



# *Father Baker Legacy Awards*

## *Past Recipients*

**1981**

**Dorothy & Robert Debolt**

Adoptive parents of 21 disabled children in Oakland, CA.

**Judge J. Douglas Trost**

Former Erie County Family Court Judge.

**1985**

**Clara Hale**

Founder of Hale House, a home for children born to drug-addicted mothers in New York City.

**Ken & Miriam Barth**

Directors of the Diocese of Buffalo's Right to Life Office.

**1988**

**Sister Elaine Roulet, CSJ**

Began a children's center program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for women in prison and their kids.

**Joan Edwards**

Founder of the WNY Task Force on Prevention of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities

**1991**

**Dr. James Renier**

CEO of Honeywell who developed Success by Six and Phillips TLP programs.

**Jack Anthony**

Director of Cradle Beach Camp, which serves physically and/or economically handicapped kids.

**1982**

**Paul Weiss**

Local native who founded South California's shelter for children, Los Ninos

**Joan Male**

Buffalo Chapter of Parents Anonymous

**1986**

**Trevor Ferrell**

Philadelphia man who started a program to aid the homeless.

**Leo John Newton**

An orphan raised by Father Baker who coached youngsters throughout Lackawanna and Buffalo.

**1989**

**James Campbell**

Director of residential treatment center for those diagnosed with AIDS in Yonkers, NY.

**Barry Lillis**

Local TV personality honored for his commitment to youth in the Buffalo area.

**1992**

**Camille Geralidi**

Founder of Up With Down Syndrome Foundation.

**Mark Kelso**

Buffalo Bills player who was active with Athletes in Action & Athletes Against Drunk Driving.

**1983**

**William Sample**

Philadelphia policeman who founded the Sunshine Foundation which grants wishes to dying youth.

**Dr. D.S. Subramanian**

Heart surgeon at Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

**1987**

**John Walsh**

Founder of Adam Walsh Child Development HQ and initiator of programs for missing children.

**Anna Caplan**

Recipient of the National Jefferson Award for volunteer service.

**1990**

**Dr. Lois Lee**

Founder of Children of the Night program in Hollywood, CA

**Dr. & Mrs. Luther Robinson**

Director of Clinical Genetics at Children's Hospital. Nurse who runs a 24-hour hotline dealing with development problems of fetuses.

**1993**

**James Casion**

Executive Director of Baker Hall & OLV Infant Home.

**Joe Cozzo**

Baker Hall administrator who also spends time with local school leaders discussing violence and anger therapy issues.

# *Past Recipients*

**1994**

**Bishop Edward Head, DD**

Bishop of Buffalo, who has worked on many committees championing social justice causes and minority rights issues.

**1997**

**Elizabeth O'Donnell**

Founder of the Skating Association for the Blind and Handicapped, which teaches thousands of physically, emotionally and mentally challenged individuals to ice skate.

**2000**

**Rev. John Drexel, O.M.I.**

Started association in Brazil which runs foster homes to care for, rehabilitate, and raise hundreds of abandoned children

**2003**

**Gary Mervis**

Founder of Camp Good Days & Special Times, a sanctuary for children coping with the affects of cancer, AIDS, or familiar abuse.

**2006**

**Willie "Hutch" Jones**

For over 20 years, he has offered his Sports and Education clinics providing free opportunities for recreation and learning for thousands of WNY youth.

**1995**

**Ilio DiPaolo**

World Champion wrestler and restaurateur, raised funds for organizations such as Leukemia Society, March of Dimes, Camp Good Days & Special Times, etc. Also awarded scholarships to local high school students.

**1998**

**Mercedes De Martinez & Jerri Wegner**

Founder and local coordinator of FANA, an adoption service based in Columbia, which has found homes for over 10,000 abandoned and orphaned children worldwide.

**2001**

**Ronald Talboys**

Founder and unpaid president of WNY Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, responsible for building or refurbishing over 80 homes for low-income families.

**2004**

**Msgr. Robert Wurtz & the Employees of OLV Institutions**

To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, employees were honored for their ongoing dedication.

**2007**

**Tribute to Msgr. Wurtz**

A special tribute made in memory of Msgr. Wurtz for the tremendous impact he made on the OLV Institutions and the Diocese of Buffalo.

**1996**

**Leonard Lenihan**

Chairman of the Erie County Legislature who, among other things, founded a proposal to reduce the waiting list of kids in search of mental health services, and led the downtown library's center for children with alcoholic parents.

**1999**

**William Balliew**

Founder of the Winner's Club in Georgia, offering after school and weekend programs for physically and emotionally challenged youth.

**2002**

**Dick Gallagher**

Executive director and founder of Renaissance House (now Renaissance Campus) a residential treatment program that has served more than 1,200 chemically dependent adolescents since its inception.

**2005**

**Sister Veronica Anne Armao**

Nursery school teacher, psychologist and administrator who dedicated over 60 years to the OLV Institutions.

**2008**

**Molly Bethel**

Founder of the Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes, for nearly 50 years she has brought art to needy yet creative young people in Buffalo that may not have had the encouragement or means to pursue their passion and talent.

**2009**

**Sr. Johnice Rzadkiewicz, CSSF**

Founded The Response to Love Center with the Felician Sisters. Center serves the needs of poverty-stricken families within the East Site of Buffalo.

**2012**

**Sister Diane Gianadda, OSF**

Founded the The Women's Respite Program which provides respite to low-income, single mothers and grandmothers and has since expanded to include retreats for women battling cancer and alumnae reunions.

**Bishop Edward U. Kniec**

Bishop of Buffalo, who has worked on many committees and major supporter of for the Canonization of the Venerable Nelson Baker.

**Evan Morgan**

Youth Recipient – active with Western New York Sibshop & Lose the Training Wheels, programs at Canisius College.

**2015**

**Robert Bennett**

Former Regent and Chancellor for the Eighth Judicial District and elected Chancellor Emeritus, Mr. Bennett also worked for the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County for 23 years, including the position of President and CEO.

**Caitlin Neumann**

Former BVS student, Caitlin is president of the board of directors of YOUTH POWER!, a public speaker and advocate for mental health awareness, and a Youth Peer Mentor at the Mental Health Association of Erie County as well as a Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor.

**2010**

**Fr. Joe Bayne, OFM Conv.**

Executive Director of The Franciscan Center in South Buffalo, NY and Fire Chaplain to the City of Buffalo Fire Dept. and Erie County Emergency Services. Center provides long-term care and skills to young men, 16-20.

**2013**

**Sister Joanne Gangloff, OSF**

Since 1982, Sr. Joanne has dedicated her life to working in Timau, a rural village in East Africa. She has worked to better the lives of the children and families by building and overseeing a school, and developing numerous programs that helps with the food and healthcare needs of children in the village, in addition to funding scholarships, fighting AIDS and disease, housing the homeless, and developing an adult literacy program.

**Zachary Jancevski**

Youth Recipient – active with the Catholic Charities Immigrant & Refugee Assistance Program and the Cantalician Center for Learning.

**2016**

**Michael Taheri**

Local attorney turned dedicated volunteer at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, Mike and his wife, Josette, have devoted the last 6 years to mentoring the youth who find their way to St. Luke's, volunteering, and working to raise much needed funds for both the Mission and the students educational goals.

**Jacey Diez**

Niagara University senior and volunteer at The Magdalene Project, Jacey has logged countless hours participating in various missions trips locally, domestically, and internationally. It is Jacey's career goal to serve as a teacher working with non-English speakers.

**2011**

**Amy Betros & Norm Paolini**

Co-founders of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy which helps the inner city poor of Buffalo by providing meals, housing, counseling, education, etc.

**Robert Freeman**

Youth Recipient – active with SABAH.

**2014**

**Msgr. Francis Weldgen**

Fr. Fran has served in many capacities in the Diocese, including Director of the Youth Department and Pastor of St. Christopher Parish and assisting at various churches in WNY when there was a need for a temporary pastor.

**Kyle Haller**

Youth Recipient – a graduate of Bishop Timon- St. Jude High School who is active with youth programs and Bible School in his com

**2017**

**Sisters of Saint Joseph**

The Sisters of Saint Joseph began their work at "Father Baker's" in 1919 at the Maternity Hospital and have continued to serve the Our Lady of Victory (OLV) Institutions through St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, St. John's Protectory, and most recently the OLV Elementary School.

**Rebecca Sullivan**

A 2017 graduate of the Sacred Heart Academy of Buffalo and is currently a freshman at Villanova University in the Villanova School of Business. While at Sacred Heart, Rebecca completed over 250 hours of community service, including volunteer with local groups such as Monkey See, Money Do Children's Bookstore, Saints Peter and Paul Church and Elementary School, and the Bison Children's Scholarship Fund.

**2018**

**Ronald Thaler**

Ronald E. Thaler has devoted nearly 40 years to the Catholic faith community, with a specific concentration on youth involvement and family interactions, on the Westside of Buffalo.

**Douglas Coleman**

Douglas Coleman, a 2018 graduate of St. Francis high School, committed countless hours of volunteering to various WNY organizations.