

Award: Henrietta De Boer Volunteer of the Year
Recipient: Ellie Fujimoto
Presenter: Jen Tayabji

It is my please to start the program this evening with the presentation of the Henrietta De Boer Volunteer of the Year Award. This is a special recognition awarded to a Champaign County Health Care Consumers volunteer who has been selected by our staff on the basis of their continued outstanding work and commitment to the struggles and efforts of the organization. This evening I am proud to present the Henrietta De Boer Volunteer of the Year Award to our very dedicated and talented volunteer, Ellie Fujimoto.

I first met Ellie last spring, when I helped to interview her for a possible internship at Health Care Consumers. She started her internship in August, and in those eight months she has distinguished herself as an extremely committed volunteer, going above and beyond during her internship with CCHCC and then volunteering to serve on the Board of Directors.

When she started her internship, I gave her a very ambitious task of addressing the need for affordable hearing aids in our community. She took initiative in creating a Hearing Aid Resource Guide and working with the Medicare Task Force. Not only did she dedicate herself to these efforts, she was always willing to help with whatever we needed, including with the campaign to protect the Mahomet Aquifer, and a variety of odds and ends that came up in the day-to-day operation of an office. After her internship ended, she continued to volunteer on our campaigns and as a Board member.

Ellie, I think the thing I remember most about when I first met you was that you were quiet. You were not shy by any means, but you carry with you this calm confidence, and this passion for what you are working on, that I really got to see and understand once you started volunteering. You are always so composed and asking smart, thoughtful questions.

You worked so diligently and independently on the Hearing Aid Resource Guide, yet without missing a beat, you would switch gears whenever I needed something.

Ellie, your commitment to social justice in health care and to consumers, and the excellent work you have done at CCHCC have distinguished you for the Henrietta DeBoer Volunteer of the Year Award. While there is no way to adequately thank you and recognize all the important work you have done, this award is a small token of recognition for your dedication and volunteer service. On behalf of the CCHCC staff, it is my pleasure to present you with the Henrietta DeBoer Volunteer of the Year Award.