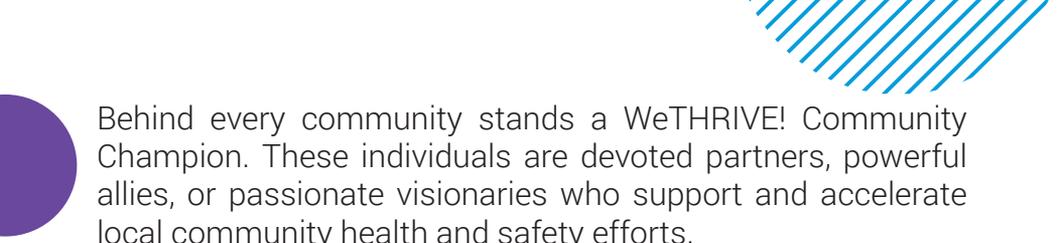




2016

WeTHRIVE!
COMMUNITY
CHAMPIONS

We
THRIVE!
Community Wellness in Action

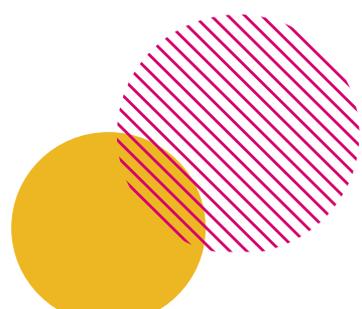


Behind every community stands a WeTHRIVE! Community Champion. These individuals are devoted partners, powerful allies, or passionate visionaries who support and accelerate local community health and safety efforts.

WeTHRIVE! Community Champions may work directly with or for the local school, place of worship, government entity, business, or other community-based organization. Others may start health and wellness programs or organize citizens to take action on their own. Whatever they do, WeTHRIVE! Community Champions are committed to making things better for everyone. They rarely think of what they do as being unusual or praiseworthy. It's just part of their definition of being a good citizen.

The following pages describe a small sample of these Community Champions, nominated by their peers, who strive to make their community a healthier, safer, and more vibrant place to be.

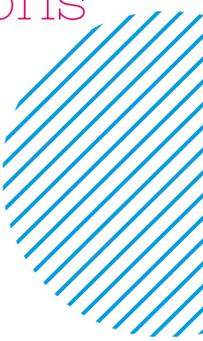
The individuals highlighted during the recognition event and listed in this booklet were nominated by community members and are included as submitted by the nominators, with minor edits for clarity. The content of this booklet does not represent the official position of Hamilton County Public Health.



We
THRIVE!
*Community Wellness in Action*SM

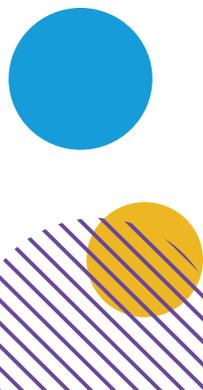


2016 Community Champions



Carmen Daniels
Kerri Robers
Joyce Campbell
Shirley Mesley
Bob Brown
Michele Gottschlich
Jermaine Hill
Daryl Foster
Rebecca Eavers
Rev. Dawne Sarchet
Dan Meloy
Fire Chief Alfie Jones
Kathleen Cushing
Nancy Downs
Monica Lubiani
Mary Wagner
Merrie Stillpass

Addiction Services Council & Colerain QRT



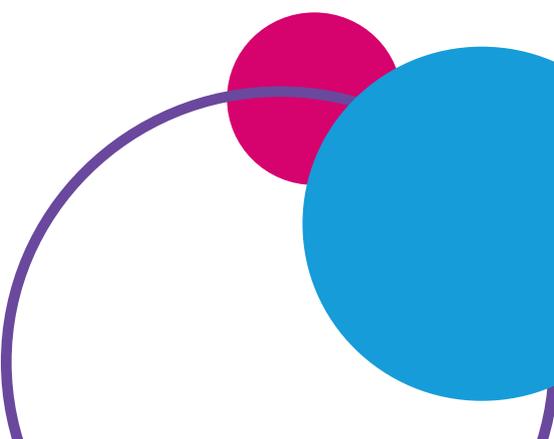


Carmen Daniels



Carmen is a former resident of Lincoln Heights. She has been creating a culture of health and wellness in the community of Lincoln Heights for many years. As a coach for youth football league cheerleaders, she taught her girls the importance of exercise, sleep, and healthy attitudes. Carmen was instrumental in organizing and hosting workshops through the Mayor's Citizen Empowerment Series to introduce health issues to the community (i.e., infant sleep, car safety, a mobile pantry). She has been involved with WeTHRIVE! for a few years and serves as an Ambassador. Because of her involvement with WeTHRIVE!, she encouraged her church members to create a vegetable garden.

In addition to working with cheerleaders and WeTHRIVE!, Carmen organizes the Toys for Tots campaign every year. She has participated in the Simmons Street Community Suppers that were held to feed people in the community. Whenever there is an opportunity or need for volunteers for events in the community, she is there. She organizes fund raisers for families who do not have funds for funeral expenses, which led her to host an insurance seminar for the community. She has worked with a local faith based organization to assist with Thanksgiving baskets and other events. Carmen always goes the extra mile for the Lincoln Heights community.



Kerri Robers

Kerri is the go to girl. If you need any help, she is the one everyone calls. She has donated thousands of hours to Northwest Schools (PTA President)and started a project called HAMM where the youth are involved in beautifying nearby areas or raising and delivering items to those less fortunate. She can organize anything in a heartbeat. She will never say no to anyone or any project that needs help. Her house is the hangout where the kids want to go for safe and supervised fun! She also runs her own business and is an active wife and mom. I've never seen anyone more giving of their time and talents.



Kerri is involved in every aspect of the community; school, church, helping neighbors with babysitting, food, running errands. She is the community's hidden treasure!!

Joyce Campbell

Joyce volunteers on many levels. She is one of our WeTHRIVE! Ambassadors. Joyce is always pleasant, and willing to go the extra mile. She has helped initiate many of the goals we have. Joyce has been with the WeTHRIVE! Lockland team from the start. She is loved and respected in her community.

Joyce volunteers at our local school and at Valley InterFaith. Joyce ministers to a nursing home and is very active in our church.



Shirley Mesley

Shirley is a dedicated member of the Lockland WeTHRIVE! committee and has been since the beginning. She is faithful to attend the meetings and supportive of the action plans being carried out. She works tirelessly to make our community a better place by encouraging good health practices and safety. Her work as a community ambassador shows her worthiness of this nomination.

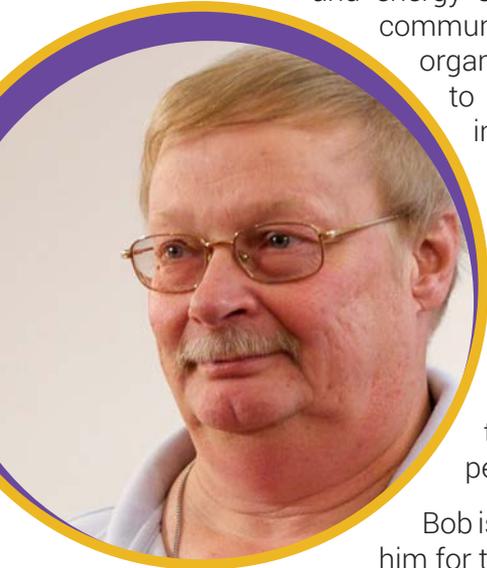
Shirley's influence is felt through the community by her participation in other organizations that contribute to the well-being and morale of the citizens. She is a leader for the Lockland Seniors and serves on the Hamilton County Fair Board. Her volunteer work at the Reading-Lockland Presbyterian Church Summer Enrichment Program has been a benefit to the children.

I feel Shirley is a Community Champion, and I nominate her for this award.



Bob Brown

Bob serves faithfully as a member of the Lockland WeTHRIVE! committee and is an ambassador. He has given freely of his time and energy supporting the goals of making our community better. Bob's leadership and organizational skills are very important to our committee in the effort to improve the health and safety of our community. He is deserving of this nomination.



Bob has rendered valuable service through local government by serving as a councilman and vice mayor of Lockland. He benefits the children by serving as director of the sports program. We need more people like him.

Bob is truly a public servant, and I nominate him for this award.

Michele Gottschlich

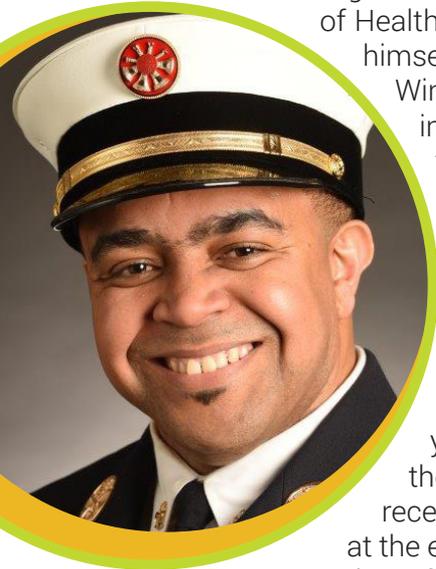
Michele has volunteered her time (all volunteer time) for the Evendale community in many ways. She has been a member (and past chair) of the Recreation Commission; she was instrumental in the development of the Chronic Disease pathway goals and objectives for the WeTHRIVE! initiative process for the Recreation Department, and has continued to be a part of the process. She has been involved in the Recreation Department's swim team program as the award chair. Michele was the lead author when the Recreation Department submitted an application for it's Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan to the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission for the Frank F. Ferris II award. The Village of Evendale (Recreation Department) did win the award!



Michele was one of the founding members of the Connective Active Communities Coalition group, and she has been active for many years (not only with this group, but the Recreation Commission) seeking the development of a leisure trail system in Evendale, and on a regional scale. In addition, she has been very active in the Mill Creek Collaborative group. Michele was the Village of Evendale's lead person when the City of Sharonville submitted a funding application to the Ohio Department of Transportation for a Safe Routes to School Grant.

Michele is one of the most intelligent, pleasant, and thoughtful people I know. She is a great resource (and treasure) for the Village of Evendale! With the Village of Evendale hosting this year's Recognition Event, recognizing Michele Gottschlich as a "Community Champion" would be most fitting.

Jermaine Hill



Thirty to 39% of Ohio third grade students are classified as overweight or obese as reported by the Ohio Department of Health body mass index. Jermaine challenged himself to create a school program for the Winton Woods School District that would influence and educate our students on the importance of eating healthy and physical fitness. Jermaine created the Firefighter Physical Fitness Drill to address the physical fitness aspect. It is a simple competition between students challenging them through six stations (four of which are firefighting tasks). They compete twice in a school year working towards an improvement on their time. The best time in each grade level receives a gift certificate at a school ceremony at the end of the school year. Jermaine also has speakers from the community speak on topics of fitness and healthy eating. His program is a success as it promotes healthy living and tackles a trending sedentary lifestyle fueled with processed foods and drive-through meals.

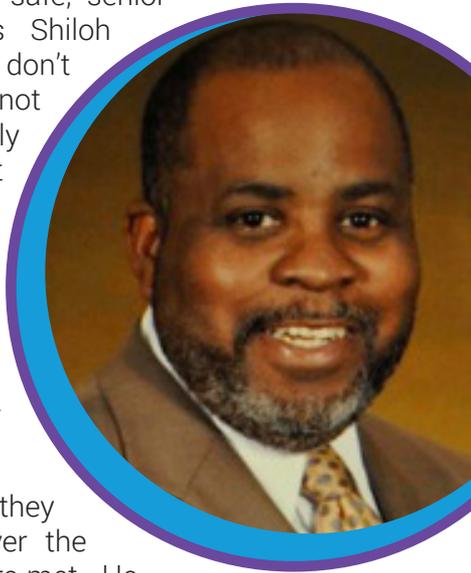
Over the summer of 2016, Jermaine established a fitness boot camp for all citizens of Forest Park every Saturday morning from June to August. Every Monday afternoon Jermaine provides vital sign assessments with glucose checks at our community senior center.

Jermaine took on the task to create a WeTHRIVE! group for the City of Forest Park. As we complete our first year working on Healthy Living in Forest Park, he has created partnerships with citizens and our business community to educate them on fitness, health and dietary programs.

Jermaine has put together a team to start on the process to complete the packet for Safe Routes to School. Jermaine also mentors school age children within the Winton Woods School District as some of the children within the school district do not have a male role model in their life. Jermaine works with citizens who stop by, AAA and Babies "R" Us as a car seat installer. He averages 3 car seats a week to install.

Daryl Foster

Daryl works tirelessly to ensure low income senior citizens on the West Side of Cincinnati have clean, safe, senior-appropriate apartments. He runs Shiloh Adventist Garden Apartments, and I don't think he ever takes a day off! If he's not physically on the property, he's probably thinking about the next improvement he can make on the grounds. Although these are subsidized apartments, one would never know it by looking at the property. The grounds are always neatly groomed, the hallways are clean, and there are always decorations appropriate for every season.



Daryl treats the residents there like they are his own family; he watches over the seniors and makes sure their needs are met. He is professional, well-organized, and very knowledgeable about his duties. Yet his heart is as big as they come! Daryl goes above and beyond his call of duty at Shiloh Adventist. I don't know if he ever has any spare time!

Rebecca Eavers

Rebecca was instrumental to the success of this year's summer fitness boot camp series in the City of Forest Park. In previous years, although a police officer, she volunteered her time for the Firefighter Fitness Drill.



Rebecca is a key member of our WeTHRIVE! organization who always is generous with her time and energy. Rebecca also leads by example as she consistently exercises in the gym at least five times a week.

Rebecca has been lauded for her positive impact in the community; not just from her supervisors, but also from where the work is done: the community!

She was the community's DARE Officer, known affectionately as "Officer Becca" by the students.

She is now the police department's Community Response Specialist, a liaison both professional and personable. Officer Rebecca Eavers has assisted in helping families get their utilities back on, organized many initiatives with our city's clergy, such as STAR Touring and Riding and Unite to Feed Children event with Daysprings Church. This event alone assisted 800 families in need. She is also learning Spanish while attending and assisting school tutoring sessions at our Latino Ministry Center. Rebecca has held many roles in our police department: traffic coordinator, School Resource Officer, patrol person, she is also the current head of the city's Block Watch program. She is trusted to handle duties outside her normal scope such as event coordinator, guest speaker, and chili cook-off contestant! She handles all of these responsibilities (and more) with the utmost professionalism and grace.

It is my pleasure to nominate Officer Rebecca Eavers for the WeTHRIVE! Community Champion.

Rev. Dawne Sarchet

Rev. Dawne Sarchet is committed to the health and well-being of the community as an active participant of the Lockland WeTHRIVE! committee. She is diligent in her efforts to eliminate hunger of the children. Through a Summer Enrichment Program at the church where she is pastor, children receive two meals each day and food for the weekend, plus academic classes and character reinforcement.

In addition to organizing and conducting the summer program, Rev. Dawne is working with the school on a plan to help students with homework and educational assistance after school and to feed them. She has also promoted health fair participation and job recruitment for citizens.



I nominate Rev. Dawne Sarchet who is a true community champion and very worthy of this award!



Dan Meloy

Dan is a tireless, fierce, enthusiastic and knowledgeable public servant for his community. He has been innovative and creating, leading the creation of specialized work that is helping individuals and families in Colerain who have been impacted by heroin and opiate addictions. Dan has worked with interdisciplinary teams throughout the Colerain community to find solutions to save lives. Police, fire/EMS, mental health services, and other entities have worked together under Dan's guidance, and faith-based groups have become engaged in community outreach to assist individuals struggling with addiction who live in Colerain Township.



Dan has shared the QRT model and Colerain Township's response to opiate overdoses with other communities in Ohio, and has traveled to other parts of the country to help their areas establish similar programs.



Fire Chief Alfie Jones

Forest Park Fire Chief Alfie Jones has been a tremendous advocate and driving force behind Forest Park's WeTHRIVE! initiatives. Before the WeTHRIVE! program, Chief Jones had a vision of creating a community liaison position dedicated to fire prevention, life and safety education. As a result of the implementation of this position, fire department recruitment and its cadet program have increased membership, the department has received many awards for its work in fire safety, public relations, and community impact!



Alfie is at the forefront of positioning Forest Park to receive bike paths and/or walking trails. Daily before work, he jogs 4 miles. During this period, he takes mental notes of the conditions around the city (i.e. unsafe sidewalks, lighting issues, etc.), brings his findings to city staff meetings, and creates solutions to make the city safer.

Within the fire department, he has worked with his firefighters to devise a physical fitness program which allows for baseline testing which is key for tracking progress and detecting possible diseases early.

The City of Forest Park has greatly benefitted from the vision, love, and determination of Fire Chief Alfie Jones.

Alfie contributes to the City of Forest Park in many ways; some of which include: home and commercial safety inspections within our building department, sidewalk surveys, patient follow-ups, especially high-frequency patients and hoarders, high school student mentorship, assisting with various fundraisers and drives, and empowering his staff to engage and create for and with community entities.

Kathleen Cushing

Kathy Cushing loves her childhood home so much that she recently moved back to Sedamsville so she could provide hands-on support in the neighborhood.

She works with the CDC to improve the neighborhood. As you drive through Sedamsville and see the decorations and beautiful flower arrangements, they are her doing. Each and every one is touched by her hands. She has staged sit-ins to run drug dealers out of the local laundromat.



She helps host every fundraising event they hold in Sedamsville to make the community better. Kathy helped arrange transportation for local children to the closest community pool so they would have something to do in the summer. Kathy is a tireless champion for Sedamsville and recently received her WeTHRIVE! Ambassador certificate. You will not find anyone more devoted to their community than Kathleen Cushing.

Nancy Downs

Nancy is a member of the WeTHRIVE! team in Anderson Township. She is also the manager of Anderson Township's Farmer's Market. In March of 2016, Nancy completed the WeTHRIVE! Ambassador training and became an Ambassador. From the Ambassador training Nancy was inspired to create a new activity at the Farmer's Market to engage the youth. Nancy purchased posters that had all different kinds of fruits and vegetables on them. When the kids first come to the market, Nancy asks them to identify all the fruits/vegetables in the poster. She then gives them a dollar to use at the market. When leaving the kids stop back and show Nancy what fruit or vegetable they purchased with their dollar.



Nancy's passion can be seen in her interactions with the children. She says that she is creating the next generation of folks who will shop at farmers markets. Nancy is a critical member of Anderson's WeTHRIVE! team. She played a big role in getting the breastfeeding friendly work site policy adopted by the Trustees and then helped to create a lactation room within the Anderson Center. Nancy helps with all objectives and activities; always going the extra mile to help support the WeTHRIVE! team and WeTHRIVE! in Anderson.

Monica Lubiani

Monica was the leader of the Mt. Healthy WeTHRIVE! team. She was instrumental in getting the team off the ground and working to recruit residents, business owners, and people interested in Mt. Healthy to be on the team. It was her leadership that allowed Mt. Healthy to apply for, and receive, several grants to support their work, including the Thriving Communities grant from Interact for Health and the School Travel Plan grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation.



She worked very hard to make the WeTHRIVE! Mt. Healthy team successful and to continue to recruit members of the community to join the team. It was her idea to begin holding the WeTHRIVE! team meetings in different venues all around the community to encourage others to attend and she also worked hard to attend as many community events as possible to represent WeTHRIVE! Before she moved to Texas, Monica even ensured that the WeTHRIVE! team would continue by including the team leadership duties in her job description and helping to select her successor.

Mary Wagner

Mary Wagner of Woodlawn has been involved with the initiative since it originated in 2009. Her passion for her community is shown by her dedication to make Woodlawn the best it can be through every avenue possible. Mary's accomplishments stem from community gardens and tobacco free ordinances on Village property, to the lasting relationships she's made with council, the parks and rec department, and many neighbors who witness her generosity every day. Mary's efforts have contributed to food access, cleaner air, reduced exposure to second-hand smoke, and physical activity opportunities in the Village.



As the current chair of Woodlawn's WeTHRIVE! team, Mary organizes meetings, takes meeting minutes, and reminds everyone when to meet. Bringing everyone together and keeping them engaged in health and wellness is a trait that exemplifies her leadership skills. Furthermore, Mary listens to people with an open mind. This shows her ability to relate to others and keep their interest, which is pertinent to community organizing.

Mary is an advocate for the well-being of others and her good deeds inspire those around her. Despite her hectic schedule, she always makes time for committee meetings, her family, and community. Mary embodies selflessness and teaches us all that we can make a big difference in small ways. Her friendly spirit truly motivates those around her.

Additionally, Mary is often the voice of reason and is always looking to the future for more opportunities or solutions. She is always up for a challenge and gives her all with every task. Mary has continuously been a champion for WeTHRIVE! and without her, the initiative would not be as strong as it is today.

Merrie Stillpass



Merrie Stillpass has been involved with the WeTHRIVE! initiative since September 2011 during her term as Mayor.

Several grant opportunities allowed Amberley to create a 36 plot community garden (still in production today) with overstock produce being donated to local charities such as the Jewish Family Service and community food kitchens. Furthermore, a bridge for pedestrian access was built by two groups of teenagers for a new trail at French Park. Merrie was instrumental in making these things happen.



Merrie continued to be engaged in WeTHRIVE! even after the funds ran out. She currently chairs Amberley's Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) in which she organizes and facilitates with enthusiasm. Her dedication to environmental

health is contagious and can be seen through the ESC's accomplishments over the past several years; ESC has created community rain barrels, rain gardens, and hosted annual One Stop Drop recycling events, composting demonstrations, and educational programs, only to name a few. Amberley has continued to be a Tree City USA since 2005, illustrating their dedication to tree planting and maintenance, often exceeding requirements.

Merrie is a go-getter who puts her mind to a task and makes it happen. Merrie always asks for the opinions and ideas of others, constantly looking to expand her views and work towards the community's goals for health and wellness. Not only can she communicate well with others, turn paperwork around quickly, and be an effective leader, but she also makes those around her feel welcomed and appreciated.



Addiction Services Council & Colerain QRT

The Quick Response Team (QRT) is a dedicated team of staff from the Addiction Services Council along with Colerain's police and fire personnel; to serve the community by providing a service to victims that have had an opiate overdose. The level of service and time they have provided to Colerain Township demonstrates their level of excellence and desire to make the community a better and safer place to live, work and play.



The dedication and commitment of the QRT in taking steps to address the opiate issue is astounding. Not only are they responsible for moving forward with an issue that has little answers; but they are also making a difference in the lives of others.

None of this great work can be done without the solid partnership with the community. Everyone who represents this community should proud of the impact on this fight.



THANK YOU!

A special thank you goes to all of our WeTHRIVE! Community Champions and the communities, families, and people that support the work that they do. Your extraordinary efforts contribute greatly to the WeTHRIVE! Initiative's vision to create a culture of health, safety, and vitality for all.



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