

2024 COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

Community Impact *Franciscan Village*



After finishing renovations to their existing facilities in late 2023, Franciscan Village promptly announced that construction would begin on a new four-story building that will add 63 housing units. Renovations to existing structures included a new atrium, community room, and fitness room, as well as extensive upgrades to housing units. These back to back investments in their facilities and the services they provide to the community are why they have been awarded this year's Community Impact Award.

Hear from Franciscan Village:

"Franciscan Village has enjoyed a long history as a vibrant community where residents feel safe, comfortable, and connected. Our newly renovated facility, including our recently acquired Activity Center, fosters a welcoming environment that encourages resident interaction and a strong sense of belonging. We're proud to be just one part of what makes the West Park community so very special."

Volunteer of the Year *John Roche*



A longtime neighborhood resident and volunteer, John has long been a presence at WPKND events. If he looks familiar, you may recognize him from the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, where he is a reliable set-up and tear-down volunteer, or the Hooley, where he can often be found in the beer garden after he has completed his volunteer duties. His years of dedication and hard work are why he is this year's Volunteer of the Year.

Hear from John:

"I love living in West Park, and I love the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market. It helps the neighborhood a lot. I prefer to do the hands on stuff, and I think that if others see you doing that kind of stuff, they'll be encouraged to help too."

Bob Bohr Safety Award *Matt Whisenhunt*



The father of four kids, Matt quickly developed concerns about pedestrian safety on his street when his kids began to spend more time outside during the COVID-19 pandemic. Wanting to take action, Matt began talking to Bike Cleveland, an organization concerned with street safety. In Summer 2023, they led the installation of several temporary crosswalks in his neighborhood. His leadership of this project and concern for street safety are why he is the recipient of this year's Bob Bohr Safety Award.

Hear from Matt:

"I enjoy being a resident of Cleveland and the Westpark neighborhood. Being a part of activities to strengthen the social fabric of the community gives me hope that we can continue to create a thriving neighborhood. A central element to strong communities are people-centered design - West Park Safe Streets is taking steps to make that happen!"

Emerging Leader *Lesley Vizurraga*



After moving to the neighborhood in 2020, Lesley started looking for spaces for professionals to meet and get to know each other. Not finding the kind of group she wanted to join, she decided to make her own, the West Park Professionals group. Her leadership and dedication to building community are why she has been named this year's Emerging Leader.

Hear from Lesley:

"Since moving to Kamm's in July of 2020, I have been energized by the level of support and encouragement to increase community connections. West Park Professional's Community has been the catalyst to new friendships, new business opportunities, and a space to co-create more of what we find to bring value to West Park. My mission is to continue to bring community individuals together to connect and collaborate in creative ways."