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ABC honors 3 local volunteers

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Three local volunteers were honored for their [community service](#) Monday by Action for a Better Community.

More than 200 people attended the nonprofit group's annual Signature Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency [Rochester](#), Hyatt Regency Rochester, 125 E. Main St.

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This year's awardees are:

- Margaret "Midge" Thomas, who received the Lena M. Gantt Distinguished Community Service Award. Thomas is the founder of the Freddie Thomas Foundation, a nonprofit named for her late husband, Dr. Freddie Thomas. She also has been involved in numerous community service initiatives. The award is named for Lena Gantt, mother of state Assemblyman David Gantt.
- Freddie L. Caldwell, who received the James M. McCuller Award for Excellence. Caldwell served on the board of directors of ABC for more than 25 years, including several years as board chair, and then joined the agency's staff. He retired in 2008 and now serves on the boards of several nonprofits.

The McCuller award is named for James M.

McCuller, a dedicated advocate to the poor and the executive director of ABC for 25 years.

- Joe Klein, CEO of Klein Steel Service, who received the 2009 Signature Citizen of the Year Award. Klein was recognized for his longtime advocacy for youth and education initiatives, including creation of one [schools](#) enrichment program and the switch of another school from K-6 to K-12. Klein also serves on such boards as the Center for Governmental Research and True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School.

The award goes to an individual who demonstrates positive community spirit through a variety of professional work and volunteerism.