

Butcher is Recipient of 2019 Highland Pride Award



Shelly

Congratulations to Shelly Butcher, Sharon resident and community volunteer, who was selected as the recipient of the 2019 Highland Pride Award. Shelly was chosen by a committee based on nominations received and in recognition of the unwavering commitment, enthusiasm and generosity she has shown to the students and the community of Highland Local School District over the years. She now joins an elite group of 66 others who have received the Highland Pride Award since its inception in 1984. She will be presented with her award at the May 13 Board of Education meeting.

According to her nominator, Shelly's enthusiastic commitment to Highland goes above and beyond in so many ways. She and her family have lived in the Highland District since 2008 and during that time she has literally served countless hours to the staff and students at Sharon Elementary School. She has been a member of the Sharon PTO for the past five years, serving one term as secretary, and although not required, she attends kindergarten registration and special events to help make certain that events run smoothly and that teachers, students and parents have the BEST experiences possible!

She has helped in the cafeteria when needed, and teachers know that they can count on her to lend a hand with class parties or even making copies.

Shelly is a wiz with numbers and is now in her third year as Treasurer for The Highland Foundation for Educational Excellence. This is no small task and she gives generously of her time and resources. She works several hours on producing accurate financial reports and attending planning meetings and special programs and events to represent and further the cause of The Foundation. And, over the past two years, she has offered her financial knowledge to assist the Granger PTO treasurer, because Shelly firmly believes we are all part of ONE Highland community, despite the township in which we live.

Additionally, when Shelly first became aware of the Science Olympiad Program through a fellow Granger mom, she was inspired to implement the program at Sharon Elementary in 2014. Hinckley then added the program in 2015 at which time Shelly worked with the other elementary school Science Olympiad coordinators to help educate all

the Highland participants in study sessions and workshops. Shelly wanted to be sure ALL of our Highland children had this awesome opportunity at such young ages! In order for this program to run as smoothly as it does, she has to communicate with the teachers, families, principals, and the Medina County connection to Science Olympiad.

The Science Olympiad Program creates a passion for learning science with an emphasis on teamwork and commitment to excellence. This program helps to enrich the quality of science education in grades 3-5 and adds a visual component to learning. All in all, it is a ton of hard work that she does with a smile on her face! Her enthusiasm and positivity are contagious!

In an effort to make an impact on the Meteorology competitors from Highland, Shelly had the idea to arrange for news station visits. In 2016, they toured the Fox8 station with Tracy McCool and spent time talking to Andre Bernier. For the past three years, they visited WKYC for talks with Chief Meteorologist Betsy Kling. In 2018 and 2019, the Highland students who attended were featured on Kling's "Girls In Stem" feature! She is a true advocate not only for our students, but for the Highland District as a whole.

Last, but certainly not least, Shelly was one of the lead volunteers on the bond issue for new elementary schools. Shelly spent countless hours tallying data and promoting the levy by attending events, football games, speaking at PTO meetings and canvassing door-to-door. She also worked the phone bank to remind people to vote, coordinated voter postcard mailings and gathered tallies from polling locations on election night. Her time was invaluable.

Shelly is a silent MVP who shys away from recognition, but is always the first to volunteer. Her impact stretches deep into the Highland community and her love and commitment to the students, staff and families within the district is one to be appreciated, recognized and admired.

Shelly and her husband, Dan, have three sons; Luke and Zachary, 6th graders at Highland Middle School; and Joshua, a 5th grader at Sharon Elementary School.