



WFYI Public Media Recognizes its Dedicated Volunteers at Spring Luncheon and Awards Program

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In honor of the remarkable service volunteers perform on behalf of Central Indiana Public Media and its educational mission, WFYI hosted its annual **Volunteer Recognition Luncheon** on **Thursday, April 3**, in its **Reuben Community Room**. Nearly 100 of WFYI's volunteers, staff and board members were in attendance.

The theme of this year's luncheon was "**Volunteers Are a Recipe for Success**," and featured remarks from **Yvonne Shaheen, Chair of WFYI's Board of Directors** and from guest speaker **Nora Spitznogle, Director of Programs at Second Helpings, Inc.** During the awards portion of the luncheon program, **more than 60 individuals were recognized for their dedicated service to WFYI Public Media this past year.**

Linda Stark (Indpls., 46227) was presented with the **Carl Wodicka IRIS Radio Reader Award**. Named in honor of long-time reader Carl Wodicka, the award is given annually to an individual whose on-air reading skills, abilities and contributions represent a true commitment to Indiana Reading and Information Services (IRIS) — a free, broadcast and online audio service for Indiana's print-impaired citizens. Since becoming an IRIS volunteer a year and a half ago, Stark has logged more than 90 hours of volunteer service through her weekly readings of community newspapers and popular books. She has not only become proficient in recording readings for IRIS' listeners, but also has developed a friendly on-air delivery.

The **Martha Sterrett Service Award** recognizes a volunteer who gives generously of their time to WFYI Public Media. This year's honoree, **Claire Wegel** (Indpls., 46254) has served as a WFYI volunteer for more than four years. She possesses a "can-do attitude" and is always willing to serve when last-minute requests for volunteers arise. Wegel is a member of WFYI's Volunteer Relations Committee, and frequently assists with the supervision and training of new phone volunteers during pledge drives.

WFYI's Ardath Y. Burkhart Award was created to honor an individual who serves as a motivation to others and encourages them to achieve great things. The award is named in honor of the remarkable woman who organized a door-to-door campaign in the late '60s to raise the funds needed to launch WFYI Public Television. This year's recipient, **Karine Huys** (Plainfield, 46168), is a dedicated WFYI volunteer, who has demonstrated time and again, her willingness to assist wherever and whenever a need arises. Huys enjoys assisting with WFYI's signature events (e.g., *Ice Miller Wine Fest* and *PBS KIDS in the Park* family festival) and has routinely served as pledge supervisor during the station's membership campaigns.

WFYI's B.E.S.T. Award was established in 1995 to recognize individuals who form teams to accomplish tasks and projects in a timely and efficient manner. The award honors the memory of three extraordinary WFYI volunteers: Rowena Bush (the "B" in best), Bill Ehrich (the "E") and Don Sandstrom (the "S") for their outstanding service and teamwork (the "T"). This year's recipients are a team of five individuals, who through their collective involvement in WFYI's American Graduate initiative are working to improve Indiana's graduation outcomes. The honorees are: **John Brandon**, Executive Director of Marion County Commission on Youth (Indpls., 46208); **Jay Geshay**, Senior Vice President of United Way of Central Indiana (Indpls., 46208); **Melanie Wissel**, Manager of Program Development at The Indianapolis Public Library (Indpls., 46202); **Gail Thomas Strong**, Vice President of Community Engagement at WFYI (Indpls., 46228); and **Carly Weidman**, Community Engagement Coordinator at WFYI (Indpls., 46202). As a result of this team's efforts, on-going conversations about the future of Indiana's education system are taking place across WFYI's multi-media platforms including televised town halls, Twitter chats, live webcasts and community forums. The team has also assembled a voluntary coalition of institutional partners and funders for the purpose of sharing projects and measuring the true impact of their work.

The Diana W. Davis Service Hours Awards are named for Diana Davis, Distinguished Director Emeritus of WFYI's Board of Directors and a member of "Ardath's Army" — a group of community volunteers who went "door to door" to secure the funds needed to launch WFYI Public Television in 1970. **The Diana W. Davis Service Hours Awards** recognize individuals who have donated more than **100 hours** and **300 hours** of volunteer service to WFYI over the past year. **Two individuals** were honored for **300 hours of service** to WFYI: **Roger Gregory** (Indpls., 46240) and **Bernadette Hengesbach** (Carmel, 46033).

In the **100 hour awards** category, **24 individuals** were recognized for their service to WFYI, they include: **Rose Adesiyan** (Indpls., 46254), **Joyce Arterberry** (Indpls., 46235), **Lauren Bowers** (Carmel, 46033), **Heather Bronge** (Indpls., 46202), **Linda Caldwell** (Greenfield, 46140), **Will Davis** (Indpls., 46228), **Paul Drew** (Indpls., 46256), **Reid Duffy** (Indpls., 46256), **Judy Dunson** (Indpls., 42620), **Roger Gregory** (Indpls., 46240), **Benadette Hengesbach** (Carmel, 46033), **Eleanor Hingtgen** (Indpls., 46220), **Alex Janin** (Indpls., 46220), **Morgan Joseph** (Indpls., 46221), **Rose Means** (Zionsville, 46077), **Bryce Miller** (Fairmount, 46928), **George Niksch** (Indpls. 46202), **Denay Patterson** (Indpls., 46202), **Janet Penwell** (Indpls., 46220), **Joan Rapkin** (Indpls., 46220), **Mary Rinck** (Indpls., 46260), **James Rosebro** (Carmel, 46033), **Carl Warner** (Indpls., 46220) and **Dean Willy** (Brownsburg, 46112).

In 2013 alone, **1,200 volunteers** contributed their time and talents to WFYI. These individuals donated a combined **16,400 hours of service** to the station, which is the equivalent to **\$363,539 of in-kind services** to WFYI Public Media. To learn about future volunteer opportunities at WFYI, visit www.wfyi.org/volunteer

For more than four decades, WFYI Public Media has served as a center of discovery for all ages. WFYI's diverse public radio and television programs and services provide a foundation for early learning, inspire curiosity and serve as a catalyst for lifelong learning. To learn more about WFYI Public Media's programs and educational services, visit the station's website — www.wfyi.org , "like" us on Facebook, or follow along on Twitter (via [@wfyi](https://twitter.com/wfyi) and [@wfyinews](https://twitter.com/wfyinews)).