



Submitted photo
Al Dickerson, center, is shown with Connie L. Jenkins and Tim Slaven following the presentation of the Jean C. Harris Award. Dickerson is president of the board of Ashland Christian Emergency Services.

ACES president honored with Award for Excellence

Contributed Report
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The president of the board of Ashland Christian Emergency Services (ACES) has received the Jean

C. Harris Award for Excellence, the top annual award given by Hanover Community Services. Al Dickerson is at the helm of ACES, which provides food,

household goods, transient aid, medical equipment loans, and emergency financial assistance for necessities such as electricity, medications, rent and utilities.

"Al Dickerson embodies the mission of Hanover Community Services by providing the community with a variety of goods and services within this entirely volunteer setting," said Tim Slaven, executive director of

Hanover Community Services. "His warmth, concern and compassion are evident to everyone who has the privilege of making his acquaintance."

"He is a humble man who seeks to serve without accolade or public acknowledgement," Slaven added. "He has a passion to serve the community and his presence

ACES

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has made a significant difference for countless citizens. The spirit of the Jean C. Harris Award for Excellence reflects his years of selfless service and the character of a true servant of the people."

Dickerson was nominated for the award by Connie L. Jenks, mental health/substance abuse clinician for Hanover Community Services.

"Without you, many of our clients literally would not have food to eat or clothing to wear," she told Dickerson.

"Mr. Dickerson assists with

monies to prevent cutoff notices of basic needs such as electricity and rent," Jenks added. "He is a compassionate man and puts his faith into practice by helping those most in need."

"I want to

express my appreciation to the organization," Dickerson said. "The cracks are widening under many people during these times, and you are doing everything you can to fill them."

Dickerson has a Ph.D. in the rehabilitation field and was Commissioner of the state

Department of Rehabilitative Services. He has been active with ACES since his retirement in 1989.

The award was presented to Dickerson at a ceremony on May 12 at the Henry Clay Inn in Ashland.

The late Jean C. Harris served 20 years on the Hanover CSB and was one of the community's greatest advocates for people with disabilities. The award named for her is presented annually to individuals who exemplify the many contributions that Harris made to the mission, purpose and achievements of the CSB.

The 2009 Jean C. Harris

"He is a compassionate man and puts his faith into practice by helping those most in need."

CONNIE L. JENKS

Hanover Community Services

Awards are the 10th annual. Previous winners are Sandy Roll in 2008; Mike and Kathy Healey in 2007; Del Frank D. and Oriana Hargrove in 2006; Charles "Buzz" Jeffrey and Larry Forcum in 2005; former

County Administrator Richard R. Johnson in 2004; Ray Rakke and Cindy Rinker in 2003; Dorothy Gibson, Doreen Shertler, Anna Wright and Tammy Wright in 2002; Bob Bailie, Kitty Hamblon and Dr. Robert Williams in 2001; and Susan Robertson, Gail Taylor and Florence Watt in 2000.