



Awards Ceremony

Sponsored by



WELCOME TO THE OPRA ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY



The OPRA team, Board of Directors, and the entire OPRA community are excited to honor the incredible professionals, partners, and volunteers who support Ohioans with disabilities in living their best lives. This year's award recipients exemplify the passion, commitment, and resilience that define the excellence of Ohio's DD service community. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing efforts of OPRA members and thrilled to gather in person to celebrate these exceptional honorees!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

We extend our sincere gratitude to Gallagher for sponsoring the OPRA Awards and to Tarrytown for generously sponsoring lunch. Your support helps make this event a success!



Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting



TARRYTOWN
EXPOCARE PHARMACY

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



There are many people that have impacted our field and the OPRA community over the years. The following award winners are well deserving of special recognition for their contributions. Their dedication to excellence in our field sets the tone for the rest of us and inspires us all to strive for continuous improvement. Their impact will be long lasting, leaving a legacy that shapes the future of our community.

Let's celebrate the following award winners...

**SPECIAL
RECOGNITION
AWARD WINNER**

Judith Carey
SAW, Inc.



**SPECIAL
RECOGNITION
AWARD WINNER**

Jim Westlake
**Living in Family
Environments**



**SPECIAL
RECOGNITION
AWARD WINNER**

**Gary Brown
Brady Ware**



DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARD

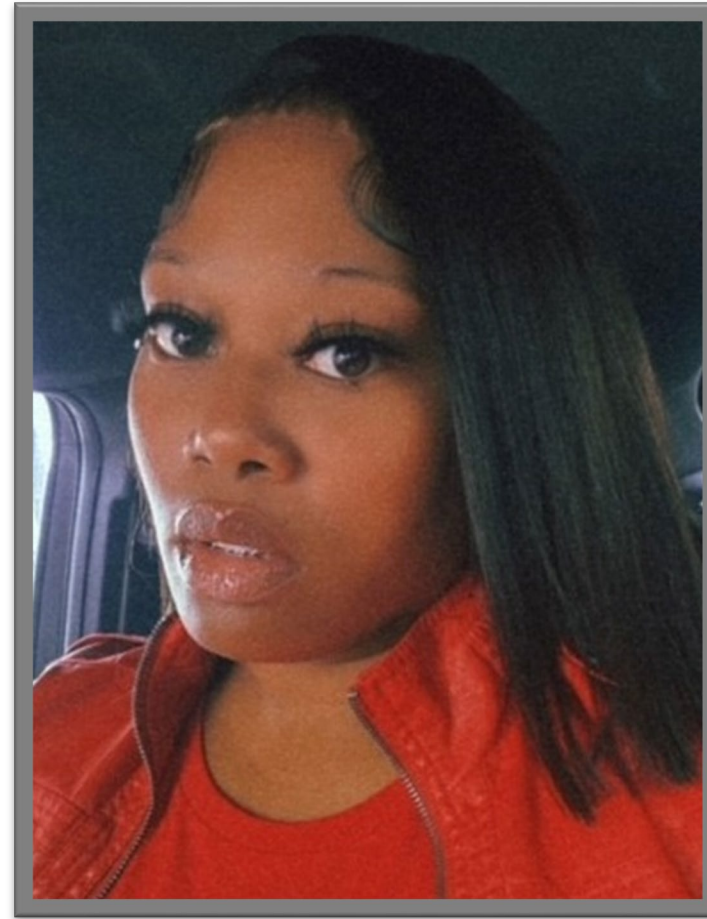


This Award is devoted to recognizing the outstanding performance and dedication of those who are on the front lines every day, helping to make a real difference in the lives of people the support. Their hard work and devotion helps the people who are around them excel when confronted with challenges and find calm when all else may be in chaos. Their value is immeasurable.

Let's celebrate the following award winners...

**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 1**

Sheena Williams
**Ohio Valley
Residential Services**



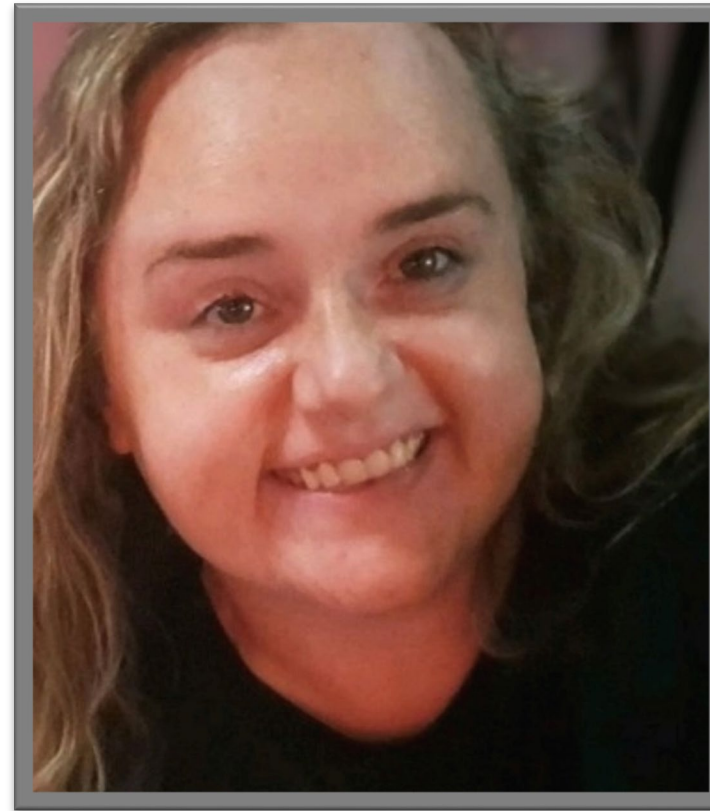
**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 2**

Jasmine Portillo
Choices in
Community Living



**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 3**

**Jordan Blake
RHDD**



**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 4**

**Anna Boone
Manahan**



**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 5**

Alice Yui
Epic



**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 6**

**Cheryl Ann
Watson
Goodwill Columbus**



**DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 7**

Cassandra Cisar
Rising Sun Centers



FRONT LINE SUPERVISOR AWARD

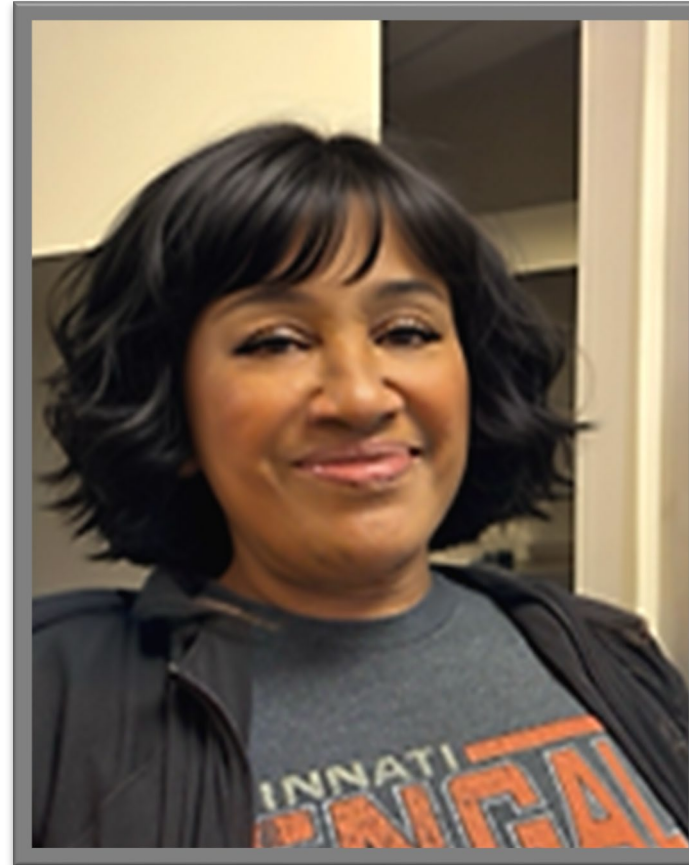


This Award is for those individuals who make it all come together. They are the supervisors who energize their staff and whose staff want to come to work. They help those around them feel appreciated and safe. They lead by example and celebrate hard work when they see it. They are also sacrificing their own personal lives to cover shifts and prepare their team to take on whatever comes their way.

Let's celebrate the following award winners...

**FRONT LINE
SUPERVISOR AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 1**

Youlanda Holley
CORE, Inc.



**FRONT LINE
SUPERVISOR AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 2**

Stefanie Sowry
RT Industries



**FRONT LINE
SUPERVISOR AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 3**

Brielle Vancs
Echoing Hills Village



**FRONT LINE
SUPERVISOR AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 4**

**Mahalia Owens
The Epilepsy Center
of Northwest Ohio**



**FRONT LINE
SUPERVISOR AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 5**

**Cindy Squire
The Society**



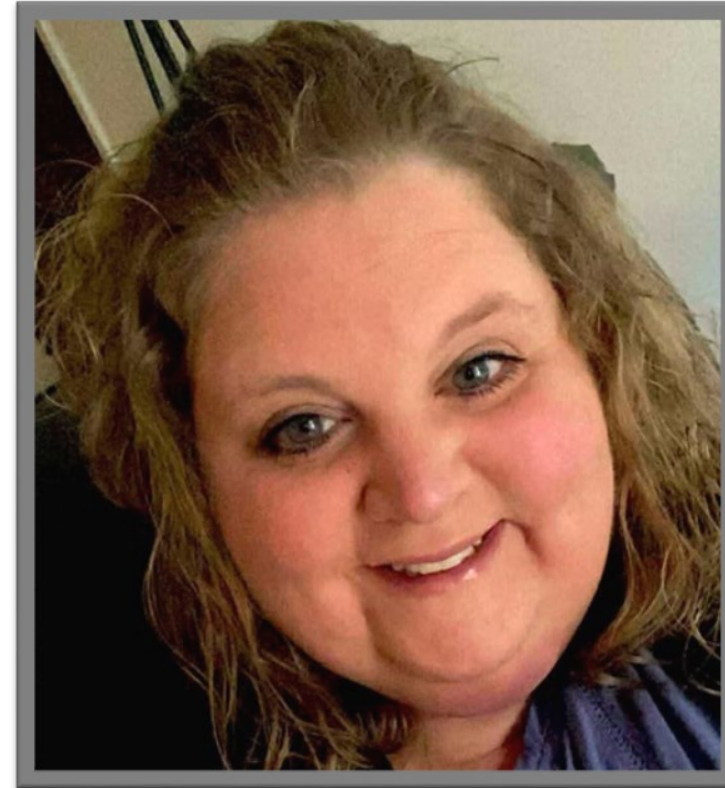
**FRONT LINE
SUPERVISOR AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 6**

Eric Amankwah
Open Door



**FRONT LINE
SUPERVISOR AWARD
WINNER
DISTRICT 7**

**Mandy
Grizzanti
OhioGuidestone**



QIDP AWARD

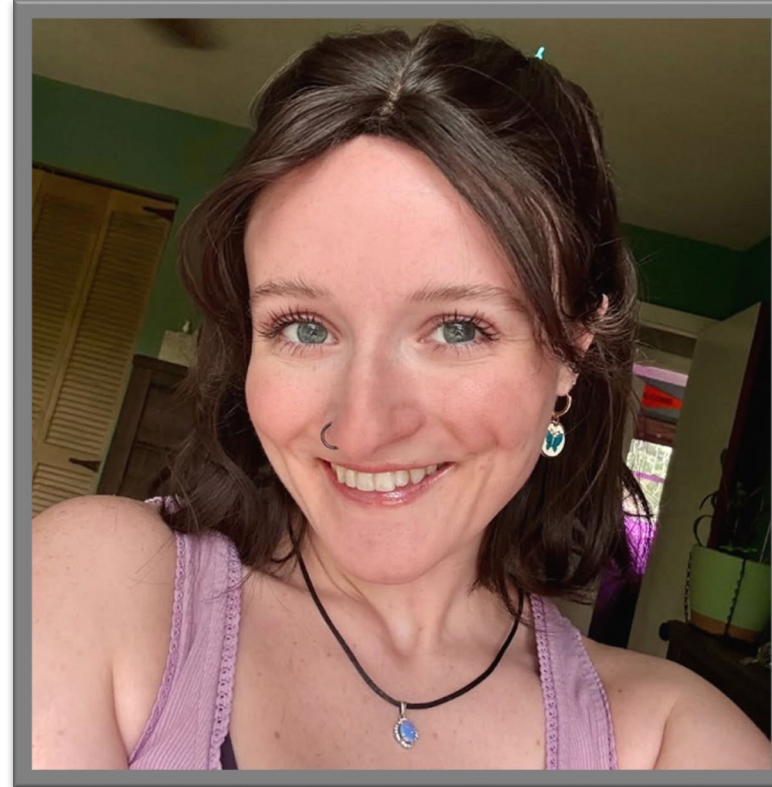


This Award recognizes an outstanding Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional who exemplifies dedication, compassion, and excellence in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. This professional goes above and beyond in advocating for person-centered approaches, fostering independence, and ensuring the highest quality of care. Their leadership and commitment have made a profound impact on the lives of the individuals they serve and the broader community.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

**QIDP
AWARD WINNER**

Rachel Crawfis
Bittersweet



JOB COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

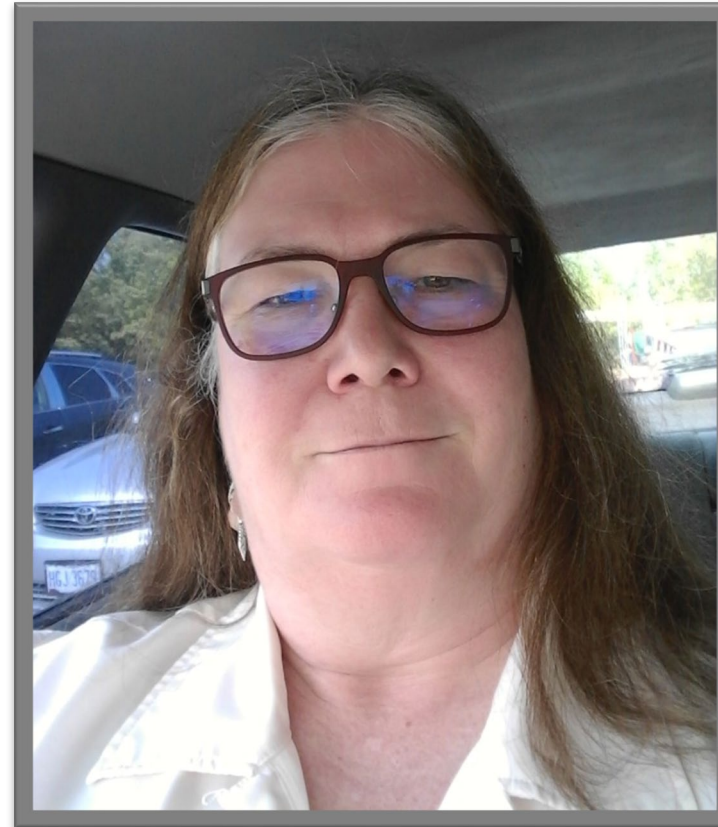


This Award goes to a Job Coach who demonstrates exceptional skills in providing on-the-job supports to individuals in integrated, competitive employment. This award winner displayed outstanding job coaching skills to successfully assist individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment in the community.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

JOB COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Penelope
Thomas**
Hattie Larlham



TEAM AWARD



This Award is devoted to an exceptional team that works together to directly and positively impact the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities beyond expectation. While at the same time, each team member is committed to the excellence of the other team members and other staff outside of the team.

Let's celebrate the following award winners...

TEAM AWARD

Day Program
Team
Anne Grady Services



NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD



This award recognizes the outstanding service and commitment of those nurses who ensure the health and safety of the individuals they serve. Ohio's nurses are the forefront of healthcare services in our system. Their extraordinary willingness and dedication to those they serve cannot be overstated.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Carla
Marszalkowski
No Day But Today**



WORKFORCE, QUALITY & CULTURE CHAMPION AWARD



This award recognizes individuals whose leadership and commitment strengthen the workforce and foster a culture of excellence. Whether through human resources, staff training, quality improvement, or compliance leadership, these champions promote a workplace where staff and the people they serve can thrive — helping to drive continuous improvement and person-centered outcomes across the organization.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

WORKFORCE, QUALITY & CULTURE CHAMPION AWARD

Lori Singer
RHA Dayton



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



This award honors individuals whose behind-the-scenes work ensures safe, high-functioning, and welcoming environments for the people we serve and for their coworkers. Whether maintaining facilities, managing transportation, supporting technology, or keeping day-to-day operations running smoothly, these professionals help make quality services possible through their dedication and skill.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Natasha Floyd
Epic



BUSINESS & FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

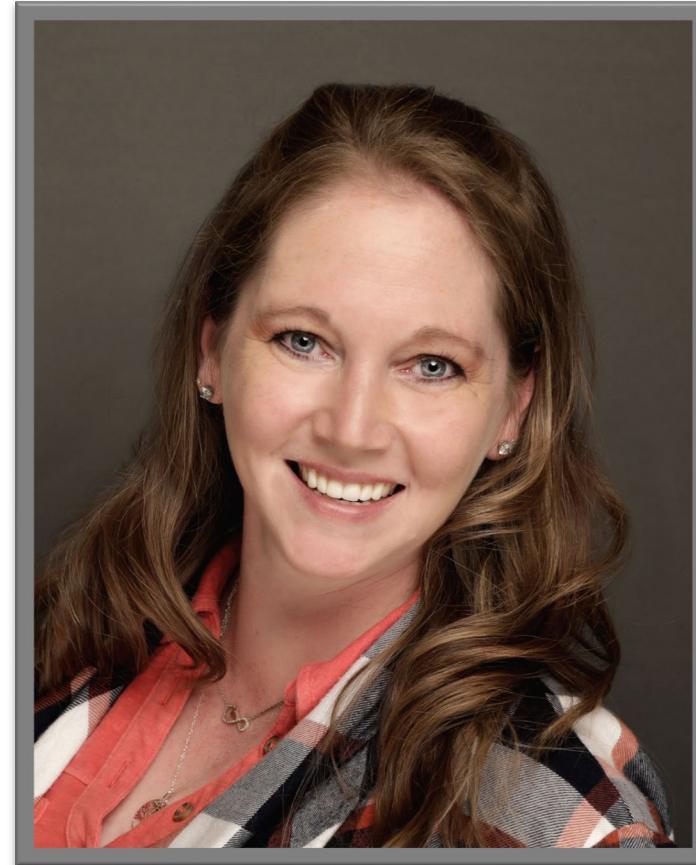


This award celebrates individuals whose work in business operations supports the sustainability, accountability, and innovation of their organization. From finance and billing to administrative leadership and business systems, these professionals help ensure that resources are managed wisely and that provider organizations are well-positioned to deliver high-quality services today and into the future.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

**BUSINESS &
FINANCIAL
LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Stephanie Wolf
The Society



ASSOCIATE MEMBER IMPACT AWARD



This award recognizes OPRA's associate member organizations whose business partnership has made a meaningful impact on Ohio's provider community. Through services such as technology, billing, compliance, finance, and other business supports, this individual goes beyond business as usual — building trusted relationships, supporting high-quality services, and helping providers succeed in delivering excellent supports to people with developmental disabilities.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

ASSOCIATE MEMBER IMPACT AWARD

**Brady Ware &
Company**



BRADY WARE
LONG TERM CARE ADVISORS



COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD



This award recognizes community entities (non-IDD provider agencies) who go above and beyond in offering vocational, volunteer and recreational opportunities in the community to the individuals we support. Their commitment is critical to the Agency's ability to help the people they support make meaningful connecting in the community.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

**COMMUNITY
PARTNER OF THE
YEAR AWARD**

The logo is a black rectangular banner with rounded corners and a gold border. The text is in a bold, gold, sans-serif font. The main title is 'Chippewa Lake Lions Club Foundation' and the subtitle is '(Community Partner of The Society)'.

**Chippewa Lake Lions
Club Foundation**
**(Community Partner of The
Society)**



***Chippewa Lake
Lions Club Foundation***
A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Public Charity



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



This Award focuses on the recognition of a non-paid individual whose contributions are deemed invaluable to the Agency, the Agency's staff, and the people with developmental disabilities the Agency supports. The efforts of the volunteer are crucial to furthering the mission of the Agency.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Joanne
Overberger**
Epic Volunteer



LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD



OPRA's provider community is blessed with so many amazing leaders running great organizations. This Award is presented to a professional who has exhibited extraordinary leadership, advocacy and passion as a provider of disability services in Ohio.

Let's celebrate the following award winner...

LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD

Anne Haning
Belco Works



**THANK YOU FOR
EVERYTHING!**



ADVANCE /Provider Leadership Training

2025 ADVANCE Graduates

Jamie Steele, ADVANCE Coordinator



Danielle Abel Creative Options	Danielle Armfield Manahan	Sherelle Bailey I Am Boundless	Jaslin Barnett Riverview Industries	Belinda Bockrath Capabilities	Erica Brock Dungarvin	Kimberly Brown OhioGuidestone
Tori Broxholm Monarch Lifeworks	Brenda Carothers Active Day	Rory Counts Monarch Lifeworks	Victoria Dinkins Envision	Doug Eastman HELP Foundation	Nicholas Freyman Bittersweet	Haley Hagans Anne Grady Services
Allison Hamrick Monarch Lifeworks	Darin Hayduk United Network Alliance	Angie Honshell Benchmark Human Services	Lindsey Hudson Bittersweet	Andria Kleiner S & H Products	Jennifer Krach Assured Health	Nick Krywyj SAW, Inc.
Dawn Lavensky Modern Support Services	Tom Lowry Marca Industries	Samantha Meadows Dungarvin	Helena Morris Partners in Employment	Matthew Nobile Muskingum Residentials	Jaclyn Ochs I Am Boundless	Michelle Ogle RT Industries
Carriann Pafford Welcome House	Parul Patel The Society	Valerie Peifer Heinzerling Community	Maria Prentice PALS Chrysalis Health	Madison Smith The Blick Center	Peggy Snyder Anne Grady Services	Tammy Starr-Feador The Society
Jeanine Taylor On The Farm	Holly Ward Boundless	Lisa Ward PALS Chrysalis Health	Christina Webb HELP Foundation	Maggie Wooten Hattie Larlham	Amelia Zarate Highco	Dave Zuccaro Monarch Lifeworks

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2025 NOMINEES!



Direct Support Professional Nominees

Jumie Aladesium	Ana Gonzalez	Cynthia Odamtten
Larry Albert	Emily Green	Breonna Phillips
Eddra Blackshear	Amber Harvey	Stephen Pietrzycki
Lindsey Brose	Tammy Hightower	LaKesha Porph
Michelle Burkhead	Noah Hogsed	Bethany Renz
Lindsey Camp	Ashanti Jack	Ella Romine
Gina Carey	Victoria Jackson	Kathryn Scudier
Ladonna Cecil	Alfreda James	Towanda Tash
Bob Cheney	Jasmine Johnson	Carlos Towns
Alivia Conley	Wilma Johnson	Natalie Via
Dough Creamer	Mashaya Kelly	Deion Webley
Giessel Cruz	Celeste King	Kelsey Williams
Calista Dunlap	Tierry Kouanang	Olivia Wilson
Lagaya Evans	Robert Luderman	Christie Wressell
Stephanie Fru	Kristina Manis	Kayla Yartz
Sharon Goettl	Billy Matheny	
Lucy Goins	Reva McElrath	

Lifetime Leadership Nominees

Arlene Goodwin	Steven Maenle
Angela Hall	Robin Malin
Mark Hutchinson	Lisa Ward
Michelle Madden	

Front Line Supervisor Nominees

Michal Bohanan	Angela Hall	Marissa Smith
Wanita Buchanan	Ivan Harrington	Kayla Walker
Laura Cawood	Megan Johnston	Taylor Westerfield
Erica Coleman	Maria Prentice	Simone Wright
Katelynn Craddock	Emily Reed	Tonya Yarbboro
Jessica Dillhoff	Aaron Shirey	

QIDP Nominees

Dallas Cordle	Brittney Gordon
Loreen Simpson-Dexter	Amy Koneval
Kassondra Dimit	Casey Marchal
Chris Farmer	

Job Coach Nominees

Darlene Loughery	Josh Wackler
Melvin Massie	Christine White
Joy Motz	Jerry Willhite
Janis Philipson	

Team Nominees

PALS Gallipolis ADS Team	Hattie Larlham Professional Dev. Team
SOAR Leadership Team	REM Ohio Church Avenue Team
Hattie Larlham Achieve Day Program	REM Kelly Avenue Team
Family Haven Team	RHDD ADS Team
SOAR DSP Team	Vocational Guidance Services Placement Team
Epic Finance Team	Havar Team Poston
Manahan Dietary Team	

Associate Member Impact Nominees

Gladegy Consulting
Milestones Autism Resources

Volunteer of the Year Nominees

Barbie Bolyard – Volunteer for PALS
Donna Weyrich – Volunteer for Echoing Hills
Mary Willard – Volunteer for Welcome House

Nurse of the Year Nominees

Tina Didino	Robin Moon
Becky Holcomb	Melissa Rogers
Angie Knott	Vicki Walls
Tammy McCoy	Dawn Yohey

Workforce, Quality & Culture Champion Nominees

Joel Carson	Abby Ritzman
Julia Oldham	Anne Rule
Stephanie Rader	

Business & Financial Leadership Nominees

Wendi Brendus	Mary Dearing
Rebecca Campbell	

Operational Excellence Nominees

Renee Eve	Kenny Hughes
Steve Friedman	Sanya Kohli
Amanda Grizzanti	Stephanie Halliwell
Epic, Open Door, RHAM, Nobi and BSTN/HSI	

Community Partner of the Year Nominees

Park Lanes Bowling Alley	Tractor Supply Co.
WrestleFit	Designetics