

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY



2015
ANNUAL MEETING
& LUNCHEON


HANCI
HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NIAGARA COUNTY INC.

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Friends:

I want to sincerely thank you all for joining us for our annual luncheon celebration of HANCI's work to strengthen the Niagara County community. On behalf of our Board of Directors and our HANCI staff, we look forward to this day every year so we can also celebrate the work of some of this area's most deserving individuals.

In this day and age – we don't hear "thank you for all you do to make our community a better place" nearly enough. Today we will say those words!

The Niagara County area has so very much to offer – four beautiful seasons every year. We have one of the world's greatest tourist attractions in Niagara Falls and some of the greatest restaurants in the world. We have excellent schools and hospitals, parks, cultural and recreational activities... to name a few. But I feel our region's greatest strength is the people who live here.

Today we are taking time out to recognize the greatness of some of these amazing people who "strengthen our community." They inspire us, lead us, educate us and encourage us to be better people. They share the gifts they were given – always in a positive way with a smile and a hug. Their energy, wisdom and faith in our community has touched the lives of so many. Today, we celebrate and thank each and every one of our award recipients for doing all they do!

Thank you all for being with us today and for working alongside us throughout the year. Your continued support of HANCI allows us to continue our mission and for that we are grateful.

Sincerely,

John W. Kinner
President & CEO



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mistress of Ceremonies:

Lori Caso – Public Affairs, Waste Management

Invocation

Sister Concetta DeFelice, OSF
Western New York Region Minister, Sisters of St. Francis
HANCI Board Member & Nominating Committee Chairperson

Welcome & 2015 Review

John W. Kinner – HANCI President & CEO

LUNCH

2015-16 Board of Directors & Executive Committee Election Results

Sister Concetta DeFelice, OSF
Western New York Region Minister, Sisters of St. Francis
HANCI Board Member & Nominating Committee Chairperson

Chairperson's Remarks

Mary Ricciardi – Chairperson, HANCI Board of Directors

A Moment of Silence

In Loving Memory of Harold Brown

Chairperson's Award for Distinguished Service

Myriam Witkowski

Chris Richbart Heart of HANCI Award:

Sr. Beth Brosmer

Outstanding Sponsor: Unifrax

Outstanding Partner Award: John Lukasik

Special Recognition Award: Jane Keyes

Karen Albond Courage in Caring Award: Julie Whittemore

Benediction:

Sister Beth Brosmer
Sisters of St. Francis at Stella Niagara

Chairperson's Award for Distinguished Service

Myriam Witkowski

Myriam Witkowski, Assistant Dean of the Niagara University College of Business Administration, has served on the HANCI Board for over 20 years. She was initially asked to join HANCI by former Executive Director Dr. Irene Elia and has continued to serve throughout John Kinner's tenure.

Serving as Secretary of the board, she has supported the acquisition and expansion of properties and was part of the planning for Complete Senior Care. For those who don't know, Complete Senior Care is a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Simply put, Complete Senior Care is an alternative to a nursing home and allows seniors to remain living independently in the community by providing all-inclusive care plans to meet each participant's needs. Complete Senior Care would not be the tremendous asset it is to the Niagara County community without Myriam Witkowski.

Myriam also provides our agency with a link to Niagara University's students who have worked as very capable interns in different areas of our organization. This is a way for HANCI to help train our area's future professionals. We also welcome the new ideas and enthusiasm we receive from the students.

Therefore, for her selfless dedication and support, continued loyalty and service to HANCI and the Niagara community, we proudly name Myriam Witkowski as the 2015 recipient of the HANCI Chairperson's Award for Distinguished Service.



Chairperson's Award for Distinguished Service is an annual award presented by the HANCI Board Chairperson. This award honors an individual who demonstrate leadership, commitment and makes invaluable contributions to HANCI and the community we serve.

Chris Richbart Heart of HANCI Award

Sister Beth Brosmer

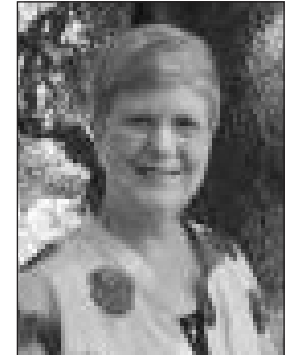
When the Buffalo News interviewed this courageous lady they said, "Words of welcome and caring are the first things to greet you when you meet Sister Beth Brosmer, executive director of the Heart, Love and Soul food pantry. Brosmer also appears to always have a ready smile, not an easy thing when dealing with some of the poorest of the poor in the Niagara Falls area." We at HANCI could not agree more.

Sister Brosmer, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis at Stella Niagara, is such an asset to our Niagara County community. Her mission the last 6 years has been to "feed those in need and to provide opportunities for a better quality of life. We know she does so much more.

We at HANCI feel that through Sister's efforts – Niagara Falls is a better place. She works tirelessly to feed the hungry. On any given day the pantry's dining room serves up 150 lunches and more than 600 people receive services each month.

Her efforts have also led the pantry to grow several different outreach services to improve the quality of life for those in need. Under Sr. Beth's leadership, Heart, Love and Soul provides a social worker, nutrition classes, a staff nurse and health clinics, addiction services and recently added a grooming area so clients can get a haircut.

Today, the HANCI Board of Directors would like to recognize Sister Beth's many accomplishments and contributions to our community by presenting her with the **Chris Richbart Heart of HANCI Award**. We are so thankful for all she does on a daily basis to make a difference in so many lives.



The Chris Richbart Heart of HANCI Award honors the memory of Chris Richbart. It is presented annually to an individual who exemplifies all elements of the HEART – honesty, excellence, respect, compassion and teamwork

Outstanding Sponsor Award



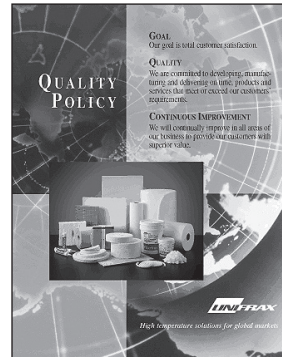
This Niagara Falls business has been a friend to HANCI for years. Their business culture is one that places a high value on quality and integrity in every aspect of their operation. This is apparent to all in the role Unifrax has taken as an active and responsible corporate citizen.

For those who don't know, Unifrax is a leading producer of high-temperature insulation products for a wide variety of industrial applications. Since 1942, Unifrax products have been providing heat management solutions and energy savings to a broad range of industries. Today, they employ over 1,600 people worldwide and maintain a leadership role regarding industry health and safe handling of products

As one of the first sponsors of our HANCI Senior Prom, **Unifrax has always been there for us** – and over 300 senior citizens and high school students across Western New York who participate in our one of a kind, annual event.

This intergenerational event that means so much to so many would not be possible without the generosity of Unifrax and its employees.

So on behalf of our staff and Board of Directors we wish to thank and recognize Unifrax for their continued support of HANCI. You have always been there for us helping HANCI to strengthen the community and we sincerely "Thank you!"



The Outstanding Sponsor Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of a business, agency or other non-profit who directly supports the mission of HANCI.

Outstanding Partner Award

John Lukasik

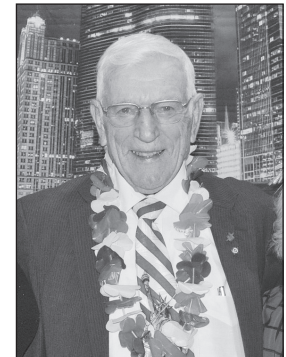
This honoree has the energy of an Army. It's no surprise to anyone he served our Country and is a proud Veteran of WWII.

John Lukasik is a strong community leader who was born in North Tonawanda and drafted into the army at the age of 20. Having worked at Bell Aircraft as a government procurement inspector, he requested transfer to the Air Corps. There he served with the 39 Bomb Squadron, 6 Bomb Group during WWII in the Pacific.

After serving his Country during a time of war, Mr. Lukasik returned to his hometown to serve as Commander of the Sikora Post American Legion 1322. The American Legion is the nation's largest Veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of programs in communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security and continued devotion to fellow servicemen and veterans. While Mr. Lukasik is retired now, he still serves the Sikora Post as Chaplain.

He remains president and owner of American Flags – which he started many years ago to sell flags at no cost to spread his love of Country to others.

He and his friend Barbara Barrett don't miss an opportunity to help out wherever they can to make this community a better place. They helped make our 2015 HANCI Senior Prom the best one ever! They fundraise for the United Way and work from start to finish during United Way's Day of Caring. They are members of the Erie-Niagara Exchange Club, raise money for child abuse prevention and volunteer for Meals on Wheels.



Therefore, on behalf of our Board of Directors, we would like to present **John Lukasik** with our Outstanding Partner Award for his outstanding commitment to strengthening our community through his volunteer efforts and leadership.

The Outstanding Partner Award honors an individual in our community who demonstrates leadership and a commitment to making our community a better place. They go above and beyond to help others. This person models a spirit of volunteerism and encourages others to raise the quality of life in our area.

Special Recognition Awards

Jane Keyes

Every successful business or organization always has that one special person that it's hard to imagine getting through the day without.

That special person for HANCI is **Jane Keyes** and she is here with us today so we can honor her for her commitment over the last 26 years.

Jane always stood out at HANCI for her commitment, dedication and tireless efforts. She was an extremely hard worker and we accomplished so much through her efforts. She was with us through many good times and some challenging ones as well. We could always trust her opinion to be honest and well thought out.

We would best describe Jane as a dedicated, loyal, conscientious employee and an outstanding asset to HANCI. She was a role model, a leader, and will always be a friend.

Today, the HANCI Board of Directors and staff would like to present Jane Keyes with our Special Recognition Award for her tremendous service to HANCI and the Niagara County community.

May you always have work for your hands to do.

May your pockets hold always a coin or two.

May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.

May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near you.

And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

— Irish Retirement Blessing



Special Recognition Award is presented to outstanding individuals who put others first to strengthen our organization and community.

These honorees reflect the spirit of our HANCI mission and care passionately about the important work we do each day.

Karen Albond Courage in Caring

Julie Whittemore

Ms. Whittemore works as a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), a national program in which volunteers dedicate a year working to eradicate poverty. Julie works at Community Missions organizing programming for local children. Most of these kids are low-income and receive additional services, such as meals from the Community Soup Kitchen. Children from all across the Niagara region have enjoyed the Kids Café program's Easter Egg Hunt and the crafts which Julie organizes. Julie's responsibilities also include fundraising and publicity efforts for their Youth division, which provides services for youth in the juvenile justice and mental health systems in Niagara County.

Julie is also involved in other initiatives at the Mission to better the community. She organized this year's Walk for Niagara to benefit the Missions' Crisis Services programs and has co-instructed the Missions' Parole Re-Entry class. Julie also volunteers with the Magdalene Project and is a dedicated member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara and Temple Beth El in Niagara Falls.

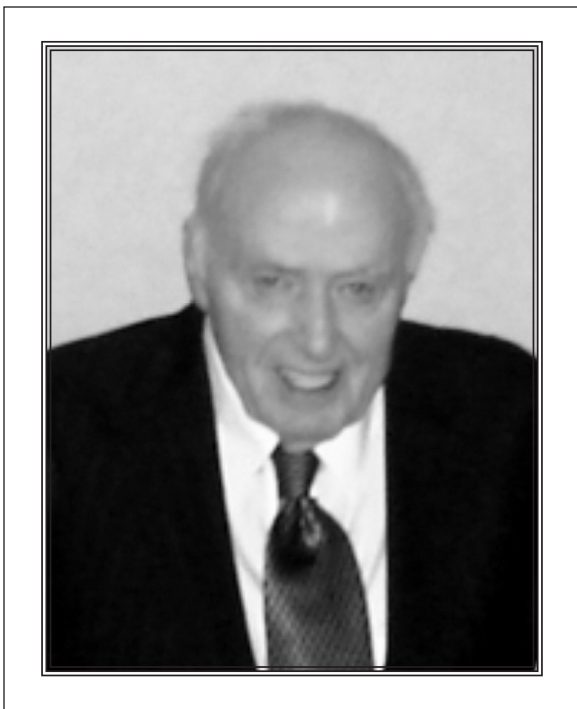
Julie is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and is affected by this disorder through sensory processing and communication barriers, seizures, and self-stimulation behaviors such as jumping and clapping her hands. Despite this, Julie has managed to utilize the gifts of her autism and earned a degree from Utica College in 2014. This was no easy feat for Julie, considering her verbal and sensory impairments. However, she graduated with honors. In addition to her autism, Julie has also overcome eating disorders and other mental disorders throughout her life. She now works as a volunteer counselor to those with disorders such as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Bulimia.

Despite being employable, Julie opted to spend her first year out of college volunteering for the benefit of society and moved to Niagara Falls to do so. Being a caring person, Julie is known for her kindness toward everyone she meets, regardless of economic status, mental illness, or other characteristics. She is a gift to the Mission and our area. Today, we are proud to recognize **Julie Whittemore** for her unique and incredible dedication to the Niagara Community.



Karen Albond Courage in Caring is named for Karen Albond, a long-time HANCI Board Member who passed away in 2003 after significant volunteer & professional service to the Niagara community. The award is presented each year to an individual in the Niagara community who preserves in service to others despite physical or developmental disabilities, or chronic illness. Nominations are accepted through a public process and honorees are selected by a committee including representatives of HANCI, the Albond Family, Niagara University's Father Joseph Levesque, and members of our community.

In Loving Memory of Harold Brown



For over 34 years of loyal service
to HANCI and his friendship
we will be forever grateful.

Harold will be forever in our hearts.



2015 OFFICERS

Chairwoman of the Board Mary Ricciardi
Vice Chairman.....Michael Gormley, PT
TreasurerJoseph Petrozzi
Secretary..... Myriam Witkowski
President & CEO John W. Kinner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Barber	Anthony Leo
Peter Battaglia	Anne Moraca-Sawicki, RN, MSN
Mary Borgognoni	Thomas J. Simpson
Maria Crea, MD	Marigail Sondel
Sr. Concetta DeFelice, OSF	Gary C. Tucker
Kathleen Wojtaszek-Gariano	James Ward
Barbara Hathaway	William Williamson (Honorary)
Robert Kazeangin, Jr.	



FOR CONTINUED CARE:

- HANCI Home Care
- Complete Senior Care – a program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES:

- HANCI Universal Pre-K in partnership with Niagara Falls Board of Education

FOR OLDER ADULTS:

The Volunteer Center at HANCI

- Foster Grandparent Program
- Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
- Senior Companion Program
- HANCI Senior Prom

Council for Older Adults in Niagara County, Inc.

- Golden Age Program