



# 2015 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**Nominee: Heather Whiting**

Nominators: Amy Miller & Catherine Weber

*In the Nominators' words:*

I think most people would agree that photos are treasured mementos that remind us of moments cherished, memories made, lost loved one's smiles and so much more. Photos provide documentation of our lives and more importantly, the part of our lives that include our children. For many parents with students at Dublin High School, professional photographer Heather Whiting has selflessly and generously created and contributed these treasured mementos for hundreds of people; some, who have never even met her.



Heather has always volunteered in the schools and done much to make a difference in our community. In 2015 she took it up a notch. It is one thing to take on the role of class parent, which Heather did and is currently the parent rep for the class of 2019; however, the reason we believe Heather has earned this kind of recognition is two-fold. First, Heather has attended many practices, plays and events that her children are not always associated with. She has taken professional photos of Dublin students at these events and made them available to everyone at no charge. Heather has essentially contributed memories to my family and so many others that will last a lifetime. She has given us a gift that we would otherwise simply not have. She has braved the freezing cold soccer field, the heat during football season, and many more hours focusing on others. Heather's photos are special. They are the kind of quality that would cost more than many people could afford, and they require skill, talent and the right equipment to capture.

Heather cares so much for other people, that when a friend of hers was diagnosed with breast cancer, she didn't miss a beat. Here is what her friend had to say:

“For 20 weeks of chemotherapy, you have been by my side, making me laugh, writing down everything the doctor said, and alerting the nurse when my IV was empty. You drove me to and from chemo, picked up my kids and reminded me to take the appropriate pill at the appropriate time. You gave new meaning the phrase multi-tasking. From my chemo chair I watched you arrange guest speakers for the 6th graders and organize the freshman homecoming float. You took care of all of your responsibilities and mine too. You did it all.”

Heather has never shared all that she has done, and the only reason I even know this is because that friend posted a heartfelt thank you on Facebook. Heather does what she does and gives from her heart. She doesn't think of herself first and is the epitome of integrity. She has a heart bigger than the City of Dublin and is the kind of citizen we should all strive to be.