



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

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**Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa announces Mission Awards Recipients**

**Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 16th-** Every year the Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter recognizes individuals, businesses and groups who have worked wholeheartedly throughout the year to MOVE the mission of the Alzheimer's Association forward. Awards are given in eight selected categories: Advocacy; Fund Development; New Volunteer of the Year; Program Service; Distinguished Organization; Public Awareness; Memory Walk SuperSTAR; and Volunteer of the Year.

Last summer, advocates from East Central Iowa traveled to Chicago to attend the Social Security Administration Hearing. These individuals were presented with the Advocacy Award for their support of the inclusion of Younger-Onset Alzheimer's in the Compassionate Allowances Initiative. These advocates include Jon Witherell, Dave & Kathy Good, Gary & Alice Blasen, Steve & Rose Callison, Carol Turner and Susan Primrose. Bob Vancura was presented with the Fund Development Award for his dedication and leadership in the Round to Remember Golf Classic. Gary & Alice Blasen were named New Volunteers of the Year. Despite a diagnosis of Younger-Onset Alzheimer's at the age of 50, this couple has helped MOVE our mission forward by sharing their story, encouraging others to learn about the disease and become involved in the fight against Alzheimer's. United Way of East Central Iowa was presented with the

Program Service Award for their work in achieving a stronger and healthier community through the Community Impact Program.

The Distinguished Organization Award was given to Campus QUASH- University of Iowa for its success in piloting the first ever Quest to Unravel Alzheimer's Scavenger Hunt on a campus setting. KGAN – CBS2 was presented with the Public Awareness Award for their recognition of the importance for raising concern for Alzheimer's disease and awareness for the Association.

This year we recognized Harold Getty as our Memory Walk SuperSTAR Award winner. Harold, team captain of Florence's Flock, led his small but mighty team of three members to join the ranks of the Top 5 Fundraisers in East Central Iowa. Harold has personally raised nearly \$13,000 for the Alzheimer's Association since joining Memory Walk. Finally, Debbie Jones, National Alzheimer's Association Board Member and Immediate Past President of the East Central Iowa Chapter Board of Directors, was named as our Volunteer of the Year. Her tireless efforts throughout the year touched all aspects of our mission, including Education, Care & Support, Advocacy and Research.

This week, April 18th-24th, marks National Volunteer Week. The Alzheimer's Association would like to extend a special thank-you to each and every volunteer for their loyalty and dedication to the East Central Iowa Chapter. With their support, we are able to MOVE closer to our vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

**About the Alzheimer's Association:**

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's. For more information, visit [www.alz.org/eci](http://www.alz.org/eci).

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