

# JOSEPH G. ROGERS 2019 AWARD RECIPIENT

## TOBIAS (TOBY) BOEDEKER



The 2019 recipient of the Joseph G. Rogers Award is Tobias (Toby) Boedeker, recognized for his long and impactful commitment to YMCA Competitive Swimming. For nearly 50 years, Toby has been involved as an athlete, coach, official, administrator and volunteer. He has served local YMCAs as an aquatic director and swim coach and been active as a volunteer at the local, regional and national levels. He was instrumental in the development of the YMCA Masters as well as Long Course Swimming Championships. He has also served on the National YMCA Swimming and Diving Committee.

An Ohio native, Toby began his journey with YMCA Competitive Aquatics as a swimmer for the Northwest YMCA and later the Kettering YMCA in Dayton, Ohio. He represented his YMCA at YMCA Nationals from 1974-1977 and later competed for Wright State University. After graduation in 1981, Toby became the Aquatic Director and Swimming Coach at the Kettering YMCA. It did not take him very long before he was heavily involved at the local, state, regional, and national levels of our YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving Programs. Toby's reputation as an inspiring, caring and dedicated YMCA Swimming Coach along with his administrative skills and technological knowledge helped prepare him as a future leader in our YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving programs.

Locally, Toby was a coordinator for the YMCA Coaches Training and Certification Programs. He was a Meet Director for several Southwest, Ohio YMCA League Championships and was the Vice President of the Southwest Ohio YMCA Swimming League for several years. With a gift around computers and technology, Toby coordinated the transition and training of coaches and meet managers from hand scoring to the Hy-Tek Manager/Team Manager Software Program for the Greater Dayton Swimming Association, was a Site Coordinator for the Southwest Ohio High School Classic Meets and the Meet Manager for numerous High School Dual Meets and many Invitational Meets. He was twice honored as the League Coach of the Year and inducted into their Southwest Ohio YMCA Swim League Hall of Fame in 1997.

At the regional level, Toby was the coordinator for the Coaches Certification Program. He assisted several years with the Great Lakes YMCA Swimming Coaches Clinics held at Ohio State University. Toby was also a Meet Director of the Great Lakes Zone Swimming Championships. Nationally, Toby served as a member of the National YMCA Swimming and Diving Committee from 1985-1992 and led efforts focused on the National YMCA Masters Swimming and Diving Program while assisting past Rogers Award Recipient, Wes Walker, with the Values Education Programs. He served as the Meet Director of the National YMCA Master Championship Meets in 1984, 1985 and 1988. He was also a contributor to the development of our original National YMCA Coaches Principles Course. For years, he worked behind the scenes at the YMCA Swimming and Diving National Championships at coach registration, the proof of times table or through the early morning hours helping to assemble heat sheets for each day's events prior to technology advancement. Toby was a Level III National YMCA Swimming Official and was a critical member of the team that hosted the first National YMCA Long Course Swimming Championship held in Cincinnati in 1986.

Toby was inspired by his former coach and mentor, Paul Atkinson, the 1983 recipient of the Joseph G. Rogers Award, who once commented that "In life you meet a few people who have a profound impact on your life and they forever change who you are and who you want to become. Toby Boedeker is one of those people! I have watched him mold the behavior and characteristics of the young YMCA swimmers he has coached and educated. Some have become excellent swimmers, and some have not, but the vast majority have become successful young men and women". A former athlete, Corky Thein, affirmed Toby by saying that "I learned discipline, humility, motivation and how to develop friendship and relationships from swimming and if it weren't for Toby's mentoring, I might never have chosen that route." As of this award presentation, Toby continues to serve as an active Coach with the Coffman Family YMCA while serving full-time as the Computer Specialist for the Kettering City Schools. He also continues to inspire many others following a 2009 Kidney Transplant and his volunteer service to "Donate Life" in Ohio which promotes the positive outcomes of organ donation.