

# Excellence at 2025 County Festival

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said County Executive McClure. “Even a little rain couldn’t dampen the incredible community pride we felt today.”

The following awards were presented:

## Outstanding Business (6 Awardees)

All Aspects At The Barn – Ray & Becky Higgins for creating family-centered community events and fostering togetherness.

Fanatics Majestic Athleticwear – Stephanie Hartzell for hosting over 25 blood drives since 2011 and supporting emergency needs.

Harvest Home Meats – Rich DiFebbo for sustainable farming practices that promote soil health, water quality, and biodiversity.

My Little Farmstand – Dominique Koehler for exemplifying generosity and community spirit through local support and donations.

Valley Fruits & Veggies – Deb Colitis for advancing agritourism and contributing to a healthier, more resilient county.

HangDog Outdoor Adventure – Michael McCreary & Carleen Rack for inspiring courage and community through outdoor recreation and local partnerships.

## Outstanding Emergency Personnel (3 Awardees)

Keith Kutz Sr. – Washington Township for over 50 years of volunteer service and dedication to emergency response and fundraising.

Chandler Biechy – Borough of Bath for steadfast support in traffic control and community safety at local events.

Todd Pysher – Portland Borough for leadership as Police Chief, promoting accountability and responsible public service.

## Good Samaritan (2 Awardees)

Beth Duyssen – Nominated by Portland Borough for championing small businesses during crises and advocating for local resilience.

Lisa Borick – Nominated by Borough of Nazareth for her tireless volunteerism with Nazareth Day and the July 4th Kazoo Parade.

## Outstanding Veteran (7 Awardees)

Buddy Yeager – For active participation and community care for fellow veterans.

Bruce Shellock – For providing vital medical equipment and lifelong service to others.

David Alercia – Founder of Saint Michael’s Warriors, supporting veterans and first responders.

Paul Haldaman – Vietnam Veteran and longtime youth sports coach and civic leader.

Peter Reisen – For preserving remembrance and speaking on the importance of honor.

Mark Santos – Air Force Combat Veteran and Habitat Lehigh Valley volunteer.

Freddie Reed – Veterans Brotherhood leader and mentor in County Treatment Courts.

## Outstanding Volunteer (8 Awardees)

Gloria Domina – Advocate for abused women and children, fundraising champion.

Sally Handlon – WDIY 88.1 FM – Community radio leader and public media advocate.

Greg Vennemann – Public education supporter with Proud Parents of Bethlehem Area SD.

Elaine Jones – Miller-Keystone Blood Bank – Over 1,700 volunteer hours supporting donors.

Tony Sabino – Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites – Engaging tour guide and historian.

Janice Ostock – Bethlehem Emergency Shelter – A decade of hands-on service and leadership.

Tom Marko – Bethlehem Emergency Shelter – Technology mentor and dedicated shelter volunteer.

MaryAnn R. Lilly – Borough of Bath – 40+ years with Bath Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

## Outstanding Youth (3 Awardees)

Evan Tamandl – Nominated by the Borough of Nazareth for creating a public orienteering course and reinvesting in community spaces.

Lilah Goldfarb – Nominated by the Borough of Bath is the founder of the “Free Market” and active Junior Council Person.

Yotrael Cerezo – Nominated by Community Bike Works for service through bicycle building, school supply drives, and youth engagement.

## Outstanding Municipality Employee (3 Awardees)

Debra Dreisbach – Borough of Nazareth, for decades of dedicated service and leadership within the police department.

Justine Caiazzo-Strouse – Palmer Township, for outstanding event coordination and interdepartmental support.

Deanne Werkheiser – Upper Nazareth Township, for exemplary professionalism and commitment across multiple township roles.

## Northampton County Citizen of the Year

Kassie Hilgert – ArtsQuest, Honored for visionary leadership in arts, culture, and community engagement.

Please note: Not all award recipients were in attendance and therefore may not be pictured.

