



Left: Last year's Donor of the Year Award was presented to Laufer Trucking. Our 2016 dinner took place at The Wisconsin Automotive Museum in Hartford, Wi.

# Advocacy Awards 2017

Since 1986 Citizen Advocates has used the forum of its Annual Dinner to honor donors, volunteers and advocacy friends with recognition awards. Until 2012 the practice was to present one one award each year. We began presenting two awards, a donor and a volunteer in 2012, and expanded to four awards in 2013. This year's honorees on October 19,

2017 at the Kettlebrook Community Center in West Bend are Donors, Tim and Tonnie Schmidt, Volunteer, Scott Lopas, Community Group, Kettlebrook Church, and Peer Match, Monica Luedtke and Gretchen Wiesse. Here are their stories.

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# relationships

FALL  
2017

CITIZEN  
ADVOCATES  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

"MAKING A POSITIVE  
DIFFERENCE IN THE  
LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES."

VOLUME 13 NO. 4

*Gretchen and Monica, this year's*

Match Commitment award winners, were matched in 2014, but their story was one that was years in the making. Gretchen's family had attended the annual spring fundraiser for many years with friends. Not until Gretchen was ready to move into her own apartment did her mom contact the office about finding an advocate for Gretchen. We met at the Idle Hour and I got to know Gretchen better and what kinds of things she was interested in.

As we began the search for an advocate for Gretchen, I began to think of young women that were planning to stick around the West Bend area. It didn't take long for me to remember a young lady, Monica, that was a part of my very first school group in Kewaskum in 2009. I knew that she had plans to settle down in the area and reached out to her to chat. It didn't take long for Monica to agree to meet Gretchen. We set up a time to meet for ice cream and they hit it off immediately. They had set up another time to get together before we had even left that day.

Since then, I have had the privilege of watching their friendship grow through social media and annual events. They have celebrated birthdays, weddings and holidays. There have been trips for ice cream, hot chocolate, painting and craft parties and every year the Citizen Advocates Gala where Monica and Gretchen have showed off their dancing skills. The very first match award I ever gave out was to a match that has been together since 1979, almost as long as CA has been around. Next to them at dinner were Gretchen and Monica, one of the newest matches at that time. I was so excited then to see how their relationship would grow. Their commitment to each other and to Citizen Advocates since then has been so amazing and I am so glad to have played a small part in their story.



**Monica & Gretchen**



**Jessica Frederick**

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## 2017 Advocacy Awards (cont.)

Kettlebrook Church, this year's Community Partner award winner, is the second winner of this award and, in our opinion, very deserving of the honor. Citizen Advocates has had a few connections in the church for many years, but their involvement grew in 2012 when one of the weekly small groups took on a mission outreach that grew to be so much more than any of us could have ever imagined.

The small group put CA in front of many new people as they began to tell their story to Kettlebrook staff and congregation. During this time, Citizen Advocates was blessed to become a Kettlebrook partner agency.

Kettlebrook has supported Citizen Advocates in many ways over the last few years. They have opened their doors to us to use their beautiful space for parties and concerts. The youth and adults have volunteered their time at our respite event. They have created videos that we have been able to use to tell our story. Each year they have sponsored a dancer for our Gala and hosted a community event that raises money for our program. Members of the mission



### Kettlebrook Partners

outreach team sit down with us each year to learn about our successes and challenges and to encourage us.

Kettlebrook's constant support and encouragement is a blessing to us personally and to the program. We are blessed by the prayers that offer to us each time we meet with staff and the ones they offer for us when we are not present. We are so thankful for everything that Kettlebrook has done for Citizen Advocates.



Jessica Frederick

[jfrederick@cawash.org](mailto:jfrederick@cawash.org)



### Scott Lopas

Scott Lopas has been involved with radio and WTKM since he was a high school sophomore, growing into an ownership role that lasted 21 of his 43 years with the Hartford based station. And now, he is focusing on a division of the business he created in 1992: WTKM Tours. The company has changed its name to KM

Tours since Lopas sold WTKM AM & FM to Tomsum Media in the fall of

2011. Scott still gets to stay in touch with his former radio listeners whenever he's in town as he delivers Tour Talk via the tour company web site at [KMTours1.com](http://KMTours1.com).

Scott has been volunteering his time and talents to CA for years, beginning with his role as an advisory Board member in 2005, and continuing as the emcee at all of our Citizens' Balls and seven of the eight Gala Events. Scott is truly one of those guys we've always been able to count on, whether for his recording voiceovers on several of program videos or a business sponsor for a page in our annual calendar. We are pleased to recognize Scott Lopas as our 2017 Volunteer of the Year.

Tim and Tonnie Schmidt have been connected with the Citizen Advocacy program for just over a decade, however their consistency as corporate donors has been exemplary. I got to know Tim prior to coming to Citizen Advocates in 2004 and discovered quickly that he had an affinity for helping community based programs like CA. The remarkable thing about their level of benevolence over the years is that it continued consistently despite the fact that their business, Delta Defense, had grown so dramatically and quickly. So often we find that as a small business grows, getting busier and busier, it's not unusual for the business to lose some its vigor for community involvement. Not so with the Schmidts and Delta Defense. Despite the fact that Delta Defense has grabbed national attention in the last few years, built an new and spacious building, and become

one of Wisconsin's fastest growing businesses, Tim and Tonnie have not forgotten our little program. That's why we are honoring them as this year's Donor of the Year!



### Tim & Tonnie Schmidt

Mark Brunner

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# thank you we energies

**We Energies Foundation has been supporting CA since 2001.** Many will remember Art Flowers who managed the We Energies Foundation for many years and was personally involved in our program. Art attended many of our Annual Dinners and other fundraising events. Art recently retired and has been replaced at We Energies Foundation by John Gwynn. We Energies has always taken a great interest in our Advocacy program and is especially focused on our Youth Connections efforts in area middle schools. This year their \$500 gift is greatly appreciated and will be used to help fund some of the collateral expenses involved with making sure that our presence in the middle schools remains strong in 2017 and into 2018. Join me in thanking the We Energies Foundation and John Gwynn for their generosity again this year. We also wish Art Flowers a long and enjoyable retirement.

Thanks! *Mark Brunner*

## Welcome Scott Bicknell to the CA Board of Directors!

If you attended the 2017 Dancing For A Difference, Gala fundraiser on May 12, the face at the right probably looks familiar to you. Yes, it's one of this year's championship dancers, Scott Bicknell. Scott was this year's Technical Trophy winner scoring a rare perfect 10 on the dance floor. About the event Scott commented: "Seriously, I think this is a great way for the community to get involved and raise awareness. We all go to charity events, spend money and leave not really knowing what we spent our money on. This way it is a chance for the community to get behind someone and show his or her support. It is different, and in a world where everything seems to be the same, it is a nice change. I am very involved in the community and am excited to bring this fundraising opportunity to the area."

Needless to say, Scott's performance on the floor and his commitment to raising money for our CA program excites us as well. Seldom do you run into someone with this level of commitment and willingness to serve. We are honored to have Scott on our Board. Scott is the father of two, Luke 8 and Joanna 4, married to Stephanie for 13 years and residing in West Bend. Scott owns and operates The Leather Shop in West Bend. He's also a member of the Kettlebrook Church Worship Team and the Westside Business Association. A 1999 graduate of West Bend East and Ripon College in 2003, please join me in welcoming Scott to our Board of Directors.



*Mark Brunner*  
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### Relationships

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Eileen Evans  
Amy Schultz  
Scott Bicknell

**Creating relationships that make a positive difference in the lives of those with disabilities.**



# Citizen Advocates

Making a positive difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

PO Box 582 West Bend, WI 53095



We are currently looking for Advocates. Advocates can be individuals or groups, students or retired, male or female, who enjoy spending time with other people and have a desire to build a relationship with someone new. You can be an advocate!

An advocate is matched with an individual of any age with developmental disabilities who need advocates to: prevent isolation from the community, encourage community friendships and enhance meaningful personal relationships, mentor and assist with life decisions.

Interested in learning more about the advocates that we are looking for? Please go to our website to see a list of advocates that we are currently looking for. <http://cawash.org/advocates-needed>.



## I would like to donate to CA!

We are a 501c3 nonprofit organization, so 100% of your investment is fully tax deductible. Please consider donating to Citizen Advocates in 2017. We need your support since 100% of our program funding is derived from private investments. Citizen Advocates receives no funding from federal, state or United Way sources.



### Coming Events

- |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| • October Respite   | October 21  |
| • November Respite  | November 11 |
| • A Christmas Carol | November 29 |
| • December Respite  | December 19 |
| • Christmas Concert | December 16 |
| • January Respite   | January 27  |

Please note: We are no longer listing a 626-1956 CA phone number. To contact Mark, please call 414-412-1820 or Jessica @ 334-3384.

Detach and Send to CA, PO Box 582, West Bend, WI 53095

**ORDER TODAY! Last year's event was a sellout!**

|                      |                      |                      |                      |  |                      |                      |                      |                      |                            |
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\*\*Please return this card in an envelope to Citizen Advocates, PO Box 582, West Bend, WI 53095. Thanks!

**Citizen Advocates**  
Making a positive difference in the lives of people with disabilities.