

Be More Award honorees stand for best of us all | Opinion

Editorial staff

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the Earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience and just plain loving one another.” — Erma Bombeck, newspaper columnist, author and humorist.

Many of those human beings who reflect compassion, unselfish caring, patience and love were honored at the annual Be More Awards this week.

These honorees and the other individuals and groups who were nominated by community members represent the best of all of us.

Congratulations and thank you to:

- Bob Muldoon, recipient of the Be More Dedicated (Lifetime of Service) award, for his dedication and work for St. Vincent de Paul Society, Shalom Community Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging, New Hope for Families and the people served by those organizations. As a news release about the awards stated, “hundreds of people who are homeless, elderly or with low incomes have benefited over the decades Bob has served.”
- Sue Cull, Be More Knowledgeable Award (Education/Literacy), who has been a key force in building Teachers Warehouse, which provides free classroom supplies to teachers in several southern Indiana counties.
- Volunteers for Backpack Buddies, a program of the Community Kitchen, winners of the Be More Collaborative Award (Group). They take responsibility every Thursday for distributing more than 400 backpacks filled with food to 17 schools to ensure families identified as food insecure have enough food at home for the weekend.
- John Labban, of Volunteers in Medicine, for the Be More Healthy Award (Health and Wellness). Dr. Labban’s volunteer services through VIM has focused on prenatal care for many community women who are not U.S. citizens and who might not otherwise receive the care they need to have a healthy baby.
- Bloomington Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, the Be More Phenomenal Award (for board participation). The award was given for the commission’s “deep work attending to needs, concerns and interests of this community.”
- Molly Wagschal, the Be More Energized Award (Youth), for her work as a tutor for children at Monroe County Public Library’s ‘El Centro Comunal Latino’ outreach programs.
- IU Civic Leaders Center, the Be More Involved Award (College Student). This group

helps first-year college students plug in to service opportunities in the greater Bloomington community.

- Lotus Education and Arts Foundation 2010-2017 Powerhouse Volunteers, the Be More Creative Award (Arts/Culture), a group of people who have assisted Lotus in a wide range of roles from 2010 to 2017.
- Rita Lichtenberg, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, who received the Be More Peaceful Award. She founded the Southern Indiana Branch of this organization 52 years ago and still is an active board member.
- Friends of Lake Monroe Steering Committee, Be More Sustainable Award (Environmental Sustainability). This citizens group works toward protecting and improving the water quality at Lake Monroe.

Bombeck's quote above describes them all.