

VOLUNTEERS

City, chamber
honors those who
give selflessly

Vision Noblesville Manager Cindy Benedict created the Noblesville Volunteer Awards in partnership with the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce to increase volunteerism in the city and honor those unsung heroes. This is the second year the awards have been presented; they are selected by a committee from nominations made by the public.

"It was a competitive field, which is a testimony to our great community," Mayor John Ditslear said. "I greatly enjoy these awards and the opportunity we have once a year to celebrate our caring, giving volunteers. Truly, volunteers are the heart of community and (they are) what make Noblesville such a great place to live."

All-around volunteer: Bill Taylor

Taylor was nominated by executive director Becky Terry on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, where he has been the go-to man for a wide variety of jobs during the past 13 years. He and his staff at Taylored Systems make sure that Camp Crosser is always ready to welcome children and their IT experience has been invaluable.

"From the board room wearing a shirt and tie to picking up a new mower in his jeans and work boots, Bill gives so much of himself. Bill does it all," Terry wrote in her nomination.

Taylor first became involved in 1991 when Taylored Systems assisted with the club's phone system. Up until that time, Taylor said he only knew the club by the basketball program.

"Getting inside the club and seeing all of the programs that were designed to help the youth of our city for at the time a \$15 annual membership really impressed me," he said. "It is just amazing what the Noblesville Boys & Girls Club is able to do with donated dollars, a dedicated staff and many volunteers to help the quality of life of the youth here in Noblesville. That is why I am so dedicated to the club."

Corporate Volunteerism: BlueSky Technology Partners

Eric Warne, president and COO of BlueSky, an eCommerce consultancy firm, has been recognized for his company's achievements in the business world. After starting the BlueSky Care Program, employees focused their talents on giving back to those in need in the community. Employees frequently recommend their causes and charities and over the years have grown passionate about serving Brooke's Place, Janus Developmental Services, the Live Like Andi Foundation, American Diabetes Foundation and the Lake Country Clean Water Initiative.

"They help all these organizations with fundraising, volunteer assistance and professional advice," Benedict said. "Their employees roll up their sleeves for the Indiana Blood Center and adopt a local family every year through United Christmas Services."



Dr. Earl Brooks Outstanding Environmentalist: Cindy Haas

Haas is a founding member of Keep Noblesville Beautiful and has served on the board of directors since its inception. She has created many of KNB's signature events and has done much to beautify the city through annual daffodil plantings, Adopt-A-Highway clean-ups, Neighborhood Cleanup Blitzes and the annual Arbor Day Tree Giveaway. This doesn't count the work she does through the Hamilton County Master Gardener's Association or the Grace Gardeners group at Our Lady of Grace.

"Cindy's hand has probably been in every corner of dirt in Noblesville and her hard work shows every spring. Her passion to make our city colorful, clean and vibrant has made a huge difference in Noblesville," Benedict said.