

## **Ecumenical Awards Honor U.P. Media for Good News**

Nearly 50 media professionals and groups from throughout the Upper Peninsula were recognized for the positive stories they wrote and programs they produced during 2014 at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Good News Awards luncheon held at Grace United Methodist Church in Marquette on June 9. This year 16 media outlets, including newspapers, online publications, and TV and radio stations entered a total of 63 entries in the Good News Awards, resulting in 27 Good News Awards and 16 Certificates of Merit being given out.

The Good News Awards, which began in 1998, honors 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 Catholic, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Methodist Churches in the Upper Peninsula region.

Here are the 2015 Good News Awards by division and category:

### **Non-daily Written News**

#### Straight News Story

**Certificate of Merit:** The Munising News, Munising for “Warming up Trenary’s Elderly” (a local tavern raised money to assist elderly neighbors heat their homes) by Toni Mann

**Certificate of Merit:** The Finnish American Reporter, Hancock for “Athletics to Lead Way for Finlandia’s Growth” (university remains true to ethnic roots when implementing new athletic programs) by David Maki

#### Feature Story

**Good News Award:** Pioneer Tribune, Manistique for “Digging into the Good: Veteran, Philanthropist is ‘Person of the Year’” (one man’s mission to better the town despite his own obstacles) by Ashley Hoholik

**Good News Award:** Marquette Monthly, Marquette for “The Guardians” (spiritualism and environmental advocacy linked by Native American culture) by Jon Magnuson

**Good News Award:** The Finnish American Reporter, Hancock for “Joseph Riippa’s Life and Legacy” (a long-deceased pastor is remembered for his multiple contributions to Finnish-American culture) by Minna Salomaa

**Good News Award:** The Munising News, Munising for “The Chatham Ski Hill” (an old-fashioned ski hill continues to unite the community with family-oriented recreation) by Toni Mann

**Certificate of Merit:** Upper Peninsula Second Wave, Little Lake for “How the U.P. Can Fight Population Decline and Foster Economic Development” (how the region can tackle its population challenges head-on) by Brian Martucci

#### Editorial

**Good News Award:** The Finnish American Reporter, Hancock for “Out of Respect” (a teacher is recalled for her efforts to teach students how to respect each other and live in harmony) by James Kurtti

#### Photograph

**Good News Award:** The Finnish American Reporter, Hancock for “Heikinpäivä 2014: A Look Back at Midwinter Finnish Fun” (one of the events, the kicksled race, that make up the midwinter ethnic festival, Heikinpäivä) by James Kurtti

#### Series

**Good News Award:** The Munising News, Munising for “Mike’s Hiking for Heroes” (following a Munising native, who was part of an eight-month-long journey across the country meant to bring awareness and support to America’s Gold Star families) by Amanda Ingraham

### **Daily Written News**

#### Straight News Story

**Good News Award:** The Daily Press, Escanaba for “Fallen Heroes” (law enforcement remembers peace officers who died in the line of duty) by Jenny Lancour

**Good News Award:** The Mining Journal, Marquette for “Coaches and Counselors/Back to Bay Cliff” (football stars lend helping hand at Bay Cliff) by Steve Brownlee

**Good News Award:** The Daily News, Iron Mountain for “Williamses Continue their Mission to Clothe the Needy” (an elderly Iron Mountain couple continue their work to donate clothing to needy around the world and appeal to residents for donations to fill a packing container) by Linda Lobeck

**Certificate of Merit:** The Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton for “An Outcast Speaks” (Author Neil White speaks to incoming first-year students at Michigan Tech) by Garrett Neese

#### Feature Story

**Good News Award:** The Daily News, Iron Mountain for “Barn Cat Buddies: Group Helps Control Local Feral Cat Population” (a group of Dickinson County volunteers helps farmers by neutering their feral cats and fostering and adopting out their feral kittens) by Nikki Younk

**Good News Award:** The Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton for “Local Family Deals with ALS” (couple shares story of love and hope amid tragic illness) by Garrett Neese

**Good News Award:** The Daily Press, Escanaba for “Fair Bidders Come Together to Help Girl” (after a girl underwent surgery for Crohn’s disease, the community bought the pig she raised for \$52.50 per pound to support her) by Jordan Beck

**Certificate of Merit:** The Daily Globe, Ironwood for “He’s a Great Coach” (talented high school athlete sidelined by injury shows promise as student coach) by Pat Krause

#### Editorial

**Certificate of Merit:** The Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton for “A Four-Year-Old who was an Inspiration to Every One of Us” (the last year in the life of a toddler with cancer, served as inspiration) by Mark Wilcox

#### Regular Column

**Certificate of Merit:** The Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton for “An Uncle who was Everything to Me” (tribute to a dear relative) by Mark Wilcox

#### Photograph

**Good News Award:** The Mining Journal, Marquette for “U.P. High School Football All-Star Week: Coaches and Counselors” (local football stars and Bay Cliff clients have a great time) by Elizabeth Bailey

**Certificate of Merit:** The Daily Press, Escanaba for “Roses are Red…” (child gives a rose to a nursing home resident) by Holly Richer

#### Series

**Good News Award:** The Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton for “Copper Dog 150” (a look at community involvement in putting on a major dogsled race) by Dan Roblee

**Good News Award:** The Mining Journal, Marquette for “The Search,” “Birth Mom Speaks” and “Finding Family” (local man finds birth mom who had been searching for him) by Renee Prusi

**Certificate of Merit:** The Daily Press, Escanaba for “Dance-goers are Steppin’ out in Style,” “Area Women are ‘Sew’ Giving” and “Nothing Says ‘You’re Special’ like Flowers” (spotlights individuals who make Pathways’ prom special for “special” people) by Dorothy McKnight

#### Community Involvement

**Certificate of Merit:** The Daily Press, Escanaba for “Families, Fun Big Part of Health Fair” (story about The Daily Press’ gift to the community – the annual Back to School and Children’s Health Fair) by The Daily Press

### **Television**

#### Straight News Story

**Certificate of Merit:** WBUP-TV, Ishpeming for “Horse Ride” (a Montana woman is riding cross-country on horseback, and her route took her through the U.P.) by Katlin Connin

**Certificate of Merit:** WLUC-TV, Negaunee for “Rescued Snowmobilers” (father and son snowmobiling in the Porcupine Mountain Wilderness State Park get lost; they’re rescued by emergency crews and the DNR) by Sarah Blakely and Steve Asplund

**Certificate of Merit:** WJMN-TV, Marquette for “Cross to Bear” (minister carries 25-pound cross across the southern U.P. to raise awareness of, and money for, the homeless) by Brittany Denny and Cynthia Thompson

#### Feature Story

**Good News Award:** WLUC-TV, Negaunee for “Kingsford High School Band” (students in the marching band came to the house of their special supporter – who did nearly everything for them and their instruments – for a special performance when he got sick) by Abby Miller

**Certificate of Merit:** WJMN-TV, Marquette for “Hospice Patient’s Dreams Come True” (hospice agency organizes a “wedding” for an unmarried terminally-ill woman) by Kylie Kahn and Cynthia Thompson

#### Editorial

**Good News Award:** WLUC-TV, Negaunee: “The Upside” (a profile of Rita Rossier of Manistique) by Rob Jamros and Larry Deloria

#### Public Service Announcement

**Good News Award:** WLUC-TV, Negaunee for “Bowl for Kid’s Sake” (promoting this fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters) by Maygen Turner

#### Program

**Good News Award:** WLUC-TV, Negaunee for “U.P. Power” (The Ishpeming Hematites and Munising Mustangs go to the State Football Finals. This is a look at their year, the community support and the game itself) by Steve Asplund, Mike Ludlum and Lily Zhao

**Certificate of Merit:** WJMN-TV, Marquette for “Bishop Ordination” (live broadcast of the ordination and installation of Father John F. Doerfler as bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Marquette) by Joe Denk and Cynthia Thompson

#### Series

**Good News Award:** WBUP-TV, Ishpeming for “Drug Babies” (exploring drug addiction among newborns, an emerging health concern in the U.P. and nationally, from several different perspectives) by Mike Hoey

**Good News Award:** WJMN-TV, Marquette for “Keeping it Local for the Holidays” (focusing on how individuals, groups and businesses put forth a special effort to help others) by Cynthia Thompson and Esther Kwon

**Certificate of Merit:** WLUC-TV, Negaunee for “Fear No More” (the Morning News crew faces their fears) by Vicky Crystal, Shawn Householder, Cheyenne Badder, Sam Bauman and Ashley Kirklen

#### Community Involvement

**Good News Award:** WJMN-TV, Marquette for “WJMN Community Involvement” (video of promotional spots demonstrating Local 3’s involvement in local events for charity) by Tony Stagliano, Cynthia Thompson and Mark Nebel

**Good News Award:** WLUC-TV, Negaunee for “Canathon” (a TV6-sponsored food drive, carried out since 1982, to help local food pantries feed a hungry neighbor) by Scott Zerbel

## **Radio**

### Feature Story

**Good News Award:** WNMU-FM, Marquette for “University Beat: ASNMU President Works with Syrian Refugees” (ASNMU President Kat Klawes gets involved with Syrian refugees as part of World History class) by Kris Thomas and Hans Ahlstrom

### Public Service Announcement

**Good News Award:** WYKX-FM, Escanaba for “Delta County Cancer Alliance Testimonial” (part of a campaign of testimonials of cancer patients helped by the Alliance) by Kim Rabbitoy

### Community Involvement

**Good News Award:** WYKX-FM, Escanaba for “Working Partners” (a sampling of some of the ways the radio station makes its community a better place) by Staff

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