

The following awards is given to one individual in each OPRA District.

Behind the Scenes Award

This Award is dedicated to individuals who work “behind the scenes” to make a positive impact in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Nominees for this Award are employees who work in indirect support departments such as maintenance, clerical, housekeeping, human resources, food service, or technical support. Award Selection Criteria (an individual may exemplify all or part of the following criteria):

- Goes “above and beyond” what is outlined in his/her job duties
- Shows respect and concern for individuals with disabilities
- Generates creative and innovative ideas that enhance the lives of an individual or individuals with developmental disabilities
- Reinforces a positive environment
- Contributes to the success of the Agency
- Demonstrates best safety practices
- Exemplifies excellence in job performance, personal attitude, and commitment to the mission of the Agency
- Works to lift spirits, boost morale, and raise productivity
- Shows appreciation and loyalty
- Supports quality services through accomplishments and contributions
- Exhibits outstanding conduct and courtesy
- Dependable and reliable
- Practices excellent human relations skills

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 real people. Their hard work and devotion keeps the system running smoothly when all else may be in chaos. Their value is inestimable. Award Selection Criteria (an individual may exemplify all or part of the following criteria):

- Dedicated and committed to the job
- Personifies a strong ethical background
- Gives time, energy, and effort in effectively supporting consumers’ pursuits of goals
- Organized, creative and full of great ideas
- Responds positively to challenges
- Reliable and dependable employee

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 wants to come to work. These are supervisors who set clear expectations for their staff – who in turn, want to give more because of their supervisors’ leadership. Award Selection Criteria (an individual may exemplify all or part of the following criteria):

- Provides outstanding service and commitment to individuals with developmental disabilities
- Demonstrates a high standard of care and a willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty
- Exemplifies a spirit of teamwork and cooperation
- Embodies reliability, commitment, initiative, and creativity in getting the job done
- Respected by staff
- Dedicated to the mission of the Agency and to outstanding service

The following awards is given to one recipient.

Community Member of the Year Award

“Community” is more than just the place where one lives: it’s the “feeling of fellowship” that can characterize any place, among any group of people. This award is dedicated to the OPRA Provider Member which best creates “community” – within and without its walls, nurturing relationships with all the populations it touches. This Provider Member exhibits measurable action in:

- Developing and then showing appreciation for volunteers and other individuals who choose to be involved with the agency;
- Exceptional service to individuals-served and their families;
- Friendly and thriving relationships with vendors and other business connections;
- Taking advantage of opportunities offered from outside the agency to involve individuals-served in the larger world;
- Outstanding community involvement, outreach, and development.

Community Partner of the Year Award

This award is to recognize community entities (non IDD provider agencies) who go above and beyond in offering volunteer and recreational opportunities in the community to the individuals we support. (Example: Animal Shelter, YMCA, Library, Nursing Home..etc.)

Gary LeVox Job Coach Award (NEW)

This award goes to a Job Coach who demonstrates exceptional skills in providing on-the-job supports to individuals in integrated, competitive employment. The nomination narrative should include specific examples of how the nominee uses his or her outstanding job coaching skills to successfully assist individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment in the community. Award Selection Criteria (an individual may exemplify all or part of the following criteria):

- Outstanding job coaching skills
- Effective communication with individuals, employers and families
- The use of adaptive technologies, task analysis, or problem-solving

Lifetime Leadership Award (NEW)

Adult services provider organizations believe in strong partnerships in the DD field. This award is presented to a professional who has exhibited extraordinary leadership, advocacy, and passion as a provider of adult services in Ohio. Award Selection Criteria (an individual may exemplify all or part of the following criteria):

- Minimum of 15 years of service in the DD field
- Minimum of 5 years of service in current position
- Organization must be in good standing
- Strong leadership role in organization

Maureen Corcoran Award – Co-sponsored by OADSP & OPRA

This award goes to a PATHS-credentialed Direct Support Professional who demonstrates the competencies of the Community Support Skill Standards, upholds the NADSP Code of Ethics through his/her daily interactions with people with disabilities, and exhibits exemplary professionalism in all aspects of his/her job. Award Selection Criteria (an individual may exemplify all or part of the following criteria):

The nomination narrative should include specific descriptions of how the nominee – through his/her support of people with disabilities on a day-to-day basis – demonstrates his/her knowledge and understanding of the Community Support Skill Standards and the Code of Ethics. The nomination should identify how PATHS impacted the work of this Direct Support Professional.

The nomination should identify at least three (3) of the following areas in which the nominee demonstrates a high level of excellence and professionalism:

- Ethics
- Communication
- Facilitation of Services
- Organizational Participation
- Advocacy
- Community Living Skills and Supports
- Community and Service Networking
- Crisis Intervention
- Participant Empowerment
- Education/Self Development
- Vocational, Educational and Career Support

Team Award

This Award is devoted to an exceptional team that works industriously and conscientiously together to directly and positively impact the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. A team may consist of 3 to 15 individuals (exceptions may be considered). Award Selection Criteria (a team may exemplify all or part of the following criteria):

- Demonstrates excellent team performance which directly and positively impacts the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities served by the Agency.
- Focuses on the strengths of individuals served by the Agency
- Works in a cooperative, proactive manner to facilitate team processes and enable it to work effectively for those served
- Displays a commitment to quality services and improvement
- Invested in the mission of the Agency
- Promotes overall team excellence

Volunteer of the Year Award

This Award focuses on the recognition of a non-paid community partner – who could be a family member, community support person, or a friend – whose contributions are deemed invaluable to persons with developmental disabilities.

Award Selection Criteria (an individual may exemplify all or part of the following criteria):

- Gives time, energy, and effort in effectively supporting the enhancement of individuals' lives
- Furthers the mission of the Agency through volunteer efforts
- Organized, creative and full of great ideas
- Responds positively to challenges
- Exemplifies the ideal volunteer