a 5K run and two-mile walk in Elizabeth's historic Warinanco Park, also brought together more than 100 citizens and dignitaries. Ertman and Pasternak made it possible by going above and beyond to raise awareness about the Center's role and importance, soliciting participants, and managing a wide range of logistics. Although the 2016 figures are not yet in, the second annual Race was once again well-supported by participants and sponsors, with Andrew and Paul again front and center through it all.

Both gentlemen have been active in other philanthropic initiatives benefitting Union County residents as well. It is for the honorable goal of helping the County's most vulnerable crime victims that they are being honored with a Unity Award this year.

Unity Award for Special Achievement

Police Officer Gerald McDermott Summit Police Department

Recognition for

*His unselfish dedication to bridge cultural gaps within the community
and to cultivate relationships with youth and their families*

Police Officer Gerald McDermott joined the Summit Police Department in January 2006, and he has been a member of the Patrol Unit since that time.

From the onset, Officer McDermott demonstrated excellence both as an instructor and in his ability to relate to the citizens and youth in the community. He actively participates in the department-wide community policing initiatives, which are focused on fostering and enhancing relationships within the community, particularly with the city's youth.

Officer McDermott has been an instructor in the Summit Police Youth Academy, which was launched in the summer of 2004, for the past 10 years. The two five-day programs offer Summit youth ages 11 to 14 the opportunity to positively interact with local officers and thus better understand the role of a police officer. The experience helps them learn personal responsibility and the importance of teamwork, and generally results in their increased respect for the law.

Many of the youth cadets who enter the program do so as shy children with little confidence in themselves.

Through his method of instruction, dedication, and compassion for others, Officer McDermott has a proven record of success in bringing the group of middle school-aged children together as one unified team and instilling in each child a sense of pride, personal confidence, and determination.

Through the years, Officer McDermott has taken the initiative to enhance this program and help it to expand. Understanding the greater good that can come from this program, he initiated outreach to draw in each cadet's families and neighbors.

As someone who understands the many cultural differences as they relate to law enforcement, Officer McDermott is able to transform a brief encounter with a child into an ongoing family/community relationship.

Through his unselfish dedication to improve human relations, Officer McDermott has bridged many gaps in the police department's relationship with many cultural communities to improve the quality of life for all of Summit's citizens, young and old.

Unity Award for Achievement by a Business Establishment

Alluem Yoga

Award accepted by Gina Pachkowski

Recognition for

*Honoring the light in her own backyard,
and spreading that light through the world*

There was the dinner and fun-filled night of community by instructors and students for homeless families currently living in transitional housing.

There was a Thanksgiving Day benefit class raising \$1,500, which was divided among various health-related charities.

There was a Valentine's Day "Give from the Heart" yoga class for 5th graders, resulting in 100 yoga mats and personal letters from students encouraging physical and mental health donated to orphans in Haiti.

There was an evening of yoga, goodwill, and support for Filipino communities affected by Typhoon Hiyian, which raised \$750 for the Philippines Disaster Relief Fund to help provide a high school scholarship for 10 children, a feeding program for 15, and school supplies for a year for 20 children.

There was a yoga class at Cranford High School to support its senior class's mission to raise awareness about refugee camps, with 100 percent of the proceeds being donated to the Kingher Khurd Girls' School in Pakistan through Dreamers Without Borders.

And there was a Global Seva Challenge, with a focus on the issue of sex trafficking. A total of 216 fundraisers collectively raised over \$1 million and generated awareness about this issue worldwide.

Since 2010, Gina Pachkowski has been the owner and an instructor at Alluem Yoga in Cranford. We salute her this evening for her magnanimous and extensive outreach to make a difference in her community – which encompasses both her backyard and the world.

In the past five years, she has raised nearly \$60,000 worth of donations - - \$12,000 locally in Union County and \$45,000 globally.

Gina has said that her strength and motivation are not solely because of who she is, but because of who she wants the rest of us to be. Only by giving do we gain what truly matters, she says, and "the light in me honors the light in you."

Tonight we honor Gina for the light she shines on our world.

Unity Award for Achievement by a Community Organization

The Unique Divazz

Award accepted by

Barbara DuBose and Khalilah Chapman

Recognition for

*A creative and fun approach to serve the community,
especially those in need*

It came to her one evening in October 2013. Barbara DuBose came up with the name The Unique Divazz (pronounced "divas.") She called Khalilah Chapman and other members of her family, and the group was born. They invited another friend and her family to join them, and then, by word of mouth, other friends (many of whom also have in common a love of motorcycles) joined in.

Today, The Unique Divazz is a group of approximately 25 women of African-American descent who volunteer their time and resources to provide a variety of services for those in need. Though they primarily serve the Plainfield community, they have also extended their outreach to provide food and clothing for the homeless in other communities, including Elizabeth and Newark.

The group meets monthly to determine what initiative they will work on next. If a holiday is coming, something is sure to be happening.

For example, the Divazz host an annual Fourth of July barbeque for the 150 residents of the Park Hotel, many of whom are mentally or physically challenged, or have been left behind by their families. Residents have a chance to have a day outside in the sunshine to eat, dance, laugh, and enjoy a change of pace and a change of scenery.

The organization's goal is to do anything it can to help disadvantaged families and children, the homeless, and others in need.

Members distribute Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, "back-to-school" backpacks filled with school supplies, and Christmas toys. They host an annual Easter egg hunt at Cedar Brook Park and a Trunk-Or-Treat Halloween event. They also provide food and warm clothing for the homeless, with members purchasing and donating whatever is required.

The Unique Divazz also raises money for the Lupus Foundation, sponsors the local annual YMCA Motorcycle Ride to raise money for at-risk youth, and offers prom funds and graduation scholarships at Plainfield High School.

Unity Award for Special Achievement

Charles Newman

Recognition for

*Inspirational personal and professional perseverance
to find, create and distribute keys to unlock doors for so many*

There was a young man, 16 years old, with the whole world open to him. And then a spinal cord injury during a football game changed things forever. For starters, it changed his perspective, creating a heightened awareness of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities.

In the realm of education, Charlie persevered as a part-time student to earn his B.S. degree in Business Administration from Seton Hall University. In the realm of employment, he accepted his first job, working for the state to provide services to support the vocational goals of clients with disabilities.

In 1988, he was hired by the County of Union as Director of the Office for the Disabled, a position he held for 27 years until his recent retirement. The Office was originally called the Office on the Handicapped, but its title was changed in the 1990s to reflect more sensitive language.

In that position, Charlie worked with his staff to develop a database of available resources for people with disabilities, including information on financial assistance, vocational assistance, housing, transportation, legal services, and more.

Charlie worked with state and national disability advocates to push for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a landmark civil rights law ensuring equal access and opportunity for people with disabilities, and attended the White House signing ceremony when President George H.W. Bush signed it into law on July 26, 1990. He also helped coordinate a statewide conference on parking for people with disabilities, which eventually led the state to change handicapped parking placards to prevent abuse by non-disabled drivers.

He is perhaps proudest of his accomplishments as President of New Jersey Connect, Inc. for over 20 years. The demand for barrier-free, safe, and affordable housing for the physically disabled that supports independent living is high, but extremely limited. During his tenure, the organization has, with partners, developed these units in Springfield and Linden. They recently broke ground in Plainfield with the local Habitat for Humanity chapter to construct an affordable home for purchase that will allow a seriously disabled 2-year-old who has been hospitalized since birth to be reunited with his family in a home that can accommodate his medical needs.

The changes have not happened quickly, but, thanks to Charlie's visionary leadership, advocacy, and perseverance, the world continues to improve for many of our citizens with disabilities.

Unity Award for Special Achievement

Captain Ralph Gregson (ret.) Cranford Auxiliary Police Department

Recognition for

*His role as an exemplary volunteer to his community
in both good times and in times of crisis and great need*

Captain Ralph Gregson has been a volunteer with the Cranford Auxiliary Police Department (CAPD) for 22 years, and for the last 16 years he has served as its administrative leader before his retirement in January.

He is a true and indispensable 24/7/365 volunteer who leads by example. Over the past 22 years, Captain Gregson has donated over 6,000 hours to the community of Cranford and its citizens. He has routinely and frequently placed the town's needs ahead of his own, and his presence is a common and reassuring sight to the citizens of Cranford.

The police officer standing in the rain directing traffic, assisting motorists around road closures, walking downtown on a Thursday night, and assisting the community during parades and other community events — that's who Captain Gregson is.

During the course of his volunteer career, Captain Gregson led the Auxiliary police through state accreditation and partnered with officers statewide to dramatically increase the quality of training. Under his leadership, the department has become the go-to auxiliary unit for assistance with Union County-sponsored public events. During his 22-year career there have been too many motorized patrols, crowd control events, storm callouts, and walking patrol posts to count.

When Hurricanes Irene and Sandy hit, Captain Gregson went into high gear. He staffed the town's emergency shelter, spent countless hours augmenting the regular department in storm damage response, and for Hurricane Irene, helped lead the distribution of Red Cross emergency kits across flood-damaged neighborhoods.

With both dedication and a keen eye, he was also instrumental in the apprehension and arrest of some "bad guys" who had fled the scene of an accident on the Garden State Parkway and were found to be in possession of a large quantity of narcotics. One of those arrested was also a murder suspect.

We honor this selfless and compassionate gentleman — a loving husband, father, and grandfather who never ignored his ringing phone — for his years of committed volunteer service and outstanding accomplishment, and for giving his all to the community. He is someone who epitomizes everything a police volunteer should be.

Unity Award for Achievement by a Nonprofit Organization

The Paul Jackson Fund, Inc.

Award accepted by

Mary Jackson

Recognition for

*Finding a balance in crisis, and providing hope where there was none
Honoring Founder Paul Jackson (1961-2009)*

In 1989, when 28-year-old Paul Jackson, a lifelong athlete, underwent surgery to remove a tumor from his spinal cord, his body was left paralyzed. When insurance could not cover the mounting medical bills for his rehabilitation program, family and friends — many of them parents of the local Westfield Little Leaguers he had coached — rallied to raise money, and the Paul Jackson Fund was born. In 1995, Paul's health stabilized, and although he remained paralyzed and in a wheelchair, he no longer depended on finances from the Fund.

Motivated by the compassion and generosity shown to him, Paul decided to do everything in his power to help others. His personal tragedy became his inspired calling — and he and the Foundation became an angel on earth for so many others facing the same type of crisis. He took full control of the Fund and set out to raise money to create a safety net for people whose needs had become so dire they had nowhere else to turn. By 2000, he had raised \$1.5 million and helped more than 100 families in the tri-state area pay for health-related, family, and/or household needs arising from disabilities or long-term illness. When things began to spiral out of control, Paul found them — or they found Paul. The Fund has helped countless children, adults, and families pay for medical expenses, household bills and living expenses, medical devices, bed lifts, a mattress overlay to prevent bedsores, a van, vehicle repairs, laptop computers, educational classes designed for people with disabilities, and more.

After nearly 20 years of dedicating his life to the Fund, Paul's cancer returned. He passed away in 2009 at the age of 48. His dream and only wish was for the work of the Fund to continue. Paul's family and friends are fulfilling that wish, helping those who have run out of options. Today, this tax-exempt charity continues to serve as a resource of last resort for individuals and families facing a financial crisis due to a debilitating long-term illness or disability.

The Fund was born from heart. Today, perhaps, it also reflects Paul's soul.

We honor Paul and his family and friends for their amazing heart and soul as they light a candle in the darkness and provide relief and hope for others.

Unity Award for Achievement by an Individual

Union County Spectrum All Stars

Award accepted by

Lori Gonzalez and Joann Fruciano

Recognition for

Paving the way to provide relaxation, resources, respite and acceptance for those with autism and their families

Lori Gonzalez and Joann Fruciano were frustrated moms dealing with children with autism.

In May 2013, they founded Union County Spectrum All Stars, a parent-run organization that provides a parent support group and a source of information about recreational programs and other events for individuals of any age on the autism spectrum. All programs are open to everyone, regardless of age or ability, and referrals from other counties have not been turned away.

“We are starting out small, but when we all work together for the greater good, amazing things can happen!” Lori said. The organization’s ultimate goal is to move beyond “increasing awareness” to promote “finding acceptance.”

The idea behind the Union County Spectrum All-Stars is to create a place where autistic children can get together to be themselves, where parents can relax and enjoy spending time with others without feeling judged, and where hopefully, lifelong friendships among youth and adults alike can develop.

With the help of friends, therapists, local businesses, and other parents, the organization’s plan is to develop a host of fun and safe activities.

Recreational programs include a weekly bowling program, replete with bumpers on the lanes and bowlers grouped according to age; a weekly evening gymnastics program, which includes trampoline therapy, balance beams, tumbling, and other activities, all under the direction of instructors who are experienced in working with individuals with special needs; and monthly recreation nights featuring activities such as movie nights, dances, arts and crafts, and holiday parties. To help raise funds to cover some of the program and event costs, the group hosts an annual Autism Awareness Fair and sells logoed T-shirts and bracelets that speak to their mission.

Unity Award for Special Achievement

Jim McKeon

Broken Hearts Memorial

Recognition for

Creating and displaying hearts to help soothe broken and sorrowful hearts

One of Union County’s own local artists, Jim McKeon of the Rahway Art Hive Studio and Co-Op Gallery, is being honored this evening for his inspirational creation: The Broken Hearts Memorial. The Memorial pays tribute to our fallen heroes from Iraq and Afghanistan and is dedicated to their families, who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This interactive installation, which was dedicated in 2009, rises out of a patch of cement at Veterans Park in Rahway. Before finding a permanent home this year in the park at St. George’s and West Grand Avenues, the exhibit travelled to an arts festival in Michigan.

The vision for The Broken Hearts Memorial came to Jim one day during a conversation about iconic tattoo symbols with a friend who had a son serving in Iraq. What started out as a small idea to paint a cracked heart on a canvas grew into this 36-foot, free-standing wall.

The Memorial is comprised of 19 painted panels of silhouettes of service members. Each one is covered with a series of bright red broken-heart images in various stages of completion. The hearts - each with a banner reading MOM – are styled after classic tattoo imagery and represent the families of the approximately 4,500 American soldiers killed in Iraq to date. The hearts are stenciled on, but many are left as outlines, giving the public a chance to fill them in and participate in the interactive memorial.

The artist has said that, rather than just being a monument to the soldiers only, it is also a monument to the families and their loss. As an artist, he is also gratified that The Memorial allows so many different hands be a part of it.

A 1987 graduate of The School of Visual Arts, Jim has since traveled to over 20 countries. He spent a year painting in London, and while living for two years in Ecuador, he ran The South American Explorers Club.

Jim’s artwork reflects a wide range of influences, from his fascination with world religions to the concepts of spirituality and social realism. His life-size portraits present the viewer with a deep view into the eyes and the complexity of the person being painted.

In 2007, Jim founded the Rahway Art Hive Studio and Co-Op Gallery. The Art Hive is a working studio for five resident artists who encourage the public to come in to talk with them and see their finished work and their works in progress.

**Unity Award for Achievement
by a Faith-Based Organization**

**Community Access Unlimited's
Union County Interfaith
Coordinating Committee Council**

**Award accepted by
Sid Blanchard, Executive Director**

Recognition for
*Harnessing the collective power to create
a sum of all the parts that is greater than the whole*

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), this year celebrating its 35th anniversary, is a Union County-based nonprofit organization that supports people with special needs in achieving their goals in the community. CAU provides support and gives a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have had little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with disabilities and youth served under the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, assisting with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization, and civic activities.

Because one of the most important components of the Union County community can be found in its interfaith congregations, the CAU recently launched the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Committee Council, which comprises 26 interfaith congregations and seven community organizations. The Council's goal is to build a more extensive and cohesive community while providing for their members greater access to the services made available by Union County government and nonprofit agencies. Rev. Erika D. Crawford and Rev. William H. Ingram currently serve as co-chairs of the Council.

One of the key endeavors of the Council is to help religious leaders — who are busy and sometimes overwhelmed by the needs of their congregations — find out about and build a wider network of resources available to them. Meetings are held to introduce these members to support providers in order to increase access of available support to the congregations. Recent presentations included recognizing and addressing bullying; providing a legal perspective about preventing homelessness, addressing family matters, consumer issues, and the needs of seniors; and addressing financial, housing, medical, and nutritional assistance, along with job training.

Unity Award for Achievement in Law Enforcement

**Sergeant Russell Gottlick
Plainfield Police Division**

Recognition for

*His professional and personal dedication to protect, serve,
and to do whatever good he can do for everyone he encounters*

"If there is any good I can do, let me do it now."

It's a personal mantra for Plainfield Police Division Sergeant Russell Gottlick, who has protected and served the public as a sworn law enforcement officer for the past 25 years. During that time he has become known for being an officer and a gentleman, and someone who will go out of his way to help anyone with anything.

Sgt. Gottlick has been a police officer with the Plainfield Police Division since 1993, and he was promoted to Sergeant in 2013. He initially joined the "family of blue" in 1990, joining the Scotch Plains Police Department as a Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Class 1.

One of only two officers in the state certified in all of the New Jersey Police Training Commission's six specialized training areas, Sgt. Gottlick is the "go-to" instructor for the Plainfield Police Division, other major City departments, the John H. Stamler Police Academy, and other academies that regularly call on him to assist with needed training in his various specialties — sometimes as a last-minute substitute instructor.

But Sgt. Gottlick is being honored tonight as an officer and as a citizen. Sgt. Gottlick always demonstrates the highest moral, ethical, and professional standards in his professional and personal life. He is dedicated to protecting and serving, and always with an eye toward making his community a better place to live and work, offering assistance, support, or comfort to neighbors and strangers alike, day and night. His dedication and selflessness to citizens and community — as a leader and as a volunteer — are exemplary, and he has positively touched thousands of lives. The range of his volunteerism is matched only by his generosity and kindness.

Sgt. Gottlick has volunteered his talent and spare time as Lead Instructor for two programs at the John H. Stamler Police Academy: Since 1989, for the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management's auxiliary recruits, and for the past 10 years, for the SLEO Class 1 recruits as well. These programs run from early February to mid-May, meeting all day Saturday and every Tuesday and Thursday evening. His leadership ensures the fulfillment of high-quality educational standards with regard to the training staff, instructors, and curriculum -- and he teaches many of the subject areas himself.

Sgt. Gottlick will always find a way to fit large or small accommodations into his busy schedule. A dedicated family man, he has also stood by his family through tough times and crisis, arduous ongoing medical needs, and tough life choices. Their accomplishments, too, are a reflection of his loving kindness, patience, and unending support.

Unity Award for Achievement in Public Service

Nancy Bates

Recognition for

Navigating, inspiring and setting the standard for greeting courtroom visitors

Nancy Bates has dedicated her life to public service. Following her retirement after 30 years working for the U.S. Probation Office's District of Newark, she became a volunteer. For the past 20 years, every Friday, no matter the weather, Nancy has been a greeter at the Union County Courthouse, welcoming a culturally diverse public as they anxiously rush through the doors.

In this role, Ms. Bates has greeted and directed thousands of people to their proper location in order to ensure that they make their court appearances on time, obtain the proper court forms, and file the necessary documents, all while providing answers to all of their questions and concerns.

The Union County Courthouse is a complicated maze of five buildings full of offices and courtrooms. Those present are often tense, loud, and at times, abrasive. For many, English is not their first language, and no matter what language they speak, visiting the Courthouse can be a very stressful experience. Members of the public are often confused and uncertain regarding the outcome of their next day in court, and the complexity of maneuvering through the Courthouse only adds to their apprehension.

However, Nancy's friendly face is the first thing members of the public see when arriving. Her calm personality puts the public at ease, and her smile is a universal language. People have the constitutional right to have their day in court, and Nancy is always mindful of the public's challenges when visiting the Courthouse. Her warm presence and willingness to go the extra mile helps promote public trust and confidence in government.

Nancy's dedication as a courthouse greeter was the catalyst for the Union County Courts to implement a Court Concierge Program. Looking to her as a role model, the concept was expanded and now includes over 60 courthouse employees who volunteer monthly in three locations.

Nancy's incredible desire to help others and improve quality of life by ensuring that the public is directed in a timely manner to the appropriate courtroom is a testament to her commitment to help guide our diverse community. She always greets visitors with an enduring smile and is always willing to take the time to embrace their needs and uplift a human spirit with a display of kindness.

Unity Award for Achievement by the Clergy

Reverend Elizabeth Alexander

Recognition for

Her outreach to those who are trying to find their way back to society and her dedicated advocacy for social justice and peacekeeping

Reverend Elizabeth Alexander — a graduate of Cranford High School — is currently the interim Associate Pastor for the church of her childhood: the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford. Reverend Alexander was originally a preschool teacher (with an M.A. in special education). She entered the Union Theological Seminary in 1992, and retired as a minister in 2010. Describing Reverend Alexander is much like trying to describe motherhood — where do you start, and how do you include everything?

Inspirational, energetic, and visionary, her personal and professional lives have always been dedicated to people, helping them move past their differences and misunderstandings to get along with each other and work together to accomplish their goals. She has devoted herself to helping others get moving and take that next step, wherever it leads, and to help them believe in themselves and each other so they can soar on every level. Wherever Reverend Alexander is, everyone's spirits are uplifted until they soar along with hers.

Her career and ministry have evolved into something truly special. She has continued to participate in community building through advocacy for social justice, interfaith activities, and outreach to those in need. With an eye always on the bigger picture and society at large, she always goes above and beyond. She is an uplifting mentor who has run youth and adult retreats, and she also fills in as a Sunday School teacher when needed. A walking hospice resource, she additionally provides the terminally ill and their families with comfort and solace.

One of the initiatives that is a driving force in her life involves helping individuals find their way back into society — especially women and children, and those released after incarceration. From 2001 until 2010, she was the founder and sole pastor of the Church of the Gethsemane in Brooklyn, which featured an urban congregation of men and women who have been in prison, and she provided continuous re-entry support for those returning home.

Since 2011, Reverend Alexander also has been on the staff of The National Peace Academy. The Academy believes that we all have a deep duty to help change the world so that stories of violence no longer lead the nightly news. The Academy seeks to make a degree program in peacebuilding an accessible and affordable vocation — just like careers in science, business, or technology — building upon the foundations of knowledge and skills pursued through lifelong learning.

Reverend Alexander's personality, demeanor, and approach to everything she does exemplify the height and depths of the human spirit and all it is able to accomplish.

Unity Award for Achievement by an Educator

Dr. Theodore Schlosberg, Executive Director The New Jersey Workshop For The Arts

Recognition for

enriching our cultural lives, and for providing the opportunity for individuals with special needs to learn to soar through music

To fulfill a personal goal to enrich the cultural fabric of our community by providing quality musical experiences through education, performance, and entertainment, Dr. Theodore Schlosberg founded The New Jersey Workshop For The Arts (NJWA) in Westfield in 1972 and continues to serve as its Executive Director. For the past 43 years, this dynamic nonprofit arts organization has brought joy and the gift of music to thousands of people in the Union County community. It is a place “where talent develops and creativity thrives.”

The Workshop offers everyone from pre-school children to seniors an affordable opportunity to explore the arts in a meaningful way. Its nine diverse ensembles demonstrate its commitment to its goal of creating a vibrant intergenerational arts community. These ensembles have performed for, educated, and/or raised funds for many worthy local and national charitable efforts, including for children with disabilities, the elderly, the homeless, and our wounded veterans.

In 2008, Dr. Schlosberg received a very generous grant that enabled him to establish The Music Connection program, which initially enabled him to offer tuition-free music lessons to children with special needs due to neurological, developmental, or physical disabilities. This unique program gave those children their first chance to learn music: an activity to enrich their lives for a lifetime. The program was based on the cooperative efforts of teachers, parents, and students. The partnership created a lively, supportive network for these families and the enhancement of educational, cultural, and social opportunities for the students.

Students of this special-needs program have gone on to become prominent members of local school orchestras. One student created his own professional jazz band that plays all over the greater New York City area. His hard work and determination are proof of what children with learning disabilities can achieve, representing a testament to the joy that the gift of music can deliver.

We honor Dr. Schlosberg’s gift of music, but particularly the uplifting spirit and opportunities he has provided to those with learning disabilities.

Unity Award for Achievement by the Military/Veteran

Colonel Edward Chrystal / Army National Guard

Recognition for

*His service to our community, state and country;
and for making a difference in our world*

Colonel Edward Chrystal began his military career in 1985, when he enlisted in the Army National Guard and attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Dix. An ROTC scholarship student and Distinguished Military Graduate, he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant from Seton Hall University’s ROTC in 1988. He currently serves in the New Jersey Army National Guard as the Commander of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which is comprised of over 3,600 full- and part-time soldiers assigned to six battalions. Many recently returned from deployments overseas in support of combat operations in the Middle East.

Colonel Chrystal is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served in the International Zone in Baghdad, Iraq from 2008-2009. His military awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, and Paratrooper Badge.

Throughout his 30-year military career, Colonel Chrystal has commanded at all levels. His assignments included commanding and instructing the Army National Guard Officer Candidate Training Program in Sea Girt, New Jersey, and the management of specific National Guard response efforts for Hurricanes Floyd, Katrina, Irene, and Sandy.

Colonel Chrystal also had a successful civilian career with the New Jersey State Police, as a graduate from Class 112 in 1989 until his retirement in 2014 at the rank of Lieutenant. His diverse assignments included years of patrol throughout northern New Jersey. He also served with the elite Technical Emergency and Mission Specialist (T.E.A.M.S.) Unit, responsible for SWAT, SCUBA, and rappel operations, and was part of the New Jersey State Police response to Ground Zero on 9/11. He was assigned to Union County while serving as a Regional Emergency Management Coordinator and, upon retirement, supervised the State Police Critical Infrastructure Security Unit.

He is a certified instructor through the United States Army and the New Jersey State Police and has served as an Adjunct Professor for Seton Hall University’s Graduate Studies program. He holds both a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Master of Arts in Education Administration from Seton Hall University and also a Master of Science Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Colonel Chrystal lives in Scotch Plains with his wife, Georgette, and their three children. We salute and thank him for his lifelong service to our community and country in all regards.

Unity Award for Achievement by the Media

**Lorrie Sanchez and Carol Blank
Utterly Global LLC**

Recognition for

A vigorous, creative and pro-active "Bully Buster" stance and, of course, Virgil

Carol Blank and Lorrie Sanchez take bullying very seriously. In 2001, when they learned a boy was being bullied daily during lunch each day at school, they felt they had to take action.

Carol, a former school social worker, guidance counselor, and teacher, had a son in elementary school and had done research on bullying. She was all too aware of the damaging effects this behavior could have. Lorrie, also a mother of school-aged children, had long been involved in the lives of children around her as a den leader, PTA volunteer, Girl Scout leader, CCD teacher, and class mother.

Carol and Lorrie spoke to the principal to see what could be done. They decided to form a lunchtime club they called the "Bully Busters." The club eagerly took on the task of ending bullying in the school and creating a climate in which everyone was treated with respect and dignity. The students defined bullying, discussed its consequences, identified the key players in bullying situations, and came up with ways to eliminate bullying in their school. The superintendent was so impressed that he had the students give a presentation to the local school board.

Their program became a model for the district. What started as a fun lunchtime activity led to a district-wide initiative. Other towns then invited them in. This sparked the creation of a company dedicated to eliminating bullying and developing comprehensive, research-based bullying prevention and professional development products and services: Utterly Global LLC.

"We had no intention of starting a company, but it became so popular, and just took on a life of its own," Lorrie said. And what started with two women's desire to make a difference has turned into a company with a passion.

With their new children's book — Virgil, The Bully From Cyberspace — and accompanying teacher's manual, these Cranford activists hope to prevent bullying before it starts. The titular bully is well-behaved in front of his teacher, but torments his animal classmates on the playground. The book encourages students to emulate the behavior of a teacher and an older student who show the class how to treat others properly and stand up to bullying. Virgil, who ultimately aims to get everyone involved in the fight against bullying and to bring teachers, parents, and students together, also makes an appearance at schools in an assembly format.

"We have taught young children not to litter," Lorrie said, "so we also can teach them to treat each other more respectfully."

Unity Award for Achievement by a Student

**Griffin Spielman
Governor Livingston High School, Berkeley Heights**

Recognition for

Already, at age 18, a lifetime of brightening the lives of those around him

Devoted. Inspired. Inspirational. Hardworking. Unstoppable. High School senior Griffin Spielman is all of these — as a son, student, athlete, neighbor, volunteer, role model, and leader.

Let's go back a few years. Griffin, then a wrestler in 7th grade, was competing in a match against a Plainfield school. After he won his match, he saw his opponent take off his headgear and hand it to the next wrestler. He later asked his mother Marla if she saw what he did, and said "I didn't win fairly. I'm going to fix this."

Thus Griffin dreamed up SCORE — Second Chance for Our Recreational Equipment. The first adult he told said it was a dumb idea that wouldn't work. His mother told him "You know better than that. Ask another person." The second person said it was a great idea — ask people to donate their used sports equipment instead of throwing it away. They started with one empty box in his elementary school and a sign saying "please donate your used sports equipment here." And donate they did. When Griffin presented the used sports equipment he collected to Plainfield students, they named him Volunteer of the Year. The East Orange basketball team that had just one basketball gave him a standing ovation when he delivered more basketballs, footballs, baseballs, cleats, and helmets to them.

The school librarian also loved the idea and put it on the school website, and the program has rapidly grown. He currently has almost 400 pieces of donated sports equipment to deliver. He also has written instructions on how to start the program in other schools and is building a website to encourage students nationwide to get involved.

Griffin, the youngest of six siblings, is devoted and passionate about serving his community. He has a strong belief that he can truly make a difference and help others, even if it is one by one. SCORE is only one of his many volunteer efforts. He helps an elderly neighbor with daily activities, volunteers his time weekly to tutor a learning-disabled boy, and supports a number of different community service projects. At the Santa Claus Shop sponsored by Summit Helping Its People, he runs the entire book section and makes sure that all of the 400 children select the title they want. Over the years, Griffin has collected thousands of dollars and has spent hundreds of hours volunteering and fundraising.

Tonight, we salute him, and his vision, energy, kindness, and spirit.
