

This article appeared in the Oct. 2001 issue of Scouting Magazine.

Volunteers designate cash awards for council



Rich Geysler presents award grant to Scout Executive Barry Norris. (Photograph courtesy of Heart of Ohio Council)

Two generous Scouters from the [Heart of Ohio Council](#) have designated or given monetary awards and grants received for their community service to the council to further its programs.

Rich Geysler, Cubmaster of Pack 133, chartered to St. Jude's Catholic Church in Elyria, Ohio, says he was "amazed" when he won The William R. Burleigh Award for Distinguished Community Service. But, he adds, he knew immediately which organization he wanted to receive the \$5,000 foundation grant which went along with his award and was his right to assign.

"This was the first year the award had been given by my employer," says Geysler, a news photographer for WEWS-TV in Cleveland.

"When I discovered I'd won, it only seemed logical to put it back into the volunteer work I love."

Geysler's gift will be used to help finance a new challenge area at the Firelands Scout Reservation.

Over the years, a second Heart of Ohio volunteer, Bill Sickmiller, has donated a total of \$12,000 in award money to the council, according to council financial officer Don Day.

As assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 586, chartered to Christ United Methodist Church of Ashland, Ohio, Sickmiller has received—and passed along—funds from numerous awards for "community volunteerism." His donations have helped finance construction of a new lodge at the council's Camp Avery Hand, as well as, set up endowment funds for two separate troops in his District.



Bill Sickmiller's awards helped fund construction of a camp lodge. (Shawnee Lodge at Camp Avery Hand) (Photograph courtesy of Bill Sickmiller)