Ohio County Names 2021 Champions of Children

WHHEELING — Since 2010, the Ohio County Partners in Prevention Team has recognized three Champions of Children. As part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, although COVID-19 limited last year’s awards ceremony, the team has adapted this year’s ceremony to be held remotely on the Ohio County Fairgrounds’ Facebook page at 2 p.m. Friday, April 23.

The 2021 Deborah Doleski Allen Champions of Children recipients are: Margie Ball, longtime Ohio County 4-H member; Jill Eddy, Youth Services System director of Community-based Services; and Claudia Raymer, Ohio County Partners in Prevention Team leader.

From left, Lewis Honaker, Ohio County WVU Extension agent; Marjorie Doleski Allen; and Claudia Raymer, Ohio County Partners in Prevention Team leader gather for a photo and plaque presentation ahead of the Champions of Children award ceremony to be livestreamed on Friday, April 23.

DeSean James, Wheeling Nationals youth baseball founder and coach, is a 2021 Champion of Children. He has strived to see that each child has a chance to be a champion of children. He has worked endless hours bringing new and innovative programs to the children at Wellspring Services, to spending the last several years improving the lives of those who receive services from Youth Services System.

“DeSean has worked endlessly hours bringing new and innovative programs to the children. He has dedicated his life to service and embodies the true meaning of being a social worker — from the way that it should be. He walks it and he talks it. He sees an example in his everyday life and expects the children he is involved with to follow suit.”

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