



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT DOORWAYS' ANNUAL DINNER

Bill Wibbing, Brenda Armour, and Once Films among the many volunteers recognized Tuesday, April 2, for altruism and compassion.

DESIGNATED GIFTS IN HONOR OF THE AWARDEES ARE WELCOME

St. Louis, MO: Three awards were presented on Tuesday, April 2, at the DOORWAYS' annual dinner to recognize commitment by volunteers to those served by DOORWAYS: individuals and families who are homeless, or near homeless, and struggling with the challenges of HIV/AIDS. All volunteers were also thanked, with special recognition of those logging the most hours of service. In FY2018, 566 volunteers provided 8,326 hours of service!



- **Bill Wibbing** received the **2019 Volunteer Award**. For more than three years, he utilized his skills as a retired librarian, spending hundreds of hours archiving 30 years of materials and drawings. Bill traced property documents back to the organization's first days. He continues to provide intensive project support, becoming a vital part of the agency's volunteer support team.



- **Brenda Armour** received the **2019 Michael Edlin Award**. Brenda has been the Dietary Manager in DOORWAYS' Cooper House facility, since it opened in 1996 to care for the most frail and ill clients unable to live independently. Along with medication, nutrition is a key to rebuilding the immune system to regain strength and health. Recognizing that her job can save lives, Brenda has dedicated herself to providing each resident with appealing food that brings flavorful satisfaction. Feeding the residents is her passion and life's work, often spending her holidays at Cooper House with the residents.

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The Edlin Award recognizes Michael Edlin, a DOORWAYS founding board member whose spirit of hospitality influenced the agency's name and logo. Himself living with HIV/AIDS, he closed his business to dedicate his life to spreading awareness and fighting discrimination until his death. He left a legacy of service and selflessness.

- **Once Films** received the **2019 Generosity Award**. Based in St. Louis, **Once Films** is a video production company assisting commercial clients and non-profit organizations. Their growth is rooted in the fact that they are a group of filmmakers who come together to work on projects they believe in. They are fulfilled by helping organizations find success. **Once** has created several videos for DOORWAYS, compassionately capturing the struggles and triumphs of our clients.



FB: @oncefilmsusa Twitter: @OnceFilms Web: <https://www.oncefilms.com/>

The dinner is sponsored by SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital, a long-time partner and advocate for DOORWAYS and our clients. "We are blessed that St. Mary's gives us this opportunity to recognize such worthy volunteers," noted Opal Jones, President & CEO of DOORWAYS. "Their generosity enables us to showcase the results that can be achieved through working together as a community for the community."

If you wish to honor an awardee by making a designated gift in his/her/the company's name, please contact Jim Timmerberg at jtimmerberg@doorwayshousing.org or call 314-328-2705.

In its 31st year, DOORWAYS is an interfaith non-profit organization that provides emergency and permanent housing to the impoverished and homeless population affected by HIV/AIDS in Missouri and Illinois through six programs: Cooper House, Emergency Housing, Jumpstart, Residential, Own Home Subsidies, and Outstate (doorwayshousing.org). Housing is the foundation for a stable healthcare plan, which lays the groundwork for additional supportive services to assist DOORWAYS residents on the journey towards improved life-stability. For more information, contact Karen Carpentier at kcarpentier@doorwayshousing.org or 314-328-2704.

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