

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Jones awarded with Sarah Bush Volunteer of the Year 2021 Award

Sarah Bush Lincoln presented Jean Jones with the Volunteer of the Year 2021 award on April 23. Jones was selected among numerous, accomplished volunteers for her dedication to Sarah Bush Lincoln's mission to serve others not only at SBL, but in her free time.

Jones, a former oncology and hospice nurse, moved to the area in 2014 from Rockford and decided the best way to make friends would be by volunteering. A hospital seemed like the natural choice for her as a former healthcare professional. Seven years later, Jones is "enjoying every moment" of volunteering at SBL. The Mattoon resident's favorite places to volunteer are the SBL Regional Cancer Center and SBL Guild Gift Shop. In 2021, Jones has especially liked working at the COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

"Everyone who comes to get their vaccine is so grateful, and there is this feeling of hope," Jones said.

Jones has dedicated her life to serving others. In 2009, she fulfilled a life-long goal to become a kidney donor - at 69 years old. One of



Submitted photo
Left to right: Director of Volunteer Services Tracy Haddock, Jean Jones, and Vice President of Human Resources Debbie Saddoris

her friends knew someone in need of organ transplant and shared that with Jones. She immediately tested her blood to see if she was a match with the donor and called a nephrologist to see if she was still eligible to donate a kidney at her age. She was cleared on both accounts due to her perfect health.

"I asked the doctor how many years I could give her, and he said 10 to 15 years," Jones said. "There was no question that I would donate my kidney to her."

Jones' nominators cite her friendly disposition and can-do attitude as reasons she benefits the hospital. She serves on the SBL Guild board, helps at the food pantry, talks patients through chemo treatment, and is always willing to take on shifts at the gift shop later at night or last-minute.

"She will stay late without being asked and will not take no for an answer at times! This volunteer truly embodies the spirit of all things Sarah Bush Lincoln," one of Jones' nominators said.

Kathy Clay, one of Jones' two daughters, said her

mother constantly searches for ways to help other people such as donating 100 gallons of blood and quilting numerous face masks during the pandemic.

"My mother gets that she has one life to live to the fullest and always seeks ways to give to others," Clay said.

Jones has been an SBL volunteer for seven years, putting in 2,242 hours, but she plans to add even more. As part of her award, she received an engraved, wooden box with her name and two pins denoting her accomplishment, along with a sash, flowers, and yellow "Thank you for BEE-ing a volunteer" sugar cookies with bees on them.

"Volunteering at Sarah Bush Lincoln is so fun! I call it 'going to work' since I wake up needing a purpose for my day. And I certainly find purpose here at SBL," Jones said.

For more information about SBL Volunteer Services, please contact Tracy Haddock, Volunteer Services Director, at 217 258-4180, or visit our website at <https://www.sarahbush.org/volunteerservices/>.

Regional Office of Education announces ROE #11 Recognition of Excellence Award Recipients

The Regional Office of Education #11 is pleased to announce the 2021 second Annual ROE #11 Recognition of Excellence Award Recipients.

The Regional Office of Education #11 requested nominations from each school district within the region seeking to highlight a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 educator who has modeled excellence in education. Nominees included exceptionally skillful and dedicated individuals who have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and co-workers. They also play active and useful roles within their communities as well as schools; often distinguishing themselves as leaders. Their most important quality is their superior ability to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Nominations were accepted through February 2021, reviewed by a committee, and one educator per school district was selected to receive the distinguished ROE#11 Recognition of Excellence Award.

Dr. Kyle Thompson, Regional Superintendent said, "We are privileged to have so many outstanding educators within our region, passionate

about the profession, and dedicated to our students. It's an honor to recognize and validate their meaningful efforts. Education is truly a work-of-heart and these educators work with relentless persistence, creativity, flexibility, and competence. Our students, schools, and communities benefit from their skills, knowledge, and compassion."

Congratulations to the following 2021 ROE #11 Recognition of Excellence Award Recipients:

- Arcola CUSD #306: Lisa Sigrist
- Arthur CUSD #305: Shannon Cheek
- BRIDGES: Michelle Young
- Casey-Westfield CUSD #C-4: Susan Elkins
- Central A&M CUSD #21: Laura Seitz
- Charleston CUSD #1: Anne Shaffer
- Cowden-Herrick CUSD #3A: Kyle Knop
- Cumberland CUSD #77: Amy Carr
- EIASE: Kelly Keller
- Edgar County CUSD #6: Andy Ruff
- Kansas CUSD #3: Joe Morrissey
- Marshall CUSD #C-2: Lori Butts
- Martinsville CUSD #C-3: Margo Riker
- Mattoon CUSD #2: Tera Stewart

- Neoga CUSD #3: Alicia Kessler
- Oakland CUSD #5: Lance Landeck
- Okaw Valley CUSD #302: Matthew Shoaff
- Paris CUSD #4: Cindy Calhoun
- Paris Cooperative High School: Mary Stallings
- Paris Union #95: Tobi Sanders
- Shelbyville CUSD #4: Rachel Banfield
- Shiloh #1: Kara Bosch
- Stewardson-Strasburg CUSD #5A: Leslie Richter
- St. John's Lutheran School: Brenda Severson
- Sullivan CUSD #300: Patricia King
- Tuscola CUSD #301: Darla Stanfield
- Villa Grove CUSD #302: Becky Olson
- Windsor CUSD #1: Josh Forsythe

ROE #11 Recognition of Excellence Award Recipients were presented a certificate and award. The Regional Office of Education #11 will continue to recognize outstanding educators through the annual ROE #11 Recognition of Excellence Award. More information about ROE #11 can be accessed via website at ROE11.org



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