



DAYTRUSAN

SPECIAL EDITION

2019 Linda Atwell Award Winners: Neil and Kay Webster



Neil Webster

When Neil became a member along with his wife Kay in 2007, he became the first male to join the Altrusa International Club of Dayton, Inc. One of only a handful of men who belong to clubs in our District, he brought his talents in industrial engineering, auctioneering and community volunteerism to Altrusa.

Neil has served as Club Treasurer twice, Club Foundation Treasurer, District Five Conference Treasurer twice when Dayton hosted the District Five Conferences in (2011 and 2017) and was elected to the position of District Treasurer for District Five. In 2017, Neil became the first recipient of an internal Dayton Club award, the Ann Bower Service Award, in memory of Ann's generous commitment to community service. Neil contributed the most service hours of any member of our club in 2016-17. No matter what the service project, Neil has been there with his wife Kay, ready to do the work – whether it is digging into a garden project, house cleaning for one of our older members, or doing “the dirty work” of taking remnants and debris to the dump --he's up for the job!

He enjoys auctioneering, employing his craft for about a half dozen charity fundraisers a year. The Altrusa Club of Dayton has its annual fundraising auction every fall, netting over \$12,000 for our annual grants. Without the expertise and dedication of Neil and his wife Kay, this event would not be as successful. Their talents have also benefited the District Five Altrusa International Foundation Auction and several auctions in District Five Clubs. At the 2017 Altrusa International Convention in Nashville, TN, Neil was asked to do a spontaneous live auction. Imagine the excitement when the auction raised over \$37,000 for Altrusa's International Foundation!

Kay Webster

Kay was the Children's Coordinator of Greene County Library for over 38- years, directing the library's youth programs in seven locations and the regional bookmobile program. In 2007, she brought her library skills and passion for reading to all Altrusa literacy projects. She helped design and organize the Widow's Home library. She helped select age-appropriate magazines for our Magazine Mania project. She linked our club to Scholastic Inc. for securing books for the Altrusa Cleveland School Project. She helped with age-appropriate annual book selections for Dayton Children's Sleep Lab for Literacy Day. She assisted the Cincinnati Altrusa Club in 2016-17, working over several weekends to get their Pleasant Hill Academy Library up and running. Kay has actively participated in our club's quarterly literacy events at Murphy's Book store, where children are encouraged to read and learn about a special theme, while having fun.

Soon after Kay joined our Dayton Club, she jumped into leadership! She served as an effective Board Director, excellent secretary for two terms, popular Club President during our 2017 District Five Conference, and became membership chair for

2018. Kay consistently chaired the club's auction committee and worked tirelessly next to her husband, Neil, promoting vendor donations, critiquing baskets and auction items to improve bids, recognizing donors, validating all auction bids, and keeping our auction popular and well attended.

Kay's most significant community effort began in 2013 when she proposed that Greene County join the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL), a program boasting positive outcomes for youth literacy in other states. Kay became the program coordinator of this program which encourages family reading and literacy by delivering a book a month to a child's home from birth to age five. She collaborated with Greene County, Soin Medical Center, United Way and others to fund the Greene County Imagination Library effort. By late 2018 with her coordination efforts, 250,000 books had been delivered to nearly 10,000 local children. This spring, Governor DeWine has budgeted for a statewide book delivery program modeled after the DPIL, a tribute to Kay's successful efforts.

Both Neil and Kay have held state and regional leadership roles in their professional organizations and have volunteered in other community organizations. For Neil, this includes the Industrial Management Society, the Society of American Value (Analysis) Engineers, the Engineers Club of Dayton, the Lincoln Society, and the Packard Museum. Kay served as Coordinator of the Children's Services Division and Coordinator of the Young Adult Service Division of the Ohio Library Council and on the regional Ohio Library Council, the Board of Directors of Yellow Springs Center Stage, Ohio Auction Association Auxiliary, Miami University Alumni Association, and United Way Public Policy Committee.

Both Kay and Neil have actively supported the arts, local libraries, public radio and television, and animal programs (4 PAWS for Ability), and Club 21 with funding and/or volunteer participation.

Kay passing on November 27th, 2018 stunned all of us. How could such an energetic, fun and caring life be cut short at age 61? Altrusans from Dayton, Hamilton and Xenia, as well as, our District Five Governor and Governor-Elect attended her memorial at Greene County Library; all had been touched by her generous spirit. Our Dayton Club still mourns the loss of our recent leader and dear friend.

We are so pleased that the Mansfield Club recognized both Neil and Kay's exemplary community service with this award.
