



The 42nd Annual

National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

2026 Nomination Information

Each year, the Central Illinois Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) honors donors, volunteers and fundraising executives whose gifts of time, expertise and resources contribute significantly to the success of the non-profit agencies and institutions they serve. This year's Awards Luncheon is on Wednesday, November 18. The luncheon provides a unique opportunity for you to publicly express your appreciation to those who do so much to enhance philanthropic support in our community.

The Central Illinois AFP Chapter invites you to nominate a deserving individual, group, corporation, organization or foundation for one of the following awards:

- Outstanding Philanthropist
- Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation
- Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation
- Lewis J. Burger Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser
- Giving Heart
- Dennis A. Steele Outstanding Philanthropic Organization
- Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Ages 5-17
- Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Ages 18-23
- Ian T. Sturrock Outstanding Fundraising Executive
- Special Recognition

Easy Preliminary Nomination Process!

Nominators submitting preliminary nominations should complete the online form and upload a brief one-page summary that follows the nomination criteria and indicates what is compelling about the philanthropy of the nominee and why they should be considered as an award candidate in that particular category. All preliminary nominations will remain confidential and a community-based judging committee will select the finalists. If a preliminary nomination is selected as a finalist, the nominator will be asked to submit additional letters of support from three individuals supporting the nomination.

National Philanthropy Day Awards Nomination Timeline:

- **Preliminary nominations due by July 20, 2026**
- Judging Committee selects nomination finalists by July 27, 2026
- Nominators notified of status of nomination by August 3, 2026
- Letters of support due for finalists by August 21, 2026
- Judging Committee selects award recipients by August 28, 2026



AFP advances philanthropy through its 30,000 members in more than 240 chapters throughout the world. AFP has inspired global change and supported efforts that have generated over \$1 trillion. AFP's individual and organizational members raise over \$115 billion annually. For more information about AFP, please visit www.global.org.

Advancing Philanthropy through Education, Training and Advocacy

Outstanding Philanthropist Award recognizes an individual or family with a proven record of exceptional generosity who, through direct financial support, demonstrates outstanding civic and charitable responsibility, and whose generosity encourages others to take philanthropic leadership roles in the community. Your nomination should include:

- Description of participation in and gift support of nonprofit organizations.
- Description of philanthropic support of innovative approaches to solving problems.
- Evidence of encouragement and motivation given to others to take leadership roles toward philanthropy (i.e., challenge gifts, matching gifts, volunteerism, etc.).
- Description of participation in other nonprofit organizations in your community and/or nation.

Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation Award recognizes an outstanding **for-profit** corporation for its philanthropic efforts. Corporations that have foundations qualify for either this award or the Outstanding Foundation Award and can receive an award only once. Your nomination should include:

- Evidence of direct philanthropic support indicated by support of projects or programs in your community and region.
- Description of impact of gift support and achievements accomplished through the corporation's efforts.
- Evidence of encouragement and motivation given to others to take leadership roles toward philanthropy and community involvement.

Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation Award recognizes an outstanding foundation for its philanthropic efforts in a community, state or nationally. Your nomination should include:

- Evidence of direct philanthropic support indicated by support of projects or programs in your community.
- Description of impact of gift support and achievements accomplished through foundation's efforts.
- Evidence of encouragement and motivation given to others to take leadership roles toward philanthropy and community involvement.

Lewis J. Burger Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award must have demonstrated exceptional skills in coordinating and motivating groups of volunteers for fundraising projects. Your nomination should include:

- Evidence of quality of leadership and organizational ability in fundraising campaigns.
- Description of time, effort and personal financial commitment.
- Evidence of success in recruiting and motivating others.
- Description of participation in other nonprofit organizations.

Dennis A. Steele Outstanding Philanthropic Organization Award recognizes an outstanding philanthropic organization for its record of financial support for worthwhile nonprofit organizations in a community, state or nationally. Your nomination should include:

- Evidence of direct philanthropic support indicated by support of projects or programs in your community.
- Description of impact of financial support on above project(s).

Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Awards recognize service by an individual or group of young people, ages 5-17 or 18-23, who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the community through direct financial support, development of charitable programs, volunteerism and leadership in philanthropy. Your nomination should include:

- Description of what the nominee did, including goals other people involved in the process (adult leaders, etc.) the time, talent and/or treasure the youth gave for the common good, and the results that were achieved.
- Description of impact the nominee had on the community, including numbers of people involved, financial impact, organization helped, etc. Long-term (1-2years) impact of the nominee's work. Will the project(s) be ongoing and is the nominee working on other projects?

Ian T. Sturrock Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award recognizes an outstanding individual fundraising executive who practices his/her profession in an exemplary manner. Your nomination should include:

- Description of career achievements, length and tenure of fundraising background, experience and results. The recipient should have at least five years of professional fundraising experience.
- Evidence of quality leadership that is effective, creative and stimulating, and that the individual acts as a team player.
- Evidence that the individual practices and promotes the AFP Code of Ethical Principles and Standards of Professional Practices for fundraising professionals.
- Description of their commitment to continuing professional development, including conference participation, publication and professional education.
- Evidence of commitment to fundraising and philanthropy through voluntary service and financial support of nonprofit organizations.

Giving Heart Award recognizes service(s) by an up and coming individual or organization. The recipient must have demonstrated exceptional skills in philanthropy, not necessarily working as a fundraising professional. Your nomination should include:

- A description of what was accomplished
- The impact on the community (including number of people impacted, financial outcomes and organizational budget)
- Long-term (1+ years) impact of the nominee's work.

Special Recognition Award recognizes individuals or groups that have made significant achievements in philanthropy and whose unique accomplishments do not match any of our other award nomination criteria.