

Outstanding Volunteer Award Nomination

Award Description:

The Outstanding Volunteer Award will be presented to an individual who, through volunteer efforts, has significantly contributed his/her time and talents to a community program that serves individuals with disabilities.

NOMINEE: Sigma Sigma Sigma Pittsburg State University Chapter
ORGANIZATION: Mosaic

Provide a narrative including answers to the following questions. You may also attach a maximum of three letters of support. Additional information may be attached if necessary.

- What volunteer efforts have been demonstrated?
- What outcome has resulted from this volunteer effort?
- How long and how often has this volunteer effort been provided?
- Provide a biographical sketch of the person.
- List any personal services and/or achievements that are pertinent.
- Additional information.

NOMINATION NARRATIVE:

Mosaic in Southeast Kansas is nominating the Pittsburg State University Chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma for InterHab's 2022 Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Our relationship with Sigma Sigma Sigma (or as we call them, the Tri Sigs) began in 2011. Mosaic provided Case Management to a child whose family was really struggling and was financially unable to buy Christmas gifts. The child had major medical needs that insurance did not cover, the mother was undergoing Chemotherapy and the father had recently been severely hurt at work and was laid off as a result of his injury.

The Case Manager reached out to one of the Tri Sigma ladies to see if they were able to help this struggling family. Within two weeks the Tri Sigs brought multiple gifts for each member of the family, medical supplies, food, gift cards and even cash to help pay medical and utility bills. Their generosity was huge and far exceeded our expectations

The following year around Christmas, the Tri Sigs contacted Mosaic and said that they would like to provide gifts for individuals Mosaic supports. They wanted to make sure that everyone had gifts to open on Christmas. So they took on the task of purchasing multiple gifts for over 20 people in service, including the family that they helped the previous year. Each gift was well thought out and came from a wish list the individuals provided. The gifts

Over the past eleven years our relationship with Sigma Sigma Sigma has continued to grow. They still fill the Mosaic office with Christmas gifts each year. But they also partner with us to do special events every month. Each event is fun and is something the individuals in service said they would like to do. They have put on spa days for the ladies, pumpkin painting, scavenger hunts, cookie decorating, potlucks, game nights, volunteering at the local animal shelter and walking dogs together. At each of these

get-togethers, there are typically between 40 and 50 Tri Sigma ladies that attend. They have built strong bonds and relationships with the people in service and are genuinely interested in their lives. The Tri Sig ladies know everyone's names and are just as excited to spend time with us as we are them.

To say that the Tri Sigma's go above and beyond feels like an understatement. They send cards for each individual in service at each major holiday. For Valentine's Day they sent individual gift bags with candy and Valentine's Day cards. If they see that someone didn't come to the monthly event and hear that it's due to being ill, they send a get well card to them.

The events are just one of the many things these amazing ladies do in volunteering with Mosaic. Each year, they have Mosaic come speak at one of their very first chapter meetings, which is huge by the way. They have an individual in service speak at their meeting and share their success story. They want to make sure that all the new ladies know what Mosaic is and form a connection to our agency as well as the people supported.

Recently, an individual started working at a local restaurant and was very proud of his job. He excitedly told several Tri Sigs about his new job and that he worked the next day, so they showed up at the restaurant the next day so they could see him working and tell him how proud they are of him.

Sigma Sigma Sigma heard that Mosaic was participating in the Polar Bear Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics. They immediately wanted to join our team and were on board to raise money and jump in ice cold water as part of the Mosaic team. The Tri Sigs also help with Special Olympics and are always there cheering on their "friends". It's so amazing to see that these ladies truly have built friendships with the people supported. It's not uncommon for me to walk into Day Services and have a person in service excited tell me "Lexi came to watch my softball throw" or "I saw Carly at Wal-Mart. She said she watched me at Special Olympics and was so proud of me".

Often in our field, people we support don't have many, if any natural supports. What started out as volunteering to help a struggling family has blossomed into a natural support network and lifelong friendships. We are so grateful for the relationship with Sigma Sigma Sigma and cannot think of anyone more deserving of the 2024 Outstanding Volunteer Award.

NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION: Jennifer Cardin

ORGANIZATION: Mosaic

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I have reviewed and agreed to the criteria for filming the awards video.

I have obtained approval for this nomination from the submitting agency's Executive Director.