

Kids of All Ages Love to 'Touch A Truck'

By ERIC GROSS

The Patterson Rotary hit a home run Saturday during its third annual 'Touch a Truck for Heroes' event that raised funds and awareness for local veterans and food pantries.

Trucks of every size and shape were explored by the young people, their parents and grandparents during the four-hour event held at Thunder Ridge.

Emergency vehicles were on display along with tow trucks, earth moving equipment and utility rigs.

Rotarian Jim Byron was amazed by the community response: "Donations collected at 'Touch a Truck for Heroes' goes towards veteran projects and programs."



PHOTOS BY ERIC GROSS
 Top: Carolyn Cipriani, 4, of Brewster, enjoys a lollipop while seated in the driver's seat of an earth mover. Above: One-year-old Jacob Hernandez of Patterson enjoys sitting in a tow truck at the event.

Putnam Community Service Network Honors 'Movers & Shakers'

By ERIC GROSS

Seven of Putnam's movers and shakers were honored last week when the Putnam Community Service Network hosted its 32nd annual Awards Breakfast.

More than 150 were on hand at the Putnam Golf Course Ballroom in Mahopac Falls for the event that has grown tremendously over the years.

Fifteen individuals and organizations were nominated for awards and following a rigorous screening process, the winners were announced.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Marjorie Keith likened the process to "Putnam's answer to the Academy Awards."

She told the audience: "We are here to celebrate the good things found in Putnam. All of you here today are winners."

Those nominated included: Arts on the Lake; John Bourges, Brewster Emergency Shelter Partnership, Butterfly Quilters, Dorinda Cataldo, Ken Clair, Michael Kaufman, Gabrielle Lama, Edward Murphy, Nathaniel Prentice, Putnam County Community Resilience Coalition, Putnam Youth Bureau, Barbara Reitz, St. John's Church Food Pantry and Dennis Ullman.

The 2017 Distinguished Service Award was presented to Barbara Reitz, coordinator of the Putnam County Youth Court program.

St. John's Church Food Pantry received the Distinguished Service Award for an organization while Ed Murphy who has volunteered for many years with the Putnam Alliance on Mental Illness and the Mental Health Association of Putnam County, was presented with the Ruth Dain Voluntary Service Award.



PHOTOS BY ERIC GROSS
 Putnam's first Deputy County Executive and last year's recipient, Regina Morini, presents the Ruth Dain Voluntary Service Award to Edward Murphy.



John Bourges (right) proudly accepts the Norman Vincent Peale Outstanding Service Award from Father Bill Drobach of St. Christopher's Inn in Garrison. Father Drobach was last year's recipient.

This year's Professional Career Recognition Award was presented to Dorinda Cataldo for her "lifelong passion of working tirelessly to end domestic and sexual violence by providing

assistance to those having experienced trauma."

This year there was no one nominated to receive the Lyn and Buzz Burr Excellence in Communications Award.

The Burrs owned the Putnam Courier from 1978 through 1989.

The Norman Vincent Peale Outstanding Service Award was presented to John Bourges in recognition of his work with veterans of all ages and areas of service.

The Fred Dill Community Service Networking Award was presented to the Putnam County Community Resilience Coalition which is addressing the gaps in child disaster preparedness planning to ensure that every child will be properly taken care of before, during and after a disaster.

The 2017 Youth Award was presented to Gabrielle Lama for her outstanding volunteer work.

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Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017
Time: 6:00 - 7:30pm
Location: Northern Westchester Hospital
 1st Floor Conference Center
 400 East Main Street
 Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

Light refreshments to be served.



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