

News Release



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National Philanthropy Day Honors Local Philanthropists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The good works and charitable contributions of eight individuals, a major law firm, a grass roots organization and a not-for-profit that serves homeless women and children are this year's National Philanthropy Day honorees. The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Mid-America Chapter will present the awards at The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial at 6 pm on November 18.

Announcing the 2015 honorees:

AVANT GARDE AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN FUNDRAISING: This award honors an individual or group that has demonstrated creativity and innovation in fundraising.

Honoree: **The "Go-Long" volunteer team, Joe Webster, Willie Humphrey, and Sanders Martin**, was formed in 2002 when a group of football-loving, military retirees decided it was time to give back to their community in an organized way. As **"Go-Long"**, they agreed they would seek to enrich the lives of young men and women who aspired to attend college. Since 2002, through landscape work for donation only, Go-Long has awarded \$100,000 in scholarship support that has assisted the college going aspirations of 47 students attending 19 different colleges or universities.

PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR: This award honors an individual or family with a proven record of exceptional generosity.

Honorees: **Annabel and James B. Nutter** who have quietly donated millions of dollars and provided volunteer leadership and support to a host of non-profit organizations – everything from the a neighborhood community center to the Kansas City Zoo. Mr. and Mrs. Nutter lead by example, rolling up their sleeves and committing the time to create change in our community. They have given countless hours to make Kansas City a better place to work, play and live for all its residents.

BUSINESS PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR: This award honors a corporation that demonstrates outstanding commitment and leadership roles in philanthropy and community involvement

Honoree: **Polsinelli**, headquartered in Kansas City, has contributed more than \$3.7MM in nationwide philanthropic gifts and sponsorships from 2010-2015 (year to date), approximately 50% of which has stayed in the Kansas City area. In addition, firm attorneys have dedicated over \$30.7MM in pro bono legal work (95,600 hours) for those without access, including \$13MM (45,700 hours) in Kansas City.

YOUNG FUNDRAISER or PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR: This award recognizes service by an individual or group of young people ages 5 to 23 who demonstrate outstanding commitment to the

community through financial support, development of charitable programs, volunteering, and leadership in philanthropy.

Honorees: **Lauren Stevens and Piper Hickey** (age category 18-23) were the 2014-2015 community service chairs for Lee's Summit North High School's National Honor Society. They worked countless hours creating, planning, and implementing monthly events that would benefit the clients served by Hope House, a domestic violence shelter. These fun, engaging, and rewarding activities for those receiving shelter services reached hundreds of women and children throughout the school year

Honorees: **Ella and Jack Perry (age 5-17)** started a drive at their elementary school, Academie Lafayette, to collect school supplies and medicines for Oberlin High School in rural Jamaica. Through their efforts students in Jamaica were provide with critically needed school supplies and they filled the once bare shelves of the clinic with over-the-counter medicines and supplies. More than 100 students or their parents, faculty and the school nurses were involved in gathering donations and supplies

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER: This award honors an individual or family that demonstrates exceptional leadership in coordinating and motivating groups of donors and volunteers for fundraising projects for the benefit of multiple charitable institutions.

Honorees: **Jean Deramus Wagner and Jill Deramus Dean** share a passion for children and animals, selflessly giving their time to serve as directors, event chairs, and committee members of numerous community organizations. They uniquely work effectively as twins, a team of two, in-step and in-sync in building support for area nonprofits including Starlight Theater, Wayside Waifs, The Pembroke School, The Jewell Ball, and the Kansas City Zoo.

EXCELLENCE IN FUNDRAISING: This award honors a fundraising professional or a fundraising team that has demonstrated achievement either through a successful campaign, initiative or career.

Honoree: **Sheffield Place**, a not-for-profit that transforms the lives of Kansas City's most vulnerable residents – homeless mothers and their children – as they make the difficult journey from despair to hope and from homelessness to healing and self-sufficiency. But in 2011 Sheffield Place was on the verge of collapse. Through the process of restructuring and effective fundraising, Sheffield Place moved from near insolvency to financial strength in 2015 with cash reserves. Most important, the turnaround empowered the agency to serve a larger part of the growing need for services for homeless mothers and their children.

For more than 20 years, the AFP Mid-America Chapter has honored those involved in the work of philanthropy: fundraising professionals, fundraising volunteers and philanthropists through the National Philanthropy Day celebration. Its purpose is to recognize and pay tribute to the great contributions that philanthropy—and those people active in the philanthropic community—have made to our lives, our communities, and our world

AFP is an association of 30,000 fundraising professionals' worldwide advancing philanthropy by enabling people and organizations to practice ethical and effective fundraising. The AFP Mid-America Chapter in Kansas City is one of 200 chapters.

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More information is also available at www.midamerica.afpnet.org or www.afpnet.org.