

# 5 finalists honored, 1 named 2024 Everyday Kindness Hero

"Everyone's a winner tonight," [Jane Jacquemin-Clark](#) said to the room filled with teary, attentive faces the evening of Dec. 4 at the Everyday Kindness Heroes award ceremony held at COSI.

Just moments before she was to be named from among five central Ohio finalists as the 2024 Everyday Kindness Hero Champion — and given a \$5,000 award from the Columbus Foundation's Center for HumanKindness — Jacquemin-Clark acknowledged the other four finalists and 13 semifinalists, along with what inspires her.

**Everyday Kindness Heroes:** [Meet 5 Columbus-area residents who bring good to the community](#)



The four other finalists, who included [Lisa Woodward](#), Ric Grubaugh, Nicole Hebert-Ford and Tracy Davidson, were each given a \$1,000 award from the Center for HumanKindness.

Organized by the Columbus Dispatch, Columbus Monthly and Columbus CEO magazines, the event was sponsored by the Center for HumanKindness at the Columbus Foundation, AEP Ohio, COSI and the United Way of Central Ohio.

A panel of six judges including representatives from program sponsors and The Dispatch/Dispatch Magazines voted on who would be the final winner, a decision that was kept a secret to all but The Dispatch's marketing promotions and community affairs manager, Eric Wygle, who tallied the votes.

The five finalists donned the podium to share their stories of working for kindness in the Columbus community, with Woodward recognizing her own mother as she described her nonprofit to support single mothers, Motherful.



Grubaugh, a retired Columbus teacher, said his work at Star House serving homeless youth inspired him as he was mourning the loss of his wife, explaining the selflessness of kids experiencing unimaginable hardship helped him through his own.

Davidson described the way her community came together behind her to create The Big Bus, a mobile classroom in Westerville City School District. These six community members were "all-in since day one," she said, after she discovered a need to provide extra help to immigrant communities in the district.

As she acknowledged her fellow finalists and semifinalists, Jacquemin-Clark described how her own cancer journey led her to starting Hope Hollow along with her

husband, Kevin Clark, to provide lodging to people traveling to Columbus for cancer treatment.

Hebert-Ford, the founder of a nonprofit created to help students with unmet needs, Student Success Stores, said her mission extends beyond providing students with the things they need.

Last year, Student Success Stores provided 43,368 basic-need items to over 2,000 different students in grades 6-12. However, on a greater scale, it is a mission of hope.



Finalist and winner Jane Jacquemin-Clark hugs Dispatch kindness reporter and presenter Sophia Veneziano at the 2024 Everyday Kindness Heroes of Central Ohio event held at COSI on Dec. 4. *Tim Johnson/Columbus Monthly*



Finalist and winner Jane Jacquemin-Clark talks with Dispatch kindness reporter and presenter Sophia Veneziano at the 2024 Everyday Kindness Heroes of Central Ohio event held at COSI on Dec. 4.

*Tim Johnson/Columbus Monthly*