

Elizabeth Hughes, former Director
Christian Action Ministries – Branson, MO

Elizabeth Hughes's nomination read:

The Taney County Health Department nominates Elizabeth Hughes, former Director of Christian Action Ministries (CAM) for the 2019 Rural Health Champion Individual Award.

Elizabeth championed health for rural, underserved Taney County residents as Director of Christian Action ministries for the better part of three years until her departure in 2019. She responded to the needs of underserved populations across Taney and Stone Counties in a number of ways.

Elizabeth championed new community-wide fundraisers like the Festival of Trees, a Christmas event where trees sponsored by local organizations are sold back to the community. Proceeds enabled CAM to significantly increase their ability to deliver over 1 million pounds of food to more than 42,000 Taney County residents in need.

Elizabeth also empowered the community to collectively define and alleviate the root causes of poverty and poor health in Stone and Taney Counties through a large Missouri Foundation for Health grant-funded poverty research project. This project has brought cross-sector partners to the table on poverty in ways that this community has never seen to accomplish collective goals that benefit everyone while targeting those most in need.

Elizabeth Hughes possesses the true qualities of a leader and is the best fit for the Rural Health Champion Award. Her passion for helping and empowering the residents of Taney and Stone Counties not only led to the development and increased success of Christian Action Ministries, she inspired other individuals and organizations to do more and be better alongside her.

Attuned to where gentle words or firm hands were needed most, she and her organization shepherded those in need out of crisis, and those in power to the table to help.