

Glenn L. Cox

2009 CARRIER OF THE YEAR WINNERS

YOUTH (up to 18 years of age)



Winner: Katie Walton, *The Blade*

Following in her mother's footsteps, Katie delivers the route that has been in her family over 40 years. Her clients include 60 daily and 65 Sunday customers, all satisfied. Her secret is the "personal touch". She asks where clients want their paper placed, writes thank-you cards for gratuities, and when she spots someone moving in, checks county records for their name so she can leave a personalized note to subscribe. In addition to being an honor-rolé student, Katie volunteers at the YES (Youth Elect Service) soup kitchen, Humane Society and Sunshine Children's Home where she helps handicapped children ride horses. She is a member of Glee Club, Environment Club and her church hand-bell choir. She was also drum major and president of her high school band. Katie will enter Hocking College this fall.

Runner Up: Melissa Lenz, *The Blade*

2nd Runner Up: Nathan Thomas, *The Courier*

ADULT (age 19-54)



Winner: Karena Adams, *The Blade*

Karena wanted a part-time job that would let her attend college and be with her children. A friend suggested she try a carrier route. Today, Karena deliver to nearly 600 daily subscribers. Customer service is her byword. She secures papers in plastic bags daily, and leaves them in requested locations to accommodate special needs. Everyone on her route has her phone and email information. When a customer is sick, she checks up on them; when they leave a gratuity, she extends a thank-you. Karena is a member of the Owens Community College Honor Society and has made the President's List six times. She volunteers with charitable groups, has been a Scout leader and has served as a room parent at her children's school. She enjoys reading, craft projects, cake decorating and water gardening.

Runner Up: Sandy Canfield, *Akron Beacon Journal*

2nd Runner Up: Tierney Fitzpatrick, *Findlay Courier*

SENIOR (age 56 and over)



Winner: Shirley Woessner, *The Sentinel-Tribune*

Shirley is the go-to gal in her community, so when her neighborhood's paper route could not maintain a consistent carrier, no one was surprised when she was the person who stepped forward. That was in 1996. Today, at 61-years young, she delivers to a mix of college students, renters and homeowners — with zero complaints in twelve years! It's easy to see why. Like any good carrier, she holds papers when customers are away. But when they forget and she sees mail and papers piling up, she collects them too and leaves a note. Shirley also leaves sample newspapers for new move-ins, checks on the elderly, and waters plants for vacationing clients during dry weather. In her spare time, Shirley serves on the Salvation Army Board, volunteers at a food pantry, and supervises the kettle bell-ringers at Christmas time.

Runner Up: Ruby Gonzales, *Findlay Courier*

2nd Runner Up: Dan Szekerez, *The Blade*