

Man of the Year Award Nominee:

Mayor Dennis Watz





Dennis Watz

Dennis Watz's extensive career and community involvement epitomize a profound dedication to public service and leadership. As a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Dennis has notably contributed four decades of expertise as the Director of Information Technology at Paramount Apparel, demonstrating significant influence in the IT sector within the apparel industry. His tenure as the Mayor of Sullivan since 2015 further reflects his commitment to civic duty, showcasing his ability to lead and address community needs effectively. Dennis's philosophy that individuals should actively contribute to their communities is evidenced by his diverse roles on various boards, including the East Central College Alumni Board, Sullivan Country Club Board, Scottish Rite of St. Louis Preservation Board, Society of Joseph, and the City of Sullivan Planning and Zoning Board. Through these positions, Dennis has championed community development, cultural preservation, and philanthropy, underscoring his multifaceted approach to making a meaningful impact on society.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been

involved, including dates and positions held. MAYOR - City of Sullivan
2015 - present

- 1) Completion of the Route 66 Splash Park.
- 2) Construction of the Northside Trail System.
- 3) Purchase of 18 hole golf course.
- 4) Commission of a Park and recreation study to evaluate what amenities and infrastructure we need to add to the Park system.

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.

City of Sullivan - Mayor 2015 - Present
Sullivan Masonic Lodge - Past Master
East Central College Alumni Association - Past President
Sullivan Country Club - Past Board Member
St Louis Scottish Rite - LOP - Director of Work

3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.

Missouri Grand Lodge Achievement Award
Scottish Rite - Knight Commander of the Court of Honor
York Rite - Order of the Knights Templar

4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.

I became Mayor to help build a culture where families and businesses can flourish. Also providing a variety of activities is critical to attract new businesses to the Sullivan area

Man of the Year Award Nominee:

Travis Toews



Travis J. Toews

2023 Man of the Year Nominee

Travis Toews is a pretty regular guy with a unique calling. He, along with his wife Shanna have owned the Eaton Funeral Home for nearly 8 years. A third-generation funeral director/embalmer, Travis grew up in a family of funeral service. After completing his Bachelors of Business Admin degree, he attained his Mortuary Science degree in 2001 and then began the pursuit of his passion.

A strong devotion to his faith in Christ and unwavering commitment to his family, Travis wakes each day ready to help with the burdens of his community. He embraces his role in walking families that call on him through life's most difficult moments. Privileged with the responsibility to meet most people for the first time on the worst day of their lives, Travis discovered early on in his life that God had called and equipped him to accept this



calling. A calling that knows no schedule, circumstance, routine, predictability, but a willingness to be available and ready no matter what the need.



Travis resides in Sullivan with his wife, Shanna and their four children: Alex, Jared, Annie & Jace. Together they enjoy family activities like hiking and exploring new places in Missouri. Being the big sports fan he is, Travis can also be found at the ball diamonds, soccer fields, or local basketball courts. He is an active member of Temple Baptist Church in Sullivan.

Affiliations include:

- Missouri Funeral Directors & Embalmers Association Member 2016—present
- Sullivan Chamber of Commerce Member 2016—present
- Sullivan Rotary Club Member 2016—present
- Local Youth Sports Sponsor/Coach 2016—present
- Sullivan Baseball Association Member 2023—present

2022 Recipient for Sullivan Chamber Business of the Year & Beautification Awards

Travis considers his greatest accomplishments to be his compassion and service to the needs and burdens of our community as well as being a friendly and positive individual. He believes that Sullivan is a special place to live because so many multi generations of families continue to live together here. He feels that his role is vital in strengthening family legacy by helping families gather together and honor the lives of their loved ones.

"Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16"

Man of the Year Award Nominee:

Terry Calvin





Terry Calvin

Since graduating Sullivan High School in 1990, Terry Calvin has been employed by Aerofil Technology for the past 34 years. During the last 28 years of his employment he has been in a leadership role. During his time at Aerofil Terry has helped with company organized food drives and Christmas toy drives for local children. Terry has also organized and led many employee benefit fundraisers to help employees in need. He has also held fundraisers at Aerofil to support the Claire Bear Foundation.

Terry is the Cofounder and Chairman of the Claire Bear Foundation. The Claire Bear foundation was created in memory of his daughter, "Claire Bear" who valiantly fought terminal brain cancer for 31 months. What led to the establishment of the Claire Bear Foundation was a simple conversation Terry had with Claire. Someone wanted to buy some bracelets Claire made while she was ill. When Terry asked Claire "What will you do with the money from the bracelets you sell"? Claire's reply, "I will give the money to people who don't have any". The mission of the Claire Bear Foundation is to financially support and help families of children who are battling cancer, rare illnesses and tragic events. The Claire Bear Foundation has also helped temporarily house local homeless families, support local food pantries and support other area fundraisers and local charities. The Claire Bear Foundation would not have been possible without God, Claire Bear, the Claire Bear Foundation Team and the amazing support of our great community.

Terry is very active and supportive of his daughter's team sports. He has coached t-ball and girls 6 & under softball. Terry is very supportive of other family members children's sports.

It's very important to continue to make Sullivan a great place to live, work and visit. It is especially critical to our children who are our future to make Sullivan

the best we can make it. To continue to pass on the legacies, traditions and Sullivan's heritage to our children and future generations. There are so many people that impact our area and people's views and impression of our town. Literally everyone when you think about it. Police, fire department, EMS, teachers, coaches, pastors, cashiers, cooks, waitresses, city employees, doctors, dentists and just about anyone you come in contact with. A part of the "Beauty" is making Sullivan a "Safe" and "Friendly" place to live, work and visit.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been involved, including dates and positions held.

October 8th 2022 - 1st Annual Claire Fair hosted by the Claire Bear Foundation - Co-founder & Chairman - Raised \$9,400.⁰⁰

October 7th 2023 - 2nd Annual Claire Fair hosted by the Claire Bear Foundation - Co-founder & Chairman - Raised \$12,000.⁰⁰

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.

Coached Sullivan T-Ball

Coached Sullivan 6+ Under Girls Softball

3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.

4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.

Children are our "Future" and are a major driving force to making Sullivan not only a beautiful place to live, work and visit, but also a "Safe" place and a sense of "Belonging". The Sullivan Police Department, Sullivan Fire Department, Sullivan EMS, Teachers, Coaches, Parents and faculty of the Sullivan School District have a major impact on making Sullivan the community it is and often not getting the due credit they deserve.

and coaches of Community/Local Sports activities such as Softball, Soccer, etc.

Man of the Year Award Nominee:

Brad Perry



1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you have been involved, including dates and positions held.

Love Thy Neighbor—

In 2016 we ran an initiative called Love Thy Neighbor. This was a program that my brother started in his town of Viburnum, MO, and after seeing its success we decided to run one in Sullivan. The concept is to provide homeowners who may have physical limitations, and or financial needs, with home repairs free of charge including: new roofs, decks, ramps, yard work, etc. The awesome thing about Love Thy Neighbor is that the teams are lead by adults but the project is carried out by students 6th through 12th grade. Myself, along with leaders from our church as well as two other churches in our community joined forces and were able to complete 18 projects in three days. Projects included two new roofs, two wheelchair ramps, new deck, multiple fences power washed and stained or painted, gutter clean-out and repair, tree and brush removal, and much more. All financial needs were raised ahead of time and we were able to compete around \$20,000 dollars of work free of charge to all of these homeowners. In all, over 80 people participated to see it to completion.

In 2017 we ran a smaller scale Love Thy Neighbor and finished 12 projects over the course of one weekend. Projects included one roof, new exterior stairs, deck removal and rebuild, tree and brush removal, deck staining, roof repairs, and gutter clean outs. Again, all money needed for material was raised in advance was completely free to the homeowners.

In 2018 we did another small scale Love Thy neighbor completing jobs for 6 homeowners.

In 2020 I lead a team of 35 Sullivan area students and adults to do Love Thy Neighbor in Viburnum, MO, at First Baptist Church Viburnum along with about 6 other area churches. In all around 125 people participated. In four days we were able to tear off and replace 4 roofs, multiple decks, and other construction projects. All projects were paid for through generous donors in the community as well as two fundraisers which raised over \$20,000.

In 2021 we were again given the opportunity to participate in Love Thy neighbor in Viburnum, MO, and likewise took around 35 students and adult leaders. We worked for four days straight completing many projects for homeowners in their community. Roofing projects, decks, ramps, and many other major projects were accomplished free to the homeowners.

in 2022 and 2023 we took around 40 students from Sullivan to Viburnum to continue the project and do thousands of dollars of jobs for homeowners with 2023 being our largest project ever. Throughout the last couple of years we have also been able to coordinate multiple projects in Sullivan for homeowners in our community including wheelchair ramps and other projects.

Love Thy Neighbor is not just a one time, one week concept. We hope and pray that the idea is something that becomes a lifestyle of helping others in need and I love seeing the next generation take the charge in doing so. The motto from last year sums it up well, the idea is that, "we do for others what they can't do for themselves, because Christ did for us, what we can't do for ourselves."

MRT—

MRT stands for Ministry Resource Team and is a way for our church to help Sullivan residents with rent and utilities when they fall on hard times. Our church is able to help on a weekly basis with people who are in need. It is a one time assistance but through the years has helped hundreds of families in our community get financial help when times get difficult.

Back to School Bash 2019, 2020, 2021 —

Over the course of the last three years I have been privileged to be a part of a committee made up of many Sullivan churches and businesses which oversaw what we named Back to School Bash. Essentially, we wanted to make sure that every student in the Sullivan area had the ability to get food, school supplies, hair cuts, and clothing before heading back to school and making sure it was free for all families. In 2019 we held the event at the skating rink, and the last two years it has been at the Lifehouse Youth Center. It takes a lot of volunteers and willing hands to make it succeed and has helped hundreds of students each year since it began in 2019.

TBC Fall Festival 2015-Present—

One of the community events that our church has long since done is called Fall Festival which is on Halloween evening each year. Since 2015 I have had the opportunity to co-organize this event with some of our other staff and volunteers. While it changes in some regards each year, the idea behind it has always been to provide a safe environment for kids and their families to come play games, get food, and lots of candy in a safe environment. Each year we have anywhere from 600 to over 1000 parents and kids come through in just a couple of hours. It takes a lot of volunteers to make the event happen and it could not happen with them.

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions you have held.

Board of Directors at TBC 2012-Present—

As part of the Pastoral Staff at Temple Baptist Church I have been a part of their board of directors since 2012. This is our main decision making board which is made up of the three pastoral staff, administrative assistant, and committee chairpersons.

Lifehouse Youth Center 2017-Present—

Since its inception, I along with our church, have been supportive of our amazing Youth Center. Before it was ever here, simply hearing Jen's vision and desire for the Center got me hooked. It is an amazing work and our church supports them financially each month and I help organize weekly meals each Thursday as well. When I was able for the first couple of years, I made it a point to spend a couple of hours every week spending time with the kids. I can't say enough about the Youth Center and the amazing staff that keep it running everyday!

Upwards basketball coach in 2018 & 2019—

As my oldest son got older I was able to co-coach and coach his team for a couple of years. I know the Upwards programs are difficult to run after having many conversations with the leadership, but they are very beneficial to teaching and shaping the next generation and I appreciate those that made it happen through the years.

Meramec Community Mission, 2012-Present—

With my position at the church, it is one of my duties to see that we are supporting other organizations who are serving our community in big ways. TBC has always been very involved in

financially supporting the Meramec Community Mission and the way that it helps provide food and clothing to those in need. I have also had the privilege of helping a couple of times in the past few years with some of the food drives they hold on a regular basis as well as bringing groups to organize and deliver food.

3. *Awards, recognition, or honors you have received.*

None that I can think of in recent years.

4. *Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work, and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.*

I believe the role of service to our community is vitally important and I believe seeing its importance from an early age helps foster that mindset and helps establish those values more firmly. I was born and raised in Sullivan, spent all of my years in the Sullivan school systems, and have been a part of the same church I am now a pastor at since I was born in 1987. My family has certainly played a huge role in leading and shaping me into who I am today, but outside of flesh and blood, my church family has essentially been a huge part in raising me and shaping me into who I am today. I could list name after name after name of individuals who have influenced me through the years: mentors, older men from the church, Sunday school teachers, my youth pastor, and the list goes on. Outside of this, there have been so many community members and mentors who have coached my baseball or basketball teams, or been influential teachers and mentors and even administrators. So many names and faces make up the tribe that helps raise a child and teach and shape them into responsible well rounded adults.

From an early age I knew my service to God was first and foremost and out of that relationship my service to my those around me was, likewise, vital and important. When I was in high school I knew I felt called to full time ministry and was unsure at the time what that would look like. However, after graduation I was given the opportunity to serve on staff in the same church I was raised in. I now had the opportunity in 2006 and following to serve the same community that served me all those years growing up. From an intern, to worship leader, to youth and worship leader, to Associate Pastor of Students, Worship, and Missions and Outreach, I have been able to serve our church and community in a wide variety of ways through the last 15 years. One of the biggest ways I get to do that is through leading short term mission trips with student and adult teams here in Sullivan, St. Louis, across the United States, and all over the world.

Beginning in 2016 I have had the opportunity to participate in Love Thy Neighbor which I spoke about earlier. We have the opportunity to serve our literal neighbors right here in Sullivan through acts of service for people in need and who are unable to do the work themselves. However, loving our neighbor does not simply include loving the people that simply live inside the boundaries of Sullivan, MO. One of the privileges I have as pastor is leading students and adults on short term mission trips year in and year out all over the world. It helps us all see that there is just as much, and sometimes even more, of a need with our neighbors across the United States and in countries all over the world.

In 2015 I co-lead a group from Sullivan to Guatemala to work with an orphanage we support and to provide dental and other basic needs to families in desperate need. Later that year I lead a group of 40 students and adults to Kansas City to do a Vacation Bible School at a church in the inner city and just got to love on kids and tell them about Jesus. In 2017 I lead a group of around 40 students and adults to Detroit to work with an organization cleaning up abandoned neighborhoods and beautifying the city. In 2018 and 2019 we went back to Guatemala where we not only provided dental but now were able to provide the people with prescription eyeglasses who would otherwise not have access to such things. Later 2018 I had the opportunity to lead another student trip with about 35 students to Wharton, TX, where we helped victims rebuild and clean their homes after hurricane Harvey. I lead another student trip in 2019 to North Carolina where we did a variety of services and ministries for kids and adults ranging from cleanup, yard work, and painting to VBS, homeless shelter work, and much more. In 2021 we were able to go to Jackson, TN, and worked at a Boys and Girls Club. 2021 also allowed me to help our church form partnerships in the St. Louis Metro area as well as in Turkey. In St. Louis we are able to come alongside a church there and help them financially and physically as they begin to serve their community. In Turkey, we have been able to send teams to come alongside missionaries as they serve displaced refugees who have fled their homelands and are seeking to build new lives in a different location. In 2022 and 2023 I co-lead a team to Guatemala where we continued to serve in an orphanage as well as the people in and around that community. I also lead large teams from our community in those two years to Viburnum for Love Thy Neighbor as well as Fort Worth, TX, and Pensacola, FL to do mission work. Our Florida trip in 2023 was our largest student group ever with 70 participants going.

With all of this being said, I feel we have an obligation to our neighbors here in Sullivan and need to diligently be about serving and loving on people who live right next door. Likewise, our obligation and calling doesn't need to stop at the Franklin County line and needs to extend to our neighbors all over the world. That is simply one of the things I love about my position as pastor. I am able to help students and adults from our small community in Sullivan see that we can make a massive global impact no matter the age, financial, or social standing. We simply need to have a heart that is willing to say yes, and hands that are willing to get a little messy.

One-Paragraph Summary—

I have been a pastor in our community for 12 years and was born and raised in Sullivan. My wife Briana works at Spring Bluff Elementary as the school nurse and is there with our three older children Kaleb, Khloe, and Kallie. Our youngest, Konnor, attends preschool at iXL Academy here in Sullivan. I have been able to coach upwards basketball, little league baseball, soccer, and basketball. I have lead the student ministry at TBC for many years, as well as supporting our local youth center in a variety of ways. Much of what I do is involved with student ministry and influencing and mentoring the next generation. My ultimate goal is to make disciples of Christ, and in doing so, much of what Christ did on earth was serving others. The Bible says Jesus came to serve not to be served, and that is ultimately what I hope to convey to the students and adults that I have the privilege of serving. Helping students see that the world is much bigger than themselves, and that even at a young age, they can effect change not only in our community but in our world as a whole. This is why we do a lot of local missions and outreach as well as missions around the United States and abroad. It is such a blessing when the residents of Sullivan can extend their reach to other places in our country and across the globe to love and to serve. When I think about service in our community, I cannot help but think of Jesus' two greatest commands: Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself. There is no better way to show someone you care for them than to go out of your way to serve them.



Family Photo '23





Student Group serving in Kansas City

Family Photo '23







Love Thy Neighbor '20

Turkey '22





Love Thy Neighbor '22



Texas '22



Florida '23

Love Thy Neighbor '23



Kansas City '23



TBC Student Ministry '23





Love Thy Neighbor '21

Man of the Year Award Nominee:

Matthew Dudley





ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. **Founded The Ridge Church of Sullivan in 2017.**
Guided the revitalization process for Reedville church in 2023.
Has sought to help people understand the Bible on a practical level.
2. **Lead Pastor of The Ridge Church for seven years.**
Two years on the Chamber of Commerce Board
Two years on the Salvation Army Board
Mentor and outside advisor for the Spiritual Solutions Organization
3. **None**
4. **Making Sullivan a better place to live is making Sullivan a beautiful place to live. What makes a community beautiful are the people within that community. My goal is to help each of us become the best version of ourselves that we can be by implementing the principles of truth and grace into our daily lives. We have brought many consumers into the Sullivan community. We encourage generosity and kindness toward those who we have the opportunity to serve. Helping others become better people through a relationship with Jesus will help Sullivan become a better place to live.**

ONE-PARAGRAPH SUMMARY

Matt Dudley started The Ridge Church of Sullivan seven years ago. He has been instrumental in starting four churches in Missouri over the past nineteen years. He has been involved in various community activities such as The Chamber of Commerce, The Salvation Army, and Spiritual Solutions. Matt seeks to help others find healing and hope through a relationship with God. He believes that "The church community ought to be a culture of love for Jesus and a love for people" and "if Christians would have a revival of kindness, there would be a dynamic change within our community." (-Matt Dudley)

Man of the Year Award Nominee:

Brian Beckett







ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been involved, including dates and positions held.

23 yr owner of Valvoline Express CARE Sullivan
7yr owner of Valvoline Express CARE Rolla
Life member of First Assembly of God Sullivan
10yr member Meramec Valley Eagles Airt 3781
7yrs Scholarship Committee Meramec Valley Eagles Airt 3781
8yr volunteer stage crew meramec community FAIR

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.

3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.

2021 Sullivan Chamber MAR of the year
2021 Sullivan Chamber Recognition FOR business of the year
2020 Rolla Chamber July business of the month

4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.

Having been born & raised in Sullivan it will always be home. Owning & operating a business in Sullivan and being able to give to the schools, meramec mission, churches & various other local programs has given me the humble heart of what a local business can do for its community. One of my biggest role models since a kid is retired ~~and~~ police chief Randy ~~but~~ counts, as to what serving the ~~the~~ well being of Sullivan community really means.

Man of the Year Award Nominee:

Joe Witt





ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been involved, including dates and positions held.

Hosting the event "Shinin' Out for Jackson" in which we gathered hundreds of our community to show support and a prayer vigil for the Revelle family.

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.

Sullivan Baseball Association: 5 years / 2 years Board
Sullivan Soccer Association: 6 years
Sullivan Jr Football: 3 years
Spring Bluff Basketball: 2 years
Sullivan Softball Jr's: 9 years / 3 years on board

3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.

4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.

I personally think Sullivan can remain a great place by investing in our youth. Our youth and how they become credible members of our community is the only reason I coach. When you invest in our youth you invest in their family to create a family, all-inclusive feeling in our town. Invest in our youth, you invest in our future, bright stars make for a beautiful sky, and the sky is the limit.

