

Youth Mentor Honored with 2017 Community Citizen Award



Mr. Shirey Little (right) of Millerstown was the recipient of this year's Community Citizen Award presented annually by the Grange since 1978 to recognize outstanding volunteers serving the community. The award was presented by Grange President Linda Byers at the Grange's March 2017 Open House-Community Night dinner and program.

Mr. Shirey Little of Millerstown is the 2017 Perry Valley Grange Community Citizen of the Year. Shirey is a familiar face around the Greenwood and Newport communities. Annually, he volunteers with the Millerstown Community Success to clean up the Millerstown Park, he is a volunteer football coach for the Newport High School Buffaloes and also spends a great deal of time mentoring football players. Weekly, Shirey is in the schools, serving as a lunch monitor at Newport and Greenwood. However, his role is much more than simply that of a lunch monitor. He is there for the kids! He serves as a positive role model, provides support and encouragement, and brightens the day of each student.

“Shirey genuinely wants to build relationships and has a heart for the youth. He gives freely of his time. He sees the needs of our young people, then quietly finds ways to fill those needs. He sees the best in our community members and knows their strengths. Then he finds places where they can use their talents to serve others. Whether we like to drive, ride a bike, or bake cinnamon rolls, Shirey finds a place for us to be involved. He inspires us and volunteering with him is something we look forward to.” –Frank and Teresa Woodard.

Shirey is the Perry County Director of the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ministries. As a part of his outreach with youth, Shirey is a constant part of many youth’s lives. The activities and impact that Shirey has on our youth’s lives is immeasurable. Weekly, Shirey hosts the student-led Breakfast Club for students in Newport and Greenwood. After breakfast, if a student does not read scripture and present a thought, Shirey has local leadership figures come and share or he will.

According to Greenwood student Cecila Good, “He always helps us connect scripture to our daily lives.” He also hosts a weekly night club in both districts which provides junior high students opportunities to strengthen their faith and interact with peers. In addition, Shirey takes students to Winter Snow Camp, Impact, Winter Jam and Summer Camp, along with other retreats, conferences, small group settings, local service projects, mission projects and events throughout the year. All of these activities provide avenues for youth to deepen their spirituality while bonding with an individual who serves as a positive role model for our entire community.