

Local Editor [Michael Sorrentino](#) michael@patch.com

Like 3.4k [Patch Newsletter](#) [Nearby](#) [Join](#) [Sign In](#)

# PatchoguePatch 53°

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Events](#) | [Directory](#) | [Pics & Clips](#) | [Commute](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [More Stuff](#) Q

## [Local Connections](#)

### Tell Us: Who Made a Difference in 2012?

Nominate your Patchogue/Medford neighbors for Patch's list of people who mattered this year.

By [Patch Staff](#) | [Email the author](#) | December 26, 2012

[Recommend](#) 19 [Tweet](#) 2 [Email](#) [Print](#) [5 Comments](#)



Related Topics: [People of the Year](#) and [Year in Review 2012](#)

Patchogue/Medford is filled with special people who make a difference, people who make an impact on our lives on a regular, sometimes daily, basis.

There are educators, business owners, volunteers, public officials, clergy members and others working to make Patchogue/Medford a better place.

Many people went to extraordinary lengths to help others cope and recover from the hurricane. School officials worked diligently to get their schools reopened after Hurricane Sandy; food pantries fed the hungry at warming shelters and firefighters, police officers and volunteers helped the community.

Patchogue/Medford Patch is compiling a list of 10 local people who mattered in 2012. We need your help.

Nominate candidates in the comment section below, or write on our [Facebook page](#).

Please give us the person's name and the reason they belong on this list.

[Email me updates about this story.](#)  [Keep me posted](#)

[Recommend](#) 19 [Tweet](#) 2 [Email](#) [Print](#)

[Follow comments](#) [Submit tip](#) [5 Comments](#)

**Mary** Flag as inappropriate  
**6:18 am on Thursday, December 27, 2012**  
Lynn Lollo  
She is one of the school psychologists at Pat-Med high school. A woman who gives everything she has to the district year after year for over 25 years now. She fills students and parents and colleagues with love and support and encourages them to be their best selves. Lynn goes above and beyond for every student and is an angel to the district. Lynn is the most selfless and compassionate individual I have ever met in my life and if anyone whom knew her were asked I am absolutely certain they would agree. If she was on the list for 2012 she would find a way to give credit to someone else.  
[Reply](#)

**Kathy Ljungqvist** Flag as inappropriate  
**11:00 am on Thursday, December 27, 2012**  
Rev. Dwight Lee Wolter of the Congregational Church of Patchogue belongs on this list because of his tremendous efforts in helping those in the community that are in need, in particular those affected by Hurricane Sandy. During one of the busiest times on the church calendar, he dropped everything and had two fundraisers back to back to raise money for two people who lost their homes, one being a church member and one a Long Island musician who lives in Breezy Point. Rev. Wolter is a very caring person and not because he is a minister, but because he is a wonderful human being!! He definitely belongs on this list.  
[Reply](#)

**Christine Maciaszek**

1:39 pm on Thursday, December 27, 2012

Crystal Gajewski.

I would like to nominate Crystal Gajewski to the list. Crystal co-founded Ski's Open Heart Foundation in memory of her father, Mark Gajewski, who died from a rare form of lung cancer after he gave his all in the 9/11 Attacks. The Foundation helps heroes of 9/11 who are ill, lost wages, and can barely afford basic essentials they need. The also help the families left behind. Throughout Hurricane Sandy, the Ski's Open Heart Foundation held fundraisers and delivered truck loads of water, clothing and food to those in need. They also worked with the USVMC to fill containers with necessary supplies to reach those in need. With Crystal's help, the Foundation also holds an Annual Strength and Hope Walk to remember 9/11 victims and is very involved in the Toys-for-Tots campaign each year. Crystal is a smart, caring, young woman who gives much of her time--without question--to help others in need and brighten their lives.

Flag as inappropriate

[Reply](#)**Diane Perry**

6:40 pm on Sunday, January 6, 2013

I agree with Christine that Crystal Gajewski should be recognized for this honor. In the face of losing her Dad, who she was very close to, she and her family found the strength to honor the memory of Mark Gajewski by creating Ski's Open Heart Foundation and following in her Dad's footsteps. She has spent countless hours planning events and organizing many different fund-raisers, including a blood drive, in addition to what has been mention previously. Crystal does this straight from her heart and she truly cares about and believes in what she is doing.

Family first, forever family.

Diane Perry

Flag as inappropriate

**Shana Braff**

11:58 pm on Sunday, December 30, 2012

I would like to nominate Patchogue resident Cindi Sansone-Braff. She is a relationship coach and spiritual advisor who has provided solace to countless members of the community through her one-on-one sessions, radio show, book Grant Me a Higher Love, and public appearances, and is a frequent and popular blogger on Patchogue Patch. She has helped so many people to find peace after the loss of a loved one, as well as aided many in improving their relationships and living a more fulfilling life. Cindi serves as a beacon of light in the community and works tirelessly to make the world a better and more loving place.

Flag as inappropriate

[Reply](#)**Leave a comment**

[Submit](#)**Advertise**

Advertise on Patch and reach potential customers in your backyard and beyond. Click here for more information.

[Learn more »](#)**Volunteer**

If you want to help local causes, or your cause needs local help, your next click should be right here.

[Learn more »](#)**Contribute**

- [Send us news tips](#)
- [Put an event on the calendar](#)
- [Announce something to everyone](#)

**Patch Info**  
[About Us](#)  
[Jobs](#)  
[Advertise](#)  
[About Our Ads](#)  
[Terms of Use](#)  
[Privacy Policy -](#)  
[UPDATED](#)

**Get in Touch**  
[Go Patch!](#)  
[Help](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[Patch Blog](#)

**Patch Initiatives**  
[PatchU](#)

**Goodies**  
[Patch Newsletter](#)  
[Widgets](#)



Copyright © 2013 Patch. All Rights Reserved.