

Corporate Volunteerism Council Twin Cities

2026 Annual Celebration

Heroes Through Service Award 2026



Heroes Through Service 2026



Marci Martin

Marci demonstrated outstanding service and impact over the past year through her commitment to community engagement and workplace leadership. She devoted many hours to pro bono work to support Smart North in partnership with Xcel Energy and HandsOn Twin Cities, applying her expertise to support meaningful outcomes beyond Accenture. In addition, Marci served as a Cloud Coach, generously investing her time to mentor and develop others, and actively participated in multiple workplace volunteer initiatives.

Christy Sovereign

Christy exemplifies what it means to be a Hero Through Service through her extraordinary leadership and commitment to community impact. She is leading the entire 2026 USA Special Olympics Games—an undertaking that will be the largest volunteer event in Minnesota in 2026—while dedicating countless personal hours to ensure its success. Christy's selfless service, sustained commitment, and transformative leadership truly embody the spirit of this nomination.




accenture



Sara Wright

Under Sara's guidance, Best Buy mobilized 28 teams and engaged employees in support of St. Jude. This level of participation is a testament to her ability to connect people to a shared purpose and foster a sense of collective impact. Sara exemplifies what it means to lead with heart. She balances strategic thinking with genuine care for people, delivering results that benefit both the organization and the broader community. Her ability to inspire, organize, and execute at a high level makes her a standout leader and a truly deserving nominee.

Emma Richards

Emma Richards is purpose driven in her work and life. She excels as BestPrep's Program Manager for the Classroom Plus and Financial Matters programs engaging 100s of volunteers annually. Outside of BestPrep, Emma leads a home group of peers for her church, Cross of Glory Baptist Church in Hopkins. She's been involved for years meeting regularly with other volunteers to uplift and support her faith community. Beyond that Emma directs and leads the school play at Eagle Ridge Academy where student volunteers perform while gaining a myriad of skills.





Xavier Thomas

Xavier Thomas does everything with passion and high energy. When asked he is quick to volunteer and often steps forward before being asked. Outside of BestPrep, Xavier founded the non-profit Miracle Arts which is commonly known as the Minnesota Art Resource Hub. Miracle Arts is a youth-focused creative education nonprofit dedicated to empowering Minnesota youth creatives. Xavier's passion for supporting our community, local creatives, and the connecting people drives him to greatness.

Sophia Dahlke

Sophia Dahlke is a very strong candidate for the CVC-TC Heroes Through Service Award, recognized for her outstanding dedication and leadership in support of the CHS Giving Campaign.



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Jeff Locklin

Jeff Locklin is recognized for his exceptional dedication to volunteerism and community engagement through CHS Stewardship. He consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to giving back, regularly attending and supporting service events throughout the year. Jeff is highly proactive in seeking out new opportunities to serve the community, and his genuine passion is evident not only in his participation but also in the enthusiasm. By encouraging teamwork and shared service experiences, he creates welcoming opportunities for others to participate and contribute together.

Laura Telander

Laura plays an integral role in our volunteer efforts, particularly through her involvement with BestPrep, where she consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to preparing students for future success. In addition to her hands-on volunteer work, Laura extends her impact through her service on the Board of Directors for BestPrep, where she helps guide the organization's mission and outreach

ECMC
Group



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Angela Nguyen

Angela has been a champion of volunteerism by serving as a conduit & key supporter of our efforts to bring volunteer events onsite at our James Ford Bell Technical Center in addition to assisting Nathan Pace with leading our Habitat partnership and rallying employees to engage.



Nathan Pace

While Nathan dedicates his workdays to optimizing engineering tools and processes, he also passionately leads General Mills' volunteer efforts with Habitat for Humanity. His commitment has not only helped build homes but has also fostered a strong sense of community among colleagues. Nathan embodies the spirit of giving back and we are lucky to have him!



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Karrie Galetka

Karrie is a hard-working volunteer who reliably raises her hand whenever a request for support is broadcast. She participates in our onsite Nature Preserve events including the Annual Spring Cleanup, Garlic Mustard Mash and Buckthorn Brigade. She always steps up to support community partnerships with BestPrep, Junior Achievement, and other organizations, happily sharing her educational and professional journey.

Craig Peterson

Craig is a super-volunteer. Within H.B. Fuller he supports our partnership with BestPrep, participates in our on-site blood drives, and participates in onsite tours.

Outside of work, he spends hundreds of hours as a volunteer Ski Patroller providing medical interventions when needed to guests and transporting injured persons off the hill. He also is involved with the adaptive ski program. He serves as an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts, working with leaders, parents, and others to organize campouts throughout the year.



H.B. Fuller

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Amy Slagle

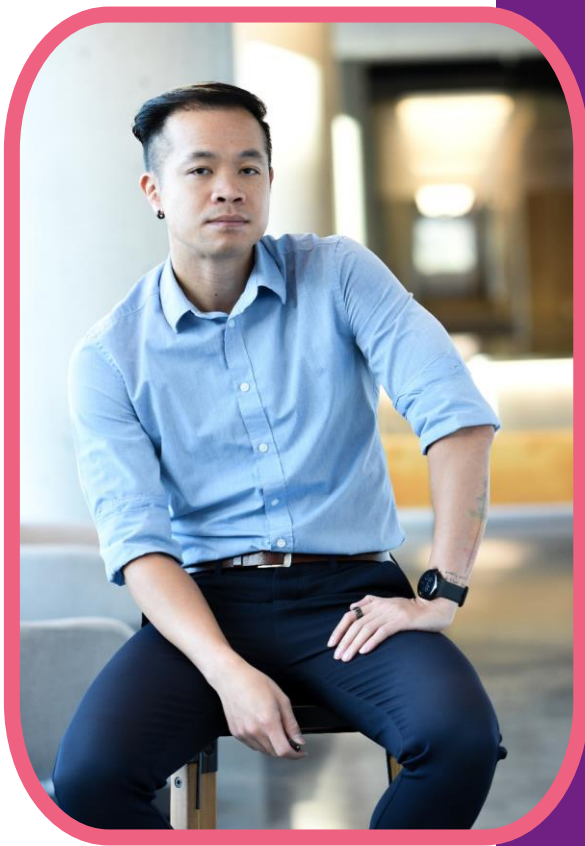
Junior Achievement North is proud to recognize Amy for her years of dedication, hands-on service, and contagious enthusiasm for creating meaningful connections between volunteers and students. Amy has been an active volunteer with JA North for several years, generously giving over 50 volunteer hours across a wide range of opportunities. What truly sets Amy apart is how she shows up. She brings warmth, positivity, and genuine care to every volunteer experience. In just one year, Amy tripled Bridgewater's JA North volunteer participation, demonstrating her ability to inspire others and build a strong culture of service wherever she goes.

Robin Turner

Robin Turner of US Bank is a standout champion of corporate volunteerism and a true force for good in the Twin Cities community. Her commitment to service, leadership, and community impact has helped build and sustain a culture of volunteerism that goes far beyond one-off events – it's something that's genuinely embedded in the heart of US Bank's identity. Throughout every phase of Junior Achievement North's growth and evolution, Robin has remained a steady and passionate advocate for students and community impact. Robin alone has spent over 260 hours volunteering with JA North!



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Cuong Nguyen & Tuyet Do

Cuong & Tuyet are the absolute dream duo! Whenever there is a chance to help out, they show up. And not only do they consistently show up, but they do so with kindness, humility, and compassion. In 2025, they each volunteered about 20 times with our Land O'Lakes team throughout the year! They also support our Employee Resource Groups and our annual Giving Campaign.

Thank you each for your tremendous leadership!

Kate Shaddrick

Kate has a vital role at the Rudy Luther Toyota dealership organizing events and outings to engage our employees in the community. Our employees can participate in giving school supplies to kids, building dressers for Bridging, a chili cook-off for shop with a cop, lunches supporting Veterans organizations, and amazing holiday parties. There is no question that Kate is Driven to Serve.





Ashley Erickson

Ashley is one of the driving forces behind UHG's partnership with BestPrep, helping bring mentorship opportunities to life for both UHG employees and students across the Twin Cities. She thoughtfully connects employees with students, creating meaningful experiences that support learning, confidence-building, and career exploration.

Her work has made a meaningful difference—expanding access to mentorship and strengthening the impact UHG employees can have in their communities as we work towards strengthening the future workforce.

Robyn Schroder

Robyn is an essential partner in UHG's work with BestPrep, helping create meaningful mentorship opportunities for employees and students across the Twin Cities. As the UHG Enterprise Program Lead, she thoughtfully connects employees with students, fostering experiences that build confidence, skills, and awareness of future career paths.

Through her strong relationships and ongoing engagement, Robyn ensures that both mentors and students feel supported every step of the way.



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Tanya Auger

Tanya exemplifies the spirit of the award through her extraordinary and sustained commitment to community service, her leadership in mobilizing others, and the meaningful impact she has created both inside and outside the workplace. Among the organizations she supports most frequently is Feed My Starving Children, where her consistent participation has helped address food insecurity on a global scale.

Her passion is genuine, her leadership is quiet but powerful, and her influence and inspiring nature is evident in the increased engagement of those around her. Through sustained service, collaborative leadership, and a deep commitment to community impact, Tanya truly goes above and beyond.

Brian Van Abel & Amy Reineke

Brian Van Abel, EVP, CFO, and Amy Reineke, executive assistant, exemplify what it means to lead through service. Together, they have consistently gone above and beyond their formal roles to champion volunteerism, philanthropic giving, and community partnerships—mobilizing employees and leadership alike to invest time, resources, and care into the communities where Xcel Energy operates.

