

REALTOR®

MAGAZINE.REALTOR



A Welcome Home for Vets

Good Neighbor Award Winner
Mark Solomon

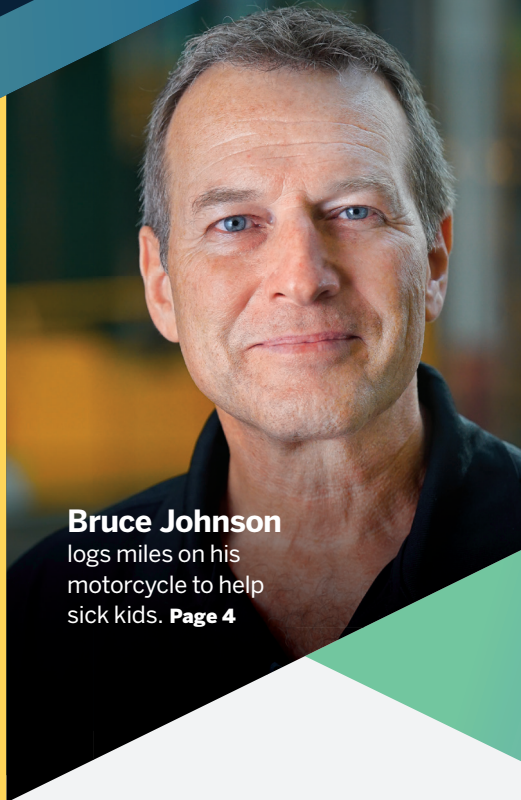


NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of
REALTORS®

An UNBREAKABLE

The 2019 Good Neighbor Award winners: giving that knows no bounds.

BY SARA GEIMER



Bruce Johnson logs miles on his motorcycle to help sick kids. **Page 4**



Mark Solomon makes sure no veteran sleeps on the streets. **Page 6**

20 YEARS OF GOOD

NEIGHBORS: Good Neighbor Award recipients keep their eye on the prize, but it's not a desire for attention or riches that drives them. Their life-affirming volunteer efforts include bringing joy to people with disabilities and their families; providing services for the homeless and those struggling with addictions; helping children in foster care find a welcoming place to call home; and serving the elderly and our military veterans.

REALTOR® Magazine began telling their extraordinary stories in the year 2000, when it launched the Good Neighbor Awards program. The goal, then and

now: to demonstrate the extraordinary compassion, grace, and power that REALTORS® bring to making life better for vulnerable people in their communities and beyond.

Since 2000, the National Association of REALTORS® has honored 200 REALTORS® among the thousands nominated for the Good Neighbor Award. While their individual stories are moving enough, considered together, their volunteer efforts tell a powerful tale. On average, Good Neighbor Award recipients have been volunteering for more than 24 years. Cumulatively, the winners have dedicated more than 1.4 million hours to

making the world a better place. Over the program's 20 years, Good Neighbors have:

- Helped people in **40 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and 15 foreign countries.**
- Served more than **41 million meals** to the hungry.
- Provided **shelter to more than 276,000** people in need (not related to their real estate business).
- Raised **hundreds of millions of dollars** for nonprofit causes, including more than **\$104 million for medical research and health care.**

Chain of Caring



Kim Strub supports people with brain injuries and their families. **Page 8**



Dale Taylor helps the homeless get back on their feet. **Page 10**



Paul Wyman leads his hometown to fight back against opioids. **Page 12**

Are You a Good Neighbor?

Or do you know a REALTOR® who should be nominated? Go to nar.realtor/gna to nominate someone (deadline: May 8) or to contribute to current and past winners' charities.

NAR is proud to have supported these REALTOR®-led nonprofit organizations with national publicity and more than \$1.3 million in grants funded by our sponsors. Many state and local associations have launched their own Good Neighbor Awards programs, and in 2019, NAR started a **REALTORS® Are Good Neighbors** Facebook page to showcase a wider range of community service efforts by REALTORS®. On the following pages, read about the 2019 winners and about the remarkable perseverance of the first group of Good Neighbor Award winners from 2000.

MORE:

The 2019 winners were selected from hundreds of applicants based on such criteria as leadership, depth of service, and impact.

In addition, five REALTORS® received honorable mentions, and three of the 10 finalists won "Web Choice Favorite" honors and bonus grant money as a result of receiving the most public votes in an online campaign funded by realtor.com® (see details, page 15).

Full profiles and videos at nar.realtor/gna.



2019
Web Choice
Favorite!



Bruce Johnson,
ABR, CRS, GREEN

RE/MAX OF WASAGA BEACH
Wasaga Beach, Ontario

REALTOR® for 22 years

CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK
ChildrensMiracleNetworkHospitals.org
@CMNHospitals

SICKKIDS FOUNDATION
SickKidsFoundation.com

Spent 22 consecutive days driving his motorcycle through heavy rains on a coast-to-coast fundraising trip across Canada.



"It's our duty to do everything we can to help a child become everything he or she can be."

On the Freeway of Love

REALTOR® Bruce Johnson has ridden his motorcycle 37,000 miles on intercontinental excursions to raise money for sick children. **BY GRAHAM WOOD**

Bruce Johnson's daughter Alyssa never had the chance to feel the wind in her hair while zooming down the open road—a regret he held onto for years. So Johnson, an avid motorcyclist, introduced her to his favorite pastime in his own way on an extraordinary ride he took with his second daughter, Holly, now 18, in 2018—a six-month, 15,800-mile trek from the northernmost point in Canada to the southern tip of South America. Alyssa, who died in 1998 just 20 days after her birth, didn't physically accompany them on the journey, of course. Johnson carried her in his heart.

The memory of Alyssa motivated Johnson to take this trip and similar excursions before it. Alyssa was born with her vital organs outside her body, a condition known as omphalocele. Despite the best efforts of the doctors at SickKids Hospital in Toronto, Alyssa suffered cardiac arrest and passed away in Johnson's arms.

Johnson still remembers the people who comforted him and his family, including hospital staff and representatives from Children's Miracle Network, who brought Johnson's family basic necessities when they were sleeping on the floor of the hospital's critical care unit. "CMN kept the outside world at bay so we could be with Alyssa until she died," Johnson says.

Now Johnson and Holly hit the road every few years to tell Alyssa's story at hundreds of RE/MAX offices across North America, Central America, and South America. (Johnson's third daughter, 15-year-old Jocelyn, and his wife, Mary, help to plan his travel routes before he sets out on fundraising excursions.) Johnson also fundraises for the SickKids Foundation, which supports the international SickKids network of hospitals.

Before traveling to South America, Johnson and Holly took motorcycle excursions from Canada to Costa Rica in 2013 and from coast to coast in Canada in 2016. With the three trips combined, they've traveled more than 37,000 miles by motorcycle and raised more than \$600,000 for CMN and SickKids Foundation.

Wendy Dempsey, associate director at SickKids Foundation, says Johnson is a leader in raising awareness about the needs of children's hospitals. "Bruce has an uncanny ability to inspire people. They may walk away from a conversation with him and just go write a check."

CMN President and CEO John Lauck, who often represents the charity at RE/MAX events, says Johnson is "an inspiration to RE/MAX agents across the world." Lauck recalls that at RE/MAX conventions in recent years, Johnson's use of video has compelled more donors to step forward. "He's a great motivator," Lauck adds. "He's the high tide that lifts all boats."

Such long fundraising tours come with plenty of sacrifices, though. For example, while he's on the road for months at a time, Johnson leaves his real estate business in the hands of his brokers—his sister and nephew. Johnson says his clients are supportive and understanding. "I've actually had clients wait for me to return from fundraising journeys before listing their homes," he says.

Then there are the punishing climates and dangerous territories he and Holly wade through on their travels. They've driven through blizzards that chased them from Canada to Alabama. In Mexico, they were careful to drive closely behind military convoys to stay safe from drug cartels. And in the wet regions of Central America, they often had to pull over and wait out rainstorms that turned dusty roads to mud. They stayed in an Ecuadorian port village for a month while their motorcycle engine was being repaired. During the trip, they relied on strangers for a place to sleep each night, and when none could be found, they would pitch a tent on the side of the road.

How does Johnson persevere through these obstacles? He keeps a list in his pocket of kids who have touched his heart—"and when the wind and rain are trying to kill us, I look at that and keep going," he says.

The list includes children like Helena Kirk, 13, who was diagnosed with leukemia at 3 years old and benefited from CMN at the time. After undergoing 841 days of chemotherapy, she's now cancer-free and says she hopes to become a pediatric oncologist at SickKids one day. "As hard as it has been, I would not change anything about my life," Kirk says. "It has made me into the person I am now."

Johnson's ultimate goal is to convert every RE/MAX agent into a CMN donor. He also anticipates another road trip with Holly in the future. "I've put Holly through things that most adults wouldn't dare do, and she has never once asked to end a trip early to go home," he says. "I think Alyssa would be the same way."



2019
Web Choice
Favorite!

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS



TWENTY YEARS

Mark Solomon

KELLER WILLIAMS
Kansas City, Mo., and Longmont, Colo.

REALTOR® for 14 years

VETERANS COMMUNITY PROJECT

veteranscommunityproject.org
@VCP_HQ

*8,000 veterans helped through a
variety of services*



“Everyone is quick to say ‘thanks for your service’ and clap at ball games for vets. But we can do more than just say ‘thank you.’”

A Welcome Home for Vets

REALTOR® and naval officer Mark Solomon is on a mission to create “housing with dignity” to end veteran homelessness. BY MELISSA DITTMAN TRACEY

On any given night five years ago, about 200 homeless vets were sleeping on the streets in Kansas City, Mo. But even one was too many for real estate pro and Navy veteran Mark Solomon. In his mind, the military saying “Leave no man behind” applied just as urgently to vets far removed from the combat field as those now on active duty.

Solomon served in Baghdad from 2006 to 2007 and has been a naval intelligence officer in the reserves for 15 years. Recalling the oath soldiers take to defend the country, with their own life when necessary, Solomon says, “We must ensure that we serve those who were willing to give everything to defend their country.”

It was at lunch in 2014 where Solomon and three combat veterans—Chris Stout, Bryan Meyer, and Kevin Jamison—shared the difficulties veterans face in accessing financial and health services. Solomon scribbled an idea on a napkin—a blueprint of what would become the Veterans Community Project. One part of his vision involved the creation of a “tiny home” village: individual homes where homeless vets could temporarily stay. They would also provide services to connect any vet to needs from free bus passes to health care.

Today, that “tiny” idea has bloomed into a multimillion-dollar charity, 100% privately funded, with 16 full-time employees. “Some vets go from high school to the barracks and then to war. Everything had been provided for them, but then they’re injured and find themselves a house payment away from living on the streets,” Solomon says. “There’s no good mechanism for helping transition from the military to civilian life. We want to end that frustrating maze.”

Since 2018, the Veterans Community Project has assisted more than 8,000 vets in multiple ways and essentially ended veteran homelessness in Kansas City. They’ve also fielded inquiries from more than 600 cities about how to replicate VCP.

Solomon, who serves on the VCP board, has been integral to its growth. He helped secure land, advocated for zoning changes, and coordinated fundraising efforts. “Mark provides steady guidance and leadership as a board member,” says Meyer, VCP’s CEO and cofounder. “His real estate background consistently comes into play.”

The 49 standalone homes of 240 to 320 square feet feature a full kitchen, bathroom, and living space, outfitted with

hardwood floors, granite countertops, and an American flag displayed on each door. The houses have brightly colored exteriors with varied roof pitches. “These are ‘houses with dignity’ that hopefully change how we respond to homelessness,” says Solomon. The village is situated on a formerly vacant 5-acre parcel of land, which VCP purchased in 2016 for \$500 through a city land bank. Today, the property’s estimated value is \$1.5 million.

“We want to show you can even raise property values while helping the homeless,” Solomon says. He’s proving it again with the second VCP village in Longmont, Colo. A developer donated land to build 25 tiny homes for homeless veterans at the front of a mountain-view subdivision. “We changed the narrative about homelessness in Kansas City,” Solomon says. “We have a chance to do it again.”

VCP is much more than a housing development. It seeks to prevent homelessness in the first place. Every vet who comes to the organization is assigned a caseworker to address individual needs, including unemployment, addiction, and health care as well as housing.

VCP’s walk-in services are having a lasting impact, says Army veteran Jason Kander, Missouri’s former Secretary of State, who was also a VCP client. Kander abruptly dropped from the Kansas City mayoral race in 2018, announcing he was seeking treatment for PTSD stemming from his Afghanistan deployment 12 years prior.

“I’m in an advantageous position—I have political influence and government experience,” Kander says. “Yet when I went to the VA for help, I found the process discouraging and difficult to navigate.” Kander found help at VCP. “They expedited the process to get me enrolled and connected to the services I needed,” he says.

Community is at the heart of VCP. “Everyone is quick to say ‘thanks for your service’ and clap at ball games for vets,” Solomon says. “But we can do more. We called it Veterans Community Project for a reason. We connect the veterans with the community, and we connect the community with the veterans,” Solomon says. “I’m amazed at where this idea has gone five years later, and just from some idea on a restaurant napkin. We’re ending vet homelessness in Kansas City, and we’re going to do it elsewhere, too.”



Kim Strub

COLDWELL BANKER
Mill Valley, Calif.

REALTOR® for 16 years

**SCHURIG CENTER FOR
BRAIN INJURY RECOVERY**

schurigcenter.org
[@BayAreaBrain](https://twitter.com/BayAreaBrain)

Facilitated 30,000 hours of rehab and other support for people with brain injuries.



“We help people grieve for what they’ve lost but accept their new lives and reshape their dreams.”

Moving Past Trauma

REALTOR® Kim Strub helps make life better for people with brain injuries and their families. **BY KAREN SPRINGEN**

In 1975, Lise Schurig, then a 14-year-old high school freshman, was walking home from a babysitting job. Four teens from her school in Mill Valley, Calif., pulled over in their car and offered her a ride. Minutes after Lise got in, the 17-year-old driver lost control on the winding road and struck a tree. Lise was ejected from the car, hit her head on the pavement, and temporarily stopped breathing.

Fortunately, no one was killed. But after months in intensive care, Lise had to relearn how to speak, eat, and walk. Several years after the accident, Lise's mom, Karen Schurig, who was raising three kids on her own, formed two informal support groups—one for survivors of brain injuries and one for their family members. That effort to reduce isolation and help others led to the opening in 1985 of the Schurig Center for Brain Injury Recovery, a nonprofit post-acute therapeutic center.

Kim Strub, a high school classmate of Lise, thought about the pain the family went through over the years and admired Karen's determination to provide help for her family and others in the community. "Her mother was not going to let her just languish," says Strub. "People still get calls like that every day, and their life is changed. Where do you go for help?" Strub joined the board a decade ago and now chairs it.

Helping Survivors, Caregivers

Each year, the Schurig Center serves 350 clients at its peaceful, sage-green facility on the College of Marin campus in Larkspur, Calif. About a third of that number represents caregivers; the rest are survivors—including Lise, now 58, who spends every Monday through Thursday at the center, painting and sculpting in art therapy classes, gardening, doing adaptive yoga, and writing poems and essays. Lise uses a walker and speaks slowly. She can remember things well from before the accident but her short-term memory is poor. She lives in a nearby apartment with 24-hour care.

"She's integrated into a community because of the center," says her sister, Paige Schurig Singleton. "One of my mom's geniuses is that she felt that for people to be happy, they needed to feel productive." Survivors paint and sell artwork, go on field trips, attend support groups, and work with master gardeners to tend the flowers on site.

About 34 percent of clients had concussions, while about 37 percent had traumatic brain injuries (often from car accidents and falls); the rest had strokes and brain injuries from other causes such as lack of oxygen. "Now as a mom you look back and think, 'That could have happened to my kid,'" says Strub. "It could be me."

The center fills a significant void in the follow-up care for survivors and caregivers. "You're usually given rehab for six weeks at the hospital and then expected to just take care of yourself," says Strub. About 70 percent of their clients are low-income. They offer services on a sliding scale, or even for free, depending on ability to pay.

After traumas, friends can drop away. "People who have faced a similar problem get great strength from coming together," says Strub. "This creates a new community and sense of spirit and camaraderie. We help people grieve for what they've lost but accept their new lives and reshape their dreams. People need hope and encouragement to get through."

In 2009, Strub volunteered to help with marketing to increase awareness about traumatic brain injury but, after Karen Schurig died from cancer and the board chair resigned, Strub offered to chair the board. "I have the skills from real estate to promote people and places," she says. For example, she renegotiated the 10-year lease with the College of Marin, where the center is based.

During her decade on the board, the number of people served on site has tripled to 350 (not counting the thousands served offsite through online services, referrals, and presentations), and the annual budget has also tripled (to more than \$700,000). She has raised nearly \$1 million.

Strub and the center also led an effort with Marin County educators, hospitals, and public health officials to set standard protocols for coaches and medical personnel to improve how concussions are handled in schools. (See ConcussionSmartMarin.org.) "With kids, if you have a secondary concussion when you've had a first concussion, it can have a cascading effect and cause terrible brain damage," Strub says.

It's another way Strub has increased the reach and impact of this nonprofit. "I'm not a doctor. I'm not a scientist," says Strub. "Just being involved and making sure people care about each other seems to work. It's about building community."



Dale Taylor, ABR, GRI

RE/MAX 10
New Lenox, Ill.

REALTOR® for 34 years

SOUTH SUBURBAN PADS

sspads.org
@SSPADS

*Spent 640 nights at an emergency shelter
to make sure guests were safe and warm.*



“I learned early in my real estate career that people don’t care what you know until they know that you care.”

Tackling Poverty With Compassion

REALTOR® Dale Taylor has given countless hours to

understanding and fighting homelessness. BY ERICA CHRISTOFFER

The night shift is usually the hardest to fill at the homeless shelters in Chicago's south suburbs. But that's the shift Dale Taylor prefers.

For 19 years, Taylor has spent nearly every Monday night helping make life a little better for more than 35 homeless men at the South Suburban Public Action to Deliver Shelter space he manages. Taylor takes on responsibilities in all facets of the program—from distributing food and cleaning to fundraising and serving on the board of directors. He calls his volunteerism a “divine calling.”

“I believe if you sow good seeds, those seeds will come to harvest. I don't mind putting in the work or spending my own money. God will take care of me,” Taylor says.

SSPADS supports men, women, and children experiencing homelessness through its network of 14 area churches, including overnight lodging and meals from October to April. He starts his shift around 6 p.m. by mopping floors, then helps the food crew serve meals at 7 p.m. Lights are out by 10 p.m., and Taylor spends the night cleaning bathrooms and keeping watch over the shelter guests. Finally, he goes home at 7 a.m.

“I learned early in my real estate career that people don't care what you know until they know that you care,” says Taylor, who's been a licensed agent for 34 years. “When they come to that shelter, they're part of my family. We're all going to respect one another and there's going to be trust in that family.”

The need in Taylor's community is severe. Some 40% of the people who stayed in the shelter say they have no income. About 30% were living in a place not meant for habitation, like abandoned buildings or under bridges, 25% are doubled up with other households.

In fiscal year 2018, SSPADS helped about 1,000 people, providing emergency shelter, serving nearly 38,000 meals, and assisting many to find affordable rental homes. “My personal commitment is to seeing every person housed,” Taylor says. “My passion is to see clients move from sleeping on the shelter floor at a church to an apartment or home, and ultimately becoming self-sufficient.”

The nonprofit opened the Country Club Hills Wellness Center in 2006, a 77-unit building with wraparound services for formerly homeless individuals and families, which includes mental

and physical health check-ups and services as well as classes for financial literacy and life skills.

“You can tell he's proud that more is being done for the community than providing shelter at night,” says Rohit D'Souza, SSPADS' philanthropy director. “Dale was part of that effort, speaking with aldermen, mayors, business owners, members of the faith community in order to bring this together. He's very mission-focused, and at the board meeting when people talk about financial aspects of the organization, Dale is good at bringing it back to the clients and the community. He's good at not separating us from them—it's about everybody.”

Taylor attributes his success as a shelter manager to his background in real estate and customer service. His calm yet authoritative presence contributes to a peaceful atmosphere, though he is sometimes tested. Last year, a man came into the shelter intoxicated. He was angry and started a fight with another shelter guest. “I got him talking to help understand what was going on with him,” Taylor says. When he refused to leave, Taylor stood between him and the man he was trying to fight. The man backed off and was escorted out without incident.

“There's no real training to be a shelter manager other than the training you've received in life through your experiences,” Taylor says.

Reginald Torian, a staff member at SSPADS, first met Taylor last January. What impressed him most about Taylor was that he knew the names of all the men staying at the shelter and the reason they were there. Those connections make a difference, said Torian, speaking from personal experience. He was a guest himself at another SSPADS shelter site in 2010 and 2011 when he fell on hard times.

Torian says Taylor is keenly aware of all the hardships that can lead to homelessness. Divorce, gambling, job loss, foreclosure, identity theft, and “numerous reasons other than what society traditionally thinks about homeless people,” says Torian, a former U.S. track star who won a silver medal in the 60-meter hurdles at the 1999 World Indoor Championships competition. “A lot of people are a paycheck or snap of a finger away from being homeless.”

“Some people are destined to serve others,” says Torian. “He wears one hat and that's a hat of love.”



2019
Web Choice
Favorite!



Paul Wyman, ABR

THE WYMAN GROUP
Kokomo, Ind.

REALTOR® for 20 years

TURNING POINT SYSTEMS OF CARE

facebook.com/TurningPointSOC
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Helped 1,400 Turning Point clients affected by the opioid crisis during the past year.



“Anytime you are out helping others, it not only will strengthen you as a person, it will strengthen those around you and your community.”

A Reckoning With Opioids

REALTOR® Paul Wyman rallied his community to help addicts and their families overcome barriers to recovery. **BY FREDERIK HELLER**

Like countless communities across the United States, Howard County, Ind., has been hit hard by the opioid crisis. “A local doctor’s office that had been overprescribing opiates was shut down in 2013,” recalls Paul Wyman. “But then a lot of the people who were addicted to the opioid pills turned to drugs like heroin to get their fix. At the same time, drug dealers introduced things like fentanyl into the heroin to make it much more potent. That was catching a lot of users off-guard and putting them into overdose situations.”

Such afflictions can affect every member of an addict’s family. “Children weren’t being taken care of. Grandparents and parents weren’t taking care of themselves,” says Sherry Rahl, who ran a health care nonprofit in Kokomo at the time. “You knew when you drove down the street that addiction was becoming a very common occurrence.”

Howard County experienced 24 overdose deaths in 2016, according to the county coroner’s office. Then, in 2017, the number spiked to a record high of 44.

That’s when Wyman decided to call a summit to bring the community together and determine how to fight back. In September 2017, about 100 community leaders—heads of corporations and nonprofits, small-business owners, educators, law enforcement officers, and health care officials—gathered at the campus of Indiana University-Kokomo to discuss the issue. The group found that although Howard County had numerous resources to assist those affected by opioid addiction, people simply didn’t know where to turn for help. “Or if they did attempt to get help, they were met with such overwhelming barriers that they just gave up,” says Wyman. “There were a lot of organizations in the community doing great things independently, but there was no unified effort.”

Sue Sciame-Giesecke, chancellor of Indiana University-Kokomo, who took part in the summit, says there needed to be a simpler process for addicts to get help. “We needed one central place where a family member could just call or walk in the door and say, ‘Hey, this is my situation. Help me navigate this world,’” she says. “And so that’s what we did. We created Turning Point.”

Wyman led the effort to get Turning Point into operation as quickly as possible, raising \$100,000 in a little over a month. Eight months after the initial summit, Turning Point Systems

of Care was ready to launch. “When we opened the doors, the phones were not even connected and there literally was a line of people waiting to get in,” recalls Rahl, who became Turning Point’s first paid, full-time employee. “When we did plug in the phones, they didn’t stop ringing.”

When a family member or individual comes into Turning Point, Wyman explains, “we immediately begin to love on them and show them that there is hope, and we start connecting them to the services that they need.”

Those services might include detoxification, inpatient care, therapy, or help finding jobs and housing. The nonprofit hosts support groups and provides mentors for recovering addicts. A new initiative called Pick Yourself Up supports those who are returning from long-term treatment or incarceration as they transition back into the community.

Although it’s less than two years old, Turning Point is regularly cited by the Indiana governor’s office as a model for other communities. Last year, Howard County saw a 25% reduction in the number of overdose deaths compared to 2017.

Even with greater awareness about the problem—and options for help—permanent change comes slowly. In the first half of this year, 19 people died of overdoses, four more than the county had during the same period in 2018. “Recovery is ongoing; it’s not a one-time thing, it’s not something that just happens overnight. It takes a long time,” says Wyman. “We want to be there for the long haul with these members of our community.”

“He leads the charge” to overcome barriers that Turning Point encounters in assisting clients, Rahl says. “He figures out who owns the problem, what are the barriers, how are we going to fix that. And all I have to do is say, ‘Here’s the problem that I’m having with XYZ,’ and he finds the solution.”

“Community is everything to REALTORS®,” he says. “When there are great things happening and exciting developments, we should be the frontline champions for what makes our communities vibrant. But at the same time, when problems arise, we should also be on the front lines, rising to meet those challenges.”

What’s key to Turning Point’s success is Wyman’s innate ability to relate to people at all levels—from CEOs to convicted felons—and help them envision what is possible in their lives.

Honorable Mentions

These five REALTORS® round out the 10 finalists. Each receives a Good Neighbor Award Honorable Mention for their passionate volunteer work.

Full profiles at nar.realtor/gna.



SABRINA COHEN

Coldwell Banker Residential | Miami Beach, Fla.

Cohen, who suffered a spinal cord injury as a teen, founded **The Sabrina Cohen Foundation** to fund adaptive fitness programs for people with disabilities. She created an inclusive playground, runs monthly Adaptive Beach Days, and spearheads a \$10 million campaign to build a state-of-the-art recreation center.



ROSEMARY DUTTER

Century 21 Affiliated | Beloit, Wis.

To honor her grandson who died at age 12, Dutter gives parents of severely disabled children respite from their daily challenges. At **The Dutter House**, she lovingly cares for these children so their parents have time to run errands, spend quality time with their other children, or simply take a break.



NORA PARTLOW

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage | Alexandria, Va.

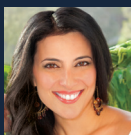
Partlow has supported the **Neighborhood Health** medical clinic for 21 years. Her greatest contribution is her ability to connect with donors, volunteers, and patients. She has raised \$550,000 and recruited hundreds of supporters.



KRISTY PAYNE

Keller Williams | Edmond, Okla.

As a foster parent, Payne understands the needs of families who may suddenly be asked to care for a child. She founded **Fostering Sweet Dreams Foundation** to provide necessities like beds and car seats to help families collect all the resources required for placement. Since 2016, Payne has helped 2,000 children across 31 counties.



BAHAR SOOMEKH

Nourmand & Associates | Beverly Hills, Calif.

Soomekh co-founded **Angel City Sports** to help people with physical disabilities compete as athletes and connect with a supportive community. Inspired by her son, Ezra, who uses a leg prosthesis, Soomekh runs athletic clinics and competitions for adults and children. The 2019 Angel City Games drew 430 athletes.



About the Program

NAR's Good Neighbor Awards program is celebrating its 20th year of honoring REALTORS® who make an extraordinary impact through volunteer work. Winners receive a \$10,000 grant and honorable mentions receive a \$2,500 grant to benefit their charitable work. Winners are selected through a multistage judging process. The 2019 winners will be honored in November during the REALTORS® Conference & Expo in San Francisco. To learn more and to nominate a REALTOR® for the 2020 Good Neighbor Award (deadline: May 8), visit nar.realtor/gna.

Thank You, Judges

Marianne Bornhott, NAR Member Communications Chair
Martin Edwards, NAR Past President
John Flor, NAR Treasurer
Victoria Gillespie, NAR Chief Marketing and Communications Officer
Christine Hansen, REALTOR® Party Director
Vince Malta, NAR President-elect
Suzanne Mueller, SVP of Industry Relations, Move Inc. and realtor.com®
Charlie Oppler, NAR First Vice President
Ron Phipps, NAR Past President (and 2001 Good Neighbor)
Heidi Vogel, SVP, Wells Fargo Foundation
Sarah L. Ware, NAR Housing Opportunities Chair

Big Thanks to Our Sponsors

Since 2000, the Good Neighbor Awards has made more than \$1.3 million in donations to REALTOR®-led charities. Those grants, and NAR's Good Neighbor program itself, wouldn't be possible without the generous support of its sponsors: **realtor.com**® and **Wells Fargo**.

realtor.com®
Primary Sponsor

WELLS FARGO Home Mortgage



2019 Web Choice

While the Good Neighbor Awards judges selected our 2019 winners, all 10 finalists competed for "Web Choice Favorite" honors through public voting online. Congratulations to top vote-getters **Paul Wyman**, **Mark Solomon**, and **Bruce Johnson**, who receive bonus grants thanks to sponsor realtor.com®.



THERE'S A JOY IN GIVING. I FOUND
THAT OUT A LONG TIME AGO.

Samuel Thomas, 2009 Good Neighbor Award winner



I DON'T THINK THERE'S A BETTER
THING I COULD DO WITH MY LIFE.

Cindy Johnson, 2009 Good Neighbor Award winner



IF YOU CAN MAKE ONE LIFE BETTER,
THAT'S WORTH IT ALL.

Pat Moore, 2007 Good Neighbor Award winner



I VOLUNTEER BECAUSE I LOVE THE
HUGE 'FEEL GOOD' THAT IT DOES
TO MY HEART.

Craig Conant, 2001 Good Neighbor Award winner



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®