

HELEN BALDWIN AWARD 2025

The Helen Baldwin Distinguished Service Award was developed in 1994 to recognize individuals who go above and beyond in their volunteerism for our Prairieland United Way. First presented to the awards' namesake, Helen Baldwin, this remarkable supporter continues to generously give to Prairieland United Way. We are so grateful that Helen could be with us this evening; let's show our appreciation for Helen Baldwin!

The 2025 recipient is, as her license plate indicates, "G on the go!" She came to Jacksonville as a student at Illinois College, and fortunately for us, she has remained – serving our community with a compassionate heart. Initially teaching 1st grade at Arenzville Grade School, later being the Newspaper in Education Coordinator at the Jacksonville Journal-Courier, followed by her excellent leadership, beginning in 2001, as the executive director of the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce until her election in 2014 as the Morgan County's first woman commissioner, now she is newly retired, but she won't stop!

Our recipient's extensive list of community service includes past chair of the Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation, past president of Jacksonville Main Street, past president of the Jacksonville Rotary Club. She continues to serve on the Jacksonville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Board, the Jacksonville Public Schools Foundation Board, with many other community and church leadership roles, while weekly volunteering at South Jacksonville Elementary School.

Along with her amazing daughter, our recipient successfully co-chaired the 2008 Prairieland United Way Campaign, and now she serves on our advisory board, allocation panels, and continually gives her time and energy to assist us in any way she can.

It is a great honor to present the 2025 Helen Baldwin Distinguished Service Award to our own "G on the go" – GINNY FANNING!