

2022 Dale Foor Cornerstone Award Honoree

CHRISTI KEENER

RESIDES: GAHANNA, OHIO

After moving to Gahanna in 1999, Christi Keener began volunteering for Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools when her son, Christian, was in kindergarten at Chapelfield Elementary. She quickly became involved in the school's PTO and continues to serve the district.

"As a volunteer, Christi was truly instrumental in Chapelfield's success and journey towards excellence," according to former Principal Barb Murdock. Former Chapelfield Principal, Scott Schmidt, added, "Christi's positive, upbeat and kind manners created a quality atmosphere that drew in more parents to volunteer. Christi has the ability and dedication to do whatever is needed to support our students and staff."

Keener's most memorable time volunteering are the many years that she organized the registration of students at LHS, which she coordinated for seven years. She said it was her most memorable because she set the tone of the registration to be a calm and welcoming event for new students and parents who might have felt overwhelmed. Keener's goal was for the students and families to feel comfortable and at ease.

As her children grew, Keener joined the LHS family and served as PTO President at Lincoln High School for several years, including a full year when she did not have any of her own children in the district. Christal Keyes, who served as the LHS PTO Vice President alongside Keener spoke highly of her four-year tenure. "As President, Christi coordinated parental and volunteer involvement

in the school and conducted advocacy efforts needed to impact the school's vision," Keyes said. "Christi continuously oversaw the selection of applicants for the distribution of scholarships through the years. Christi delegated in a way that encouraged others to have full ownership and take pride in their tasks."



Keener still volunteers for Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation. She and her husband, Kurt, have volunteered the past two years for the Monster Dash 5k and they continue volunteering for the Gahanna Gala, the fundraiser that benefits students and staff with grants.

When Keener is not working as a Clinic Aide at Gahanna Middle School West, she enjoys working out at her gym, being in the great outdoors and family time with her husband, son Christian and daughters, Olivia and Audrey.

Christi's advice to her younger self and others about volunteering is, "Just do it, don't overthink it. Finding passion in volunteering just makes it easy."