

Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #64

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Ashure Ministry Wrecking Crew

If a Group - List all members here:

Ronnie Belloir, Jonathan Eckard, Kevin Hawley, & Patty Hawley

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

{Empty}

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

5

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Ashure Ministry

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

245 East N St

Newton, North Carolina. 28658

Nominator

Allen Sherrill

Ashure Ministry

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (300 words maximum)

Ronnie, Jonathan, Kevin, and Patty are some of our most consistent volunteers. We like to jokingly call them "The Wrecking Crew." They started with us about two years ago, and they come every Monday and Wednesday morning. They all have different jobs that they do and they all will also do anything you need them to do. We have things we put aside for them every week, and we never have to about those tasks afterwards. They will always knock-out whatever job you put in front of them, and then look to find something else to work on.

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

Kevin and Ronnie are our outdoor specialists. Every Monday and Wednesday they help to get everything done outside. They take out all of the trash. They toss all the cardboard in the recycle. And they take all of our excess clothing and toss it into our trailer. After they get done with all that, they come inside to find things to help with. They like to help sort through the Target donations and help to pick out drinks and snacks for us to put out for other volunteers.

Jonathan helps with sorting and putting up our frozen meat donations. He helps to repackage everything into tight and full boxes. He also helps to take out deli items and other odd meats that we then distribute directly into the line. He will also help us transfer meat from our small walk-in to our new large walk-in freezer. Afterwards, Jonathan

usually helps out with carts or whatever else he can find to work on.

Patty is the leader of the crew. She makes sure all of the guys have their tasks and then finds herself a job. She often times helps to bag produce. We get produce from our local stores daily. We then sort and distribute it based on availability and household size. As folks pull up to our door for pick ups, our door workers will let Patty know the size of the household, and she will put together a bag of fresh produce for them. This helps to make our food line move much more efficiently.

The Crew, as a whole, takes care of so many things that keeps everything running smoothly on those busy mornings.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

One of the best things about working with "The Wrecking Crew" is that they all have such great attitudes when they come to work. You almost never see them without a smile on their faces. They are always happy to be here and they are always ready to go to work when they come in. They may cut up a little while they're here, but it definitely helps to create a jovial mood throughout our Pantry. They have all developed different relationships with other volunteers and our staff, and they each make their rounds during the day. They are some of the people we all look the most forward to seeing every week.

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

"The Wrecking Crew" is the model of consistency. Not only are they here every Monday and Wednesday, but they are always working hard, and always in great spirits. Things can get crazy and hectic in the Pantry, especially on those days when we're seeing 400 or even 500 households come through. However, "the Wrecking Crew" never seems to get phased. They just plow through their work, have a smile on their faces, and talk or joke around with everyone while they're doing it. It's just so fantastic to have that kind of presence in our workplace. Any organization would be lucky to have a group of volunteers as reliable and good-natured as "The Wrecking Crew."

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #80

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Cassia Dowdy Design Foundry Mentoring Group

If a Group - List all members here:

Cassia Dowdy
Cora "Nini" Ray
Elizabeth Cruz
Gao Kue
Jason Estrada
Jay Logan
Jeffery Mitchell
Jonathan Vergel
Joshua Vang
Katja Peereboom
Kendrick Swepson
Lanesha Lineberger
Stacie Dodenhoff
Michael Burgin
Shannon Conley
Warren Alexander
Wesley Lloyd

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Director of Human Resources

Years volunteered with organization:

5

Number of hours volunteered per week:

10

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Council on Adolescents of Catawba County

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

1120 Fairgrove Church Rd, SE, Suite 22

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Tracey Paul

Council on Adolescents of Catawba County

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (300 words maximum)

Design Foundry's motto is "enhancing lives in our community – building people, making furniture. They have many full-time employees, but 17 of them volunteer weekly as lunch buddy mentors and are very involved in their churches and other organizations. At Design Foundry, they take pride in what they build, not just furniture, but a strong team and a place where people can grow. Their work is about more than putting pieces

together; it's about craftsmanship, dedication, and taking care of one another. They are a team that values hard work, creativity, and camaraderie, building a brighter future, one piece at a time.

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

Design Foundry enhances lives by helping our entire community to create a home. They are one of the only companies in the area to consistently partner with the mentoring program over the past five years. Over 30 employees to date have expressed an interest in becoming a mentor, almost 60% have successfully done so, and 30% of them are returning as volunteers. Currently there are seventeen volunteers that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to the youth in our community. They have dedicated countless hours to building positive, supportive relationships with young people. They provide guidance during lunch, offer valuable advice and truly make a lasting impact.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

Design Foundry Employee Mentors demonstrate an exceptional blend of skills, qualities, and leadership that has profoundly impacted our school community. Their most notable skill is the ability to build meaningful, lasting relationships with students. By being intentional in placements, each mentor is carefully selected for their ability to connect with students and support them in both academic and personal growth. This deep, individualized investment in the students is a rare and invaluable quality. Leadership is another area where Design Foundry Employee Mentors excels. Their leadership at Design Foundry has not only influenced the company's culture but has also extended to our schools. They have built a strong and sustainable program that continues to benefit students year after year through their dedicated and strategic approach. Compassion is a cornerstone of their service. The mentors are not only trained but are genuinely invested in the success of each student. They go above and beyond to ensure that students feel seen, heard, and valued.

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

Design Foundry set the bar as an employer in Catawba County for volunteering, giving back and making it happen. They are an example to other businesses in the community. If they can do it, others can too! Many of these volunteers work in the factory, and don't

even get a full lunch hour. The Design Foundry leadership team supports their mentor employees by giving them the flexibility and extra time needed to volunteer weekly at their assigned schools, even if it takes a little longer than an hour to get there and back. Design Foundry also rose to meet the challenge when additional male mentors were needed, they came to the rescue when asked. Currently the male to female ration for their mentors is 60% male, 40% female. They volunteer in all 3 school systems with 79% or 11 people, in Hickory City Schools, 24% or 4 in Catawba County Schools, and 14% or 2 in Newton Conover City Schools. They have transformed the lives of many youth, empowering them to achieve their goals and be confident in their own abilities. The mentorship and friendship they provide is an essential part of shaping the future of our community and they are deeply deserving of the 2025 Giving From the Heart Volunteer Award for their continued efforts in fostering growth and leadership in the next generation. The lunch buddy mentoring program truly appreciates the ongoing, successful partnership with Design Foundry and hope they inspire others to give back since successful businesses + successful people = healthy communities.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #68

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Dynamic Duo Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry

If a Group - List all members here:

Bill Powell and Jerry Peppers

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Pharmacy Support Services

Years volunteered with organization:

30

Number of hours volunteered per week:

14

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

31 1st Ave SE

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Paige Stocks

Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (300 words maximum)

Bill Powell (90 years old) and Jerry Peppers (87 years old) have been volunteering faithfully twice a week for the past 30 years. Between the two of them, they have volunteered a total of 21,840 hours. They are here, rain or shine (or snow), often before our employees arrive. Their commitment to GHCCM and our clients is unwavering.

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

Bill and Jerry prepare prescriptions for our patients. Although they do not interact directly with our clientele and patients, they are working whole-heartedly behind the scenes to ensure our patients receive their medications in a timely fashion. They also help maintain daily operations of the pharmacy by restocking medications and prescription bottles. Both have referred multiple clients in need to CCM's services and have ensured that their needs were met. They stand as CCM liaison within their churches and bring in donated medications, syringes, and prescription bottles.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

Bill and Jerry are extremely passionate about serving in this community. They have been loyal and committed stewards to GHCCM and our clients. They are very friendly and welcoming when meeting new volunteers and they are quick to offer a "cup of coffee and a pack of crackers" to any CCM employee or volunteer.

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

Bill Powell and Jerry Peppers are the epitome of the Giving From the Heart Award and they are the most deserving “dynamic duo” that I have ever known. They are humble givers of their time and their love for people and our community is evident in every aspect of their lives.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #75

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

The Kindness Project Leadership Team

If a Group - List all members here:

Natalie Auton, Ashley Dellinger, Brittany Dula, Linda Huffman, and Amber Taylor

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

HICKORY, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address**Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number****Volunteer Job Title:**

Leadership Team

Years volunteered with organization:

1.5

Number of hours volunteered per week:

80

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

The Kindness Project Inc

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

PO BOX 11464

Hickory, North Carolina. 28603

Nominator

Amber Taylor

The Kindness Project Inc

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (300 words maximum)

It can certainly be characterized as a balancing act; however, these five remarkable women consistently dedicate their time, whether weekly or even daily, to our community and serve as the driving force and heart of the Kindness Project. Despite managing full-time employment and family responsibilities, including children involved in sports, they ensure that whenever assistance is required, a representative from their organization is readily available to help. Over the past year, particularly during recent storms, Debby and Helene, along with their team, worked diligently to aid those in need, bravely facing adverse conditions to support the unsheltered. In the absence of shelters during the storms, they collaborated with Strong Life to assist clients in locating refuge as the storms subsided. For individuals unwilling to leave the woods, they ensured the provision of necessary items to enable them to shelter in place during the inclement weather. Their efforts reached beyond Catawba County, as they prepared meals for individuals affected by Hurricane Helene and coordinated the delivery of supplies to the most severely impacted areas, including Old Fort, Black Mountain, and Swannanoa, among others. In November, they also engaged in cleanup efforts in Spruce Pine and participated in search and recovery operations in devastated regions.

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

Regardless of the weather conditions, these dedicated individuals can be found every Sunday within the community, providing support to those experiencing food insecurity,

including unsheltered individuals, families, and seniors in need, by offering a warm meal. In 2024, they successfully served over 4,600 meals through their Sunday Outreach Program. These meals not only address immediate hunger but also establish a basis for building trust and encouraging individuals to seek additional assistance, thereby furthering the mission of the Kindness Project. Last year, this team organized four Community Outreach events to assist those in need within our community, comprising three Laundry Days and one Shower Day. During these events, they partnered with various local non-profits and health service organizations, providing individuals with the opportunity to connect with resources they might not otherwise access. Furthermore, they arranged transportation for unsheltered individuals residing in local encampments to ensure they could benefit from these vital services. In addition to providing transportation to their Community Outreach Events, their team has utilized their personal vehicles to offer transportation services to over 25 clients on multiple occasions, addressing a wide array of needs including healthcare appointments, addiction support meetings, court appearances, rehabilitation and detox facilities, as well as facilitating the acquisition of identification or Social Security cards, which are vital for securing essential items such as employment or housing. In 2024, they successfully completed applications for over 33 clients to receive government assistance, including Medicaid, Food Stamps, and other mental health services. They aided seven clients in completing Section 8 housing vouchers when the program reopened last July. By collaborating with community partners and other resources, they were able to assist five clients in securing housing in 2024. Additionally, they supported eight clients in entering facilities or programs for addiction and assisted five clients in obtaining employment.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

The group's dedication to their mission can be clearly reflected in their actions and their unwavering efforts to address community needs. They engage in effective collaboration with other organizations and individuals to achieve common objectives, which are likely to yield a broader and more profound impact. By achieving what was thought to be unattainable, they're showing us all what can be accomplished through determination and teamwork. A great example of this is how one of their clients after 9 years on the streets was able to obtain housing last fall through their work in partnering with another organization and helping the client learn how to live again in a house. Things that we sometimes take for granted or don't think about how hard that is for individuals that have been unsheltered for so long. These individuals consistently think innovatively, developing creative solutions to confront community challenges, thereby eliminating

barriers. During the winter months, they worked alongside warming stations to eliminate obstacles that hindered individuals from entering, providing dog kennels for pets and utilizing their own vehicles to transport individuals from overcrowded warming stations to those with available capacity within the county. Furthermore, they volunteered to help manage warming stations, ensuring that their doors remained open and that no one was forced to remain outdoors during the frigid nights. They continually seek to expand their network and enhance their knowledge to maximize their impact while assisting their clients. Within a span of a year, they have successfully established and led an organization that is rapidly becoming a vital partner for other non-profits within our community, while simultaneously making a significant contribution to their own initiatives as highlighted in their accomplishments. They exemplify the potential impact that can be realized when we unite to support our community.

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

The exceptional contributions made by this team to our community serve as a remarkable illustration of the significant impact that can be realized through collaboration, compassion, and a collective vision aimed at fostering enduring positive change. The altruism and empathy these women exhibit in their support for individuals are clearly apparent when one listens to their stories and observes their dedication and care firsthand. These individuals are truly worthy of this award nomination. Their sincere passion for assisting others is both genuine and inspiring, encouraging many to participate in their endeavors and cultivating a ripple effect of compassion and kindness throughout the community.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #77

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

The Salvation Army Red Shield Youth Center Advisory Council

If a Group - List all members here:

Kendra Yang (chair),
Rick Martin (committee chair),
Rose Arant (committee chair),
Diana Cline,
Mindy Crooks,
David Hall,
Jen Hall,
Suzanne Hall,
Andy Kerley,
Kathee Martin,
Rachele Maxy,
Beth Whicker

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Lenoir, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

The Salvation Army Red Shield Youth Center Advisory Council

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

2

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

3

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

The Salvation Army Red Shield Youth Center

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

750 3rd Ave Pl SE

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Kelsey Biggers

The Salvation Army Red Shield Youth Center

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (300 words maximum)

These volunteers meet every month to celebrate the Youth Center's accomplishments and discuss the unmet needs of the youth we serve and of the Youth Center. They work diligently to help meet these needs, and if they cannot, they look for others who can. They help to establish partnerships within the community and spread our mission to anyone who will listen. They volunteer for special events and for everyday needs (like Homework Help and tutoring). We have had an incredibly successful year of growth, and we could not have accomplished anywhere close to what we have without the help of this outstanding group.

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

They have helped make our special events a success, such as our Thanksgiving dinner, our Christmas party, and our Valentine's Family Brunch. They have done this by helping organize the events, purchasing food and needed materials, finding restaurants willing to donate food, preparing meals, helping set up the events, serving youth and their families during the events, and cleaning up afterwards. They also provided partnerships that gave our youth the opportunities to receive free horseback riding lessons and for miniature ponies to come to Youth Center for special literacy programs. They have provided free tennis lessons for our youth and many come on a weekly basis to help tutor and provide homework help for our youth who need it most. One has come to help our staff drive a bus and pick-up youth from school, and another one has helped apply for grants that would greatly benefit our program. A couple even let us borrow a dulled sword, crowns, and capes for a "knighting ceremony" we held for our youth. They have consistently met the needs that they saw and have gone above and beyond what was expected of them.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

These volunteers are active team players. They have strong communication and interpersonal skills, including tact and diplomacy. They display adaptability, problem-solving skills, and the ability to resolve conflicts constructively. They truly believe in and support our mission.

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

These volunteers are selfless and strive to enrich the lives of the youth we serve and their families. They are passionate and dedicated, and their support has made an outstanding difference in our program. Though they do not do this for recognition, they deserve to be celebrated for their hard work, their passion, and their selfless love.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #86

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Wayne Yount, Mr. and Sharon The Corner Table

If a Group - List all members here:

Sharon Yount

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Monday The Community Kitchen Dining Room Volunteers and Wayne delivers meals to Strong Life every Monday.

Years volunteered with organization:

10

Number of hours volunteered per week:

4

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

The Corner Table

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

PO Box 1051

Newton, North Carolina. 28658

Nominator

Allison Watson

The Corner Table

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (300 words maximum)

Wayne and Sharon Yount have volunteered at The Corner Table's Community Kitchen for at least 10 years. Their day to serve has been Mondays and when they come in they make sure all tasks are done in order for us to serve lunch to our guests. They make the tea and lemonade for the week that we serve in the dining room and the guests LOVE their sweet tea! They rarely miss a Monday and with their commitment to serve it's a great way to start our week at The Community Kitchen!

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

Wayne and Sharon were our 2024 recipients of The Community Kitchen's Outstanding Service Award. Their commitment to serve in our dining room allows The Community Kitchen to serve a lunch to our guests with dignity and compassion. The Corner Table partners with Strong Life by providing meals weekly and Wayne is dedicated to delivering these meals in a consistent and timely manner.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

Wayne and Sharon are dependable, compassionate, and always willing to do anything that needs to be done. They are always encouraging and welcoming to new volunteers or groups that may also be helping serve on Mondays. They have kind words and always thank them for coming to volunteer and encourage them to come back!

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

I nominated Wayne and Sharon Yount for the Giving From the Heart Award because of their commitment to serve through the years at The Corner Table's Community Kitchen. They support our mission to serve our guests with compassion. They are supportive and encouraging to other volunteers. All in all Wayne and Sharon are a true asset to The Corner Table!

Volunteer Photo

