



**48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD  
MICHIGAN WEEK  
COMMUNITY AWARDS CELEBRATION**



**MILESTONES  
&  
NEW VISIONS**

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 24, 2020  
7:00 P.M. VIRTUAL EVENT  
PRESENTED BY CCTV AND MOTOWN DIGITAL**

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD  
CITY OF KEEGO HARBOR • CITY OF ORCHARD LAKE VILLAGE  
CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE  
WALLED LAKE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# MICHIGAN WEEK Awards Program

Welcome

Brooke Allen

Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Michael Patton

Event Presenters

Pamela Zajac

Carol Hack

Deborah Macon

Jeff Leib

Larry Leib

Award Presenters

Gary Peters, U.S. Senate

Brenda Lawrence, U.S. Congress

Haley Stevens, U.S. Congress

Jim Runestad, State Senator

Rosemary Bayer, State Senator

Brenda Carter, State Representative

Ryan Berman, State Representative

Mari Manoogian, State Representative

Lisa Brown, Oakland County Clerk

Marcia Gershenson, Oakland County Commissioner

Kristen Nelson, Oakland County Commissioner

Christine A. Long, Oakland County Commissioner

Closing Remarks

Deborah Macon, Chair, Michigan Week Awards Committee



# 2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## HIDDEN TREASURE HONOR ROLL

### **Anthony Alyas**

Anthony attends Pleasant Lake Elementary in the Walled Lake School District. Anthony has several leadership roles at school, including assisting in the main office.

### **Mary Jo Balcer**

Mary Jo is a phenomenal volunteer at the Main Branch of the West Bloomfield Township Public Library. She helps the Library conduct visits to senior facilities.

### **Rick & Cherri Barrett**

Rick and Cherri Barrett are having a combined 28 years of service to the Jacket Club. Keego Harbor's The Jacket Club is the longest still-active community charity for 54 years.

### **Patricia Carter**

"Miss Pat" is a special WBSD bus driver with her flawless safety record, which however, is far overshadowed by her more valued and cherished role as The Willow Farms Subdivision Angel.

### **Chad Ever**

Chad extensively uses his expertise with business and development to help those in the community. He is the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Chamber Member of the Year.

### **Courtney Fulcher**

Courtney works hard to make Walnut Creek a wonderful place. She is a member of National Junior Honor Society, Student Council, and also an active member of her church.

### **Lisa Graff**

As the associate principal at Abbott Middle School, Lisa goes above and beyond daily. She works tirelessly for our students and has had a major impact on student attendance.

### **Frances Miller and Luke Henry**

They are the president and vice president of the student council at Keith Elementary. Working together, they are the team that makes sure student council tasks and events are carried out.

### **Sue Korn**

Sue has been a Hadassah leader for many years. She has been President of the Tikvah Chapter and Co-Chair of several important fundraising events.

# 2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## **Allen Mindell**

Allen works diligently for the benefit of the GWB Chamber. He is the gate keeper for the chamber's Senior Resource Group, keeping the records and ensuring all senior talks and field trips are organized.

## **Sylvia Ozga**

Talented and creative, Sylvia Ozga creates the Veterans Memorial wreath for the Sylvan Lake Garden Club every May.

## **Vinita Parekh**

Since 2014, Vinita has been a dedicated sponsor for our Rotary-sponsored Interact Club which is open to all area youth ages 12-18. The club meets on the weekends to undertake service projects.

## **Amy Quinn**

Amy is a West Bloomfield Schools elementary science coach. She volunteers countless hours to our FIRST Lego Leagues as an advisor and coach outside of her day-to-day responsibilities in the district.

## **Iris Radner**

Iris is a long-time member and volunteer with Friends of the Library. She works in the Friendshop, and on the Friends Board as Vice President

## **Nancy Ratajczak**

Nancy is a faithful volunteer at Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian. She serves as an elder, a bell choir member, office volunteer, and volunteer leader for a singles group.

## **Katie Roshirt**

Detective Katie is dedicated to the West Bloomfield Community. She supports Shop with a Cop, the Food Truck Rally for the West Bloomfield Youth Assistance and the Cops Vs. Teens Water Balloon Fight.

## **Melanie Schwartz**

Ms. Schwartz has been instrumental in overseeing the successful West Bloomfield Youth Assistance program - Parenting on the Go. The show can be viewed on both Civic Center TV and YouTube.

## **Joey Spano**

Joey regularly attends the Optimist Club of West Bloomfield weekly breakfast meetings. She chaired the 2020 Optimist Essay Contest, and volunteers annually in the club's Cookies and Cash program.

# 2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## **Tess Sullivan**

Tess is a big help at the Westacres Branch Library. She enjoys giving back to the community through the West Bloomfield Township Public Library.

## **Ayushi Uppal**

Ayushi is the current president of the Rotary Interact Club. She organizes a food drive for Grace Centers of Hope, volunteering at Haven in addition to fundraisers for PolioPlus and ShelterBox.

## **Linda Wasche**

For 20 years, Linda's passion has been taking care of animals - trapping homeless cats: getting them spayed/neutered, tested, vaccinated, and rehomed. She provides emergency care for injured wildlife.

## **LIFETIME VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD**

### **Marguerite Davidson**

Midge is a giver, feeling that it is her responsibility to give back, and it is widespread. A talented and creative woman, Midge's artistic skills have brought thousands of dollars to the Humane Society. Her organizational and marketing skills have made the Home and Garden Tour a huge success. She gives of her time, talents, money, and spirit to make her community a better place. She brings out the best in her team helping them contribute their absolute best.

### **Dr. Nelson Hersh**

As a long-tenured business leader in our community, he routinely inspires other leaders within our community to inspire to achieve and push the envelope when it comes to serving the greater good. Dr. Hersh constantly seeks to build bridges and partnerships with other groups, organizations, and businesses within our community to better serve the youth who call West Bloomfield home. His continued outreach has motivated others within our community to do all they can to support our students, staff and families.

### **Jerry McManus**

Jerry brought expertise and talent to the Barton Farmhouse Preservation project, making the project secure for both the house and the others on the project, while allowing it to move forward smoothly. During the past 12 years Jerry has been most generous in his pro bono donation of time and expertise as an electrician and as a local historian, contributing invaluable to the project's success, one of the oldest houses in the Bloomfield Area. The Barton Farmhouse was built circa 1840.

# 2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian facilitates broad outreach to our immediate community and beyond. The Church invites the greater community to musical presentations throughout the year, and reaches out with love and joy to help those in need. The members of the church recognize that we can all help to make a stronger community.

## YOUTH VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD

### **Stacey Hirsch**

Stacey has been a leader in Bloomfield Hills High School as an advocate for students. She recently coordinated the senior car parade and graduation drive-in event. She is always willing to help and her leadership embodies the core values we hope to instill in our students. Stacey was selected to be a Stamps Merit Scholar at the University of Michigan, one of only 18 students chosen for this prestigious award for the incoming class of freshmen.

### **Jenna Friedman**

Jenna has fought to make Walled Lake Central High School a more inclusive building for all students. She has actively worked with staff and students to create safe spaces for students who need them. She led the efforts on U Matter Week for the past two years and shared her own story at the school wide assembly. She also created SNAPS Club, where she still leads and organizes events for the Club.

### **Isaac Mintz**

Isaac is an outstanding communicator with a passion for storytelling, and an eye for photography. His drive, creativity and strong work ethic enable him to thrive in a variety of roles and settings. He is an A.P. and National Merit Scholar and earned the 2019 Outstanding Civics Student Award as well as being a two-time DECA State champion.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

**Gretchko Elementary Hydroponic Garden Volunteers Amande Metante-Schultz and Kelly Jackson** are helping to foster our future leaders' understanding of the importance of growing and cultivating resources in our community. Students learn lessons related to science, language arts and art through visits and working in the school's hydroponic garden. The Gretchko Hydroponic Garden serves as an indispensable resource for teachers within the building to work with their students in hands-on learning scenarios.

# 2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## JACK FREED VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

*2020 is the first year the Jack Freed Volunteer Service Award is being presented. The Michigan Week Committee designed this recognition to honor the legacy of Pastor Jack Freed, who, along with Jeff Leib, helped create the Michigan Week tradition in Greater West Bloomfield. This award honors an individual who is a newer leader of any age who demonstrates outstanding volunteer service.*

### **Robin LaFrance**

Robin is a Keego Harbor resident and artist. She is a member of the newly formed ArtSail group in Keego and the Keego-Cass Women's Club. Robin sanded, primed, and painted all of the city of Keego Harbor wooden entrance signs and city park signs, over nine in number. This was a volunteer effort on her part and took place during the summer and fall of 2019. Her artistic talents assured that the proper color and paint was used to ensure a new vibrancy to the signs.

### **Andrew Yost**

Andrew was very proactive in getting involved with the West Bloomfield Parks after moving into his new community. He immediately offered his help and knowledge from helping with small tasks of prep work to teaching kids how to fish at events impact.

## DR. SEYMOUR GRETCHKO YOUTH ADVOCATE AWARD – GROUP

**The Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition**, while honored in the past has both significantly expanded in both the depth and breadth of its mission and vision. Originally conceived to address youth issues of alcohol and substance abuse in high school students, the Coalition now addresses mental health issues, stress and online safety. The Coalition supports every student in every classroom in every building in the West Bloomfield School District. Coalition officers Miriam McLean, Staci Goldman and Alan Levenson join with Coalition executive director Lisa Berkey to build upon the legacy of those who have supported the coalition in its early years.

# 2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## DR. SEYMOUR GRETCHKO YOUTH ADVOCATE AWARD – INDIVIDUAL

**Bill Bertakis** is deeply passionate about working with and supporting students of all ages as they expand their horizons. On the Michigan Week Committee, we do not think anyone in West Bloomfield, Sylvan Lake, Orchard Lake, or his hometown Keego Harbor has ever heard him utter the word NO. It is not in his vocabulary.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

**Integral to the Michigan Week Awards Celebration is the presentation of awards and scholarships by community partners.**

**The Greater West Bloomfield Chamber Volunteer Leadership Award** is presented to **Vito Curcuru**. There are not enough words to describe the fabulous support Vito provides to Chamber colleagues when it comes to social media and marketing. Vito can always be counted on to volunteer his time and energy to benefit the Chamber.

**The Optimist Club of West Bloomfield** presents a scholarship to **Elizabeth Schanz**. The scholarship is in the memory of Bob Mellon and named the “Be Like Bob Scholarship.” Elizabeth is a senior at West Bloomfield High School and is a tremendous student. She will be attending Grand Valley and have a double major, dance, and broadcasting.

**The Rotary Club of West Bloomfield** is presenting scholarships to three **STRIVE Scholars**, each a graduate of West Bloomfield High School.

- **Larry Burkett** is interested in computer science and graphic design. In high school, he was active in the Coding Club. He enjoys spending time with his family and plans to attend Ferris State University.
- **Brandon Shady** plans to attend the University of Michigan Dearborn in the Fall. In high school, he founded the video game club and played in the Band. His goal is to get into a technology career, possibly with NASA.
- **Avaghnte Keels** enjoys zoology and would like to get into a field where he can be around animals and fish. He has met and overcome many challenges. He spends time with his family and plans to continue his education at a trade school or community college in the fall.

# MICHIGAN WEEK SPONSORS



## 2020 GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD MICHIGAN WEEK COMMUNITY AWARDS SPONSORS

*THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SPONSORS -  
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO REMAIN COMMITTED TO RECOGNIZING OUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS!*

### **GRETCHKO GOLD IN-KIND SPONSORS**

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### **2020 GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD MICHIGAN WEEK COMMITTEE**

Dave Alberty, Debbie Binder, Clara Bohrer, Dan Durkin, Judy Evola, Judy Garver, Shira Good, Carol Hack, Mary Holaly, Lisa Kaplan, Tyler Kieft, Meagan Kurnat, Larry Leib, Debbie Macon, Barbara Moretsky, Helen Jane Peters, James Pettinato, Karen Pushie, Dave Scott, Lisa Shapiro, Cynthia von Oeyen, Teri Weingarden, Sue Williams, Pamela Zajac

### **WWW.MICHIGANWEEK.ORG**

**The 48th Annual Greater West Bloomfield Michigan Week Community Awards Virtual Celebration** was broadcast live by Civic Center TV, 89.3 Lakes FM and shown on the Facebook pages of the Bloomfield Hills School District, Walled Lake Consolidated School District and West Bloomfield School District. The celebration is also available On Demand at [www.civiccentertv.com](http://www.civiccentertv.com) under Programs, Michigan Week.

**SAVE THE DATES!**



***SAVE THE DATE - Wednesday, May 19, 2021 - 7:00 pm***

This year, Greater West Bloomfield Michigan Week celebrates our community *Shining Together*. We are highlighting those in our community who have helped us in a myriad of ways to stay well and stay safe. Our families, friends, neighbors and co-workers have demonstrated resilience, fortitude, empathy and compassion as they negotiated the most challenging year ever. Watch the Megacast weekdays to see our heroes highlighted from 10am - 12 noon on Civic Center TV, Channel 15 on Comcast and Channel 99 on AT&T.

We invite viewers to participate in the Michigan Week Awards as Michiganders of all ages are recognized for going above and beyond to effect positive change in our community. Tune in to CCTV at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 to see who this year's awardees are!

***MAY 2022***

**Greater West Bloomfield Michigan Week  
Celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

**[WWW.MICHIGANWEEK.ORG](http://WWW.MICHIGANWEEK.ORG)**