



**16
OVER
60**

AWARDS GALA

Wednesday, November 13, 2019
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

**Senior
NEIGHBORS**
no longer alone

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE 2019 HONOREES!**

Mayor
Connector
Visionary
Advocate
Mentor
Educator
Nurse
Musician
Caregiver
Servant Leader
Attorney
Photographer
Runner
Volunteer
Pitcher
Geologist
Mediator
Entrepreneur
Community Leader
Author
Judge

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE 16

Engaged & INSPIRING

HONOREES FOR 2019

The 16 Over 60 Awards Gala
provides support for Senior Neighbors
and its variety of programs.

4,353



SENIORS SERVED*

85% of clients
live on
LESS THAN



* Fiscal Year 2018



SUZAN T. COUZENS

Educator, Nurse, Servant Leader

Whether she's serving members of the Heartside neighborhood or educating nursing students, Suzan shows no signs of slowing down. Shortly after her 60th birthday, she completed her master's degree in Community Care Nursing from the University of Michigan. Suzan has served as a parish/faith community nurse in the Heartside Neighborhood for 22 years and taught at Grand Valley State University. She was a professor of nursing at Calvin University, where she was privileged to teach her students to look beyond the stereotypes of marginalized populations and focus on the true service of nursing. Suzan models her servant leadership through engaging the community and creating solutions to improve overall health. In 2007, she helped start the Community Care and Enrichment Team, a monthly spa day, providing foot soaks, haircuts and lunch to community members in need. Suzan also encourages

healthy eating and improving physical and mental health in the Heartside neighborhood, where she distributes fresh produce and leads the Heartside All-Stars for Health walking group. In her "free time," Suzan serves on the board of the Heartside Gleaning Initiative, directs the Community Health Ministry Partnerships of West Michigan and teaches Bible studies and Sunday school.

MARC DERUITER

Connector, Musician, Volunteer

Marc offers hope and joy for the body, mind, and soul through live music. He transformed his passion for music into Eldermusic Inc., a nonprofit that sends eager volunteers to 20 hospice and Alzheimer's communities in Kent County each month. Volunteers share fellowship with the residents, smiling, teaching and playing music together. Participating in interactive musical sessions helps seniors reconnect with the songs they used to sing at home, with their families or at church. Marc feels joy himself when he hears the residents sing with conviction, reconnecting and remembering the words to old familiar songs. For its inspiring work, WGVSU and Spectrum Health presented Eldermusic Inc. with the annual "I HAVE Made A Difference" award, in 2017. Marc continues to find countless ways to share the song in his heart with everyone he meets. He is the Music Director at the Orchard View Church of God and shares the healing power of music with veterans through the Grand Rapids Chapter of Guitars 4 Vets, a nonprofit that provides free guitars and lessons to veterans. Marc also offers his time serving on the board of directors at DeColores Ministries of Grand Rapids.





MARY JANE DOCKERAY

Educator, Geologist, Nature Advocate

At 92-years-young, Mary Jane's passion for nature and geology remains as strong as the rocks she loves. As Founder and Director of Blandford Nature Center, she spent the majority of her life educating and immersing people of all ages in the wonders of the natural world, and continues to do so. Mary Jane's travels have taken her to some of Earth's most beautiful places, including all corners of the United States, visits to Central America, North America and many times to Ireland. During her trips, she immerses herself in research, teaches classes and leads field trips. Mary Jane has turned her voyages into illustrated educational programs that she presents at Blandford Nature Center and Aquinas. Never one to forget her own bedrock, Mary Jane can tell you fascinating stories about the rock and mineral resources beneath Grand Rapids. After retiring, Mary Jane transformed the backyard of her home into a naturalist's paradise, with a vast array of wildflowers and edible plants, plus a pond for her goldfish. Of course, a geologist's haven would not be complete without a personal rock garden. When she's not sharing her passion for the environment with the community, you can find Mary Jane swimming at the YMCA.

JULIE K. HAVEMAN

Caregiver, Mediator, Volunteer

Whether a friend, family member or fellow member of the community, Julie always puts others first. After retiring from the Kent County Friend of the Court as a manager of caseworkers and caring for her husband during his last years of life, Julie remains true to her values of compassionate service. She currently offers her legal knowledge, as a low- or no-cost divorce coach. Julie's calming, patient presence also serves the clients she serves while volunteering at the Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan, where she mediates domestic relations cases. Julie selflessly redirects payments for her services to local nonprofits, including Safe Haven Ministries and Legal Aid of West Michigan, putting access to legal resources in the community ahead of her interests. Julie spreads the love even further by caring for our community's veterans at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. She brings her infectious smile to all her volunteer ventures, including the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park and Mercy Health St. Mary's Hospital. In addition to serving the hearts of the community, Julie serves souls and stomachs by preparing meals at the Ronald McDonald House of Western Michigan.





DOYLE HAYES

Business Mentor, Educator, Entrepreneur

After 26 dedicated years at General Motors and Diesel Technology, followed by successful efforts to start multiple companies, Doyle has turned his focus to sharing his knowledge with community businesses and future leaders. He considers mentorship a crucial element of achieving lifelong success. As such, Doyle founded and currently serves as CEO of management-consulting group dhayesGroup, assisting manufacturing and management clients in succeeding in their business ventures. In his 40th year as an adjunct professor at Grand Valley State University, Doyle also uses his expertise to help students develop their education and pursue career paths. He puts his wisdom to use through his volunteer efforts aimed at helping advance the careers of women in Kent County and provide accessible and affordable healthcare to urban areas. Serving in board leadership roles has always been important to Doyle as well, currently in roles with Exalta Health, GVSU for the Dean's Advisory and Foundation, Mercantile Bank, Michigan Dyslexia Institute, which are among others that are too many to list for past and present. Through all of these efforts to give back, he empowers others to advance in their respective careers, become thoughtful leaders and give future generations the inspiration to help others.

ELAINE HILLARY

Fundraiser, Supporter, Volunteer

Elaine is a ball of energy. Although small in stature, she helps others in big ways. While caring for her husband, who lived with multiple sclerosis for over 30 years, Elaine devoted her time to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, raising funds to help find a cure. Because of her efforts, she has achieved one of the highest levels for MS fundraisers. Elaine volunteers for St. Alphonsus Church, serving food, collecting donations and attending mission trips. Even after long car rides, sleeping on cots and working 10- to 12-hour days on mission trips, her energy isn't diminished. She continues sharing her gifts with local parishioners immediately upon her return. During the week, Elaine's enthusiasm is matched as she works with the energetic second-graders in St. Alphonsus' Faith Formation program. Her spiritedness also lifts others in her role as a confidante for women going through stressful times in their lives, serving them at retreats and women's gatherings through her church. Elaine believes a person is only as old as they feel. "Age is just a matter of mind. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter," she says. Despite managing her own health challenges, Elaine remains an "energizer bunny" with a contagious positive attitude.





DAVE KAMPFSCHULTE

Author, Educator, Facilitator

Dave believes “everyone is a story.” A retired teacher, Dave is the founder, heart and soul of Amazing Circles Workshops, an organization dedicated to helping people understand themselves and others on a deeper level. His first book, *Amazing Circles*, discusses how to create environments where people can tell their stories and safely express emotions. Dave’s further explores his love of stories in his second book, *I’m Dying to Talk with You*, in which he shares his 25 years of experiences in hospice through conversations with patients and families. A former schoolteacher, Dave enjoys teaching classes at senior learning organizations, like the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Aquinas College where he is a frequent speaker. He also serves as a hospice volunteer for Spectrum Health and Harbor Hospice and volunteers for Making Choices Michigan. His enthusiasm, empathy and humor inspire optimism in those facing challenges

as they age. Dave has always used storytelling wherever he goes, whether it is speaking to groups through Amazing Circles or in his prior roles as a hotline crisis counselor, stay-at-home dad, wilderness canoe trip leader and basketball coach.

STEVE MAAS

Community Builder, Mayor, Runner

While some shy away from growing older, Steve embraces each day as an opportunity to grow more patient, compassionate and understanding. He also enjoys seizing the opportunity to compete. “Age has not lessened my desire to compete,” he says. Steve challenges his body and mind by competing in trail running ultramarathons, locally and across the country, in places such as California and Vermont. His passion for healthy living is part of the drive behind Steve and his wife’s efforts to designate their hometown of Grandville – where Steve serves as the Mayor – as a “Blue Zone,” an area focusing on health, longevity and building community relationships. He is an involved member of the Grandville Downtown Development Authority, Grandville Planning Commission, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council and the board of directors of Friends of Buck Creek, a group dedicated to environmental sensitivity and sustainability. Steve also helped establish annual festivals to bring joy and a spirit of togetherness to downtown Grandville. A true renaissance man, Steve shares his musical ability with the community when he plays piano for the Grandville Community Choir.





RODNEY MARTIN

Attorney, Diversity Advocate, Photographer

"My commitment to diversity, like my photography, causes me to look more carefully to understand the richness and beauty of all people," Rodney says. He interned at Warner Norcross + Judd in 1979, when there were only two female attorneys and none of color. He saw this lack of diversity and inclusion as an opportunity for him to make a difference in the transformation of his workplace, the legal profession, and his community. Rodney has worked with a number of local firms and arts and business organizations to help them focus on inclusion and equity, among them the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, the Grand Rapids Bar Association and the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. Additionally, for more than 25 years Rodney has volunteered his time for the Comprehensive Therapy Center; a non-profit that meets the therapeutic and educational needs of people with disabilities. Rodney is inspired

by how this organization changes lives; especially those of children who participate in their Summer program. Rodney also enjoys traveling around Michigan as an amateur photographer, viewing the beautiful variation of our state's regions as a metaphor for his diversity work.

JOHN A. MULDER

Leader, Musician, Physician

As a physician, John is trailblazing in the field of palliative care. His practice focuses on helping patients define what's important to them at the end of life. John's perspective is unique. After facing a life-threatening lung disease, he was gifted a second chance at life, allowing him to continue giving to others. His resiliency keeps him "grateful and humbled to have the opportunity to serve our community with [his] newfound health and energy." Since his recovery, John continues as the medical director of Holland Home's Trillium Institute, increasing the awareness of palliative care and mentoring other professionals advancing palliative care in West Michigan. Passionate about preparing future medical leaders, John shares his knowledge by writing curriculum for various universities in Michigan and speaking locally and internationally on a variety of end-of-life topics. Just like medicine, music has the power to heal –

John harnesses this power through writing, performing and recording music. Recently, John launched a new project, "Joy in a Teardrop: The Hospice Music Project," prompted by a song that he wrote and recorded with GRAMMY winning songwriter, Tricia Walker. Proceeds from this project will support the National Hospice Foundation.



**FAYE D. RICHARDSON-GREEN***Executive Mentor, Veterans Advocate, Volunteer*

After retiring from Steelcase as a Global Learning executive, Faye's passion for advocacy carries over into her retirement. She has dedicated 50 years volunteering with nonprofits for education, leadership, healthcare and social justice. Faye "never considers her age when it comes to serving others." She remains focused on enacting change today, to ensure a brighter tomorrow. For 20 years and counting, Faye has been involved in social justice efforts, mainly with Partners for a Racism Free Community, combating the effects of racism in her community. This program helps local organizations navigate their strategies to achieve racial equity. Faye believes her educational work with youth, which encourages them to be well-rounded, life-long learners, is a key element to achieving social justice. She serves as a trustee for the Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy, organizing an annual K-12 student art and essay

contest focused on civic topics at UPrep and St. Paul the Apostle schools, and shares her love of learning by supporting the teaching staff at Endeavor Elementary School's library. She also believes in serving veterans, and as the current District 5 president of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Michigan, Faye remains a faithful volunteer at the VA hospital in Battle Creek.

CINDY RITTER*Refugee Advocate, Softball Pitcher, Volunteer*

When Cindy sees an opportunity to help someone who is struggling or needs an advocate, you can count on her to lend a helping hand. Her passion for helping those without a voice has recently led her to volunteer time with a Burmese family trying to find their way in a new country. From driving them to healthcare appointments to everyday skills others might take for granted, she finds a way to help this refugee family make Grand Rapids feel like home. Her efforts to give back don't stop there, as she is often found serving meals to help people going through difficult times. Whether it is at the Garden View Café at Spectrum Health Blodgett Hospital, God's Kitchen or her church's Senior Citizen Picnic for more than 200 seniors, Cindy is a force for good that cannot be stopped. Surprisingly, Cindy also finds time for her family and herself. She is a constant positive influence in the lives of her grandchildren and takes classes at Aquinas College to challenge her mind and stay connected in the community. To top it all off, as someone over 60, she's proud that her "Over 30" softball team calls her in from the bullpen to pitch every week.





JUDGE SARA J. SMOLENSKI

Judge, Mentor, Volunteer

Sara was elected to the 63rd District Court in 1990, and has served as the Chief Judge for the last 23 years. When she's not at her day job, Sara immerses herself in her community. She "passes the torch" by mentoring students about the law and court system, inviting them to visit the courthouse and striving to be a role model for aspiring lawyers. A tireless advocate and supporter for the Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids, Sara Co-chairs the annual "Dollars for Dominicans" golf outing. While in her courtroom, Sara uses her voice for justice. At charity events for local non-profits that voice is often heard as the auctioneer and emcee, encouraging others to give generously. She is also active through board service with Circles Grand Rapids and the Hospice of Michigan Foundation, and previously gave her time to American Cancer Society, the Kent County Literacy Council and the YWCA. She often speaks at

community events, too many to list, including schools and churches. Even Sara's hobbies benefit others. For relaxation, she enjoys working with clay, which she donates to charitable events.

CARL E. VER BEEK

Community Leader, Mediator, Mentor

Following many years as a labor and employment attorney at Varnum, Carl is committed to helping hard-working members of the community and setting a positive example for other leaders in law. He always says "yes" to opportunities to serve, mentor and devote his time to organizations whose missions he cares about passionately. For his multiple decades of legal work and extensive volunteer efforts, Carl has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the State Bar of Michigan's Roberts P Hudson award, their highest honor, given for service to others. Carl provides his leadership to countless local community organizations including Holland Home, Bethany Christian Services, Health Net of West Michigan, Making Choices Michigan, First Steps Commission, Grand Rapids Symphony and Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. As a passionate advocate for providing opportunities for future generations, he serves on the advisory board for the Vice Provost for Health Grand Valley State University. Acknowledging his mediation skills, Carl was awarded the 2019 Peace Maker of the Year Award as a volunteer mediator for the Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan.





MARY ALICE WILLIAMS

*Gender Equity Advocate, Political Activist,
Visionary*

Mary Alice is passionate about achieving gender equity. In her community, she has volunteered her time to help form Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women, the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council and Stop the War on Women. Mary Alice also served on the Michigan Women's Commission, Nokomis Foundation and tirelessly volunteers with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan to promote health care access and justice. Through her local political campaign volunteer efforts, she strives to be an ally to historically marginalized persons running for office, to bring new voices and perspectives to Grand Rapids. Because she believes voting is a megaphone for a community's voices, Mary Alice actively commits to increasing voter participation through door-knocking and direct contact. Before officially retiring at 72, Mary

Alice helped build Arbor Circle, merging four nonprofits to ensure access to integrated mental health services for those un- or underinsured – regardless of income or social barriers. As an activist, advocate and community organizer, Mary Alice believes there is endless potential to make a difference and her efforts are “a small necessary way of paying it forward for what I’ve received in life.”

SUSAN M. ZIMMERMAN

*Education Advocate, Neighborhood Leader,
Volunteer*

Susan “got hooked” on volunteering after she and her husband spent almost three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Chile, and service continues to be a vital part of her life in Grand Rapids. Susan worked diligently for nine years to ensure safety and quality education for all students in her role on the Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education. For the past 12 years, she’s taught English as a second language to immigrants and refugees in our community, having been in a similar situation during her years in the Peace Corps she understands the challenges of living in a new country. Recognizing the importance of the Kids Food Basket mission, providing sack suppers for local students in need, she organized a group of monthly volunteers that has been together “for so long that no one can remember when we started.” In her neighborhood, Susan helps plant and care for trees and has been involved in the Calvin Giddings Patriotic Association for almost 40 years. Susan’s friends refer to her as the “mommy” of their neighborhood, because she lovingly retrieves mail, shovels sidewalks, rakes lawns and picks up trash. She has always believed, “I was put on this Earth to help others.”



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