



Community Service Award

2014 Individual Nominees

Mental Health First Aid for Youth & Adults

Rebecca West, Janet Maki, Mark Phillips, James Geisen, Matt Wojak, Terri Henrizi, Stacey Smith, Julie Barron, Paul Duff, and Abby Perry have all been trained in Mental Health First Aid for Youth and Adults. They have taught over 40 classes in 2014 alone, and they will teach 7 more by Dec. 31st. They have trained over a 1,000 people in Eaton, Ingham and Clinton Counties, which includes health care workers, teachers, nurses, social workers, public safety, military, community members and social work students at MSU.

This group, of which nine are employees of the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham Counties (CMHA-CEI) and one, Terri, is from the Association of Children's Mental Health, is working to give people the tools to help others who may be having a mental health crisis. This has helped with reducing stigma in the community. It has informed people who might not have the knowledge of how to help someone who is experiencing a crisis. Professional help is not always on hand, so they help people to be a bridge to getting the help they need. People with mental health problems often do not seek help, so these individuals help to equip ordinary people to assist them.

Rebecca, Janet, Mark, James, Matt, Terri, Stacey, Julie, Paul, and Abby have taken time out of their work schedule to help those in our community become better equipped to help those in a mental health crisis or in need of assistance. For these individuals, aiding those who wish to help others is a priority beyond their regular work day. The work that they are doing is deeply needed in our community.

Pam Miklavcic, PhD

Over the past five years, first as director of the Children's Health Initiative at MSU, then as founder of The Davies Project for Mid-Michigan Children, Dr. Pam Miklavcic has personally financed and invested hours of time into improving access to subspecialty care for children in the Lansing area. The Davies Project provides community-based, non-medical support to local families with seriously infirmed children. Its first goal is to help families by providing rides to subspecialty appointments—the main focus for the first few years. Over time, it will provide other help, like long-term tutoring, access to a support hotline, and participation in adopt-a-family programs.

The Davies Project grew out of Dr. Miklavcic's work with the Children's Health Initiative. As Director, she brought the community's attention to the need for MSU and Sparrow Hospital to work together to co-locate the subspecialty clinics, so families could take their children to one easy-to-reach location for their treatments, tests, and appointments. By focusing on transportation as the project's first goal, Davies Project volunteers supply rides while building relationships with families. Both interventions will encourage appointment compliance while helping families break through the significant isolation they experience when caring for a chronically ill child. Dr. Miklavcic has made, and continues to work for, substantive, significant improvements in the quality of pediatric health care in our community.