DON WOLF AWARD

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Don Wolf Award was established in 1999 and is given to an individual or individuals in recognition of their commitment and contributions to the youth in our community. Don Wolf, long-time CEO of Do it Best Corporation (formerly HWI), is primarily responsible for bringing Big

Brothers Big Sisters to Northeast Indiana in 1972. For over 40 years, Don has been a devoted supporter and benefactor of Big Brothers Big Sisters and is a past board president of both the

local and national boards. Past recipients of the Don Wolf Award include Senator Dan Coats (1999), Jim Kelley (2000), Dale "Mr. Mac" McMillen, Sr. (2001), Mike and Vicki McClelland (2002), Jerry Henry, Sr. (2003), Frank Zirille (2004), Leonard Goldstein (2005), Diane S. Humphrey (2006), Louis Delagrange (2007), Don J. Mauch (2008), Rick McCampbell (2009), Richard and Harriett Inskeep (2010), Donald B. Steininger (2011), Tyler Lehman (2012), Dr. Michael Mastrangelo (2013), Joe, Ed and Mike Dahm (2014), Jerry Henry Jr (2015), Keith Busse (2016), Tom Kelley (2017) and Donald F. Schenkel (2018).

2019 Don Wolf Award Recipient DICK & DEANNA FREELAND & PIZZA HUT OF FORT WAYNE



Dick Freeland

Dick Freeland's life is a story that epitomizes the American dream. With humble beginnings, he was born in Nevada and moved to Iowa as a teenager. This is where he started his career as an ironworker - operating on Atlas rocket launch sites throughout the Midwest.

He and Deanna Walters were married in 1957 and they had three children. In 1967, Dick took a part-time job at a Pizza Hut for \$1.25 an hour.

Pizza Hut's passion for people and customer service led to the start of his legacy with the company.

The Freeland's moved to Fort Wayne in 1972 and opened their first Pizza Hut location on East State near Coliseum Boulevard. Over 40 years of growth and keen operations management has led to this franchise to boom with over 45 Pizza Hut locations in Indiana and Ohio with multiple KFC restaurant locations. In 1995, Dick used his knowledge to help others grow too. Travelling to Poland, he helped the Pizza Hut team on improving their operations leading to him becoming a partner in the Pizza Hut and KFC businesses in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Dick was involved in everything, from politics on all levels, travelling, hunting, and even horse breeding. He was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash in 2013 by Governor Mike Pence for his courageous work, public service, and his entrepreneurial spirit. At the heart of his work came a drive to bring out the best in everyone he met. This philosophy of empowering employees and ensuring they are prepared to make decisions created a positive atmosphere for everyone to thrive.

Dick's commitment to community service, volunteerism, and overall engagement has benefited many organizations. Lending his leadership, expertise, and guidance, he has touched many lives and made a big impact in Fort Wayne and the surrounding areas. His love for people and building stronger communities shows through his work with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Junior Achievement, The Rescue Mission, and Turnstone.

Dick, Deanna, and the entire Pizza Hut family have helped Big Brothers Big Sisters through immeasurable contributions, connections, and volunteers. In the spirit of mentorship and a drive to support the development of people, Pizza Hut goes the extra mile to provide for BBBS' programs through product donations for meetings and match activities. Pizza Hut also provides a 50% discount to all Bigs and Littles for any dine-in experience, giving them an affordable way to eat out together, ultimately enhancing relationships for decades.

Of all their achievements, family remains the most important to the Freeland's. Their legacy continues through the actions of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; and the entire Pizza Hut operations. It is a great honor for Big Brothers Big Sisters to celebrate the lifetime

achievements of Dick and Deanna Freeland and Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne Indiana Inc. with the 2019 Don Wolf Award.