

The Bristol Press

United Way of Southington honors community members during annual dinner

Story

Comments

Print  Font Size:  

 Like 2

 Tweet

 Save

 G+

 Share

3



Buy this photo

Published on Wednesday, 18 April 2018 20:17

Written by BRIAN M. JOHNSON

@brianjohnsonBP

SOUTHINGTON - Southington United Way thanked its Southington All Stars from “the bottom of our hearts” at their annual dinner Wednesday at the Aqua Turf Club.

The tables at the banquet facility were decorated with heart-shaped balloons and candies and pink tablecloths as United Way supporters and community leaders gathered to thank residents and local organizations. As they mingled, bid on auctions and took their seats, singer Anthony Lendino crooned out classic Frank Sinatra songs.

Executive Director Jack Eisenmann welcomed the guests and award recipients.

“On behalf of the United Way of Southington Board of Directors and more importantly our residents of Southington, I offer a sincere thank you for your support of our 2018 annual dinner,” he said. “We are very grateful to you and your company for financially contributing to our efforts to provide for Southington residents affected by ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) situations.”

Eisenmann said that 29 percent of town residents are financially challenged to meet the costs of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, child care and health care.

All Star awards were presented to John Myers, Jodi Derwin, the Main Street Community Foundation and the Southington Middle School Athletic Association.

Myers began his career with the YMCA in 1987 and became executive director in 1998. He oversaw two major capital improvements which greatly expanded the downtown Y campus and Camp Sloper. He has announced his retirement from the Y at the end of this year. Myers doubled the Y membership to 9,500 during his tenure and has been active in many other community organizations. He has also directed the Apple Harvest Festival road races which have had as many as 2,000 participants.

"This is really nice," said Myers. "The recognition is not why I do this, but it is appreciated. It has been great to partner with the United Way over the years. It has been a good fit."

Derwin is the chair of the Apple Harvest Hostesses and recently held a fundraiser drive to raise money for the family of Ryan Catlin, who was badly injured in an ATV accident. She regularly donates to Southington Community Services and has been involved with several town organizations. She also sends out care packages for soldiers.

"I'm honored and very humbled," said Derwin. She said that she is good friends with the Catlin family. Her daughter played volleyball with their daughter and her son played basketball with their son.

"I was taken aback when I heard what happened and felt the need to spring into action," she said. "I raised \$15,000 for the organization and continue to help get things donated to them along the way."

The Main Street Community Foundation is a public charity that establishes partnerships with individuals, families and business to build permanent charitable connections. The foundation has supported numerous organizations in town and in other surrounding communities throughout the years.

"As a foundation and on behalf of our donors, volunteers, board and staff we are so honored to be receiving this recognition from Southington United Way," said Susan Sadecki, foundation executive director. "We are a part of this community and we enjoy partnering with organizations like United Way to make Southington a great place."

The Southington Middle School Athletic Association was founded by parents and alumni to fund middle school sports and other student athletics. After the Board of Education announced last year that it would cut middle school sports due to state aid reductions, the association formed and raised \$90,000. This allowed for the continuation of six men's and women's sports programs during the 2017-18 school year.

"It feels great to receive this award," said Mike DeFeo, advisor with the association. "Our committee has done a fantastic job. They are committed and dedicated. They raised enough donations to fund the spring season and now they're collecting for the fall."

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-973-1806 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.