

2018 Recipient Tracey Nissen  
nominated by Mary Lou Randolph  
presented by Dan Palmer



Read about Tracey's contributions to the community on the next page below.



**Dor-Wood Optimist Friend of Youth**  
**2018 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

# TRACEY NISSEN

Chosen as our 2018 Citizen of the year, Tracey has been a true “friend of youth” for over twenty years. Tracey is a Kettering Fairmont High School graduate with a degree from Wright State University and a master’s degree from the University of Dayton. She and her husband of 24 years, Chris, reside in Centerville with their two daughters, Samantha and Rachel.



Currently in her sixteenth year as school counselor at JFK Elementary School in Kettering, Tracy is a 2010 graduate of the Kettering Leadership Academy and has served on the Advisory Board of Partners for Healthy Youth. In addition, Tracy has been a key contributor to the highly successful Kettering Backpack Program.

Possessing a passion for helping youth, Tracy has always had the best interests of children in mind. To that end, Tracey has developed a network of resources for children and families in her school community. She is all about helping others live a better life.

As one of Tracey’s fellow advisory board members with Partners for Healthy Youth so apply put it, “Tracey’s wisdom, creativity, deep caring and ability to go well above and beyond to help and reach all kinds of youth and their families is truly extraordinary. She is a treasure to our community”.

In serving youth with the Kettering Backpack Program since its inception in 2006, Tracey assists in the feeding of over 600 hungry students every weekend during the school year. She helps to ensure that bags of food are delivered and distributed each week to all sixteen elementary and middle schools. As the liaison between those school building counselors and the Backpack Board, Tracey is “the glue that holds the program together”. Beyond the school year, Tracey works diligently with many organizations to provide food for children during the summer months. Her philosophy toward our community’s youth can best be described by her own words, “If it helps the kids, I’m all in!”

