



National Church Residences

2013 Volunteers of the Year

Health Care



Judy Brown

First Community Village, Columbus, OH

Nominated by: Fran Welsh, Life Enrichment Director

Since the Roxbury dementia and Alzheimer's unit opened at First Community Village five years ago, Judy Brown has been visiting the residents who live there two times EVERY week. When Judy arrives, she reads the news to the residents who are gathered, leads them in songs and chair exercises. Often times she then shares a handmade treat she has prepared. Judy takes special care to involve the residents in all aspects of the activities she is doing from setup to cleanup and does a beautiful job of involving family members in the activities with their loved ones as opportunities arise. The dignity and respect Judy treats all residents with is truly admirable and it is evident that the happiness of the residents is incredibly important to her.



Len Confar

Center for Senior Health, Northwest Center, Columbus, OH

Nominated by: Sandy Meyer, Site Administrator

Len is a retired minister who works with the most needy clients at the Center. With patience that comes from years of practice, Len sits for hours on end, engaging the client in bits of conversation. With kindness and empathy he works to build trust. With smiles and laughs he tries to make the clients feel comfortable. Len leads a book club at the Center, again with the most needy clients. Two of the clients in the club have severe visual impairment and depression. Len reads spiritual and uplifting stories to these two. Sometimes they will recite hymns together and hum the chorus. These clients always seem refreshed and carefree at the end of Len's book club. Len's compassion and kindness towards our clients is transformational excellence at its best.



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Housing



Karen Walter

Walnut Creek Village, Baltimore, OH

Nominated by: Jennifer Walling, Service Coordinator

Karen is an elementary school teacher who for the past 31 years has brought her 4th grade class to Walnut Creek Village four times a year to host annual Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter parties for our residents. The students write letters and develop personal relationships with the residents and it has come to be a rite of passage for the 4th grade students at the local elementary school. Karen's dedication through this long standing tradition has greatly impacted our residents through the joy and anticipation of regular celebrations and creating opportunities for them to engage with youth. She also instills a sense of service and commitment to giving back in her students, lessons that Karen hopes they will carry with them their entire life.