

2017 Marla Ruzicka Humanitarian of the Year

Rev. Shannon Kimbell-Auth

Since arriving in Lake County in 1999, Shannon has been instrumental in creating programs and rallying people behind her to make life better for all residents here. Her **passion is compassion**.

Some of the program and organization she has been instrumental in are:

Food Cupboard at United Christian Parish: As the Pastor, she was frequently approached by citizens in need of food. Initially supplying their needs for food out of her own pocket, she established a food cupboard supported by the congregation, which today feeds hundreds of families yearly.

Lake County CAN: As President of the Lake Ministerial Association, Shannon rallied help people all around the lake to collect, sort and deliver donated foods to all 7 food cupboards.

Relief Building: Shannon organized 2 building trips to Louisiana for Habitat for Humanity after the Katrina and Rita hurricanes. She mobilized about 15 people for each trip; the experience trained and encouraged those who went to volunteer with our local Habitat organization.

Lake County Sheriff's Chaplain: As one of their chaplains, Shannon volunteered countless hours responding to crisis situations involving families. In this capacity she assisted with the Every 15 Minutes program run by the CHP where she facilitated the parent trauma component for many years at many different high schools around the lake.

But Shannon's ability for compassion and training in dealing with human crises came into full view during and after the devastating fires that ravaged Lake County. She has written numerous grants and tapped a wide variety of sources nationwide for money to help Lake County residents. She has overseen the funding for, collection and distribution of clothing, food vouchers, gas cards, etc. She organized professionally staffed workshops for victims to deal with the Post Traumatic Stress of losing their homes. She helped relocate families to safe places when campgrounds were closed for the winter. Shannon continues to be a driving force behind relief efforts for displaced residents. She is eager to assist anyone with a housing, transportation or food insecurity issue.

Knowing that many of the fire victims were still homeless led the Lake Ministerial Association's desire to establish a warming center for the cold winter months. Shannon's previous experiences and trainings helped her take the lead role in creating, locating, funding and staffing the first warming center, which opened January 4, 2016 to April 1, 2016. The center welcomed 85 guests with ages from babies to 70, 13% of whom were veterans. 5 guests found regular employment while staying at the center. 8 found sustainable shelter and two

families moved to another community with the expectation of finding housing. The Warming Center reopened Christmas Eve, 2016.

Although Shannon is employed as a quarter-time pastor for two different churches in Lake County, none of the above activities were part of those jobs. Several of the activities mentioned are from years gone by; they speak to the life-long goals of Shannon. She continues to be passionate about compassion. Shannon actively pursues solutions that are workable and valuable to all. Shannon continues to be **passionate about compassion**.