

**Award:** Harry J. Baker Community Service Award  
**Recipient:** Champaign Urbana Canteen Run / Barb and Dan Davies  
**Presenter:** Lisa Dixon

Good evening again. My name is Lisa Dixon, and I'm the Co-Chair of the CCHCC Board of Directors.

I would like to ask Barb and Dan Davies of the Canteen Run to join me on stage. Also, I would like to ask the volunteers who are with the Canteen Run to please stand and be recognized.

I am presenting the Harry J. Baker Community Service Award to the Champaign Urbana Canteen Run, and to Barb and Dan Davies, who lead the Canteen Run efforts.

The Harry J. Baker Award honors community members or organizations whose dedication and work toward improving the lives of people in our community exemplifies community service of the highest level.

We are so pleased to recognize the Canteen Run and its leaders this evening, and to introduce their work to you, if you are not familiar with what they do.

Our staff were so enthusiastic about recommending the Canteen Run for recognition, because they have seen first hand how the work of the Canteen Run improves the lives of so many of our homeless clients.

The Champaign Urbana Canteen Run is an all-volunteer effort that goes out in our community four nights a week every single week – no matter the weather – to deliver food, clothing and supplies to homeless individuals and families. They also organize warming shelters and help drive homeless folks to the shelters when it gets too cold outside.

The Canteen Run started in 2008 through a collaboration of organizations working to help the homeless in our community. They are several churches that have come together in order to do anything they can to help the homeless in our community.

They so perfectly exemplify the Edward Everett Hale quote that says:

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.”

They could have easily let themselves get overwhelmed with the problem of homelessness and the daunting effort to try to address it.

But instead of giving up and walking away because they could not solve homelessness, they acted out of compassion and human decency and they decided to do the one thing that they could do, which is to go to where the homeless folks are and bring them supplies to help them survive life on the streets.

The Salvation Army volunteered the use of its canteen truck, and so the Canteen Run was born.

Barb and Dan Davies, who are Champaign residents and members of the Savoy United Methodist Church, were the first two volunteers for the program, and they continue to lead and organize the Canteen Run.

Barb and Dan and the Canteen Run volunteers take their canteen truck throughout downtown Champaign-Urbana with the sole purpose of offering food and drinks, clothing, blankets, information about agencies that can help them, and prayers to anyone they meet on the streets who needs it. They also have toys for children.

They frequently hand out ham or peanut butter sandwiches made by families from the Davies' church.

They park the truck in front of locations throughout downtown Champaign where low-income and homeless people congregate.

If there are not people coming to the truck, the volunteers go out and seek out individuals in need of help and supplies.

Not only do they deliver supplies and food, but they deliver compassion and care and they treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Now, I'd like to tell you a little bit about the leaders of the Canteen Run, Barb and Dan Davies.

They have been involved from the beginning, serving as the first volunteers.

Dan drives the truck, and Barb not only goes on the runs, but she organizes the whole effort – coordinating volunteers and donations of supplies. Barb also sends out weekly e-mails, detailing how the runs have gone. She provides data on number of clients served, tells stories, and puts out calls for help for particular individuals, families in need of services or certain types of supplies.

Dan says that Barb does the lion's share of the background work, and that he always introduces himself as Mr. Barb Davies, and then people know who he is.

Because of their leadership, their dedication to serving the needs of our community, their commitment to the most vulnerable among us, and their sheer kindness and decency, it is an honor for me to be able to present the Harry J. Baker Community Service Award to the Champaign Urbana Canteen Run, and to its leaders, Barb and Dan Davies.

Thank you for your great work!