

Governor's Service Awards 2017 Michigan Mentor of the Year – Paula Dirkes



Paula has been a Youth Assistance mentor since 2001 and has mentored 3 girls in that span of time. In early 2017, she was notified by Julie Stitt from Oakland County Youth Assistance that she had been nominated for the annual Governor's Service Awards 2017 Michigan Mentor of the Year. "What an honor!" said Paula.

There was a long list of tasks that needed to be completed over several months by the nominee. The event took place on August

21, 2017 at the Detroit Opera House and Ms. Dirks was able to take her current mentee Charlotte (age 15) to the Honoree Reception to meet Governor Snyder and have their picture taken with him. Her former mentee, Chelsea (age 28) came in from out of town to join some of Paula's family and friends and Charlotte's Mom. They proudly watched the event together.

Paula said "This was the first time Chelsea, Charlotte and I had ever been together! It was such a special, memorable event that I will never forget."

The Governor's Service Awards ceremony is an annual statewide recognition event acknowledging the contributions made by Michigan volunteers. The event is coordinated by the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC), the state's lead agency on volunteerism. The MCSC strives to engage all Michigan residents in volunteerism to address critical community challenges.



Royal Oak Youth Assistance is proud to have Paula Dirkes as one of their ambassadors!