

Patrick C. Forde Good Person Memorial Award

Past Recipients

2017 Kate Findlen



Kate is a single mom who lost her husband to cancer over nine years ago. She lost her mother to cancer in 2015 and is a cancer survivor herself. Kate became active in The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life soon after her husband's cancer diagnosis.

Kate has been the chair of the *"Survivorship and Caregivers Committee"* for the Needham/Dedham/Wellesley, MA Chapter of Relay of Life for the last few years.

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life event is a life-changing experience that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. Each year hundreds of middle school and high school students in Needham participate in Relay and, thanks to volunteers like Kate, tens of thousands of dollars are raised to help fund important cancer research.

Kate is also active in the Needham High School Friends of Music volunteer parent organization, serving as Vice President for three years and now as President. Kate has been described as having a high "loyalty quotient," when she chooses an organization to support, she's all in. She jumps in with both feet doing anything from picking up pizza to pulling together a major fundraiser like the Friends of Music Winterfest event. Her commitment to not only her daughter, but all of the students in the music program is commendable. "It is always all about the kids," says Kate.

Kate is an active, hardworking and caring mother of two, Bridget and Katherine. She works full time and travels, but is still able to find time to volunteer for causes that are important to her. Needham is certainly a better place thanks to Kate Findlen and the many youth in our community who she has mentored.

Watch the event: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvyN_IzFQAc

2016 Colleen Schaller

Colleen Schaller and her late husband Frank arrived in Needham in 1963, thinking they would be here only a few years...And here she is 50 years later.



She met Frank at her first job at Univac, where she was an assistant. They were married in 1961 and Frank's profession as a mechanical engineer for Univac gave them the opportunity to live in four states in two years before they eventually settled in Needham. Over the years, Colleen and Frank raised two children and became grandparents four times. Colleen continues to live in this same home today.

One way Colleen has been active in the community was through her work on the Carter School PTC, eventually becoming President. She was also involved with Pop Warner Cheerleaders and volunteered as a troop leader as well as coordinator for the Needham Campfire girls. Colleen was a member of the Needham Women's Club and served on the Needham Youth Commission from 1996-2000. She was a founding member of the Needham Youth Center and served on the School Committee for seven years. She was also an involved member of PASA (Parents Against Substance Abuse). Colleen was a member of the Needham Board of Selectmen and took part in the Needham Fire Chief Search committee.

One organization that Colleen in particular played a key role with was the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Colleen served as president twice and was instrumental in shaping the organization's activities in the area, including moving its home from Newton into Needham. It is now part of the Needham Community Council where she has served as a board member. Colleen also currently serves as Co-Chair on the board of the Council on Aging and is Vice-President of the Needham Historical Society Board of Directors.

Colleen is a member of the Needham Exchange Club, she was the first woman elected as President of Exchange in 1999, and received its coveted Exchangite of the Year Award in 2003, for work done for the club and service to the Needham Community.

When asked what she feels is her greatest accomplishment, Colleen quickly responds that her volunteerism has included many different organizations, but her greatest sense of satisfaction came from her years of working with and for the children of Needham.

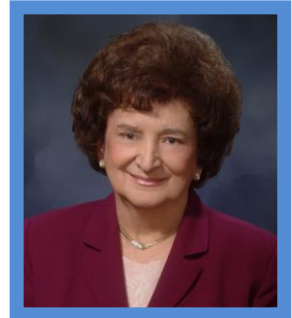
Colleen Schaller has contributed greatly to the Town of Needham during her 50 plus years of living here. As for the future Colleen hopes to continue to do what she knows best – staying connected and involved with her community.

Watch the event: <https://youtu.be/HJtdeOH56Yo>

2015 Louise Condon

Needham Youth Services is pleased to honor Louise Condon as the recipient of the 2015 Patrick C. Forde Good Person Memorial Award.

Louise Condon, a native Rhode Islander, married her high school sweetheart and lived in Ohio, where she taught school for two years.



Louise and her husband, Frank, moved to Needham in 1968 and together they raised seven children and now have seventeen grandchildren. With a background in teaching Louise made her first civic contribution serving as a room parent at the Mitchell School for 14 years. Louise has taught CCD classes at St. Bartholomew Church for over 40 years. She was a Girl Scout leader and camp director, as well as a volunteer for several other organizations in town. Louise began a second career as a realtor and opened her own real estate firm in 1985 - Louise Condon Realty, Inc. Her firm has grown from 4 to 22 brokers now working at Louise Condon Realty, Inc.

Louise was the founding director of the Needham Education Foundation, Inc. and instrumental in starting its annual Spelling Bee, which is a major fundraiser for this granting organization. She continues to be a member of the Needham Education Foundation Leaders Circle.

Louise is a past president of the Needham Community Council and has supported this organization for close to 40 years. She is also active in many Needham organizations, including the Needham Business Association, The Rotary Club of Needham, Visiting Nurse Association Board, The Realty Guild of Massachusetts, The Charles River Center, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham, and many other committees over the years.

Throughout her career, Louise has served as a member of, and in leadership positions for a host of professional real estate organizations, boards, and committees in Massachusetts. She is past president, and continuing member of both the Realty Guild, a network of independent Massachusetts Realtors, and the Greater Boston Association of Realtors. She is recognized as a lifetime member of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board and continues to be a key part of the real estate community.

There is virtually not a town-wide agency or committee that does not ask for her support and participation....and she never says no. Louise is Ms. Needham!

Louise enjoys her family, cooking, and working - she is not ready to retire!

Watch the event: <http://youtu.be/T0jNuaiYkLA>

2014 Steve Blomberg

Needham Youth Services is pleased to honor Steve Blomberg as the recipient of the 2014 Patrick C. Forde Good Person Memorial Award.



Steve's involvement in the Needham community is impressive and exhaustive. His volunteer work began in 1966 at age 18 in the Needham Little League, where he coached for 39 years. He has coached Pop Warner Football, church basketball, YMCA basketball and CYO baseball. He has been involved with the NHS Touchdown Club, the Little League Board of Directors, and is currently on the Distinguished Career Award committee and coordinates the Saint Joseph's Basketball Program. Steve also continues to run the YMCA High School Basketball Program that he started 16 years ago. He still loves spending time with the different programs when he sees the enjoyment the players have socializing and competing.

Steve became involved in education by having a terrific role model in his mother who was a teacher in the Needham Public Schools until 1973. Steve was a Special Needs teacher in the Abington Public Schools starting in 1978. Affectionately known as "Steve" to his students and athletes, he is not only considered a great coach and motivator but also an outstanding mentor, role model, and friend. He has been able to draw on his own life experiences to relate and inspire his students and athletes. He considers himself a "blue collar guy" most comfortable in sweats and sneakers.

Steve and his wife Jane have three children: Chris and twins Gregory and Tom. He is the proud grandfather of Grace and Ava.

Watch the event: <http://youtu.be/JneVTXb2Kal>

2013 Bob Timmerman

Needham Youth Services is pleased to congratulate Candace W. Chase as the recipient of the 2013 Patrick C. Forde Good Person Memorial Award.



The selection of Bob Timmerman out of a large pool of nominees reflects her dedication to serving the Needham community and helping to provide a valuable resource to Needham youth.

Bob Timmerman is all-Needham all-the-time! He is a lifelong Needham resident, his professional career has been centered in Needham, and his volunteer activities have been on behalf of Needham youth and families.

Bob has been involved in this community through his work with the Knights of Columbus as well as with the Needham Coalition for Suicide Prevention. In 2009 he joined the Needham Coalition for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention, and was one of the founding members of “5th Quarter.”

“5th Quarter” sponsors events after Needham High School’s home football games offering youth a fun and safe place in which to congregate. One of the primary goals of this program is to plant the seed that it is acceptable to decide to not be involved with drugs or alcohol. In speaking about the program Bob noted “if we keep even one kid safe, then it is all worth it.” Finishing their third year of programming, “5th Quarter” regularly attracts 250 students per event.

Bob and his wife Beth have two children: Robbie, a student at Massasoit College, and Sarah, a junior at Needham High School.

Watch the event: <http://youtu.be/9O6ptq8sAUY>

2012 – Candace W. Chase

Needham Youth Services is pleased to congratulate Candace W. Chase as the recipient of the 2012 Patrick C. Forde Good Person Memorial Award.



The selection of Candace W. Chase out of a large pool of nominees reflects her dedication to serving the Needham community and helping to provide a valuable resource to Needham youth.

Candace W. Chase is a third generation Needhamite; both her parents and her father's parents having lived in Needham. She has been married to Michael Gosselin for 27 years and both her sons Brad Chase and Nicholas Gosselin are Needham High School graduates.

Candace assumed leadership of the Anime Club in 2004, when she was a substitute teacher. At that time the club had 12 members and today there are 35 participants and includes an open door policy to allow alumni to attend meetings. According to Wendy Surr, who was one of the people who nominated Candace for the Forde award, "Thanks to Candace's dedication, the Club is offered 12 months out of the year, including Club meetings during vacations and summer. Candace has also created special alumni meetings and events to continue to offer young people transitioning into adulthood support and companionship during this exciting and sometimes overwhelming time in their lives." Ms. Chase has been working to create a community of students who share interests that range from Japanese culture to raising money for worthy causes and to teach community and respect for each other.

"Anime Club is a place where anyone who is interested in Anime and in being part of a community can come and find respect, acceptance, and something interesting to do after school a couple of days a week, and I am grateful to for the opportunity to be a part of it," says Ms. Chase.

Watch the event: <http://youtu.be/ZabqLsdEPiY>

2011 – John Hrones

Needham Youth Services is pleased to congratulate John Hrones as the recipient of the 2011 Patrick C. Forde Good Person Memorial Award.



The selection of John Hrones out of a large pool of nominees reflects his dedication to serving the Needham community and helping to provide a valuable resource to Needham youth.

Being a track and field athlete at high school and college himself, John was eager to get his young daughters involved with the Needham Track Club. After joining in 1983 and coaching teams, he took over as director of the Track Club in 1985 and has continuously expanded the scope of its activities to where it has national renown and a reputation for legendary events, including the Needham Youth Classic and the Northeast Indoor Classic. Over 10,000 have participated in the summer program, which is open to all children age 3-14, including those with mental, physical, and emotional life challenges – no one is turned away. The club's focus is on having fun, exercising, and learning new skills. All children win ribbons, medals, and a trophy as they accomplish their goals. John created the Great Bear Run in 1991, initiated a Coach-in-Training program, helped develop the Cross Country program at the Middle School, and has worked through the Track Club to provide financial support to school exercise and sports programs.

John's family, including his wife, two married daughters, their husbands, and three granddaughters – Lucy, April, and Eve, have contributed to his efforts over the years. His wife Cynthia took 1,000's of track photos, created 100's of signs, fielded countless phone calls, and stitched the Great Bear Run banner. Daughters Emily and Pamela took turns directing the Pre-School track program and frequently assist at special events along with their husbands, Billy and Javier.

Watch the event: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PqnVLj3ODs>

2010 – Bill Dermody

Needham Youth Services is pleased to congratulate Bill Dermody as the recipient of the 2010 Patrick C. Forde Good Person Memorial Award.



The selection of Bill Dermody out of a large pool of nominees reflects his dedication to serving the Needham community and helping to provide a valuable resource to Needham youth.

Bill grew up in Needham with terrific role models for parents – Margaret and Frank. Bill has many vivid memories of Margaret volunteering at their church, Wellesley College, and the Kalmia Garden Club in Needham. He also fondly recalls his paternal grandmother’s involvement in Needham in general and specifically with the Needham Community Council. In addition, Bill’s maternal grandfather was highly involved with volunteering for his church and the Town of Needham.

Bills involvement in the Needham community is impressive and exhaustive! Among his many endeavors, Bill have volunteered on committees/clubs such as Memorial Park Trustees, Melick Foundation, Solid Waste and Recycling, Needham Tercentennial, Exchange club, Community Center Study Committee, Park and Recreation, and as a coach for numerous youth sports teams.

Bill proposed to his wife Cathy at a Boston College Football Game, and they married in 1987. They are the proud parents of four children ages 6 to 20.

Town of Needham Park and Recreation Director Patty Carey said the following about Bill in his nomination application: “I believe that Patrick Forde would have a big smile on his face and a story to tell knowing that Bill Dermody has been nominated!”

Watch the event: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5BWIUvUqBY>

2009 – Clyde “Solar Sam” Weihe

The Needham Youth Commission is pleased to congratulate Clyde “Solar Sam” Weihe as the recipient of the 2009 Patrick C. Forde Good Person Memorial Award.



The selection of “Solar Sam,” out of a large pool of nominees, reflects his dedication to serving the Needham community and helping to provide a valuable resource to Needham youth.

His real name is Clyde Weihe, though today he's still commonly known by his boyhood nickname, Sam. He grew up in a coal mining town in Pennsylvania and had always assumed that energy had to be dug out of the ground. Clyde and Katharine (Kate) were married in 1939, and sadly, Kate passed away in August, 2002. Sam has two daughters, Jane Weihe and her husband, John Kaufman, and Judy Furlow and her husband John Furlow. Solar Sam has three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In terms of his interest in solar power, it all started shortly after Sam retired at age 75 when one of Sam’s daughters enthusiastically introduced him to solar energy. Being a gadgeteer, Sam quickly purchased a few 12-volt solar panels and thought of an application he could test. In Sam’s own words “Gee I thought, this panel is 12-volt DC current, and I have a little pump in the cellar that's 12-volt DC. I wondered if this would possibly go directly from the sun to that pump. Well, when that water shot eight feet in the air, my heart jumped eight feet along with it. From that moment on, I've been seeing how many uses I can find for solar energy.” Sam was dubbed "Solar Sam" by his wife Kate, and has taught a generation of Needham youth about the benefits of solar energy.

Since that first exciting experience Sam has created a vision to inspire a new generation of inventors of solar powered products and helps maintain that vision by sharing his wide-eyed enthusiasm with children of all ages.

Watch the event: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCOF3_vaP4U

2008 – Connie Barr

The Needham Youth Commission is pleased to congratulate Connie Barr as the recipient of the 2008 Patrick C Forde Good Person Memorial Award.



The selection of Connie Barr, out of a large pool of nominees, reflects her dedication to serving the Needham community and helping to provide a valuable resource to Needham youth.

Connie Barr is an extraordinary person — a well respected physician, a dedicated and involved parent, a community activist, and above all a passionate and devoted advocate for youth. Her community contributions include working on numerous school PTC's, Needham School Committee, Needham Community Council, Needham Youth Commission, Needham Educational Foundation, Citizens for Needham Schools, Child Assault Prevention Program, Needham Historical Society, School Health Advisory Council, and many more.

On a person level, Connie is the oldest of five sisters, attended the University of Wisconsin for her undergraduate and medical degrees, and has been a partner at Dedham Medical Associates since 1980. She married Joseph Barr in 1984, and together they are proud of their children Steve, Kim, Randy, Chris, and Caroline. In her spare time (a rarity) Connie enjoys reading, yard sales, and the Red Sox.

Above all, Connie is a wonderful person — humble, unselfish, and positive. Many have wondered how she can combine being a wife, mother, physician, and volunteer so gracefully. Those who have had the pleasure of working with Connie are amazed at the number of her involvements, as well as the vigor with which she approaches her community endeavors. In short, when Connie gets involved she is willing to do whatever is called for to achieve the desired goal.

View pictures of the ceremony at:

<http://www.needhamma.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1512>

2007 - Richard Remnitz

The Needham Youth Commission is pleased to congratulate Dick Remnitz as the recipient of the 2007 Patrick C Forde Good Person Memorial Award.



The selection of Dick Remnitz, out of a large pool of nominees, reflects his dedication to serving the Needham community and helping to provide a valuable resource to Needham youth.

During the fall of 1985 Dick played an integral part in making the idea of a youth center come to fruition for the Needham Community. Dick has devoted countless hours to this endeavor for more than 20 years and to date 88,195 youth have participated in this valuable resource.

In addition to the Youth Center, Dick has been involved in many other activities in the Needham community. During the 1970s and 1980s he coached girl's softball, little league and was active in his church's youth group. Dick has also served as a Town Meeting member and been a part of PASA (Parents Against Substance Abuse).

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Dick attended PS 92 as well as Brooklyn Technical School. He is a graduate of Syracuse University and has served in the United States Army. His professional career began in 1956 when he was hired by Raytheon where he served for 28 years. Dick retired in 1989 after working for Computervision for 5 years.

Over and above being proud of his volunteer and professional endeavors—Dick is most proud of his family. Dick has been married to Fay for 44 years and they are the proud parents of two children, Dan and Judith. Dan and his wife Kate live in Tasmania, Australia and Judith resides in Owings Mills, Maryland with her husband Luther.

View pictures of the ceremony at:

<http://www.needhamma.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1985>