

2019 BRAVO AWARD RECIPIENTS

THE BRAVO AWARDS acknowledge individuals who are making our entire community a better place to live, work, and visit. They inspire the rest of us to work harder and notably contribute to the reason we love this community. These residents and leaders add an intangible quality to our area that makes it unlike any other place. They give us confidence in our people and pride in our workplaces, homes and the places we frequent.



RACHAEL CARLSON

Rachael Carlson is the director of operations for the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature organization, where she has worked for the past decade. In that role she oversees the day-to-day operations of this nonprofit, and coordinates the logistics for programs like the Iowa City Book Festival, the One Book Two Book Childrens' Literature Festival, and the MusicIC festival. She also has developed a walking tour of historic literary Iowa City that she leads throughout the year.

In addition to her work with the City of Literature, Rachael helped to plant the first City Plaza Children's Garden on the downtown Pedestrian Mall and continues to oversee that project. She also serves on the Community Advisory Committee for the Iowa Youth Writing Project, and has volunteered for the Iowa City Public Library. She is part of the current class of the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Leadership Program. A native of Peoria, Illinois, Rachael has a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University, and a master's degree in history from Illinois State University, which recognized her as a distinguished alumnus in 2018. She lives with her husband, Scott Spak, and their son, Lake, in Iowa City.

NATHAN EICHORST



Nathan Eichorst volunteers his time to direct wrestling tournaments, including pre-season nationals, Tour of Iowa, and most recently the Conflict at Carver, which was a national wrestling tournament held at Carver-Hawkeye Arena for six years. He grew that tournament from 300 participants to more than 850 boys and girls in grades 8-12, with participants from 35 states. This resulted in 4,000 competitors and 10,000 spectators visiting our community.

Nathan was recently named the tournament director for the newly created Dan Gable Donnybrook high school wrestling tournament, which will be held at the Xstream Arena and GreenState Family Fieldhouse starting next December. This boys and girls tournament will welcome 32 teams from Iowa and the Midwest with the goal to make it the toughest high school tournament in the country.



CARLOS HONORE

Carlos Honore' is the CEO of The Fifth Ward Saints organization. Since 2009, Carlos has given his time, resources, and efforts to the nonprofit by reaching out to young people in the Fifth Ward community. His efforts have been recognized by the Houston Press, ESPN, Sports Illustrated, Dicks Sporting Goods Sports Matter campaign, and the University of Houston. Carlos has also established partnerships for his nonprofit with organizations like Goldman Sachs, Houston Community College, and Still Water Ministries.

Carlos can relate directly to what many of the children in the Fifth Ward endure. Growing up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Carlos was one of seven children raised by drug-addicted parents. Carlos recalls rarely having enough food for him and his siblings, being left to fend for himself, and getting into trouble at an early age. In 1989, Carlos' parents relocated to Iowa City for a fresh start. Before moving to Iowa City, Carlos had never played organized sports, but by the end of his sophomore season at Iowa City West, he was an Iowa All-State running back. After his senior season, he was a USA Today All-American, Schutt All-American, and top national recruit, and eventually signed to play football for the University of Iowa.

Carlos believes that children growing up in similar circumstances could succeed if they had strong role models and adults who cared about their well-being. It was this simple yet powerful message that led to Carlos and his wife Tatum to establish the Fifth Ward Saints.

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DONNA JONDLE

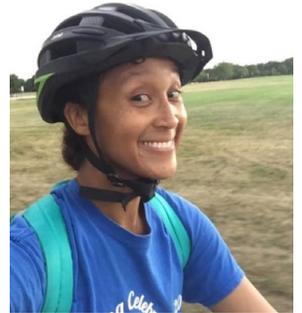
For over 45 years, Donna Jondle has been passionate about volunteering for various organizations in the area. She has been involved with the Special Olympics every year for the past 30 years, organizing judges and working directly with the athletes in cheerleading and dance. Donna and her husband, Richard, are camp masters for the area Boy Scout Camp twice a year and she serves as a committee member for Troop 218 in Iowa City. She also looks forward to ushering regularly at the Coralville Center of the Performing Arts for many of the productions and performances.

Donna has been an active member of St. Thomas More church as both a Religious Education teacher and lector for masses at the church as well as local nursing homes. She participates in weekly bible studies and volunteers on the decorating committee throughout the year. Donna has a gift for working with children of all ages, and currently volunteers by reading with kindergarteners at the Lone Tree Community School on a weekly basis.

One tradition she began first with her children, then her grandchildren, and now continues with her great grandchildren, is to take them on “adventures” to experience many of the local events and attractions in our area. Donna’s hobbies include writing poetry and short stories, enjoying the beauty of nature, and spending quality time with her family.

ANGIE JORDAN

Angie Jordan is a native Iowa Citizen who attended Williams College in Massachusetts and double majored in cultural anthropology and psychology. After college, she returned to Iowa and initiated the Children of Promise Mentoring Program in Johnson County to serve youth with parents in prison. She later became a family support advocate through the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County where she currently serves on the Board of Directors.



Angie has been an adjunct instructor at the University of Iowa for 10 years teaching team-building on the high and low ropes challenge course. She is the owner of Banjo Knits, a knitting instructing business where she teaches classes at local yarn shops and at the Senior Center. She has used this skill to increase the number of knitters, particularly underserved populations, who practice mindfulness, patience and kindness.

Angie helped create and grow Alexander Elementary School’s PTO. She has also spearheaded the rebirth of the South District Neighborhood Association in Iowa City and works extremely hard to strengthen the sense of community in her neighborhood. Angie is the mother of two elementary-aged children. Her husband, Jason, is a dedicated Iowa City Firefighter. In her spare time, she loves riding her bike, knitting, playing board games, and gardening.



LACI LOWER

Laci Lower has lived in North Liberty for over 15 years, and has certainly made her impact on the quality of life in Johnson County. When she’s not helping clients through the product management consulting company she founded, Interlace, Laci is eager to sacrifice her leisure time and share her talents with organizations she knows are important to the continued growth of the area.

Currently the board president of the Area Substance Abuse Council of Cedar Rapids, Laci helps direct the organization’s mission to provide accessible, comprehensive behavioral health services to reduce the impact of substance use and gambling disorders. Laci also holds board positions with the North Liberty Community Betterment Fund, Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa and 100+ Women Who Care. Additionally, Laci is a founding and active committee member of North Liberty’s Beat the Bitter winter festival and on the planning committee for the United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties 100 Year Celebration events. If you can believe it, she even makes time in her schedule to volunteer as a coach for her children’s sports teams. Laci’s creativity and passion for the area adds immeasurable value to our community.

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KELLY MOORE

Kelly Moore, Director of Exhibits at The Iowa Children's Museum, has been integral to the evolution of the museum since 2007 through roles in education, programming, and exhibit design. Her playful designs fill the museum with warmth and energy. Kelly's inspiration comes from a vibrant use of color (rainbow always), creatures big and small, and history. The museum's Courtyard of Curiosity highlights Kelly's aesthetic – colorful, quirky, and packed with educational impact.

Kelly is a maker, and you may have seen her work at maker fairs in the community as Industrial Glitter, a collaboration between Kelly and Amber Morris. Kelly also spends her free time on imaginative projects throughout the community. One such project was Spooky House, an immersive Halloween installation consisting of a series of rooms that each told a story. Kelly and her collaborators saw a need for Halloween events away from the bars, and set out to create a richly detailed, unique Spooky experience for children and adults. This partnership deepened Kelly's involvement in Public Space One, serving on the board of directors of this artist-run non-profit arts organization. Kelly's passion for making has made our community more welcoming and vibrant for members of all ages.

NEIL SHATEK

Neil Shatek is an Assistant County Engineer with the Johnson County Secondary Roads Department. He is involved in the design and construction administration of road reconstruction, bridge replacement and trail projects. Neil works with local agencies and organizations to approve special event use on the county secondary road system. Neil has worked closely with Think Iowa City on the first two year's of RUN CRANDIC route management, construction around the Johnson County Fairgrounds relating to the annual Jingle Cross Cyclo-cross event, and with the previous granGABLE bike rides. Neil has been an essential member of the public safety teams with each of these events to ensure the success and safety for all attendees.

Neil is a past president of the American Society of Engineers Eastern Iowa Branch Younger Member Group. Outside of work, he enjoys riding his bike, hiking with his dog, Cooper, and traveling with his fiancée, Melissa.



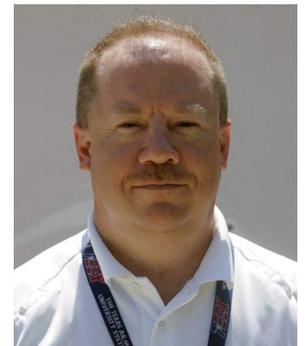
JOE TIEFENTHALER

Joe Tiefenthaler most recently was the Executive Director of FilmScene, the non-profit cinema in Downtown Iowa City. He joined FilmScene in 2014 and grew the organization from a single screen movie theater into a two-location, multi-screen operation and community-gathering place. He was instrumental in the in the Strengthen Grow Evolve campaign in collaboration with the Englert Theatre that has raised millions of dollars for the arts in our community.

Prior to joining FilmScene, Joe was the fall residency coordinator with the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. Also in integral cog in the always-evolving Mission Creek Festival, he has served as the Literature Programming Director since 2010.

DAVE WILSON

Dave Wilson began his journey into public safety and helping others over 30 years ago. Dave grew up in in the Fort Madison area in southeastern Iowa. While there, Dave developed a passion for serving and sought out his EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) certification. Dave would soon relocate to the Johnson County/Linn County area. Throughout his years of service, Dave has worked for Coralville Fire, Area Ambulance, Johnson County Ambulance, Iowa DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) and now Johnson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management, where he has served as the Director since 2007. In his time here, Dave has seen us through the 2008 Flood, public health outbreaks such as H1N1, as well subsequent floods in 2013, 2014 and 2018 to name a few. Dave has worked diligently to bring a wide array of training and exercise opportunities for our first responders, partners and elected officials. Dave works tirelessly with our community partners ensuring the safety of events throughout the county including FRYfest, Run CRANDIC and RAGBRAI.



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