

Herald Times, April 18, 2020

Neighbors briefs

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hirschland, Whitaker honored as heroes

In advance of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, Madeline Hirschland and Robert Whitaker, the co-founders of Creation Care Partners, have been named Hoosier Resilience Heroes by Indiana University's Environmental Resilience Institute.

Hirschland and Whitaker co-founded Creation Care Partners in 2019 to engage faith communities across Indiana to serve as stewards of the gift of God's creation. Having worked locally and within their own congregations — Hirschland with Bloomington's Congregation Beth Shalom synagogue and Whitaker with Evangelical Community Church — the duo joined forces to build on this common ground between their two faiths.

Creation Care Partners aims to support evangelical churches and synagogues to procure solar panels and deeply reduce energy use in their houses of worship and homes. To help Hoosiers reduce their energy use, Hirschland founded the Seventh Day Initiative and co-founded Solarize Indiana. Whitaker has organized workshops and supported programs at his church focused on the preservation of the Earth.