Walt Ohm's Top Hat nomination by Nancy Thatcher

On behalf of the St. Anthony SVdP conference, it is my pleasure to nominate Walt Ohm for the 2017 Top Hat Award. We are not sure of Walt's exact number of years as a Vincentian but believe it is around 15 years. Walt became president of our conferences in 2009 and served for six years. He also served as the North Northeast District Council President for six years.

During his tenure as president he was very active in home visits, preparing and serving meals at Bryden House, and delivering food and toys at Thanksgiving and Christmas. His dedication is clearly shown by him receiving a phone call from the maternity ward in the early morning hours from a mother he had been helping who wanted to tell him about the arrival of her new baby!

Walt has been instrumental in acquiring grants the last four years from the Catholic Foundation through the Parish Outreach Program. As a member of SVdP he has overseen and worked with other parishes in the area to select recipients who meet the criteria and has maintained all the required reports. He helped organize the first District Council Youth Commissioning Ceremony which was held at St. Anthony Parish.

He worked to put together a comprehensive reference manual for our conference and created worksheets and reports that have been extremely valuable to our conference.

Even though he was his wife's caregiver for many years until her death and endured the heartbreak of watching his son suffer with cancer for 10 years and eventually succumb to the disease, he never wavered in his dedication to the conference and in providing services to our SVdP neighbors.

In addition to his work with SVdP he has and continues to fill many roles within the parish, including the Finance Committee, Corn Roast Volunteer, St. Claire's Circle and church repairs.

Walt did re-marry and he and his wife Trudy continue to be active members of our conference. We rely heavily on Walt's expertise, humor and dedication. He is an inspiration to all of us!