



**United Way
of Bradley County**

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Forrest Preston recognized for his commitment to United Way

For many years, Life Care Centers of America has been one of the top supporters of United Way of Bradley County. The man who created the company, and promotes United Way's credo of "Caring for the Community," was honored by the organization Thursday evening.

Forrest Preston, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Life Care Centers of America, received the coveted William F. Johnson Sr. Community Service Award at the United Way of Bradley County Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. He became the 37th recipient of the award, which is the highest honor given by the local United Way.

The 2008 award recipient, Terry Henry, presented the award.

"Mr. Preston is a great example of someone who gives back to his community without seeking any recognition for himself," said Henry, who serves as Senior Vice President of Accounting and Assistant Treasurer at Life Care Centers of America. "He appreciates Life Care's being recognized, and those who volunteer with United Way from Life Care receiving honors, but he really gives to United Way and the community because he has a heart for helping others."

The William F. Johnson Sr. Community Service Award originated in 1977. The award is presented every year to a person who has demonstrated hard work and a passion for the United Way of Bradley County's community efforts.

Preston has been involved with the United Way for years. He was one of the original members of the Pillars Club, which was organized in 1986, and he and his wife Kathleen, along with Sam and Anne McReynolds, were the first members of the United Way of Bradley County's Tocqueville Society, which was created in 1996.

He has also been involved in the Jaycees, the Cleveland Family YMCA and the Heart Fund, and Preston and his company are well-known for their commitment to Operation Christmas Child, the Alzheimer's Association and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

His commitment to the United Way of Bradley County is very evident in his willingness to allow so many Life Care Centers of America associates to volunteer their time to the organization. This past year, Life Care's Aaron Webb served as Campaign Co-Chair, while Henry has served in the role of Secretary for the United Way's Executive Committee for many years.

Life Care Centers of America associates Henry, Lucy Martinez-Cerpa and Esmerelda Lee served as Division Chairs in the 2008 campaign, and Tanya Mazzolini chaired a United Way Fund Distribution Panel. Many other Life Care associates served as campaign solicitors and Fund Distribution panel members this past year, as well as several who served as volunteers for individual United Way agencies.

The company also was the largest contributor to United Way of Bradley County in 2008, and there were 61 Life Care Centers of American associates who pledged at Pillars Club/Tocqueville Society levels for a total of \$298,439.

"God implanted the vision for Life Care in the mind of Forrest Preston back in the late 1960s because of the heart Forrest has for people," said LCCA President Beecher Hunter. "That same compassion compels him to be a leading proponent of supporting the United Way and its agencies, and encouraging others to do so.

"He is proud that Life Care associates demonstrate their commitment, because it shows that we practice personally what we preach professionally about helping those with needs," he added.

Outgoing United Way Board Chair Nancy Casson expressed her gratitude to Preston for all his support during the recent United Way campaign, past campaigns and his commitment to help in the Cleveland and Bradley County community.

"I was reading about Forrest Preston recently, and it stated that when he first envisioned Life Care Center of Cleveland in 1970, he believed a nursing center should not only be staffed with dedicated professionals, but men and women who provide services with love and compassion," said Casson. "Working with many Life Care associates through United Way over the past few years, I can see that love and compassion for the entire community and especially for those in need.

"I appreciate all that he has done for United Way and for Cleveland and Bradley County," she added.

Previous recipients of the William F. Johnson Sr. Community Service Award, and the years they received the award, include: Terry Henry, 2008; Bob Card and Keith Barrett, 2007; Ricky Sanders, 2006; Georgia Gann, 2005; Cathy Barrett, 2004; John Kimball, 2003; Ron Braam, 2002; Ray Beckler, 2001; Lee Stewart, 2000; Tom Wheeler, 1999; Carolyn Jackson, 1998; Don Lorton, 1997; Jim Breaux, 1996; Charlotte Thorogood, 1995; Nelson Wooldridge, 1994; Ralph Buckner Jr., 1993; Dr. Lewis Willis, 1992; Jim Nowack, 1991; Ken Rayborn, 1990; Steve Bivens and Sam McReynolds, 1989; Hoyle Rymer, 1988; Jim Williams, 1987; Lou Patten, 1986; Wayne Cooke, 1985; Joe Rodgers Jr., 1984; Jerry Ward, 1983; Harry L. Dethero and Dr. T.L. Lowery, 1982; Sam Colbert, 1981; Winston Varnell, 1980; Dr. Fenton Scruggs, 1979; and John Bryan Jr. and Mike Callaway, 1978, and Buck Thorogood, 1977.

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