

SOUTH JERSEY VOICES

## Wenonah native to be honored | Bob Shryock column



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**BY BOB SHRYOCK**

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For NJ.com

Dr. Cindy Norris, a long-time volunteer for organizations which assist sick children and their families, will receive the Wenonah Hometown Legend award during the borough's traditional Fourth of July celebration in the park after the parade.



Bob Shryock (nj.com)

She is the 15th honoree in 14 years. According to Carl Hausman, chairman of the selection committee, Dr. Norris "inspires legends, instills pride, and serves as a role model for the people of Wenonah," the credo for the award.

Dr. Norris, who specializes in the treatment of children's blood disorders, is a Clinical Associate in Pediatrics and co-founder and co-director of the Hematology Acute Care Unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

She serves on the board of directors of Make-A-Wish Philadelphia, Northern Delaware and Susquehanna Valley, a regional chapter granting wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses. Dr. Norris has referred patients to the foundation for over 25 years. She loves seeing the children's "eyes light up" when they talk about their wish.

She fondly recalls caring for a young man battling leukemia whose wish was to meet former Flyer great Eric Lindros. The boy not only met Lindros, he met the entire team. Lindros gave him an autographed jersey he wore to every chemotherapy visit. When the jersey became worn out, Eric gave him a replacement.

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Dr. Norris has volunteered for boys' and girls' scouting organizations, as a lector/volunteer for Family Promise with the Church of the Incarnation in Mantua, and in other therapeutic programs for children fighting illnesses.

While volunteering for Camp Happy Times in the Poconos, Dr. Norris "fell in love with the pediatric population." Her work there in the late 1980s led to her decision to pursue an internship and residency after graduating from medical school. She specialized in pediatric hematology and oncology, concluding a fellowship at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 1995.

Dr. Norris' current passion is specializing in the treatment of sickle cell disease, an inherited blood disorder now affecting 100,000 in the United States. Children who have this illness face an increased risk of infection often requiring hospitalization. Those affected by stroke or other severe complications frequently are referred to Make-A-Wish.

Dr. Norris was raised in Wenonah and met her husband, Bill Norris, when both attended Virginia Tech. They have three children; the oldest two also are Virginia Tech students.

Those wishing to support the mission of CHOP's Sickle Cell Center should contact Megan Fredericks, Assistant Director of Development at 267-426-2753. The foundation's local office granted 321 wishes last year.

Hausman can be reached at 856-464-0744.

His committee selected Charles "Chuck" Forsman as the borough's legend in 2016. Steven W. Squyres was the inaugural winner in 2004, Paul Stankard the victor in 2005.

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