

Many of you over the last countless years have spent time at the raffle basket tables, looking and trying your luck at winning one. You would see two women helping you with purchasing your tickets and wishing you luck. Mother and daughter Dottie and Sherri Sasala manned that space together, making our raffle baskets a cornerstone of revenue to fund our DI tournament. Dottie passed away in 2016, and we thank Sherri for carrying on for us.

Dottie was a living example of integrity. She joyfully loved her family, community, church and those endeavors in which she was involved. In all things, she demonstrated honesty and a commitment to principle of what was right and just, wanting to make the world a kinder, better place. The annual Spirit of Dottie Award was established in her honor to uplift those individuals that display the courage of integrity. The highest courage is to dare to be yourself in the face of adversity. Choosing right over wrong, ethics over convenience, and truth over popularity are the choices that measure your life.

Our recipient this year has been committed to children and the Destination Imagination program for more than ten years. She began as a team manager for her own children, placing the participants in our program first, or you the team members. She has the gift of keeping kids engaged, and positively works to ensure cohesiveness when conflict does arise. She embodies the DI values of teamwork and non-interference, encouraging the team to use critical thinking skills to problem solve. Her intuitiveness, patience and joy has inspired other parents to take the leap as Team Managers and she acts as a resource and mentor, fostering positive morals and motivation throughout the challenges. Despite the lack of a team to coach this year, she continues to be engaged, appraising at the Tournament today so that you who have worked so hard these many months have an opportunity to share your solutions. Like Dottie Sasala, she too is a living example of integrity.

This year's winner of the 2020 Spirit of Dottie Award is Raji Alladi.