Parent Connection Community Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of Parent Connection’s 2015 Community Awards:

2015 Good Heart Award
Gretchen Marin

The Good Heart award recognizes the efforts of individuals who continually make a difference in the lives of children and families in the community.

Gretchen has been involved with Parent Connection since 2011, helping our families with meeting their basic needs - often on very little notice. Through her work as the Owner of Neat Freaks, a local painting and cleaning business, she has been able to donate cribs, high chairs, beds, and many other basic necessity items. Even on her own birthday, she is thinking others. She hosts a party each year and asks guests to bring a donation instead of a gift, which she then gives to charity to help children and families in need.

“I have been where many of these families are, and feel fortunate that I am now able to give back,” she says. “It gives me so much joy to help make others’ lives easier.”

2015 Cherish the Child Award
Phil Marshall

The Cherish the Child award recognizes outstanding service by honoring area professionals who go above and beyond to provide care and support to children and families in our community.

Phil has worked in the Oshkosh School District for the past 22 years, most recently as Principal at Webster Stanley Middle School since 2012. He is well known for his commitment to helping each student realize his or her potential - one student at a time. He has been an ambassador for at-risk students and families in need, guiding those who are underrepresented and unable to advocate for themselves. “Watching children learn and develop when their basic needs are finally met is when I know I have done my job,” he says.

Phil was also a driving force behind fundraising for the auditorium renovation at Webster Stanley, a long overdue project that will benefit both the students with a more modern learning environment and the community with a higher quality performing arts venue. Through these efforts and many others, Phil has truly gone above and beyond to make our community a better place for all.