

## **Winning Nomination**

### **Dynamic Duo - Irv and Terry Schroeder (2016)**

1. Irv and Terry Schroeder are a couple who exemplify all the good things about living in community. From the fullness of their own lives they reach out to enrich the lives of others through volunteer service. They not only give freely their individual gifts but together they are a wonderful complement of heart and handiwork. You rarely see one without the other. Need a helping hand? Irv and Terry are there with smiles on, ready for anything and never expecting a thing in return. Their answer when presented with accolades? "It's nothing---we're happy to help". And they mean it.

Irv and Terry show no preference for the few glitzy assignments that garner attention or public acclaim—instead they seek out and are content with the thousands of necessary invisible deeds that truly help propel organizations forward. They are the kind of volunteers that every nonprofit craves and hopes to cultivate: a mission-minded, dependable, others oriented and willing, TEAM.

2. Irv and Terry have shared their gifts of time through many Washington county organizations. However, my relationship with them is associated with the Volunteer Center. Over the years I have seen them proactively take CERT training (Community Emergency Response Training) in preparation to volunteer if disaster strikes Washington County. This is so like them to anticipate needs.

They have helped innumerable times helping at the Volunteer Center moving, setting up for events, manning a table, or sorting the many knitted and crocheted items for Crafts 4 a Cause. Recently Irv shared his love of woodworking with the Volunteer Center and helped create the "Be the Change" wood slices that were used as centerpieces at the 2015 Champions of Change event and symbolize what the VC stands for.

Irv and Terry offer stability and purpose that is so incredibly important. They are also a lighthearted duo and a joy to be around, making any job a lighter load. They meet and greet, sort and pack, brainstorm and plan and just plain show up! Whatever the VC finds itself in a bind and needs help, the common cry is "Maybe Irv and Terry can help..." And so many, many times, they do.

3. As they say, the devil is in the details. Irv and Terry help with all those details that can make or break any situation for a nonprofit with limited resources. Their consistency, kindness and willingness to do what needs to be done are often taken for granted because that's "just who they are". But I don't want to take them for granted! It's not just the deeds that need to be recognized, it's the hearts from which they flow. Their love for each other is apparent and spills out onto others, making our world a better place. That may sound corny, but in a cynical world such as ours we need to be reminded that love and hope endure.

There is no doubt, the VC and many nonprofits it serves could not do what they do without volunteers like Irv and Terry Schroeder. It is truly an honor to know them.