

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: Helene Longhofer

ORGANIZATION: Starkey, Inc.

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:

For almost as long as there have been volunteers at Starkey, Helene Longhofer has been here. She was one of the original Starkey Action Council members when that philanthropic group formed in 1983, and she served an active role in developing fundraisers like the Starkey Holiday Market and the Charlie Daniels Golf Classic, two of the largest events that put Starkey on the map in Wichita and raised countless dollars before ending after 20-year runs.



Helene joined the board of the Starkey Foundation in the late 1990s and has served as a board member ever since. She volunteers at every event Starkey hosts, including current fundraisers (Starkey Golf Classic, Amber Waves Tasting Tour, Cars for Charities) and events that are geared for the enjoyment of persons served (holiday party and summer party). She also has come to the day programs to read books to persons served.

Helene gives her resources as well as her time. She has helped fundraise for capital campaigns, including the one for the main building in 1993 and the most recent program building in 2020. Through the Starkey Action Council, she raised money to build numerous group homes in the 1990s and early 2000s. She purchases tax credits when those are made available for fundraising purposes, connects the development team to local sponsors and contributors and makes generous annual gifts herself. If she wins a prize in a contest, that item is immediately given to Starkey for use by persons served. She also donated home baked goods as an auction item for one of Starkey's recent events. She is one of the most generous, giving individuals we have ever known.



In her role as a Starkey board member, Helene identifies other prospective board members and volunteers. She approaches them, telling about her own experiences as a volunteer and asking them to accompany her on a tour of Starkey's programs, which usually results in them wanting to get involved. She mentors others, encourages persons served, other volunteers and Starkey employees and has a wholeheartedly positive outlook that inspires everyone around her. Because she has been part of Starkey for so many years, she has the ability to see the things that can be tweaked or fixed, and will provide encouragement to do so. When Helene talks, we listen.



Most recently, Helene has become part of Starkey's "passion projects" initiative, which seeks out volunteers to teach skills and activities about which they are passionate. So far, Helene has taught individuals served at Starkey how to bake homemade granola and how to play pickleball.



There are so many good volunteers who make Starkey the organization it is today; Helene is among the best we have ever had the privilege of knowing.

NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION: Colin McKenney, CEO

ORGANIZATION: Starkey, Inc.

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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.

Send this form via email to mshreve@interhab.org