

THE VHA ANNUAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

MARCH 10, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M.

LAKE MIONA REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER

ALL VILLAGES RESIDENTS INVITED

Every year The VHA, as the largest advocacy group in The Villages, considers nominations for volunteer groups in our community who have demonstrated a similar commitment to being advocates for various causes and in many different ways. This year we are presenting awards to two outstanding organizations whose influence and dedication are worthy of special recognition.

VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS:



**HOMETOWN CIVITAN IS PART OF
CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL WHICH
HAS CLUBS IN 26 DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD**

The parent organization was started in 1917 by a group of businessmen in Birmingham, Alabama to bring fellowship, knowledge and service to others. The flagship program of Civitan is to bring awareness and treatment to youth with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Each club around the nation helps to support the International Research Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

When Betty Rohan moved to The Villages in 2014 from Jacksonville, Florida, there was no Civitan here. She was active in a

Jacksonville club and, although there were many other service clubs, she decided to try and start a club here. Hometown Civitan was chartered in March of 2015.

Besides financially supporting the International Research Center, the club provides service and support to programs in the tri-county area; Lake, Marion and Sumter counties. Because they are an all-women's club, their main emphasis is directed to 501-c3's that deal mainly with women and children's issues; including Hand in Hand's the Ruth House, which is a halfway house for women and children in crisis located in Eustis, Pace Center for Girls, which is a gender specific alternative school in Marion County, The Therapeutic Horseback Riding Association, and Centerville Children's Mission, just to name a few.

One of the lines in their creed states "My hands do the work of the world and reach out in service to others." In the six short years since their inception in The Villages, they have raised over \$250,000 in volunteer support and financial grants for many organizations in need in the area.

The VHA is honored to recognize The Guild's and Civitan's service to the community. We hope its many members and supporters will join us as we present them with The Villages Homeowners Advocates Volunteer Awards for 2020.