

ICON of the MONTH

Chris Hickey

Center Grove resident Chris Hickey keeps busy with educational programs

Christine Hayes Hickey is the managing partner of Rubin & Levin, P.C., with whom she has been employed for more than 25 years. Residing in Center Grove, Hickey is a past president of the Indianapolis Bar Association. Hickey serves on the board of directors for the Indianapolis Bar Association and is currently a member of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, helping with educational programs and other types of programming to help bar leaders become better bar leaders. Hickey has been married to her husband Dan for 25 years. They have two children, Chase and Taylor.

Recently, Hickey helped introduce Blessings in a Backpack to Center Grove. The program supplies food to children on the Free and Reduced Priced Meal program who have not opted out. The schools pass out the food every Friday throughout the school year, for students to have on the weekends.

"I think what's most important, the reason why Blessings has been successful even in this short time, we're in our second school year, is there are so many people willing to help out, so many people willing to give," Hickey says. "People understand there are so many people in Center Grove that need help. It's why Center Grove is such a great community."

Currently, North Grove and Pleasant Grove participate in the program. Hickey says the goal is to eventually feed all the children in need at all of the schools. Hickey says the best part of getting this nonprofit started in the area has been the student volunteers.

"These children are all inspiring each other to do great things to help others kids," Hickey says. "It's really amazing. All it takes is one group of kids or one kid to do something great for other kids to say 'you know I can do that, too.' We've had everything from the wrestling team to football, track and choir (volunteer). Every month is taken with student groups. Every Thursday that we leave there, the teens that have been there that day, I've heard several ask if they can do this every week. They feel so good about it. They've really made a difference. It's really heartwarming."

Here, we learn more about our Icon of the Month, Christine Hickey:

What do you consider your greatest virtue?

I would have to say empathy. I'm the person that cries at sad YouTube videos and stories of people faced with insurmountable life challenges.

What do you most deplore in others?

Deplore is a strong word. What do I most dislike? Self-defeating behavior.

What do you like most about living in Center Grove?

Without question, the people. Center Grove is a wonderful community and there is no better place for Dan and I to raise our two children.

If you had to live anywhere else in the Metro Indianapolis area, where would it be? Downtown Indy. I lived downtown years ago and my office for the last 25 years is on Mass Avenue.

If you could begin life over, what would you change? Nothing. I believe that every decision that I have made, good and bad, has lead me to where and who I am today.

If money were no issue, how would you spend it? Helping our youth - from hunger to homelessness to helplessness. There is plenty of need out there.

What makes you happiest? My family; watching my children grow, mature and succeed.

What is your favorite vacation spot? St. Lucia.

What do you do with idle time? What idle time?

What is it that makes you angry? Silly things. I have two teenagers.

What do you do to escape from reality? I don't; I wouldn't know how to. Reality is life, and even when it gets rough you've got to face it.

What or who is the greatest love of your life? A man that is loving, funny, honest, a wonderful father, and a true partner in every sense of the word. That would be my husband Dan.

Which living person in Center Grove do you most admire? There are many people in Center Grove who are selfless and do great things. My eyes have been opened to all of the teens and young children in Center Grove who want to give back. It is inspiring. They have my admiration.

What is the quality you like most in a man? Integrity.

What is the quality you like most in a woman? Confidence.

What is your greatest extravagance? Traveling with our kids.

What are your fears/phobias? Cruises. Won't do it.

What has been the happiest time of your life? Family trips. Just the four of us exploring, reconnecting, and spending quality time together.

Which talent would you most like to possess? I'd like not to scare my kids when I try to cook.

What do you most value in your friends? Loyalty and sincerity.

Which historical figure do you most identify with? This is a tough one. I don't have an answer to this. So many people, historically and present day, help to inspire, shape, and mold who we all are, I can't pick just one.

What is your greatest regret? Working too much; not mastering the art of work-life balance, especially when my children were younger.

What tenet do you live by? All things are possible with hard work and perseverance.



Compiled by Nicole Davis