

## HUMANITARIAN AWARD

### Dean Whalen '81

For Dean Whalen, a successful attorney and business leader, devoted family man, and tireless community volunteer, the formula which balances these things is simple: “one day at a time, and one person at a time.” For his community, those days and people add up to an extraordinarily positive public impact. But for this Anselmian from the Class of 1981, the difference he makes is personal. Very personal. A recovered alcoholic since May 3, 1995, Dean knows first-hand the vulnerability and weakness that resides in all of us, and the suffering caused by a life of chemical and self-consumption. This is why the people around him for the past quarter century have come to appreciate him as one of the most selfless and empathetic individuals they know. An advocate in his community for addiction services, Dean has worked determinedly to raise money for recovery programs and to combat the Opioid Epidemic. A dedicated Trustee of Mercy Medical Center since 2010, he now serves as Board Chairman. In that capacity has helped create a “Step Down” program where patients can have a 21 day in-patient stay after detox. Dean has also served on the Board of Shriners Hospital for Children since 2010 and is now the Board’s Vice Chair. For his “transforming, healing presence” and “great vision and leadership on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society” Dean was recently presented his community’s *Caritas* award. And while he is a trusted leader at board meetings and a reliable presence at any number of public fundraisers each year, it is in the more private acts of kindness that his family and friends have witnessed Dean’s humanitarian work. They have seen him quietly leave the dinner table to take a call from a member of his recovery group in need. They have seen him pull over his car and take time to offer hope and encouragement to a homeless individual who he has seen in one of his AA meetings. They know the boundlessness of his love first-hand. An Anselmian who has beget a second generation of Anselmians, Dean Whalen has imparted the most important lessons of his education to his children by a powerful example of humility, gratitude and unyielding service to others: one person at a time, one day at a time. We are honored to present him with the Alumni Association’s 2019 Humanitarian Award.