

Submit honorees now... 'Giants in the Faith' to honor role models of all ages

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 07 May 2014 00:00 -

Arms outstretched to love, hands extended to serve, feet ready to move for a cause, and voices primed to speak of God's unconditional love paint a picture of people who have an impact on other people's Christian faith. They come in all sizes, ages, and personalities, all standing tall and focused on working behind the scenes to make Jesus real to the community.

That's why they are called Giants.

For the eighth year, the public is invited to join in Hope Southern Indiana's celebration of Christian role models at its "Giants in the Faith" luncheon at Huber Winery's Plantation Hall in Starlight, Ind., on Sunday, Aug. 17, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Doors will open at 1.

The News and Tribune is again the title sponsor of the celebration. Supporting sponsors are Seabrook Dieckmann Naville Funeral Homes and First Harrison Bank.

The afternoon has honored 232 Giants since the first event in 2007, and 2,375 people have attended the celebrations since then to enjoy the program and honor of those who are "Jesus with skin on." They do not seek credit or recognition, yet their lives encourage others' faith, according to Jim Kanning, Hope volunteer co-chair of the event.

"Giants in the Faith is also an opportunity to celebrate God's goodness through His servants now instead of after they are gone, for the purpose of encouraging even more people in a variety of ways," Kanning said.

WHO IS YOUR GIANT?

The public is invited to submit their Giants in the Faith--an individual of any age or husband/wife who reside or worship in Floyd County--who have in some way helped others grow in their faith. The word "nominate" is not used, emphasized Christine Harbeson, executive director of Hope, because there is no selection process. All people submitted will be honored.

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A person may submit only one form by the firm deadline of Wednesday, June 11. Past honorees are ineligible to be honored again. A list of past honorees is available at Hope's office or by clicking on the "Giants" logo and then "Previous Honorees" on its website at www.hopesi.org.

Honoree submission forms are available at area churches, in The News and Tribune on weekends until the deadline, on Hope's website, or at its offices at 1200 Bono Road in the Brown-Starks Neighborhood Place between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. To ensure efficiency and accuracy, no forms will be accepted verbally, on voice mail, or via email.

LUNCHEON EVENT

The luncheon will feature a buffet with a wide variety of favorites and will cost \$25 for adults (ages 12 and older) and \$20 for children (ages 4 to 11). Those under age 3 are admitted free but still need a reservation.

Those who attend will again have free access until 6 p.m. to nine activities for all ages in the nearby Family Farm Park, in addition to free drink refills all day. The park includes a mountain slide; bamboo, tile, and rope mazes; goat walk; pedal karts; pony rides; miniature tractors; and feeding of ducks and fish.

The cost has been kept as low as possible, according to Harbeson, who emphasized that it is not a fund raiser. "We hope to bring families together to honor our community's Giants while operating on a shoestring budget."

Hope Southern Indiana will pay for each honoree, and all others may make reservations beginning in mid-June. Reservation forms will appear in The News and Tribune in June and July listing the names of all 2014 honorees so others who know and appreciate them may plan to attend as well. The reservation forms also will be available after mid-June at Floyd County churches, in The News and Tribune on weekends through Aug. 2-3, and at Hope's offices between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and on its website.

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Representatives of various churches will participate in the celebration to fete honorees, whose names and brief explanation of their impact will be noted from the podium and in a commemorative booklet for each attendee.

FOR INFORMATION

For additional information, call Christine Harbeson or Carol Kannapel at Hope Southern Indiana at (812) 948-9248 or email questions to info@hopesi.org.