

For immediate release
August 9, 2001

USI names Volunteer of the Year

The University of Southern Indiana honored **Cindy L. Bippus** as its 2001 Volunteer of the Year at the annual Volunteer USI Recognition Dinner Thursday, August 9.

For the past 13 years, Bippus has given outstanding service to USI's offices of Athletics and Student Wellness. Recognized for her dedication and phenomenal commitment to assisting students, the Evansville native brings a high level of passion to her role as volunteer.

Her efforts in Athletics have included being a team host, assisting at the All Sports Picnic, and cooking and serving at both the Student Athletes Dinner and the spaghetti dinner. Each year, she also welcomes the women's basketball team into her home for a homemade lasagna dinner.

In addition to helping the sports teams, the University of Evansville graduate has been active in the Varsity Club. She has donated her time to the chili supper, Varsity Club Room, Golf Scramble, and Fall Festival booth. Throughout the year, she also can be found volunteering at road races, where competing runners are greeted by her smiling face as they cross the finish line.

For the last four years, Bippus also has assisted Student Wellness in planning and organizing the Aunt Sophie's Chicken Noodle Soup event.

"Cindy has been a real example to me of a beautiful volunteer spirit. She gives of her time, energy, and talent to USI. She's a hard worker and a lot of fun to be around," said Sandi Lawrence, director of USI Student Wellness.

Since 1996, when Volunteer USI began as a formal campus-wide program, Bippus has accumulated a total of 449 hours of volunteer service.

She and her husband Ray have been married for 36 years and have owned and operated Frames Built by Bippus since 1977. They have three children and three grandchildren.

In addition to Bippus, nearly 320 dedicated volunteers were honored at this year's recognition dinner. The annual event honors those volunteers who accumulated 20 or more service hours during the fiscal year.

"We want them to know how much we appreciate what they do at the University," said Trisha Kennedy, assistant director of Alumni and Volunteer Services. "Their time is important. They could be out doing something else, but they are here at USI."

Since the volunteer program's inception, more than 2,300 volunteers have donated 366,999 hours of service to University of Southern Indiana.