Jean Wankum "Spirit of the Alliance" Award History

Established in 2006 and named in honor of MSMA Alliance President Jean Wankum of Jefferson City, Mo., this award honors an Alliance member who has shown significant contribution to his/her community through projects, programs or responsibilities OUTSIDE of the Alliance, and has an attitude and commitment to the betterment of the community, at large. Any member of the Alliance may be nominated by ANY Alliance member or a county Alliance.

2010
Allene Wright, St. Joseph, Mo., was presented with the first Jean Wankum "Spirit of the Alliance" Award. The criteria for this honor includes not only Alliance participation, but also activities and contributions to the community. The Jean Wankum "Spirit of the Alliance" Award was named in honor of MSMA Alliance President Jean Wankum of Jefferson City.

2011
Sandra Alhum, MD, Hannibal, Mo., for her work in the community with pregnant teens and young mothers.

Debora Snyder, Jefferson City, Mo., was presented the award for her many contributions to her community of Jefferson City and to the Alliance including the United Way Capitol Campaign; St. Mary's Hospital Foundation Board; Helias Catholic High School Foundation Board; Finance Committee for St. Peter's Elementary School; school volunteer/substitute teacher at St. Peter's school and does substitute teaching. In addition, she has served as Cole County Alliance President; coordinated health projects in Cole County; has served the MSMA Alliance as its Treasurer for many years to count; and serves as the Alliance Liaison on the Missouri State Medical Foundation Board.

2012
No award was presented.

2013
Mary Shuman, St. Joseph, Mo., for her work with the CASA network, or Missouri Court Appointed Special Advocates" in the St. Joseph area.

2014
Carol Jean DeFeo, Kansas City, Mo., for being a long-time dedicated federated Alliance member, serving the Alliance and her community for thirty-plus years.

2015
Eileen Chalk, Washington, Mo., for her service to her local and state Alliances, as well as her community with the March of Dimes, Alzheimers' Association, YMCA, and St. Francis of Borgia Regional High School.

2016
Lizabeth Fleenor, MSMA Alliance Liaison, Jefferson City, Mo., for serving in that role for 17 years and her contributions to the Alliance, its members, and the health community.

2017
Sandra Murdock, St. Louis, Mo., for her many philanthropic and community outreach programs outside the Alliance.

2018
Jennifer Gast, Cape Girardeau, Mo., for efforts in the Cape Girardeau medical community.

2019
Barbara Hover, Springfield, Mo., for her extensive service to her community with many organizations over the years, often on behalf of children and teens, and outside her many Alliance activities.

2020
Jana Wolfe, Springfield, Mo., for her efforts in the Springfield and area community.

2021
No award was given due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2022
Angela Zylka, St. Louis, Mo., for her involvement in fundraising and community events with Saint Louis University and Washington University. Her Hungry Heroes program was grant-supported and members delivered treat bags to Missouri Baptist and St. Mary's hospitals in St. Louis.

2023
Kathy Weigand, St. Joseph, Mo., for her long-time involvement in the Alliance and the support of local, state, regional, and national projects.

2024
Kirk Doan, Kansas City, Mo., for his significant contributions, programs and responsibilities to his community outside the Alliance.

2025
Sana Saleh, Kansas City, Mo., for her collaboration and coordination with the MAOPS Auxiliary of the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.