

Volunteer of the Year Nominations

For individuals whose volunteerism has significantly benefited the Hayward Area.

Mary Jo Becker

Mary Jo Becker spends many hours every year volunteering for around 15 different events, sites and organizations all right here in Hayward. She volunteers around 200 hours yearly. Events like the SCOPE banquet, Birkie, Musky Fest, Lumberjack World Championship, Vacation Bible School, the county fair and much more. She serves on several boards here in Hayward as well. She is community driven and very well known to this community. A lot of pride and hard work goes into her volunteer hours as she is very passionate about helping people and her community. She is a perfect candidate for this award and very deserving of this nomination.

Kimberly Kayler

The Hayward Area Rotary Club is a service organization dedicated to service to others, promotion of integrity, advancement of world understanding, goodwill and peace through our fellowship of business, professional and community leaders. Our motto is "Service Above Self".

Kimberly definitely personifies the motto of "Service Above Self". She is highly involved in the Hayward Area Rotary Club as the current Public Image Chair and as a Board member. She takes an active role in all local Rotary activities/events. She has worked on behalf of the Rotary Club with Sawyer County Health and Human Services to initiate the Volunteer Hub in our community, which is an online platform that any local non-profit organization can use to bring visibility to volunteer opportunities that are available within that non-profit. She is also involved with the Town of Round Lake planning committee and the Callahan-Mud Lake Protective Association. Kimberly consistently volunteers for Birkie and Lumberjack World Championship events in a variety of roles each year. She is a past member of the Fishing Has No Boundaries Board, but she remains active as a volunteer for FHNB. In addition to her full-time job with a marketing company, Kimberly teaches classes with the University of Wisconsin MBA consortium, and she is a yoga instructor and a yoga instructor trainer. I joke with Kimberly that she always knows all of the beautiful people. The truth is, she is the essence of a beautiful person - inside and out - and she demonstrates this with all that she does to support our community. It is for this reason that Kimberly Kayler should be selected as Volunteer of the Year.

Elizabeth Korpai

Now celebrating 62 years of service, the Hayward Lions Club is a 100% volunteer-run organization dedicated to giving back to the community. Guided by their motto, "We Serve," the club supports numerous local causes through a full calendar of fundraising events, including Pre-Birkie and Birkie support, the Big CUP Golf Tournament at Hayward Golf Course, Musky Fest and Jam Fest, participation in the Sawyer County Fair, the annual Oktoberfest, vision and hearing screenings, and their well-loved Pancake Breakfast. Through these efforts, the Hayward Lions Club has consistently worked to improve lives across the Hayward area, and their decades of service stand as a testament to their lasting impact and community spirit.

Liz has been involved with the Lions for over 20 years. She has served on the board, including as president. She has helped with every event. She has also been helping an individual who lost their spouse with everyday needs.

Stacey Hessel

Stacey has been involved with the community for many years and has been a familiar presence at Musky Fest, the Fair, and countless other events. She loves this community deeply. She has quite literally picked

up horse poop in the parades for Musky Fest, served food at the fair, stayed late for clean-ups, and worked to make sure everything is covered for events. She does it all.

Northwoods Community Food Pantry Volunteers

The Northwoods Community Food Pantry was started on January 10, 2020. It was originally going to open two days a week and supply food to the elderly and low-income families of Sawyer County. In March 2020, when the pandemic hit, the pantry started a drive-through service that lasted for 2.5 years before it ended. Afterward, the pantry opened three days a week.

The pantry never turns away anyone who is hungry or charges for food. It accepts donations, either monetary or food items. Families from a five-county radius have come to the pantry.

Volunteers show up on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday each week to help with the distribution of food to clients. Other volunteers go to Market Place Foods, Walmart, Kwik Trip, and Miller's Market five days a week to pick up donations. Every Monday, 2–4 volunteers unload the truck from Feed My People in Eau Claire, and once a month a truck is received from Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee.

The pantry is a distribution point for Hunger Task Force, which also delivers food to the pantry, the LCO Tribe, and Neighbors to Neighbors in Spooner, WI. Volunteers also help out with weekend cookouts at Lynn's during the summer. A large group of volunteers supports Musky Fest every year, and another group assists with distributing food at Ruby's Pantry every month.

Melissa Zopp

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Missy has been a huge part of the Lions Club and helps with all its events. She co-chairs the Community Dinners once a month at the Lutheran Church. She also volunteers at the Springbrook Museum.