

INDIVIDUAL NOMINATIONS

2023 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards: Submission #20

The Table page displays a submission's general information and data using tabular layout.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category	Individual
Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name	Beth Whicker
Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Email Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number	
Volunteer Job Title:	Advisory Council Member
Years volunteered with organization:	14
Hours volunteered per week:	18
Organization Name:	The Salvation Army Boys & Girls of Hickory
Volunteer Organization Mailing Address	
Nominator	Kelsey Biggers The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Hickory

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (250 words maximum)

Since the day I met Beth Whicker, she has been tirelessly advocating for the children attending our Boys & Girls Club. She consistently reaches out to other organizations and community members to see how they can partner with us in a way that benefits our kids. She founded our AMP Program ("Art, Music, & Performance"), providing our kids with acting classes, art classes, dance lessons, violin or ukulele lessons, books for LR's "Little Read" program, and a choir. Due to Beth's program and hard work, the kids were also able to tour both the Hickory Music Factory and Hickory Museum of Art where they experimented with various instruments and painted with watercolors, respectively. She even arranged for the Hickory Music Factory to donate instruments for our kids to practice while at the Boys & Girls Club. Additionally, she has directly provided kids with the opportunity to attend several plays and concerts for free. Outside of the AMP program, Beth has arranged a weekly snack donation from another local organization, provided us with several volunteers, and set up a local radio interview where I (the Program Site Coordinator II) and my boss (the Executive Director) could describe what the Boys & Girls Club is and the difference we are making in the lives of our kids and their families.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

Beth Whicker has provided the kids with a wide variety of opportunities (see above). As the majority of the families we serve are low-income and/or single-parent families, they would not have had these opportunities if it weren't for Beth. As a result, our kids are finding a passion for the arts that they never would have realized otherwise. For example, a young lady who attends our Boys & Girls Club and lives in the homeless shelter attended acting classes for a month. During these classes, she discovered both a love and amazing talent for acting that would have otherwise remained dormant. Now, when signing up for high school electives next year, she will be far more likely to sign up for theatre classes. We have another young lady who lives in a low-income, single-parent home who has found a love for ballet, and dance in general. It has been difficult to engage her in our Club activities before, but she is genuinely excited to attend dance class each week; I have never seen her smile like she does while she is dancing. Finally, we have a young gentleman who is impulsive and struggles to behave in a manner that is expected of him. However, he loves to sing and is incredibly musically talented. Joining the choir has been wonderful for him, as he has been able to channel his energy, intelligence, and talent into something productive. He catches on to the melodies and rhythms easily and helps other choir members to also sing the correct pitches and rhythms. He has found something he excels in, which in turn inspires him to work hard and maintain good behavior during choir.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (250 words maximum)

Beth has countless connections in Hickory, so she can easily connect us with partners who can benefit the kids in various ways. She is passionate and driven, making her a wonderful advocate for the kids. When she sets her mind on something, she doesn't back down and will stop at almost nothing to accomplish her goals. She has a beautiful heart for children, and it is clear that she works diligently not for her own credit or glory but to truly benefit each child's life. She is also generous and compassionate, always ensuring that the Boys & Girls Club staff are well taken care of as well.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

All the work described above has occurred since I met Beth in September 2022, but I know she has been working on behalf of these kids for far longer. She is kind, caring, dedicated, enthusiastic, and highly motivated. She loves the children in our Club, and they have absolutely no idea what all she has done for them. These kids would not have had 80% of the opportunities they had this year if it weren't for Beth, and she has not once asked for any thanks. Beth does not seek credit for her work, but she deserves to be recognized.

Volunteer Photo



2023 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards: Submission #27

The Table page displays a submission's general information and data using tabular layout.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category	Individual
Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name	Betsy Williams
Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Email Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number	
Volunteer Job Title:	Elementary School Volunteer
Years volunteered with organization:	15
Hours volunteered per week:	10
Organization Name:	Oakwood Elementary School
Volunteer Organization Mailing Address	
Nominator	Lindsey Lawhon

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (250 words maximum)

Kindergarteners need hands-on experience practicing their reading skills and Ms. Williams is always certain to give them every opportunity to be that listening ear. When she volunteers at the school, she always asks who needs to have someone to read their baggy books to. Ms. Williams helped with literacy stations in Ms. Holbrook's classroom for an hour a day in fall 2022 because the teacher did not have a teacher assistant. She paid for supplies for Christmas crafts for kindergarten students and bought the entire kindergarten grade level Easter buckets for their egg hunts. She is constantly shopping for puzzles and games for the primary grade teachers, so they will have a supply in their classroom. Ms. Williams also created a slideshow of Washington DC and taught kindergarteners all about it when their book for the week was about taking a trip to DC. She often accompanies other schools on their trips there and felt that the children would benefit from her experience as a tour guide, so she went above and beyond to give them a personal learning experience. She most recently went way above expectations of a school volunteer and bought supplies to make bread from scratch and taught the kindergarteners how to make homemade bread, when their book was about bread. She let each child help make dough, bake the bread, and taste bread once it was ready. She teaches children real life things in connection with books they read, and they will forever remember her commitment!

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

There are so many kindergartners who need one on one help so they can meet their goals and finish their work they may struggle to complete with the class as a whole. Ms. Williams acknowledges this need and is not only willing but committed to help any and every child meet their goals and finish their work. She is always willing to help any teacher or class at Oakwood Elementary School, no matter the need or request. In addition to volunteering, she often serves as a substitute at Oakwood and on those days, you will find her going around during her "planning" time, offering other teachers breaks or asking how she can help. Ms. Williams is constantly coming up with craft ideas for classes and goes above and beyond to see those crafts come to life. She crochets hearts and bunnies for kindergarteners for holidays and has spent time showing them how to crochet so they can see it come to life. As she is a volunteer herself, she takes time to crochet gifts for other volunteers to thank them for helping teachers and students at Oakwood. She is incredibly selfless and truly gives from her heart, requiring no recognition for all she does. Many of these children have never learned how to see homemade bread made or how someone crochets and she is willing to give them life experiences they may not have outside her time with them at school. She frequently donates classroom supplies to teachers to make sure they have what they need to provide for students. Teachers will often find treats in the workroom from Ms. Williams to give them a little extra love. She realizes there are some children who need a little extra attention and support and is always willing to help them.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (250 words maximum)

Ms. Williams is a retired teacher of thirty years who still holds her teaching license. She is always willing to be a substitute teacher for teachers at Oakwood so they can be out for family or personal reasons. When she is not subbing at the school, she volunteers regularly and is giving to the teachers and students at Oakwood. Ms. Williams volunteers hours upon hours each week. She is crafty, organized, punctual, friendly, and full of energy. Ms. Williams is in a way, like a grandma to everyone - students, teachers, and staff, and even this mom of Oakwood students. She is always so kind and willing to lend a helping hand. The initiative she takes to go above and beyond for students and teachers in the classroom is incredible. She is a great leader for students and absolutely demonstrates what it means to give from the heart. Ms. Williams is teaching the children life skills, reading skills, and kindness. Depending on how many days a week she serves as a substitute teacher, her volunteer hours vary from approximately 5-15 hours.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

I'm a parent of two children at Oakwood Elementary School. Ms. Williams is always so kind, patient, and helpful to my children. When the art teacher left the school in the fall semester, she volunteered to sub in that role as needed so the children could have consistency in that classroom. Although she's not required to be at the school all day when she subs, you will often see her going from classroom to classroom offering help to other teachers once she is "off the clock" as a sub. I am always impressed to see her energy level even after teaching in her own classroom for 30 years. I am in awe of her dedication to Oakwood Elementary's teachers and students. I am a PTA member and recently coordinated volunteers for field day at the school. She knew I was struggling to fill a few time slots and she very willingly and cheerfully came to me and said "I'd love to volunteer and help!" As promised, she volunteered before and after she subbed for the day. My children and I gave her a small gift for teacher appreciation week and instead of just writing me a thank you note, she baked us a loaf of homemade bread to thank ME for thanking her! Ms. Williams is the definition of what it means to give from the heart. She does it at school and in her personal life. I admire her dedication and giving heart and want her to know she is remarkable. I know I speak on behalf of many others by submitting this nomination. I am grateful my sons have been touched by her love, hands-on-learning experiences, thoughtful crafts, and help with reading. I will forever be grateful for having volunteered alongside her as an Oakwood blue jay.

Volunteer Photo



2023 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards: Submission #32

The Table page displays a submission's general information and data using tabular layout.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category	Individual
Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name	BJ Sheaves
Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Email Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number	
Volunteer Job Title:	Cook Leader and Fundraising Committee Member
Years volunteered with organization:	8
Hours volunteered per week:	10
Organization Name:	The Corner Table
Volunteer Organization Mailing Address	
	The Corner Table
Nominator	Newton, North Carolina. 28658

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (250 words maximum)

We met BJ in 2015 when she worked for GKN and offered to plan a golf tournament for us. Her first golf tournament raised over \$13,000 for The Corner Table. After that tournament we built a great relationship with BJ and she continued to get her company involved with our mission in various ways. In 2020, during Covid, BJ was let go from her job after 25 years. BJ decided that was her opportunity to be more present at The Corner Table and assist with us in that capacity. She would volunteer any day we needed and would be at The Corner Table open to close helping do whatever she could. BJ now serves as a cook leader each Tuesday and prepares the meal for our guests. BJ also served as a Baker for us and raised more than \$5,000 and created an annual golf-cart raffle for us that raises \$12,000+ each year. BJ also serves on our Fundraising Committee and assists us with soliciting donations/sponsors for our events. BJ also volunteers quite a few hours during the holiday season in our Dewey's Bakery Fundraising Store. She also assists us with candy making in December! BJ participates in almost all of our fundraising events in some shape or form!

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

BJ is super creative and always looking for ideas to raise money and awareness for our mission. She continues to grow the annual Ho! Ho! Hunger! Holiday Raffle and shares her passion for The Corner Table with every person she meets. She loves to set goals and reach them! With this mindset BJ has accomplished a lot at The Corner Table. Last Christmas, BJ had custom tote bags made with The Corner Table logo to sell, and she purchased 300 bags to use as gift bags for the guests. BJ has a huge passion for helping the less fortunate in our community. For the past eight years she has asked what our biggest needs are, and what more she could do to help. Her wheels are always spinning and she is a huge advocate for us on social media! BJ's handwork has played a vital part in our success over the years!

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (250 words maximum)

BJ is a people person! She doesn't meet a stranger. She would also give you the shirt off of her back. She is kind and passionate! She is a great fundraiser, creative thinker and isn't afraid to hear the word no! She loves to share the mission of The Corner Table with others. BJ's passion makes other individuals want to get involved. She serves as a mentor for all of our new Bakers. She is a great leader in all aspects of her life and it rubs off on others! She makes people want to be and do better! She is a take charge volunteer and loves a good challenge!

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

We nominated BJ for this award because she 100% deserves it! She pours herself into our mission and it is so genuine. She does not help in order to receive recognition, she truly wants to help us and those we serve. Her passion is present each day she is with us. She is always wearing a smile and willing to do whatever! She has always been one to put others before herself and we know that her good deeds are straight from the heart! BJ is one of those volunteers that it's hard to put into words what she means to us. We are grateful that BJ is part of our organization and utilizes her spare time to help us make a difference in the lives of men, women, and children in our community. We cannot think of someone more worthy of this award than BJ.

Volunteer Photo



2023 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards: Submission #14

The Table page displays a submission's general information and data using tabular layout.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category	Individual
Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name	Bob Killian
Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Email Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number	
Volunteer Job Title:	HOPE Gardener
Years volunteered with organization:	6
Hours volunteered per week:	7
Organization Name:	HOPE (Help Our People Eat) Garden - now located @ Corinth Church
Volunteer Organization Mailing Address	
Nominator	Christine S. Cofer HOPE (Help Our People Eat) Garden - Corinth Church

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (250 words maximum)

We have worked with Bob Killian, who will be 83 years old on July 14th, for 6 years at the Hope Garden located behind Corinth Reformed Church. He was 77 when I met him and he has been the most faithful volunteer of anyone we've ever met. Rain or shine he's there, during the pandemic, he was always there, when no one else can make it due to scheduling conflicts, illness or just deciding to do something else more fun, Bob is in that garden. He weeds, plants, sows, waters, harvests and delivers all the produce to the Hickory Soup Kitchen or other local outlets. But the best part of working and knowing Bob is the knowledge he imparts to the rest of us. He shares all the tips, shortcuts and wisdom he has accumulated over his 83 years and we have flourished right along with the garden he so faithfully tends to. He is a mentor, sharing treasured life lessons to all of us and a teacher providing the knowledge and information he has accumulated from those lessons, sharing so much with his trademark kindness and humility. Bob becomes a treasure and a friend to all he meets.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

The food produced at the HOPE Garden has been distributed to the Hickory Soup Kitchen, PACE, ECCCM and individuals/families in need of nutrition. Since 2010, the HOPE Garden has produced and delivered over 29,000 lbs/14.5 tons of fresh vegetables and fruit for brothers and sisters in need. Bob is always present no matter the situation, even on cloudy and slight rainy days, he has showed up to work the garden. Even through the Covid, Bob was always there to help. Even when all other leaders had conflicts and a work day was cancelled, Bob still stopped by the garden. He checked to make sure the irrigation was scheduled properly, water plants without irrigation, and inspected for bugs/pests, weighed veggies/fruit & delivered to the organizations. Without the help of individuals like Bob, HOPE would be unable to continue to serve others.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (250 words maximum)

Bob is awesome working with people of all ages. Bob was the Boy Scout Leader with Troup 1 @ Corinth for over 20+ years. His years of experience working with kids of all ages shows when he is teaching and showing youth (and adults as well) who volunteer at the garden and how well they pay attention to his instructions. Bob shares his mistakes over the years, and even share the stupid/funny mistakes to encourage others that mistakes are normal and how we learn from them. Bob's mentorship and leadership stands out anytime he volunteers.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

Bob is one of the most dedicated, loyal and hard workers we have met. He's loving, kind, caring, funny and a joy to be around. Bob is a great example to individuals of all ages.

Volunteer Photo



2023 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards: Submission #5

The Table page displays a submission's general information and data using tabular layout.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category	Individual
Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name	Bruce Deese
Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Email Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number	
Volunteer Job Title:	
Years volunteered with organization:	10
Hours volunteered per week:	28
Organization Name:	Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry
Volunteer Organization Mailing Address	
Nominator	Allen Sherrill ECCCM Newton, North Carolina. 28658

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (250 words maximum)

Bruce will always find a way to come in if at all possible, and he has the mindset of doing whatever is needed to help out. He will check eggs, put in client data in the computer, build carts, or whatever else is needed. He may have his physical limitations, but his willingness to help out is never in doubt. Besides volunteering, he also serves on the Board of Directors.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

One thing Bruce has taken on lately is putting in client data into the computer. As clients come to pick up food, we have to scan their card and record the services being provided in the computer. This can be a time-consuming process and can really slow down our food line. However, when Bruce is in, that goes away. We will hand him the client card, and he will write down all of the information and input everything into the computer while we go get their food order. This honestly cuts down the wait time for our clients in half. It also enables us to move through lines much faster. As we've added on new clients with the addition of Hickory to our service area, being able to process a line quickly has become a must. And thanks to folks like Bruce, we've been able to rise to the occasion and meet the increased need we are seeing.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (250 words maximum)

Bruce never seems to meet a challenge he can't rise above. He is paralyzed from the waist down and bound to a wheelchair, but he doesn't let that get in his way. He may not be able to do everything around the Pantry, but he will always find a way to help in whatever capacity he can. All you have to do is tell him we need something and his response is, "I'll get a man right on it." It makes it very difficult for anyone else to say, "Oh I don't think I can do that," when they see Bruce taking on everything he does. He's an inspiration to everyone who works with him.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

Bruce is one of our most reliable and dedicated volunteers. He comes in almost everyday, and stays until closing. He's completely reliable. If we put him on something, we know that it's going to be taken care of, and be done in the correct way. He helps to take stress and work off the staff, and make our lives much simpler. He also always around to provide a laugh or good counsel when needed. He's just such a joy to have around and is truly one of the volunteers that makes our operation as successful as it is.

Volunteer Photo



2023 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards: Submission #3

The Table page displays a submission's general information and data using tabular layout.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category	Individual
Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name	Caleb Waters
Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Email Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number	
Volunteer Job Title:	Executive Director/Operation Battle Horse Peer Support
Years volunteered with organization:	5
Hours volunteered per week:	10
Organization Name:	Walk With Me Healing Steps
Volunteer Organization Mailing Address	
Nominator	Elizabeth Wise Walk With Me Healing Steps

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (250 words maximum)

Caleb has been volunteering for the past 5 years. He answers late night phone calls for Veterans when they need him the most. He helped create our Operation Battle Horse Program specifically designed to support Veterans.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

Caleb has organized 4 years of Vet Rides to raise funds to provide FREE Veteran services to Veterans, Purple Heart Families and Gold Star Families. He has gathered sponsorships to support all of our programs at the farm.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (250 words maximum)

Caleb is driven to succeed and has a passion for our Veterans in our community. He is direct and focused and able to get things done.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

Caleb has poured himself into the Operation Battle Horse Program over the past few years. He is our Executive Director and has established a strong and devoted Advisory Board to help us move forward as we grow.

Volunteer Photo



2023 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards: Submission #13

The Table page displays a submission's general information and data using tabular layout.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category	Individual
Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name	Carmela Church
Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Email Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number	
Volunteer Job Title:	Financial Mentor
Years volunteered with organization:	3
Hours volunteered per week:	1
Organization Name:	Safe Harbor GreenLeaf Transitional Program
Volunteer Organization Mailing Address	
Nominator	Cari Eaton Safe Harbor GreenLeaf

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (250 words maximum)

Carmela began volunteering with Safe Harbor's GreenLeaf transitional housing program three years ago as a financial mentor. This commitment requires meeting monthly with a resident for one to two hours for the duration of their time with us. She is passionate about helping others learn budgeting skills, living within their means, and making the most of each dollar that is spent. Her commitment has recently increased and she has committed to helping 4 of our residents simultaneously. She provides tremendous knowledge and guidance, teaching them about budgeting, ways to save money, and she is such an asset to our ladies. She has also added to her commitment to Safe Harbor to plan a workshop for our residents to further assist them in the life skills area of budgeting and finances.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

Some of our residents do not come from a background of knowing anything about managing money responsibly, and some of our residents have said "I'm new to this adulting thing." Carmela knows the importance of mastering spending and saving habits, and she is gifted in teaching skills that our residents will use for a lifetime. She not only shares her knowledge and teaches in our community at Safe Harbor's GreenLeaf program but also with people she attends church with as well as others in her community.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (250 words maximum)

Financial Coaching, teaches budgeting practices responsible spending, and is trained in the Dave Ramsey material

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

Carmela has been volunteering for Safe Harbor's GreenLeaf program for about 3 years mentoring our ladies in the area of financial budgeting. Carmela has remained committed to our ladies, passing along her knowledge, education, and life experience in the area of finances. She helps them to learn healthier ways to spend their money, save money, and budget wisely and realistically. She has also recently increased the number of ladies that she will work with over the next 12 months to a total of 4 residents, and she has offered to provide teaching in a workshop setting to enhance their understanding of the importance of budgeting even after they leave from our program. She has chosen to add our residents to her schedule over adding paid clients in financial coaching because she wants to give to our ladies first. We can be certain that our ladies leave our program with good financial understanding when they have worked monthly with Carmela over the 9-12 months of programming. Feedback provided by past residents reveals that the skill of budgeting is one of the most important things they learn while they are in the GreenLeaf program.

Volunteer Photo

2023 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards: Submission #6

The Table page displays a submission's general information and data using tabular layout.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category	Individual
Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name	Charles Durrett
Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Email Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number	
Volunteer Job Title:	Project Manager
Years volunteered with organization:	12
Hours volunteered per week:	40
Organization Name:	Safe Harbor of NC
Volunteer Organization Mailing Address	
Nominator	Lisa Reeves Safe Harbor

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (250 words maximum)

Charles has been committed to the Ministry of Safe Harbor for many years. His volunteer job has become a full-time job and he does his job with aplomb. As Volunteer Project Manager he will tackle any task given to him whether it be unclogging a toilet or overseeing the building of a new facility. Charles Durrett is a true example of Colossians 3:23, "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." Charles's love for the Lord and for Safe Harbor is apparent.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

Greenleaf Apartments-Maintenance, project management, overseeing volunteers, gardening, Hope on Wheels
Whole Woman Residential Facility, Maintenance, project management, overseeing security system,
The Passage-Instrumental in the renovation, project management, overseeing security system, maintenance
Renewal Center-Maintenance, project management, instrumental in the construction of the center, pest control, safety committee

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (250 words maximum)

Maintenance
Safety knowledge
Project Management
Willingness to do anything we ask and if he doesn't know how to do it he'll figure it out.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

I have worked with Charles for the past 10 years that I've been at Safe Harbor. Charles wants absolutely no recognition or thanks. He's selfless. He's always on call, and he never complains about his duties. He works tirelessly day in and out with no pay and sometimes no thanks. He has saved Safe Harbor thousands of dollars by donating his time and talents and if anyone ever had passion about a volunteer position it's him! I really don't know what we would do without him.

Volunteer Photo



2023 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards: Submission #29

The Table page displays a submission's general information and data using tabular layout.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category	Individual
Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name	Cindy Rywak
Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Email Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number	
Volunteer Job Title:	Master Gardener
Years volunteered with organization:	8
Hours volunteered per week:	6
Organization Name:	Cooperative Extension
Volunteer Organization Mailing Address	Cooperative Extension
Nominator	Donna Mull NC Cooperative Extension

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (250 words maximum)

Cindy has been a Master Gardener with Cooperative Extension for the past 8 years. To be a Master Gardener, she completed a certified training course, passed a lengthy certification test, and now volunteers in many different ways in the community educating and helping with a variety of gardening activities. Cindy has volunteered a total of 284 hours as a Master Gardener and has logged 60 hours of volunteer time in the past year. In reality, she probably volunteers way more hours than the recorded time. Some of her volunteer activities include working in the Demo Garden at the Ag Resources Center, volunteering with Earth Jam, serving as a Master Gardener Association officer, and assisting with community and school gardens.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

I am most familiar and impressed with Cindy's involvement with our Youth Gardening programs. During the summer of 2022, she helped Cooperative Extension create a youth-only garden plot at Civitan Community Garden in Viewmont. From May-September, she met a group of children at the garden twice a month and guided them through how to prep the soil for planting, work alongside them to plant and care for summer vegetables, and taught them how to manage gardening challenges, like pests and weeds. Parents and grandparents have also learned as much about gardening as they accompanied children to the Civitan Garden and came with their questions for Master Gardener Cindy. She often donated plants and gardening supplies from her own garden. In Spring 2023, Cooperative Extension (4-H) had the opportunity to work with Balls Creek Elementary to have a 4-H School Garden Club with that group of students creating and caring for some garden spaces at the school. She provided guidance to prep the area to get it ready for planting, showed students the correct to plant items and donated lots and lots day lilies and worked with students to plant those by the front of the school as a beautification project.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (250 words maximum)

Cindy does more than just teach youth about gardening, she works alongside them in the garden and inspires them as she shares her love for gardening. Her passion for gardening is contagious. The children get excited and want to learn more and garden more at home because of Cindy. She is very patient with the children as she answers their many questions and guides them through creating and growing garden. Cindy would often arrive at the Civitan garden early ahead of the group and I would find her staking up tomatoes or pulling weeds. Should would come between our meetings to water the garden or take care of pests discovered on gardening days. She did lot of things on her own to help the children be successful in the gardening endeavors.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

We have a large demand and many requests for assistance with youth gardening projects. The staff person responsible for horticulture programming with Catawba County Cooperative Extension only works part-time and is unable to lend much hands-on involvement in youth gardening projects. Involving volunteers to assist with youth gardening is essential in order to meet this need. While we have a large number of Master Gardeners, only a very few are interested and willing to work with youth projects. Cindy has been the primary and one of the first to step up and willing to work on youth projects and she is AWESOME with the children. I am sure Cindy is inspiring our next generation of gardeners through her volunteer efforts as a Master Gardener with Cooperative Extension.

Volunteer Photo



2023 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards: Submission #19

The Table page displays a submission's general information and data using tabular layout.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category	Individual
Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name	Cole Breedlove
Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Email Address	
Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number	
Volunteer Job Title:	Sponsor
Years volunteered with organization:	3
Hours volunteered per week:	5
Organization Name:	VOICE- Volunteer Outreach In Community Efforts
Volunteer Organization Mailing Address	
Nominator	Marcia Hubbard VOICE

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (250 words maximum)

Cole supports VOICE by donating bags for mat making and dog treats for clients in need with pets. Also on his personal time he shops for items to support our outreach to homeless and Veterans.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

Cole purchased 20 crocs for our outreach to clients in need. He also purchased backpacks to give to our clients.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (250 words maximum)

He volunteers by using his personal time to find ways to help our mission through purchasing items needed for our outreach program to Homeless and Veterans.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

Cole has a caring heart and passion to help the community. He has a determination to support VOICE. He gives from his heart with a big smile.



Volunteer Photo