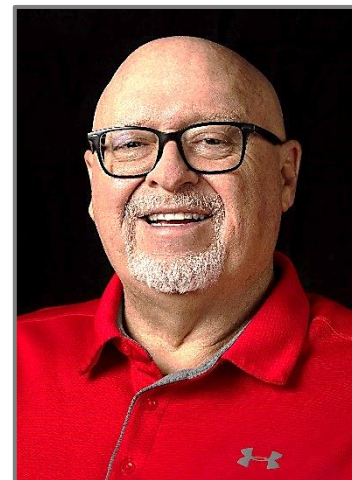


Ray Black

Class of 1970

MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2021

Over the years, hundreds of area youth have benefitted from Ray Black's guidance, compassion and wisdom. These influences naturally entailed 1:1 interaction but equally important the young people gleaned a deep perspective of societal standards and good character by simply observing their mentor, who headed the Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson County from 1984-2018. For every organizational activity, as well as daily bonding, the 1970 MCHS graduate demanded the highest of principles, values that cost nothing but reap the most rewarding dividends in life.



During his 34-year tenure, Black worked daily with youth after school, in summers and on vacation breaks. But when the building went silent, the lights in Black's office went full wattage as the executive director worked on monetary campaigns and plans to enhance club facilities, programs and opportunities for its young patrons.

Over the years, his fundraising efforts surpassed \$17 million with \$4.7 million of that total for the new spacious building on the hilltop. His achievements certainly did not go unrecognized by the community nor the corporate office of Boys & Girls Club of America. The Madison Chamber of Commerce honored Black with its distinguished Community Service Award. The Boys & Girls Club of America commended the Madison alumnus with several national awards, including the Maytag Dependable Leadership Award, National Professional Service citation and the Man & Youth Award. Hanover College, also Black's alma mater, followed the same path in 2013 with the presentation of the Hanover College Alumni Achievement Award.

His involvement with youth also entailed another but similar path outside of the Boys & Girls Club with Black coaching the wrestling and girls softball teams at Madison Consolidated High School and Madison Junior High for a combined total of 44 years. During his 36-year tenure as wrestling coach, the Madison alumnus guided the squads to six IHSA sectional championships and two regional titles. In softball, the Lady Cubs captured five sectional championships. Community involvement too has been an instrumental part of Black's life. The Jefferson County native served one term on the County Council, plus has generously contributed his time and effort to civic organizations. Often times, the Black input entailed a family affair with his wife Vicki working behind the scenes to make life better for those who considered the club family. Indeed, Ray Black paved a productive path for others in both words and example.