



# #ashtags<sup>to</sup> Liberation

## ICESA'S 2019 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

### **Morgan Bow/ITVAP**

**Category: Human Trafficking**

**Nominated by Jessica Herzog**

I am nominating Morgan Bow because she is the most dedicated, hardworking and passionate advocate/educator I have ever met. I have personally watched as Morgan has gone over and beyond for every single victim and survivor of human trafficking. Working tirelessly (and to the point of exhaustion) to make sure they are feeling safe and respected. Morgan works every day to ensure that EVERY voice is being heard and that EVERY person feels equal. As I have witnessed these accomplishments, I have also been given the chance to learn from her. To not only grow in my understanding of human trafficking but, also grow in my understanding of the world around me. During my endless barrage of questions, she has never grown impatient, frustrated or judgmental. Instead, she continues to be the greatest teacher while ensuring we all remain compassionate and trauma-informed. In my opinion (and I am sure many others), Morgan is one of the greatest advocates in the field. Her dedication, passion and genuine love for those around her is a gift to all of us. I am honored to not only call her my colleague but also my dear friend.

### **Shana Robertson/Fair Haven**

**Category: Prevention Education**

**Nominated by: Melissa Beller & Kelly Vates**

Shana has worked at Fair Haven for five years. She represents the "heart" of our organization. In fact, we have nicknamed Shana our "Mary Poppins". She is a

loving person who exhibits grace and compassion in every task that she does. Our staff knows that if you need a hug or someone to listen to you, Shana is your go-to person. When she is in the schools presenting her sexual abuse prevention program with students, she meets them on their level. Shana teaches very serious information in a gentle, fun, and creative way that keeps the students engaged. In the short time that she is in the classroom, she goes the extra mile to learn the students' names and is mindful of their different learning styles. Shana respectfully works alongside faculty members and becomes one within their community. She works long days, presenting to various age groups and school districts, and traveling all over Northwest Indiana. Yet, when Shana returns to the office to refill her supply box or attend a meeting, she does not gripe about her long day. She does not complain about the few breaks, or minimal amount of time that she has to eat her lunch in between locations. Instead, Shana shares funny and touching stories about the students, reminding us of their innocence, and reaffirming the importance of the program and the need to let children know that they have the right to be treated with dignity. Shana is irreplaceable and I am privileged to witness her do this life-changing work in our community.

## **Brittany Winebar**

**Category: Victim Advocate**

**Nominated by: Susan Ferguson**

I am nominating Brittany Winebar, Prevail's Youth Advocacy Supervisor, for this award because of her direct practice with victims of sexual assault and for her leadership of a team of advocates.

I believe that Ms. Winebar's commitment to this work can be best demonstrated through a testimony from one of her clients. At one of Prevail's recent fund-raising events, we had the opportunity to invite one of Ms. Winebar's former clients to speak about the impact that Prevail had in his life. This person was a victim of rape at a party by a person he did not know. This client described that he decided at the moment of the assault that he would never disclose to anyone what had happened to him. Over the next year, he used many unhealthy coping skills to deal with the trauma and ultimately attempted suicide and was placed in a hospital setting. Upon release, he finally reached out to Prevail for help. This client identifies that he questioned Ms. Winebar about why he would want to come to Prevail every week to talk about something over and over again that he did not want to talk about. Ms. Winebar replied to him that she wanted to help him see the assault as a part of his story, and not something that hinders him. This client identifies Ms. Winebar as one of the most influential people in his life. He states that his work with Ms. Winebar gave him hope, tools, and most importantly, a voice. This client now sees how powerful his story is and uses it at public speaking events. He is even a sexual assault advocate on his college campus and participated in the 1 in 6 Project that works to end the social stigma and silence around male sexual abuse and assault. He considers it

his mission to help destigmatize and support survivors. This client identifies several tactics that Ms. Winebar used, but honors her intuition for the work. He acknowledges that Ms. Winebar was able to pick up on his signals that he was experiencing anxiety and would help him work through that, rather than allowing him to use his verbal skills to avoid dealing with the real stuff. Overall, this client (and so many others like him) identifies that Ms. Winebar is the key to his healing. She truly does amazing work each and every day! I do not overstate the importance of this work when I say that what she does saves lives!

## **Cynthia Wathen**

**Category: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner**

**Nominated by: Beth Petrucce**

Cindy Wathen is the most dedicated and compassionate SANE with whom I have ever had the honor of working. Cindy has worked in many areas of pediatric nursing (Burn Unit, Oncology, heart care, etc) and has been devoted to the care and comfort of the children in all of these services. Cindy has also worked PRN for our CPT (Child Protection Team) advocating, serving and protecting our most vulnerable children from abuse, neglect and exploitation. When Cindy joined IPATH in 2018, she jumped in both feet first and became very involved very quickly. When the co-chair role opened, she willingly stepped up to serve and has worked hard to learn all that is needed to move IPATH Outreach Healthcare Working group forward. She has been an eager learner and leader. Her commitment to fighting Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault are tireless and never-ending. She is clinically strong and aware of all that is involved in serving our most vulnerable communities for those whose lives have been affected by sexual assault, Human Trafficking and Child Abuse. She is 100% completely dedicated to her patients and families.

## **Paul Misner/ Indiana State Police Laboratory**

**Category: Law Enforcement**

**Nominated by: Caroline Fisher**

Caroline writes: it is with great pleasure to nominate Paul Misner for the Law Enforcement Award. Paul actually assisted Caroline with her clinical when she was a new SANE. He helped her understand how that swab she collects becomes a profile on a person. In the 22 years since, he has been available to assist in training with nurses and sought guidance from SANEs when making revisions to the Indiana State Victim Evidence kit which ensured that the specimens SANEs collect are the most useful to Crime lab and hence to the patients they serve. Caroline has served with Paul on the Indiana State Wide Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Council where he assisted with assessing the number of untested kits in Indiana and various other projects regarding

evidence collection and analyzing. Most recently he has assisted a team of Indiana nurses in updating the Indiana State Medical Forensic Examination Guidelines.

**Abizer Zanzi/ Federal Prosecutor**

**Category: Prosecutor**

**Nominated by: Kate Kimmer**

Abizer is the first federal prosecutor from the Northern District to regularly engage and participate in the IPATH Taskforce as well as smaller Multi-Disciplinary Teams in and around Lake County.

His tenacity for victim-centered justice is evident in the ways he conducts prosecutions by putting health, safety and needs of survivors at the center of his work. He advocates on the Taskforce and beyond for trauma-informed processes throughout criminal justice proceedings and is willing to listen, learn and so better by every survivor served. It's an honor to serve alongside him.