

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 5, 2014

Ecumenical Awards Honor U.P. Media for Good News

Forty-six media professionals from throughout the Upper Peninsula were recognized for the positive stories they wrote and programs they produced during 2013 at the Good News Awards luncheon held at First Presbyterian Church in Marquette on June 5. This year 15 media outlets, including newspapers, online publications, and TV and radio stations entered a total of 58 entries in the Good News Awards, resulting in 29 Good News Awards and 12 Certificates of Merit being given out.

The Good News Awards, which began in 1998, honor local works of excellence in broadcasting, print and on the web that affirm the dignity of people, recognize and uphold universally-recognized human values, and uplift and nourish the human spirit. They are sponsored by the religious leaders of the United Methodist, Catholic, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches in the Upper Peninsula region.

Here are the 2014 Good News Awards by division and category:

Radio

Straight News Story

Good News Award: WMQT-FM/8-18 Media, Marquette for “A Child’s Requiem” (a young artist comes back to work with his former choir) by Maggie Guter, GlenEllen Lehmborg, Theresa Hermann, Victoria Wiese and Anja Mcbride

Feature Story

Good News Award: WNMU-FM, Marquette for “Street Symphony: The Medicine of Music” (interview with violinist Robert Gupta about how music affects the brain) by Hans Ahlstrom (producer/host) and Phillip Nichols (NMU student intern)

Good News Award: WMQT-FM/8-18 Media, Marquette for “Giving Back to UPDON” (a young diabetic girl sells crafts to make a donation to the Upper Peninsula Diabetes Network) by Theresa Hermann and Victoria Wiese

Editorial

Certificate of Merit: WMQT-FM/8-18 Media, Marquette for “Masks” (a girl reflects on her good fortune to be adopted into a loving family) by Tia Platteborze

Community Involvement

Certificate of Merit: WNMU-FM, Marquette for “Sharin’ the Blues” (Joe “Smokey” Holman singing the Blues with a member of the crowd at the 2013 Marquette Area Blues Festival) by Jason Paul

Television

Straight News Story

Good News Award: WLUC-TV, Negaunee for “Daughter Saves Dad” (a young girl goes for help when she sees her dad is knocked unconscious on the ground. She crosses a field, a road, and knocks on the neighbor’s door. It’s late at night and dark.) by Gabrielle Mays

Feature Story

Good News Award: WLUC-TV, Negaunee for “One of a Kind: Brittany Macstrom’s Story” (the story of a special needs woman overcoming the odds and her personality shining through for all to see. She’s a ray of sunshine, despite her disabilities.) by Beth Cefalu

Editorial

Good News Award: WLUC-TV, Negaunee: “The Upside: 31 Backpacks” (a campaign designed to highlight the people in our community who make a difference) by Rob Jamros and Larry Deloria

Public Service Announcement

Certificate of Merit: WLUC-TV, Negaunee for “YMCA Strong Kids” (PSA produced to support the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign, which helps raise funds for children’s programs) by Nick Terbrack and Lance Carter

Community Involvement

Good News Award: WLUC-TV, Negaunee for “Upper Michigan Someplace Special Campaign” (a campaign designed to highlight the virtues of living in Upper Michigan, which originated in 1982, and was brought back last year with a song contest that resulted in a new song and graphics) by Kim Parker, Steve Asplund and Gabrielle Mays

Non-daily Written News

Straight News Story

Good News Award: Bay Mills News, Brimley for “Community Takes a Stance, Vows its Support for ‘Idle No More’” (Bay Mills Indian Community supports grass roots effort to protect natural resources) by Shannon Jones

Good News Award: The North Wind, Marquette for “Students Help with Local Harvest” (NMU students working with a student organization volunteer at a local farm that recently burned down) by Emily Pagel

Good News Award: Marquette Monthly, Marquette for “Poet Jonathan Johnson Comes Home to Marquette” (event-based story on a local graduate whose appearance inspired high school students) by Eric Hammerstrom

Certificate of Merit: The Finnish American Reporter, Hancock for “Reality TV Celebrities Show their Sisu at FinnFest” (two former contestants of the “Biggest Loser” TV program who both had Finnish family connections gave a pair of presentations about their struggles with weight loss and health at FinnFest USA 2013) by Annika Rautakoura

Certificate of Merit: The Munising News, Munising for “Local Resident’s Creative Knits” (woman with rare disorder continues to give back) by Kimberly Wheeler

Feature Story

Good News Award: Win Awenen Nisitotung, Sault Ste. Marie for “Walk and Rock against Bullying Rally Debuts” (individuals start community campaign against bullying) by Rick Smith

Good News Award: The Munising News, Munising for “Alger Prison Dog Handling Program Changing Lives” (a program giving prisoners a feeling of pride and achievement as well as learning new skills while serving their time as an inmate) by Amanda Ingraham

Good News Award: Upper Peninsula Second Wave, Little Lake for “Start the Cycle” (a story of an organization helping at-risk teens through cycling, with help of local business) by Deb Pascoe

Good News Award: Marquette Monthly, Marquette for “Marquette Umpire Makes it to the Major Leagues” (profile on Adam Hamari, a local man whose career as an umpire is taking him to a national level) by Eric Hammerstrom

Good News Award: Bay Mills News, Brimley for “Group Raises Awareness about Bullying” (locals join together to raise awareness about school children bullying) by Sharlene Myers

Certificate of Merit: The Finnish American Reporter, Hancock for “Russian Orthodox Show their Sisu at Blessing” (a newly-arrived Russian Orthodox priest finds that his congregation’s religious traditions coincide with the Copper Country’s cultural traditions) by David Maki

Certificate of Merit: The Current, Norway for “Remembering Don Dey Bask” (a feature story about a local champion horse and his riders and owner) by Cory Poquette

Editorial

Certificate of Merit: The North Wind, Marquette for “ROTC Cuts Prove Senseless” (U.S. Army’s concept to cut the ROTC program at NMU is argued against) by Amanda Monthei and Cody Boyer

Regular Column

Good News Award: The Finnish American Reporter, Hancock for “Stop and See the History” (a “field trip” taken by an archive staff reveals the significance of Finnish-American history in the western U.P. and the importance of preserving this history – in its many forms) by Joanna Chopp

Good News Award: Marquette Monthly, Marquette for “The Story of a Small Miracle” (column that tells a real-life story of kindness that changes a person’s life) by Don Curto

Photograph

Good News Award: The Finnish American Reporter, Hancock for “Russian Orthodox Show their Sisu at Blessing” (a Russian Orthodox priest blesses a congregant at a Theophany service; this service occurs at about the same time as the midwinter festival Heikinpäivä, making for an interesting connection between religious and cultural traditions) by James Kurtti

Good News Award: The North Wind, Marquette for “Picking Plants” (students help harvesting plants in Skandia at Seeds and Spores) by Kristen Koehler

Certificate of Merit: The Munising News, Munising for “Youth Ski Program” (encouraging words to an exhausted participant) by Amanda Ingraham

Series

Good News Award: Upper Peninsula Second Wave, Little Lake for “Revitalization Series: Iron Mountain, Iron River and Calumet” (three stories depicting communities that are overcoming tough times and building brighter futures through revitalization) by Neil Moran

Community Involvement

Good News Award: Marquette Monthly, Marquette for “Marquette Monthly Hosts Annual Short Story Contest” (promotional story explaining and discussing short story contest) by Lucy Hough

Daily Written News

Straight News Story

Good News Award: The Daily Globe, Ironwood for “Volunteers Celebrate Church’s Anniversary with Community Service” (four local ELCA Lutheran congregations form one Christ Parish in Ironwood. In an effort to strengthen their bond and serve the community, they spread out across town for multiple projects) by Michelle Thomasini

Good News Award: The Mining Journal, Marquette for “Starting Over – with a Little Help from his Friends” (man loses everything in a fire but his dog) by Renee Prusi

Certificate of Merit: The Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton for “31 Backpacks Helping More Children” (following the development of fledgling non-profit aimed at feeding children over the weekends) by Kurt Hauglie

Feature Story

Good News Award: The Daily Globe, Ironwood for “A Sergeant and a Samson” (local high school graduate returns home from tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and brings special leadership to college basketball team) by Pat Krause

Good News Award: The Mining Journal, Marquette for “Tragic Death Saves Lives” (The article, widely republished, told the story of a young woman from Iran, beaten to death, and how her death saved many others) by Zach Jay

Certificate of Merit: The Daily Press, Escanaba for “Andrew’s Vision” (high school auto club restores old cars) by Dorothy McKnight

Editorial

Certificate of Merit: The Daily Press, Escanaba for “Article Didn’t Show All of Escanaba” (a response to an unflattering article about Escanaba published in the Detroit Free Press) by Brian Rowell

Regular Column

Good News Award: The Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton for “Family Needed to Share Achievements” (without family, life-long dreams are empty) by Mark Wilcox

Photograph

Good News Award: The Daily Press, Escanaba for “Farewell, Mr. Buckbee” (photo of a beloved teacher’s walk to school on his last day before retirement) by Holly Richer

Series

Good News Award: The Mining Journal, Marquette for “Marquette Women’s Center Turns 40” (series describing the center, its origins, work and future) by Renee Prusi

Good News Award: The Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton for “A Soldier’s Story” (three-part series on the enlistment, deployment, injury and rehabilitation of Calumet soldier) by Scott Viau

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