



Community Impact Award

- presented at the Leadership Awards Luncheon -

This award is not necessarily an annual award and will only be presented if the committee determines an exemplary candidate has been nominated. He or she is not required to be a current member of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce; some nominees may be retired.

Candidates for the Community Impact Award will meet most of the criteria outlined below.

1. The award will be presented to an individual who is or was a CEO, Executive Director or President of a not-for-profit organization in Saginaw County.
2. Candidates will have made a significant impact on the quality of life in Saginaw County either through leadership of their organization or through individual efforts.
3. The award is to be presented to an individual for community dedication, commitment and achievements throughout their career.
4. Candidates are selected for accomplishments in their field of endeavor as well as outside activities in civic or commercial endeavors.
5. The person selected must be of sound moral character. Their record of success is an inspiration to the community, and they are a credit to their profession.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENTS

2016	Ken Streeter, City Rescue Mission
2017	Larry Sims, United Way
2018	Suzanne Greenberg, CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region
2019	Bob Van Deventer, Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce - retired
2020	Cancelled - COVID 19 Pandemic
2021	Yoko Mossner, Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House and Gardens of Saginaw - retired



COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Nomination Form

Nominee

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

About the Nominee:

On a separate sheet, describe the nominee, listing how he/she meets the award criteria.

Supporting Documents:

Please contact 1-2 individuals to supply supporting documentation to accompany your nomination form. Support documents can take the form of letters, emails, news articles, etc.

Submission:

Return completed nominations to

Lisa Dobbins, Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce
515 N. Washington Ave., 3rd Floor, Saginaw, MI 48607
or by email to lisa@saginawchamber.org

Nominatin deadline: April 30th

Nominations received after the deadline will be considered for the following year.



May 19, 2022

Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and Award Committee Members,

I am writing this letter in support of Christina Harrington and a nomination for the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Award for 2022.

Chris has long been an outstanding leader in her role with the Saginaw County Health Department but since the beginning of the pandemic, as well as during and through to our current state... she has asserted to be a strong community leader and voice. She exudes a humble, quiet confidence, determination, tenacity, and staunch commitment to collaboration in the pursuit of better health and wellness for the residents of Saginaw County. Candidly I would suggest that it has not been an easy time to be in a public health leadership role, albeit the same public position while navigating the pandemic. Chris does it with grace and finesse. What do I mean by that? Simply stated, she shows up. She walks the talk, in good times and in challenged times. From the night Saginaw County received our first Covid positive patient (Friday the 13th of March, 2020), she began to charter through new waters and stood at the ready. At 11pm that night a group of us gathered, at Covenant, began immediate public communications, tracking the illness, navigating through the MANY unknowns. Chris stepped up into and stayed in, the role of leader while others shied away. Consistently she would navigate the unknown, research, and communicate to masses with transparency and clarity. Sometimes there was a need with a message or thought, an idea or a plan, to acknowledge that the answers or solutions were not perfectly known or the outcomes clear. At times, she took direction from her next level leadership that was confusing or ever changing. She functioned masterfully. Our county had support and leadership in that regard that many throughout the state and did not have. She demonstrated finesse, grace and the ability to say, "I'm not 100% sure", or "that has changed, here is why". The ability to lead and navigate thoughtful change and collaboration was such an important skill set during this time and Chris has these skills, along with a servant leader's innate mentality on who she is and how she functions. Imagine the adeptness necessary to navigate data, the unknown, political, and personal polar thinking around you, barriers left and right. That is what she moved through these last many months. And now? Is there any rest?

Not really. Chris continues to provide direction, leadership, hope and collaborative spirit as we move to our new goal of "Be Well"! Instead of a focus stalled on the past, she is promoting working together for the best health of our Great Lakes Bay Community. I look forward to her continued inspiration and leadership and thank her for everything she has given. She is very deserving of this recognition, and I hope you will consider it. If you have any questions or need more details, please contact me. Thank you!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Charlton".

Beth Charlton, BSN RN, MSA
President/CEO Covenant HealthCare
(989) 280-5735



Ascension St. Mary's

May 20, 2022

To the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Selection Committee:

I would like to support the nomination of Christina Harrington, MPH, Saginaw County Health Department Director & Health Officer, for the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Award for 2022. This award is given to individuals who significantly impact the quality of life in our community. I believe that Christina best represents these qualities for her tireless commitment to service, her sound judgment and consistent leadership during these last two years of unprecedented change and stress.

As leader of the Saginaw County Health Department, Christina was instrumental in orchestrating a true county-wide response and collaboration. In doing so, she has positioned Saginaw to more effectively address the major health challenges that are present now and will arise in the future; making Saginaw more resilient in its prevention, cure and care of obesity, maternal/child health risks, and mental health/substance use disorders.

Saginaw stands out within the state of Michigan for its collaborative COVID-19 response including our accurate and regular communication, consistent standards of care, testing, and vaccination.

I applaud all the members of our Saginaw County Health team and, in particular, Christina Harrington, for her leadership. There is no better time to recognize our public health system and its vital role to ensure that residents and businesses flourish to their full potential in a safe and healthy environment.

As Chief Medical Officer for Ascension St. Mary's Hospital, I'm proud to have worked closely with Christina and others members of the health department during pandemic and on other county health needs. And, I am honored to nominate and support Christina Harrington to receive the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce 2022 Community Impact Award. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Clark Headrick, DO

Chief Medical Officer, Ascension Michigan Northern Ministries
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Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce

Community Impact Award Nomination for Christina Harrington, MPH, Director & Health Officer, Saginaw County Health Department

Dear Chamber Award Selection Committee:

I call it the "COVID blessing." The opportunity to work closely with Community Impact Award nominee Chris Harrington throughout the pandemic has been a highlight of my career and has given me firsthand knowledge of:

- Her 24/7/365 dedication to minimizing the impact of this crisis on everyone and everything in our community.
- Her accessibility to media, superintendents, healthcare providers, employers, entertainment venues, long-term care facilities, sport leagues, shelters, churches and daycares, and residents seeking guidance, advice and reassurance.
- Her commitment to providing timely, accurate information, guidance and mitigation strategies so that community members could make informed choices about gathering, masking, vaccination and testing.
- Her thoughtful preparation for 62 straight weeks on FB Live where no questions were off limits.
- Her leadership in orchestrating one of the state's most collaborative COVID-19 responses in partnership with Ascension St. Mary's, Covenant, CMU College of Medicine, CMU Health, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, Saginaw County Commission on Aging, Saginaw Community Foundation, United Way of Saginaw County, 211, STARS, SVRC, African American Pastors of Saginaw, SVSU, NAACP, The Dow, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Victorious Believers, Mt. Olive Institutional Missionary Baptist Church, New Birth Missionary Baptist, and more.
- Her determination and success in passing a much-needed public health millage to provide necessary funding to expand health department



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services county-wide (accomplished in the middle of the pandemic in just a few short months).

- Her mission of creating an academic health department in partnership with CMU College of Medicine for research, learning, and grants.
- Her resolve and strength in reorganizing her entire staff to address testing, case investigations, contact tracing, outbreak management and vaccination while trying to maintain much needed services to residents for family planning, immunizations, WIC, food safety, environmental testing, and more.
- Her personal sacrifices to meet the needs of the community while her own children and family were struggling with remote learning and work like households throughout the county.
- And, now, her new “BWell” vision for building a stronger, more resilient Saginaw that can better weather the next wave or next pandemic and make our community one of the healthiest in the state and an attraction for tourism, talent, commerce and prosperity.

COVID-19 threatened the quality of life in Saginaw County like nothing in recent history. And Chris Harrington was the constant, full-time leader who worked tirelessly to not only minimize infections, hospitalizations, and deaths...but also to serve as the neutral convenor of all parties necessary to change health outcomes so individuals and businesses will more enthusiastically choose to live, work, play and “bwell” in Saginaw County.

Please consider her for the Chamber Community Impact Award for 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Shriner, APR

President, The Barckholtz Group



May 19, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Renee Johnston, President & CEO of the Saginaw Community Foundation, am honored and proud to write this letter of support on behalf of Christina Harrington and her nomination for the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Award.

Prior to the pandemic, I and the Saginaw Community Foundation, already had a strong working relationship with Christina and the Saginaw County Health Department in regards to the Community Health Improvement Plan. And, it is through that relationship that I have gotten to know Chris even more and the passion she has for the overall health of the community and her desire to build up her team and the services offered through the Health Department.

Even though it doesn't sound right to say anything positive about the pandemic, I do believe it allowed Christina to show the Saginaw community what a leader she truly is, and I saw that first-hand on a number of occasions. In fact, on March 12, 2020, I asked Christina if she would be willing to provide information on the impact of Covid-19 to a group of community leaders on March 13, 2020. I was extremely proud of Chris on how she informed these leaders, and how they walked away knowing so much more about Covid-19 than they did when they walked in that morning. That day was the beginning of Chris's true leadership in guiding businesses, schools, other health organizations, and the entire community, through the pandemic.

People may not be aware of the fact that it was Christina Harrington who convened the hospitals and Great Lakes Bay Health to organize Covid testing, and eventually vaccinations. These other health leaders looked to Chris to lead the way to navigate and communicate through these questionable times. And, it is because of that leadership that those other health leaders continue to look to Chris to navigate through some current questionable times and how we deal with mental health, infant mortality, and obesity. In addition, the Health Department, under Christina's leadership, has collaborated with a number of other community partners to leverage

their resources to consider the most efficient way to deliver services during this critical and sensitive time.

Another thing people may not know, is that Chris is perceived as a leader across the state, especially with the BWell campaign. Others health departments across the state are trying to figure out how to change the narrative from Covid back to overall health, but not Chris. Once again, with her leadership, she has initiated the BWell campaign as a way to promote and encourage Saginaw County residents to be aware of their overall health needs and how/where to address them.

Lastly, amidst everything Covid related, Chris was also successful with passing a mileage for the Health Department which would allow her team to truly align and equip themselves to better serve the community now and in the future. The Saginaw County Health Department is committed to serve Saginaw County, and has the capacity and established partnerships to make this happen.

There is no doubt that I could continue to go on with more amazing things to say about Christina Harrington. But, I hope I've shared enough as to why she is truly deserving of the Community Impact Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Renee Johnston".

Renee S. Johnston
President & CEO



May 19, 2022

Saginaw Chamber of Commerce
Community Impact Awards – Selection Committee
515 N. Washington, Suite 201
Saginaw, MI 48607

Dear leaders:

I am writing to enthusiastically support Chris Harrington as a deserving honoree for a Chamber Community Impact Award.

Chris is fully committed to a healthier Saginaw County. In ordinary times we have had opportunities for collaboration between the the Health Department and the YMCA over several years in programs and initiatives aligned with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Throughout the extraordinary times of the Covid-19 pandemic, though, Chris has truly emerged as a vital community leader and a voice of calm resolve. Chris and her team have helped organizations navigate from closure to compliant, safe, and health reopenings in some cases making the difference in organizational survival. She is accessible and an advocate for our Y team, frequently guiding and reaffirming our plans to modify our facility and member experience to be open safely again for all. We were fortunate, not all of my YMCA peers had the kind of partnership with their community Health Department officials that we did here.

Chris is the type of local hero that runs to the problems, learns, and lifts others. She is a great communicator and radiates optimism to others when they needed hope the most.

Looking ahead to post-pandemic times, Chris has redoubled efforts to improve Saginaw County's health outcomes. She is spearheading a BWell Saginaw initiative that we are eager to be a part of, and we both share a lofty goal of helping Saginaw to shed a million pounds. I am delighted that Chris has been nominated for the Community Impact Award and I am honored to advocate for her to be selected.

Sincerely,

Steve Meyer, President and CEO
YMCA of Saginaw

YMCA of Saginaw

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YMCA Camp Timbers

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