

Presenter: Dr. Betty Siegel

Award: INSPIRATOR

Recipient: Andy Lipman

A few years ago we added the INSPIRATOR category to the awards to honor those individuals who inspire others with their leadership character. Regardless of their title, position or organizational affiliation, INSPIRATORS recognize that leadership is a choice, not a position.

This year we received 10 outstanding nominees in this category. While selecting only one was difficult, we chose someone who absolutely embodies the definition of an INSPIRATOR. This year's winner is --- ANDY LIPMAN, Chairman & Founder of Wish for Wendy Foundation & Director of Purchasing at DiversiTech.

Andy Lipman's personal story is one of the most inspiring I've ever heard. Born with cystic fibrosis, his parents were told it was unlikely he'd live into his teens. Not only has Andy beat those odds, but he graduated college, has become an Olympic-torch bearer - tri-athlete - husband - father of 2 - coach - full-time employee - sought-after speaker - blogger - author – board chair – and an ambassador and crusader to find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis (CF).

Exemplary in the way he handles everyday struggles with CF, Andy shows even more amazing qualities of leadership character. In the 2 autobiographical books he's written, he openly details his life dealing with depression and a terminal disease.

As his nominator says, "His credibility is an extension of his integrity. Without integrity, he loses the very platform from which he delivers his message. Andy doesn't just speak with integrity, he lives it. He also delivers hope, love and support for thousands of people around the globe with his inspiring message of 'Live your dreams, Love your life.' "

Fourteen years ago, Andy started the annual A Wish for Wendy Softball Challenge in memory of his older sister who died from CF after only 16 days of life. The softball tournament is now hosted by the Wish for Wendy Foundation, created in 2006 by Andy and his family. As a result of his vision, over \$1.6M has been contributed to date to the Cystic Fibrosis

Foundation, where Andy serves on the board – the only CF patient to ever do so. He also serves on the Board of UGA's Terry College of Business. Just like his novel entitled "A Superhero Needs No Cape," Andy continues to inspire others with CF, fellow employees and everyone he meets through his perseverance, humility, determination, and positive attitude.

At this time, I'd like to invite Andy Lipman to join me on stage as I present him with the 2013 Turknett Leadership Character Award in the Inspiritor category.