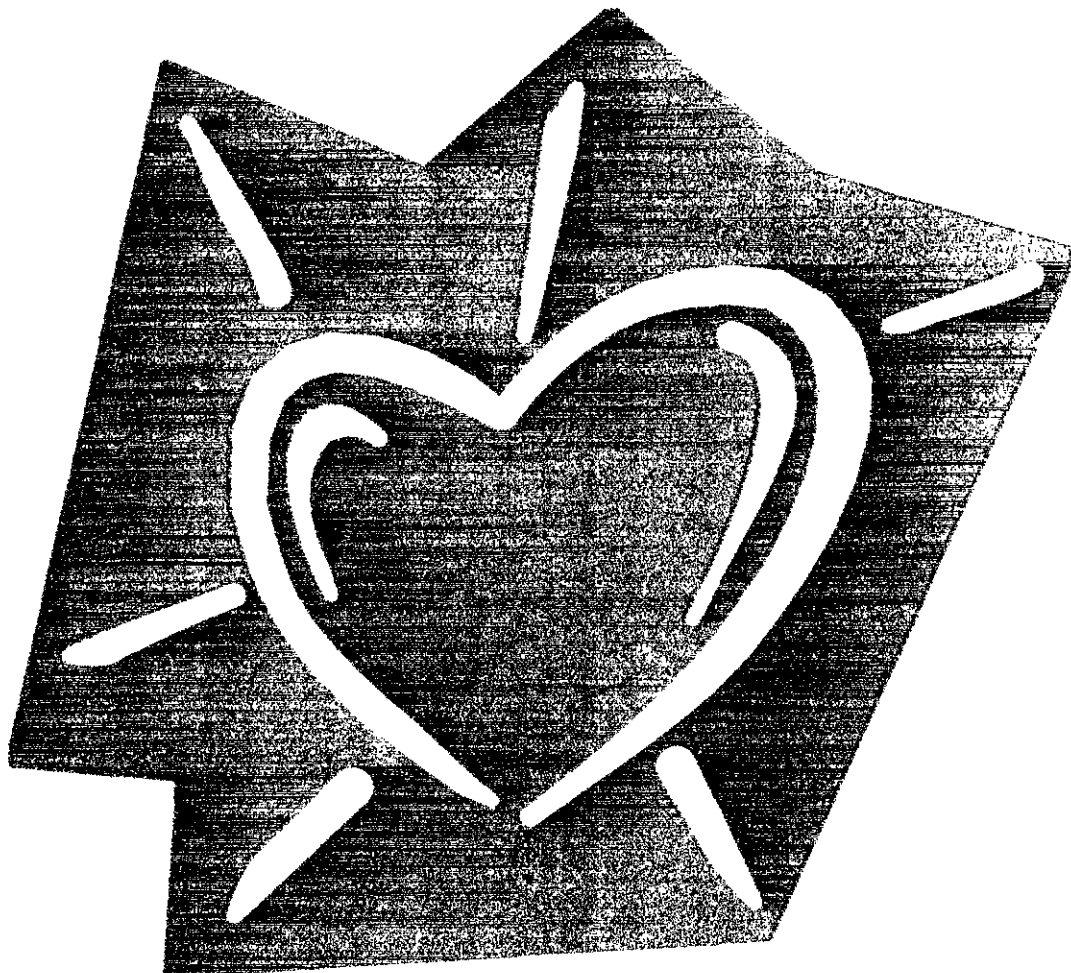


Project Proud
“Heart of Gold”



April 23, 2002

Jim Rhoades

Tom Antram

Project Proud Presentation "Heart of Gold"

Group Introduction (Tom):

Good morning! I appreciate everyone still being here as this is next to the last presentation this morning!. I would like to mention the team that made this possible:

Karen Beck - United Way - KLA 2001

Kevin Weaver - Parkan Co. - KLA 2001

Suzie Light - Kosciusko County Community Foundation

Lori Masur - Kosciusko County Community Foundation

Jim Rhoades - Dalton Co. - KLA 2002

And me - Tom Antram - RRD - KLA 2002

Project Introduction (Tom):

◆ *Thesis*

- ◆ "Heart of Gold" is a term used to describe those individuals or groups that give of themselves unselfishly to serve others with volunteer acts of service or kindness beyond the norm. These are people that go out of their way for others. Any person, regardless of age, who enhances the quality of life of someone else was eligible for nomination as a 2002 "Heart of Gold" Award.

◆ *Gain Attention / Expectations*

- ◆ There are people out there - everyday - giving of themselves. They may seem invisible to the community, they are not looking for recognition but they are a tremendous part of what knits our community together. These people were sought after - those who build the social fabric of our lives. We looked for and found "Hearts of Gold" - some of their acts of service will be mentioned a little later.

◆ *Credibility*

- ◆ Heart of Gold awards were started in 1997, by a previous KLA group, as their White Paper Project. Since then it has been carried on by KLA and the Kosciusko County Community Foundation. Thousands of dollars have been donated to charities in the names of the "Heart of Gold" award recipients.

Project Body (Jim):

Our project is the Heart of Gold which is the heartbeat of social capital or the social fabric of our communities. Social Capital is normally thought of as civic engagement in our communities. This is done through non-profit organizations, clubs or any type of social event that draws people together to obtain a common purpose or goal. That goal is to build stronger and safer communities with good schools and activities for the whole family. To make them attractive, desirable place to raise a family. This also makes a community attractive to new businesses.

Some examples of social capital in civic areas of our lives are: the arts and social capital, social capital through politics and government, religion, youth, schools, families and the work place. Our county is a prime example of a healthy and growing county in spite of national studies that indicate a decline in social engagement. A couple of reasons for this decline are that more families have both spouses in the work force compared to 20 years ago. People tend to spend more time alone. A big reason for this is that we are living in the information age and with more entertainment in our homes through electronic gadgets more channels on television then there are hours in a day to watch. We all need to be aware of the shifts or changes in our social lives and to be proactive in making changes that fit the needs of people. Lets not be guilty of ; " that's the way we've done it for 25 years" and be stuck in a box. If you stay long enough in a box you will eventually die.

It is very exciting to be involved with the Heart of Gold and the reception that will be held May 8th at the Center Lake Pavilion. It is encouraging and amazing to read the nominees and to see that our local communities have people that give so much of themselves their skills and resources and this is being done on their own time without pay and pay never even being the issue or reason but because they just love people, even people who are hard to love.

Here are just a few examples without names at this time:

1. Several individuals who are coaches and directors for youth sporting leagues whom have given countless hours for several years.
2. People who go to the local jails and minister to those who find themselves in difficult situations.
3. People who have worked in the 4-H program for over 25 years helping to lead and guide our young people.
4. People who volunteer to work in our schools to help kids with their studies and who give of themselves daily to neighbors who cant get around and who cant even clean their own homes. They do this in front of their own children being a very positive role model.
5. There are people who have work and retired in our county who now give of themselves to help cancer patients, deliver meals, and work with many civic groups in our county.

These are only a few examples of people with a Heart of Gold. These people are role models that are leading the way to build stronger communities within Kosciusko County. They are doing it consistently one person at a time.

Project Conclusion (Tom):

The "Heart of Gold" awards program strengthens the idea that good deeds and service to others, that typically may be known only to God, are also noticed by others in the community. With all the bad news we are bombarded with on a daily basis it is very refreshing to know people in our neighborhoods do act in support of others and do care about their community!

There were over 40 nominations written by people that noticed and were aware of the sacrifice of time, finances, and self by Heart of Gold nominees. These nominees are among us at all walks of life. They contribute to the social capital or social fabric of our lives. In addition to being recognized by a small reception next month all Heart of Gold nominees will also direct a philanthropic gift to a non-profit program of their choice. These gifts further develop our community. (We hope it is a local program!)

There was a movie a couple of years back called "Pay it Forward". The general idea of the movie was that a kid had a school project on how to change his community. For every good deed that he did all he asked of the recipient was to "pay it forward" or to do a service for someone else. This notion swept through the community like a fire. This boy had a Heart of Gold.

Our team expects - no challenges you as members of the Kosciusko County community to look for "Hearts of Gold" during your daily walk. Let them know you know - support them and encourage them. And more importantly remember them as a nominee for next years "Heart of Gold" awards.

We would like thank all the nominators who took a little time to write to us and nominate people for the 2002 Heart of Gold Awards. We congratulate the nominees and look forward to recognizing them next month at the reception.

Thank you!

How can I Nominate Someone for a Heart of Gold Award?

To help the Selection Committee fully appreciate your nominee's efforts, you may find the following suggestions helpful in filling out the nomination form.

- State the reasons why this person fits the description of having a "Heart of Gold."
- Be sure to address the concerns listed in this brochure under "Selection Criteria."
- Please type or write clearly, but remember, this is not an essay contest. No points are awarded for style or grammar. Please limit your responses to 500 words.
- Your nomination must be postmarked by March 20, 2002.

Nominee's Name	_____
Address	_____
City/State/Zip	_____
Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____	
Your Name	_____
Address	_____
City/State/Zip	_____
Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____	

What Do Heart of Gold Award Recipients Receive?

Each Heart of Gold Nominee will receive a heart-shaped pin acknowledging their Heart of Gold achievement at the annual Heart of Gold Reception.

Monetary gifts will be awarded to charitable organizations in the name of those who receive Heart of Gold awards. Each recipient will have the opportunity to direct a grant to the qualified charitable organization of his or her choice.

Heart of Gold Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee will take into account the following factors in the selection process.

Did the nominee

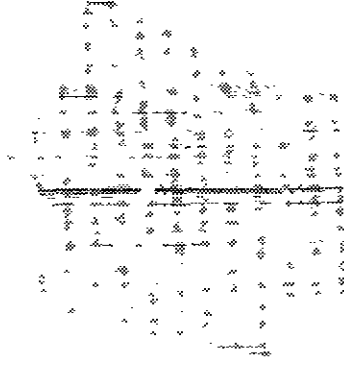
- Identify a need and fulfill it
- Work to create positive change
- Inspire others to volunteer
- Perform exceptional acts of kindness
- Recognize opportunities and act upon those opportunities
- Share their time and energy for the sake of another
- Overcome unusual challenges to serve others
- Render a service which changes a life

Kosciusko County

Building the social capital of our community with.

Heart of Gold

Annual Awards



A project of the
**Kosciusko County
 Community Foundation**
 And
**The Kosciusko Leadership
 Academy**

Has Someone Touched Your Heart?

The Kosciusko County Community Foundation wishes to identify and provide recognition to "everyday" citizens in our communities who touch hearts of others.

We have defined Heart of Gold recipients as those people who give of themselves unselfishly to serve others, collectively or individually, with volunteer acts of service and/or kindness beyond the call of duty. Any person, regardless of age, who enhances the quality of life of someone else is eligible to be nominated.

Such acts of service may largely go unnoticed and include, but are not limited to: helping senior citizens, helping disadvantaged persons, working to improve the quality of education, expanding recreational and cultural opportunities, working with children, protecting the environment, building jobs in the community, promoting public safety, and numerous other acts of kindness. These acts help build the social capital of our community.

Completed forms should be sent to:
Heart of Gold Awards
Kosciusko County
Community Foundation
102 East Market Street
Warsaw, IN 46580

If you have questions about how to nominate someone, please call the Foundation office at 267-1901.

Nomination Form

Please describe in the space below how your nominee has touched lives. You may enclose one additional attachment such as a newspaper clipping or letter to support your nomination. Please limit your testimonial to 500 words.

To request a Word 2000 version of this form as an e-mail attachment, send an e-mail to: lorim@kcfoundation.org with "Heart of Gold" in the subject line

How can I Nominate Someone for a Heart of Gold Award?

To help the Selection Committee fully appreciate your nominee's efforts, you may find the following suggestions helpful in filling out the nomination form:

- State the reasons why this person fits the description of having a "Heart of Gold."
- Be sure to address the concerns listed in this brochure under "Selection Criteria."
- Please type or write clearly, but remember, this is not an essay contest. No points are awarded for style or grammar. Please limit your responses to 500 words.
- Your nomination must be postmarked by March 15, 2001.

What Do Heart of Gold Award Recipients Receive?

Each Heart of Gold Nominee will receive a heart-shaped pin acknowledging their Heart of Gold achievement at the annual Heart of Gold Reception.

Over \$7,000 will be awarded to charitable organizations in the name of those who receive Heart of Gold awards. Each recipient will have the opportunity to direct a grant to the qualified charitable organization of his or her choice.

Heart of Gold Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee will take into account the following factors in the selection process:

Did the nominee

- Identify a need and fulfill it
- Work to create positive change
- Inspire others to volunteer
- Perform exceptional acts of kindness
- Recognize opportunities and act upon those opportunities
- Share in their time and energy to the sake of other
- Overcome unusual challenges to serve others
- Render a service which changes a life

Nominee's Name	_____
Address	_____
City/State/Zip	_____
Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____	
Your Name	_____
Address	_____
City/State/Zip	_____
Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____	

Kosciusko County

Heart of Gold

Annual Awards



A project of the
Kosciusko County Foundation
And
The Kosciusko Leadership
Academy

Has Someone Touched Your Heart?

The Kosciusko County Foundation wishes to identify and provide recognition to "everyday" citizens in our communities who touch hearts of others

We have defined Heart of Gold recipients as those people who give of themselves unselfishly to serve others, collectively or individually, with volunteer acts of service and/or kindness beyond the call of duty

Any person, regardless of age, who enhances the quality of life of someone else in eligible to be nominated.

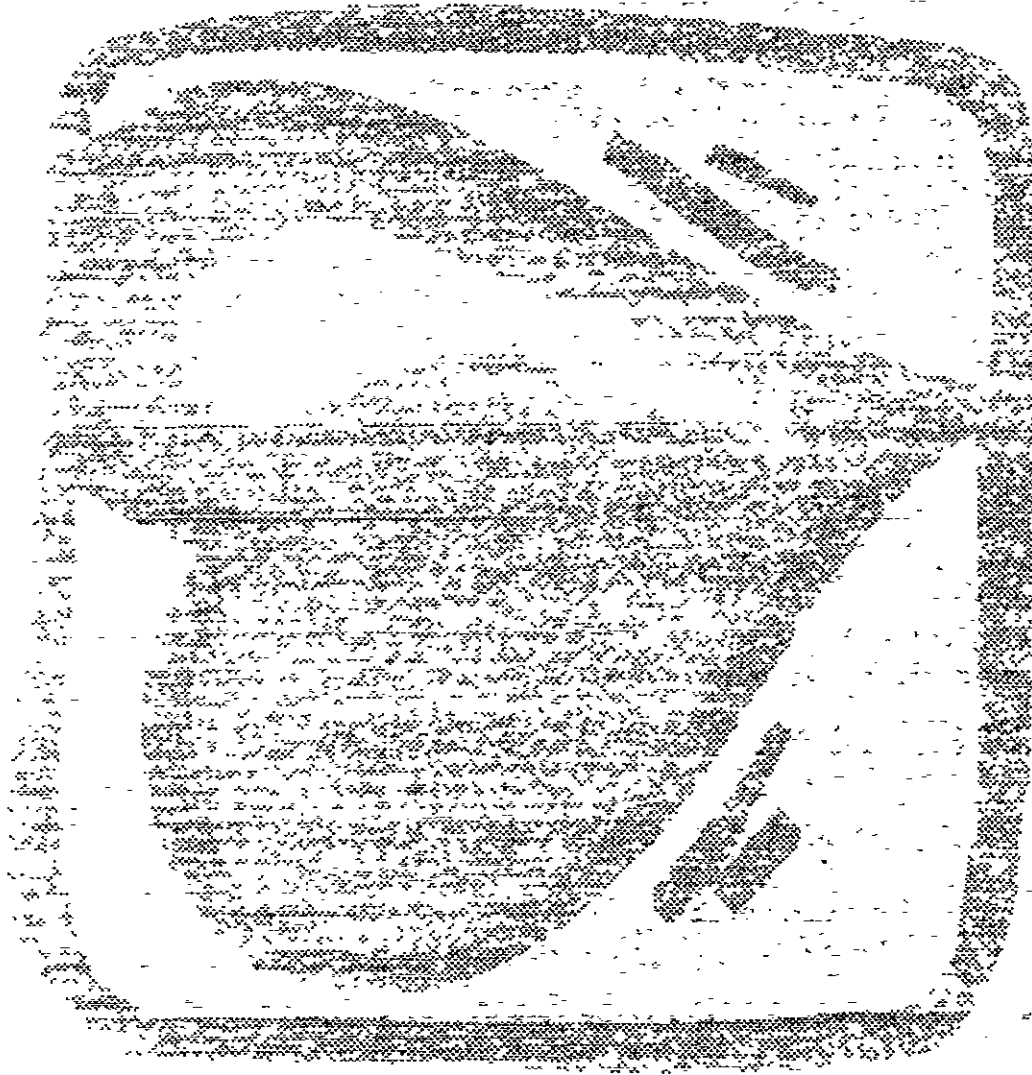
Such acts of service may largely go unnoticed and include, but are not limited to helping senior citizens, helping disadvantaged persons, working to improve the quality of education, expanding recreational and cultural opportunities, working with children, protecting the environment, building jobs in the community, promoting public safety, and numerous other acts of kindness

Completed forms should be sent to
Heart of Gold Awards
Kosciusko County Foundation
102 East Market Street
Warsaw, IN 46580

If you have questions about how to
Nominate someone, please call the
Foundation office at 267-1901

Nomination Form

Please describe in the space below how your nominee has touched lives. You may enclose one additional attachment such as a newspaper clipping or letter to support your nomination. Please limit your testimonial to 500 words.



Heart of Gold printing provided as a courtesy of Bartel Printing Company