

Meet Our Grand Marshal

JOYCE YOUNG



Our Grand Marshal is a long-time community activist and township resident of Washington Township for more than 50 years.

Joyce Young has made a career out of working towards the greater good and enjoyed a lifetime in public service saying “yes” to her community and neighbors.

Joyce Young retired as Washington Township Trustee this past December, after more than two decades of leadership in this role, including seven terms as board president.

During her tenure, the township preserved the community’s green space, expanded recreation services and facilities, achieved Fire Department accreditation and insured a high level of fiscal accountability.

She has been a champion for the township form of government, and valued collaboration with local entities. Her co-chairmanship of the Create the Vision Committee in 2003 developed a community-wide planning model for Centerville and Washington Township.

“Good township government has a place in today’s world. It has evolved so that it is a modern tool for governance while at the same time providing the advantages of more direct government involvement,” said Young. “It’s economical and effective. I think it’s a more direct link with people, and I’m happy that I’ve had the chance to participate in it.”

Ms. Young was very much involved in the township’s decision to convert a vacant cinema into additional recreation space for the community called Rec West. Most recently, the township assumed responsibility for senior programming and completed renovations to this building to include the opening of the Rec West Enrichment Center in 2015.

State Senator, Peggy Lehner, describes Joyce Young as someone who “has raised the standard of what it means to be a public servant. Her dedication to the entire Miami Valley, not just Washington Township, has inspired others for years.”

In addition to her work with the Township, Ms. Young’s contributions to nearly two-dozen regional non-profits, government agencies and media organizations have garnered her some of their highest awards. She has volunteered time and leadership in countless ways, but most especially when it came to advocating for children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Her passion for early childhood education led her to become involved with the Health and Welfare Council and the founding of Montgomery County’s first Head Start agency. She later served as the first board president of Miami Valley Child Development Centers.

She would go on to be a charter member on the Advisory Committee for Montgomery County Children’s Services Board, chair to the Ohio Commission for Children and an advisory board member for Child Care Clearinghouse.

Her service has included roles on local, state and national boards, including the Dayton Arts Institute, the Loft Theatre, Sinclair Community College, Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Daybreak and United Way. She has also held membership with the Junior League of Dayton, Centerville Rotary, Lincoln Society of Dayton and the Dayton Area League of Women Voters.

Township Trustee President, Scott Paulson, describes her as having a “steadfast commitment to this community and to doing good work for our citizens shows in every action that she takes. She is principled, strong and compassionate.”

Her motivating force has always been people. “I think the most satisfying thing for me has been the township personnel who I’ve served with,” she says.

“The most important thing about the work is that I like doing it – and I wouldn’t be doing it this long if it wasn’t for the people.”

*Compiled in part from the Washington Township Quarterly and the book
“Dayton’s Spirit of Community Service and Leadership” by Leo Deluca and Steve Lucht. Copyright 2016.*