

[http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/new-street-sign-honors-long-time-day-care-employee/article\\_8b845624-23c2-55e4-ae3f-5955509ecda3.html](http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/new-street-sign-honors-long-time-day-care-employee/article_8b845624-23c2-55e4-ae3f-5955509ecda3.html)

## New street sign honors long-time day care employee

By LACIE PIERSON 3 min ago



The Herald-Dispatch

Lori Wolfe/The Herald-Dispatch Phyllis Stapleton was honored for her 47 years of service to Kiwanis Day Care Center during celebration on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at the center in Huntington.

HUNTINGTON - For nearly half a century, things at the Kiwanis Day Care Center in West Huntington were run the Phyllis Stapleton way.

And now there's a sign to commemorate it.

On Thursday, family, friends, co-workers and local leaders came together to congratulate and honor Stapleton, who retired as bookkeeper of the center in February, with a celebration and street dedication to commemorate her 47 years of service there.

Second Street West between Washington and Adams avenues was renamed Phyllis Stapleton Way after Huntington Mayor Steve Williams read a proclamation in her honor.

Brenda Sutphin, executive director of the center, joked that when she was tasked with deciding between Phyllis Stapleton Way or Phyllis Stapleton Street that the road had to be named "way" since Phyllis's expertise almost always ensured things went her way at the center.

"Miss Phyllis has been a true asset to the center," Sutphin said. "She's that knowledgeable individual with so much experience, not just in bookkeeping, but in every matter that applies to the center, and she's been a mentor to every child, parent and teacher here throughout those 47 years."

Stapleton began working at the center in 1969.

The Kiwanis Day Care Center has been along West 2nd Street in Huntington for 87 years and is the oldest day care center in the city, said Tom Hanshaw, president of the Kiwanis Club of Huntington.

Stapleton said she's learned as much from the children at the day care through the years as they have learned from her and the other employees at the center.

"I'm overjoyed," Stapleton said. "You learn a lot from children if you pay attention to what they're saying to you. You try to help them, and it always brings a lot of joy back to you."

Councilman Bill Rosenberger also was on hand during the ceremony, where he talked about his biggest connection with the center, as a parent of three children who attended the day care and all of whom had "Miss Phyllis" as a caretaker and role model.

"What's amazing to me is the number of people in West Huntington and even throughout the Tri-State who've had their kids here and their kids' kids, and she's been there for all those generations," Rosenberger said. "This is a great way to honor her so that the generations that come after her will look up at the sign and say, 'Who was this,' and we'll have many, many stories to tell about her and how this day care remains here and remains vibrant because of someone like her giving time and energy and effort to these kids in the city of Huntington."