



EDITORIAL

This year's Valentines typify hearts that beat for service

Every year at this time, The Hinsdalean recognizes individuals who give of their time and energy in the community, often in ways that go unseen outside of their respective groups.

We asked local organizations for recommendations, resulting in the following list of Valentines for 2014.

- Cheryl Eck spearheaded the strategic planning committee for the Robert Crown Center for Health Education and gives consistently and quietly all through the year. She is an excellent board member and a wonderful volunteer in the community.

- Linda Riordan has been involved at The Community House in the theater program and has served as a volunteer board member for eight years. She is a true leader but often stays behind the scenes in helping to advise Charlie's Gift Autism Center and leading the task force that guides the Willowbrook Corner Youth Learning Program. Riordan is a champion for getting more community members involved in the organization and is dedicated to serving others.

- Mary Parsons, outgoing president of the Newcomers and Neighbors of the Greater Hinsdale Area, has been a fantastic and reliable shepherd of the organization. Her leadership will be deeply missed.

- Kevin Simpson, Hinsdale's deputy police chief, has become an important supporter for HCS Family Services, serving on the agency's board and providing leadership with the mobile food pantry. His village position has enabled him to recruit members of the police

and fire departments to join together to fund an upcoming mobile food pantry deployment and provide all the volunteers needed.

- Longtime Hinsdale Historical Society board member Jim Davidson has served admirably as chair of the organization's facilities committee and is a steadfast volunteer. He has applied his skills to all three of the historical society's facilities to keep the old buildings operational and appropriate for community use. He is always thinking out of the box to assure the organization's viability and was the architect for a new marketing campaign and a key advocate for programs and events. He makes everything seem like it happens easily, when in reality it has taken Herculean efforts.

- Madeline LoPresti has been part of the Hinsdale Humane Society's Pet A Pet therapy program for years, bringing her dog, Charles, to visit residents of King Bruwaert House. The entire LoPresti family participates in the humane society's foster program, caring for kittens and puppies in their home until the animals are big enough to adopt. They also are vital, but seldom noticed, volunteers in projects like setting up for Pet Walk, cleaning kennels, fundraising and other tasks.

- The Hinsdale Public Library's art committee manages the library's rotating art exhibits and seeks out work for the library's permanent art collection. Committee members donate their time and expertise to create new opportunities for community members to experience visual art.