

Community Member Award

This recipient of the Cloverleaf Pride Community Member Award began her involvement with Cloverleaf when her oldest child, Sarah, entered kindergarten in 1999, and has continued through her children Joseph, Anna, and now Emily, who graduated earlier this month as a member of the Class of 2021. However, this honoree's involvement goes far beyond her own kids' activities to benefit untold numbers of Cloverleaf students over the past two decades.

Emily undoubtedly said it best: "My mom cares about the dreams of every child in our school district -- no matter if she knows them or not." End quote.

This award recipient has been known to read the daily sports section to clip out pictures and articles about Cloverleaf students to send to them. She's been a leader of the CHS Quiz Bowl parent group the "Buzzer Boosters," organizing team meals, planning fundraisers, and managing the concessions at the Andrew Geig Invitational Quiz Bowl Tournament. She has also been found working concessions at the Cavalcade of Sound and the Just Write Competition, as well as selling T-shirts at the Todd Clark Cross Country Invitational -- long after her own kids were involved in cross country.

As a local preschool director, she is a tireless advocate of early childhood education -- assisting with the Kindergarten ROCKS program at Cloverleaf Elementary School.

In the community, this recipient has volunteered on multiple Cloverleaf levy campaigns -- going door-to-door with her kids, writing letters to the editor, even making green ribbon pins for supporters to show their Cloverleaf Pride. You will find her at 4-H club activities, local historical societies, library events and Red Cross blood drives. If it's happening in our community, and there's a need for volunteers or support, she is there.

In 2020 when the schools were shut down due to COVID, she was on the frontlines of Cloverleaf's drive-through food distribution program -- greeting families and loading food and milk into their cars. She helps with the Grab and Go Food Pantry at the high school and has been known to provide rides to students who need transportation to extracurricular activities. This year's award-winner has been a dedicated supporter of the high school drama program -- helping with costumes and props for numerous productions.

Earlier this month, she worked -- as she does every year -- to make sure Cloverleaf High School graduation is a special day for our students and their families. She helps set-up and take down chairs, picks up the flowers, and arrives early on graduation day to help decorate. On her own children's graduation days, she has been known to keep a change of clothes in the car so that she could make a fast switch between proud parent and tireless volunteer. Even in 2020 when graduation became a mostly individualized event due to the pandemic, she was there to help to make sure it was still a celebratory occasion for our families.

And these are only the things we know about! She is such a humble, selfless community servant, there are undoubtedly many stories we will never know when it comes to the ways this recipient has quietly offered a helping hand to others and to our schools. We are so proud to be able to show our appreciation by honoring Amy Winnicki with the 2021 Cloverleaf Pride Community Member Award.

Staff Award

For 21 of her 32 years at Cloverleaf, this staff recipient of the Pride Award has been the face and voice of Cloverleaf High School. When a student or parent or guest calls on the phone or presses the intercom to enter the school, it's often her voice on the line that greets them.

Being a building secretary is one of the most challenging jobs in education, requiring a person who can be part nurse, part copier repair technician, part traffic cop, part parent. This honoree balances all these roles with compassion and fairness. On any given day, a school secretary deals with tears, people who are feeling sick, people voicing their frustrations, and those simply in need of help and direction. And that's just the staff!

When it comes to students, a colleague who nominated this award recipient writes this: "I have seen her pay student's fees and go out of her way continuously for students. She supports the arts, as well as fundraisers from various groups. She is a great advocate for the kids, whether it is mothering them when they come in the office ill, or through other avenues. She has a great deal of Colt Pride, too, being a Cloverleaf graduate." End quote.

Other words used to describe her are: "a strong leader," "someone who stands by her values," and that "she always puts what's best for children first."

One month into the start of each school year, she would begin planning graduation. Caps and gowns have to be ordered. The program has to be assembled. Chairs have to be reserved with the rental company. National Honor Society students need to be lined up to serve as ushers. In the summers, she organized staff volunteers to deliver Weekenders food bags to dozens of students so they could have nutritious meals, even when they weren't in school.

Another colleague recommending her for this award writes: "I have no idea how the high school would function without her manning the office. Over the years I've grown to know her and understand what I can do to help make her job easier, and she has done the same for me. Numerous times every year she reminds me, guides me, corrects me and helps me better understand the administrative details of my job. This allows me to spend more time focusing on students' learning and less time focusing on administrative tasks. Each year I've seen how her responsibilities have grown and expanded and how she has been able to keep up with all the demands of the job. Even more importantly, she helps me better understand the students, their families and the history of what makes Cloverleaf special and unique. With her retiring this year, I think it will be a great loss to the high school and to Cloverleaf in general and believe she is absolutely deserving of this award." End quote.

Another of her colleagues perhaps put it best in saying, "She exemplifies what Cloverleaf should be."

Our award winner is greatly involved in her church and community, serving in many volunteer leadership roles. She has also visited hospitals with her dog to brighten the days of patients. She is a gifted baker and gardener and for 10+ years has played a major role in the success of the Seville Farm Market, where you can find her with fresh bread and produce every Saturday. Be warned: You have to get there early if you want a loaf of her bread before it sells out.

As mentioned, she is a Cloverleaf alum, as is her husband, Carl and their children, Bill and Jessica. And she's the grandmother of future Cloverleaf grads Evan and Libby.

Her institutional knowledge of Cloverleaf is second to none. We hope she does not change her phone number after she retires at the end of this month! Generations of Cloverleaf students and staff have benefitted from her wisdom, dedication and leadership. For all that and more, it is with tremendous gratitude and Colt Pride that we present Kristi Perry with the 2021 Cloverleaf Pride Staff Award.