

## 2019 Volunteer Organization of the Year



### BESA

BESA is a Columbus Ohio based not-for-profit with a mission to connect more people to community service, encouraging others to give back by means of volunteering. The term BESA is an Albanian term for the belief that we can overcome our differences and together address the problems that plague our community. BESA, led by Matthew Goldstein, has been volunteering for N<sup>M</sup> for more than 7 years, starting with our Centers for Senior Health. BESA also spends time with our residents at Stygler Village, Mill Run and First Community Village, making crafts, playing games and giving residents one on one attention. For several years, BESA has included our residents at Stygler Commons in their Christmas Adopt-A-Resident program and, in 2018, included residents at Cherry Blossom, Worthington East and Commons at Grant.

## 2019 Volunteers of the Year



### Jim Geist

Jim Geist, a resident at Legacy Village, has been volunteering at the property since he and his wife moved there 3 1/2 years ago. Jim volunteers in the Memorial Garden cutting the grass and maintaining the grounds. Jim began a conversation group which has increased in participation from 4- 20 regular participants. He provides the donuts and the topics for conversation. He also spends a lot of his time with the assisted living residents, calling Bingo, playing cards with residents and assisting with special events.



### Debi Smith

Debi Smith volunteers at Padua Hills in Wickenburg, AZ. Debi is also a volunteer coordinator at a local church. She oversees many activities with her church members at Padua Hills and also gives much of her own time and resources to our residents. Debi has coordinated financial contributions for patio furniture, a television and emergency safety lights in each apartment. Debi is known by the residents as “The Church Lady.” Debi takes residents to medical appointments, to visit the local animal shelter, calls to “check in” on residents and, just generally makes everyone feel special. Debi is described by the residents as having transformed Padua Hills and has become an integral part of the community.