



Midge Kovacs Annual Awareness Award Recipients

Since 1999, the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association, now Dysphonia International, has presented the Midge Kovacs Awareness Award in order to recognize the outstanding efforts of one of its support groups for their work the previous year to honor the pioneering advocacy work of the late Midge Kovacs. Midge was a founding Board member of the NSDA. She started an SD Support Group in New York in 1987 and published a newsletter entitled *Our Voice* for patients and doctors in order to raise awareness about spasmodic dysphonia. In a note to the NSDA community in 2000, Midge encouraged all of whom are struggling with spasmodic dysphonia to think beyond their own individual voice problems.

- 1999 John Hunsinger and the Atlanta, GA, SD Support Group
- 2000 Bill Vanderlinde and the Baltimore, MD, SD Support Group
- 2001 Sue Brammerlo and the Northern IL SD Support Group
- 2002 Mary Bifaro and the SD Support Group of Charlotte, NC
- 2003 Minerva Gordon and the Altoona, PA, SD Support Group
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- 2005 Renee Urban and the SD Support Group of Austin, TX
- 2006 Sandy Viot and the Connecticut SD Support Group
- 2007 Linda Cannon-Mott and the Dystonia Support Group of Birmingham, AL
- 2008 Cathy Jacobs and the Chicagoland SD Support Group
- 2009 Lois Jackson and the DC Metro SD Support Group
- 2010 Martha Murphy and Paul Fowler and the Dystonia Support Group of San Diego County
- 2011 Tom Hofmann and the Naples-Fort Myers Area SD Support Group
- 2012 Ron Langdon and James Anderson and the Tampa Bay, FL, SD Support Group
- 2013 Mary Ann Keller and the Greater Dayton, OH, SD Support Group
- 2014 Dot Sowerby and Greensboro, NC Support Group
- 2015 Stephie Mendel and the San Francisco/ North Bay Spasmodic Dysphonia Support Group
Marcia Sterling and the Peninsula- South Bay Spasmodic Dysphonia Support Group
Jan Lant and the Greater Sacramento Area Spasmodic Dysphonia Support Group
- 2016 Carol Doles and the Central Virginia Spasmodic Dysphonia Support Group
- 2017 Bev Matthews and the Circle City (IN) Spasmodic Dysphonia Support Group

- 2018 Mare Hull, Marcia Eyre, Cathy Butt, and Angie Craft and the Columbus, OH Support Group
- 2019 Adrienne Simons, New York City Support Group
- 2020 Dennis Kaszeta, Greater Detroit NSDA Support Group
- 2021 Debbie States, Ilene Cooper, Cindi McCollough with Laura Rahuba and Sue Payne,
Atlanta Spasmodic Dysphonia Support Group
- 2022 Esther Zack and Vicki Orazem, Valley of the Sun Dysphonia Support Group
- 2023 Toni Gold, Greater Los Angeles Dysphonia Support Group
- 2024 Risa Clay, New Jersey Dysphonia Support Group