



## Mayor Whaley announces Mayor's Award winners

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Mayor Nan Whaley announces six winners of the 2019 Dayton Mayor's Award, celebrating people and organizations that make Dayton thrive.

Award winners were nominated by the community, selected by a committee, and may designate a non-profit organization to receive a \$1,000 donation.

The award categories and honorees are:



### **Community Service (two winners): Families of Addicts and Melissa Rodriguez**

This award celebrates individuals or organizations supporting and promoting service to the community. Families of Addicts is a nationally recognized support organization that emerged from the opioid addiction crisis, providing information, referrals, resources, meetings, a community rally and more. Melissa Rodriguez is an activist and volunteer who, in addition to supporting a number of causes and communities, responded with determination and compassion to the tornado, hate group rally and mass shooting event.

### **Giving Back to Neighborhoods (two winners): Gwen Buchanan and Twin Towers Neighborhood Association**

This award recognizes an individual or community group supporting and inspiring their neighborhood. As president of the Carillon Civic Council, Gwen Buchanan facilitated a productive dialogue among residents and OneFifteen, an addiction treatment campus now under construction, and is leading the creation of a long-term redevelopment plan for the Carillon-Edgemont area. The Twin Towers Neighborhood Association, with the leadership of Leslie Sheward, has successfully tackled long-standing problems through plenty of hands-on work and collaboration with the City of Dayton and community groups.

### **Education Champion: Lisa Babb**

This award recognizes an organization or person working to provide a brighter future for Dayton's children. As Miami Valley strategic director of 4C for Children, Lisa Babb leads a staff that works to help parents choose high-quality early childhood education and to help providers deliver high-quality learning programs.

### **Daytonian of the Year: You, Me, Us (Citizens of Dayton)**

This award honors an individual making the greatest contribution to Dayton in the previous year. For 2019, a year of great challenge, Dayton's citizens are recognized for their resilience, generosity and demonstrated commitment to helping others.

To view a video highlighting the Mayor's Award winners, go to:

[daytonohio.gov/mayorsaward2019](http://daytonohio.gov/mayorsaward2019). The awards were presented at the Feb. 5 City Commission meeting.

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