

Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #76

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Colleen Hastings

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Conover, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Disaster Services Volunteer

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

10

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

American Red Cross

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

1333 Fallston Rd

Shelby, North Carolina. 28150

Nominator

Alexis May

American Red Cross

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

Colleen's dedication is unwavering. She has been a volunteer for over two years and has responded to more than 70 house fire calls, often during nights, weekends, and holidays. Despite the unpredictable nature of disaster work, she is one of our most reliable responders, always ready to act at a moment's notice.

Her commitment doesn't stop there—Colleen is also a biomedical volunteer, regularly volunteering at blood drives and donation centers across three different counties. Whether she's coordinating logistics, welcoming donors, or helping ensure safe and successful blood collections, her work helps sustain life-saving efforts beyond disaster relief.

She gives generously of her personal time, logging over 430 hours of volunteer hours with no expectation of recognition or reward. What's most remarkable is the consistency of her service. Colleen doesn't volunteer when it's convenient—she volunteers because she believes in the mission and the people we serve.

Her long-term commitment is measured not only in hours served but in the range and reach of her impact. From disaster shelters to blood donation centers, Colleen supports life-changing and life-saving efforts every single week. Her dependability and heart-centered service have made her an indispensable part of both our local and regional

volunteer force.

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

Colleen has played a crucial role in our disaster response efforts, stepping up time and time again to serve community members in crisis. Over the past two years, she has been part of 6 local and national-scale Disaster Response Operations. These large-scale events have included hurricanes, wildfires, and severe storms, where Colleen has worked alongside teams from across the country to help stabilize impacted communities and provide essential services in times of great need.

Her work extends to local sheltering efforts as well. In January of 2025, a Hickory apartment complex caught fire, displacing over 30 individuals, requiring the opening of emergency shelters. Colleen was one of the first volunteers on scene, ensuring that displaced individuals had not just a roof over their heads, but a safe and dignified space to begin recovery. During this operation personally took on the responsibility of caring for a guest and their cat, ensuring both pet and owner felt safe, seen, and supported. The year before that, tornados swept through claremont, demolishing several homes and displacing a dozen individuals. Colleen, was once again, ready to respond and dedicated her time to ensuring those reovering were fed and felt reassured that they were not alone in what they were facing.

Colleen's actions consistently fill urgent gaps in care and reflect her deep understanding of human needs during disaster. Her leadership, compassion, and quick responsiveness have directly improved service delivery and helped hundreds of individuals recover with dignity and support.

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

Colleen is a natural leader—calm, attentive, and incredibly approachable. She serves as a mentor to our new volunteers, walking them through their first experiences with patience and confidence. Her “show-don't-tell” approach helps ease new team members into difficult situations, and her presence reassures both clients and fellow volunteers alike.

She excels in crisis situations, not only because of her technical knowledge, but because of her deep emotional intelligence. She knows how to speak with individuals in trauma, de-escalate tense situations, and offer comfort without overstepping. Her intuition about people's needs allows her to provide care that is both appropriate and impactful.

Beyond her work on the ground, Colleen has developed strong ties with local organizations and small businesses across Catawba County. Her ability to cultivate these relationships has strengthened community trust in our agency and opened doors for ongoing collaboration and support.

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

Colleen embodies the essence of the Giving From the Heart Award. She is humble, dedicated, and deeply compassionate. Her service is not performative; it comes from a place of genuine care for others. She doesn't seek recognition—she shows up because she knows people are hurting and need someone to lean on.

Her impact goes far beyond the immediate moments of crisis. People remember Colleen because she treats them with dignity and kindness when they are at their most vulnerable. Whether it's comforting someone in the aftermath of a fire, setting up a cot in a shelter, or staying up late to support a new volunteer, Colleen always gives her time and energy without hesitation.

She represents the very best of what it means to serve. She brings light to dark moments, steadiness in chaos, and hope when things feel hopeless. Colleen's heart is at the center of everything she does—and that's exactly why she deserves this award.

Volunteer Photo

{Empty}

Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #88

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Daniel Gregory

If a Group - List all members here:

N/A

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Job Coach/Foodtruck Manager

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

40

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Exodus Homes

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

610 4th St SW

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Catie Lawson

Exodus Homes

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

Daniel came into the Exodus Homes office as a volunteer peer support specialist in 2023. Daniel worked his way through the agency and took over the role of Job Coach. Daniel works with our residents to ensure a positive connection with our corporate partners. He also mediates and works with the residents to see how they are doing in their placements. Daniel also manages the Exodus Dawgs 4 a Cause hotdog trailer. Daniel has worked tirelessly to get the hotdog truck running from the ground up.

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

Daniel is a North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialist. Daniel is also in recovery and is a justice involved individual. Daniel makes himself readily available at all times to respond to residents who just need a listening ear. Daniel also steps up to help with research to generate statistics. His dedication the Exodus Dawgs 4 a Cause hotdog trailer has created a new stream on income to help support the residents of Exodus Homes.

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

Daniel has a very pleasant attitude. He is very respectful and will reach out for help or advice whenever needed. Others see his desire to learn a new way to live and the follow his lead.

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

Daniel was nominated for this award because of his genuine, sweet nature. Daniel is full of pure joy. He unconsciously creates an environment that helps others become comfortable in their own skin. We are forever grateful for Daniel and his desire to be great, and to help wherever he is needed.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #70

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

David Bost, PhD

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

{Empty}

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

Volunteer Translator

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

10

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

31 1st Ave SE

Apt C2

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Sean Takai

Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry

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

Dr Bost is an amazing volunteer for the Cooperative Christian Ministry. He volunteers every week and is reliable and dedicated to our patients. Besides his normal volunteer days, he has helped us when we really needed him. He has developed multiple relationships with our patients and they trust him.

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

He helps us translate for our Spanish speaking population and he also teaches Spanish class at our organization. Without his help, we couldn't provide the proper healthcare needs for each individual.

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

A big portion of the population we provide services for are Spanish speaking and there is only one staff member that has the ability to speak Spanish. She helps the entire organization so she isn't available all the time, plus she has her own roles that she needs to complete on a weekly basis. None of our providers have the capability to speak Spanish so Dr Bost helps all providers that enters our clinic.

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

I nominated Dr Bost because he is just as important as the providers that sees the patients. He commits and volunteers hours out of his life to help us. He does it with a serving heart and he doesn't expect anything in return. He also helps out at his church. He is an example of the love of Christ.

Volunteer Photo

{Empty}

Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #65

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Donna Schronce

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Maiden, 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:

3.5

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

2

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)

Donna is one of just a handful of volunteers that we have, at Ashure Ministry, that works in our Front Office. Donna does a variety of data entry and other clerical work to help keep our databases and other computer systems up-to-date and organized. It's hard to say how many hours she has saved our office staff by taking on these tasks and keeping everything in good order. Donna is definitely one of the unsung heroes around Ashure Ministry.

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

Donna works with a number of our different computer systems. One of the ones she most frequently uses is DonorDock. This database is not the most user-friendly piece of software and can easily create consternation for anyone having to work with it. Donna, however, works with it gleefully. For example, she helps to make sure all of the names, addresses, and other information are entered into the system correctly and consistently. This allows us to much easier pull this info for mailings and other purposes. We can always trust that our communications will reach their desired destinations because Donna makes sure everything is put in properly into the computer. This can take hours of combing through records to make sure everything is in there exactly right.

Donna also helps to scan in CIP and LIEAP forms. She first looks over the forms to make sure there aren't any errors, and then scans them into the computer. This not only saves

our Case Managers countless hours, but also provides us with a security blanket. Donna will catch any mistake and take it to the Case-Manager to fix. This way, the forms we submit are nearly perfect, and we can accurately submit everything so that we can ensure our clients the best possible opportunity of receiving aid through these programs.

Donna also helps with other tasks, such as sending out birthday cards. That may not seem like much, but a lot of folks do appreciate getting those cards. And those cards really help to strengthen the relationship between Ashure Ministry and that person. And Donna is the person who helps to keep that bond strong.

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

Donna is just an incredibly dedicated volunteer. She has no problem staying as long as it takes to get her work done. She is also more than willing to take things home and continue to work on them there if necessary. Whatever task you give to Donna, you can count on it getting done in a very timely and accurate manner.

Donna also loves to come to work. She always comes in with a pleasant attitude, and no matter how mind-numbing the task is that she's doing, she's always got a smile on her face. She just loves coming to Ashure to volunteer. She even had an accident last year that laid her up for a bit. She apologized to us for not being able to work while she was convalescing. We had to assure her that everything was fine, and that all we wanted was for her to get better. She couldn't wait to get back, and we certainly welcomed her back once her health improved.

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

Donna is just a life-saver. It would be hard to think of how much more stressful work might be around Ashure Ministry if she wasn't here. She just works quietly in the background and makes sure all of these important things are handled properly and consistently. You just don't have to worry about these things when Donna is here. Donna is one of those volunteers whom it is hard to truly measure the impact she makes on our organization. There are so many things she helps out with and so many things that she fixes to where you'd never notice any issues with because she's taking care of them. Its volunteers like Donna that really help to make Ashure Ministry operates smoothly and continues to grow in ways that can never be fully seen.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #67

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Dustin Thompson

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Statesville, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Veteran peer support/Ranch Hand/Birthday Committee

Years volunteered with organization:

1

Number of hours volunteered per week:

10

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Walk With Me, INC

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

4170 LB Propst Drive

Conover, North Carolina. 28613

Nominator

Elizabeth Wise

Walk With Me, INC

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

Dustin has dedicated endless hours to organizing, networking, remembering birthdays/anniversaries, building, repairing, and creating connections with the horses and people at the farm. He shows up before the rooster crows regardless of rain, ice, or hurricane.

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

Dustin has been a consistent presence at the farm for our veteran community. His experience in the Army helps other veterans feel at ease and brings comfort to our staff. His willingness to step up for workshops and events allows us to continue the critical work we do for our communities mental health.

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

Dustin is an extremely hard worker who never gives up. His quiet demeanor makes him easy to talk to and his ability to actively listen makes everyone feel heard. He is our very own Santa during the winter and even has his certification to prove it!

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

Dustin has truly been an asset to our organization. His passion is visible through his

actions. He is always willing to try something new and has won the hearts of everyone he meets.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #63

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Felicia Harkey

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Newton, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

{Empty}

Years volunteered with organization:

1

Number of hours volunteered per week:

10

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)

Felicia is someone that we have come to depend on with Thrift Store. She comes in several afternoons a week and does whatever is needed of her in the store. She helps at the register. She puts out merchandise. She talks with customers and helps them in the store. She is one of those volunteers you can set your schedule around. You know when she's going to be in and what all she can do, and you can plan accordingly. Having her help at the register and with other duties in our Thrift Store allows us to keep up with everything going on in the store and to allow the entire operation to run smoothly.

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

Working the cash register in our Thrift Store is one of our most demanding jobs. It's not just a standard cash register where you punch up an amount. To better help us track our sales, our store stock is divided into multiple departments in our register. All of our cashiers must learn all of these and commit them to memory to ring up our customers with the speed necessary to keep up with the lines on a heavy shopping day. We also have special processes built in for special priced items and sales. It is a lot for anyone to keep up with. Felicia has mastered this with ease. She is probably one of the fastest people we have on the register (volunteer or staff). She can easily find anything to ring it up, and make any adjustments necessary.

Also with our register, we need folks just to help take out hangers from clothing

purchases and bag items. We often need one person ringing up customers, and another just doing the hangers and bagging. Felicia can do the latter with an alacrity and precision that makes the job of whomever she's partnered with so much easier. It really helps to take the pressure off the cashier to have the bagger working with them be able to keep up with everything and have everything ready for the customer as the transaction is being completed. Felicia's expertise in all of these areas just makes our store run like clockwork.

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

When it comes to our store, it's just as important to make sure that our customers are treated well as it is that the transactions run smoothly. With our customers, you never know who you are dealing with, or what all they may be dealing with. It is very possible that many of our customers rarely get a smile or receive much respect or courtesy elsewhere. As such, it is essential that we greet everyone with a big smile and treat them as though they are VIP's while they're here. This is something you never have to worry about with Felicia.

Felicia does an amazing job of showing warmth and empathy to everyone who walks into our store. She's learned the name of most of our regulars and addresses them by name when they come. It's almost like an episode of "Cheers" whenever they come to our store and hear their name as they're walking in. Felicia is more than willing to talk with anyone and can carry on a conversation with them, no matter who it is. She's also learned a lot about what particular customers like, and is more than happy to point them in the direction of an item she thinks they might want to purchase. Many of our customers look forward to seeing Felicia when they come as they do to perusing the store.

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

We have a very small staff in our Thrift Store and it is essential that we have volunteers that we can rely on to take the burden off our staff. Felicia is someone we can count on to handle anything we need her to do, and someone we know will be there whenever we need her and then some. More than that, we know Felicia will bring her glowing personality with her to work every time. Anyone who's ever worked in Retail will tell you it can be very stressful. However, you'd never know that by watching Felicia. She is always smiling and laughing with everyone around her. She really helps to keep the mood light in the store, while making sure everything is running efficiently. While she's working, customers are having a good time, transactions are being rang up, and lines seem to

move like a conveyer belt. It's just amazing to watch Felicia work. She's one of those volunteers you wish you could clone so that you could have 2 or 3 more of. She is just a blessing to this store and this Ministry.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #61

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Leanne Eichinger

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

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

Volunteer Coordinator

Years volunteered with organization:

1

Number of hours volunteered per week:

6

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Women's Resource Center

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

Nominator

Abby Selig

Women's Resource Center

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

Leanne demonstrates an exceptional commitment to volunteering, both through her personal involvement and her leadership as a volunteer coordinator. Her dedication is evident in the time and energy she consistently devotes to helping others, always stepping in where support is needed most. Leanne approaches every task with compassion, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of responsibility, setting an inspiring example for those around her.

As a volunteer coordinator, Leanne goes above and beyond to ensure that every volunteer feels valued, supported, and empowered. She is highly organized, communicates clearly, and creates a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive.

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

Leanne has made a lasting impact through her outstanding accomplishments in organizing volunteers, uplifting women, and fostering a positive, appreciative environment for staff and volunteers. She has skillfully coordinated a diverse team of volunteers. Her clear communication, thoughtful planning, and hands-on support have created a smooth, efficient volunteer program that runs with heart and purpose.

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

One of Leanne's most meaningful contribution is her commitment to helping women feel seen, heard, and valued. Whether through one-on-one conversations or group settings, she creates safe spaces where women can share their stories and feel supported. Her empathy and attentive listening allow others to feel truly understood, which has empowered many women to find their voices and regain confidence. Her skill set of making those around her comfortable and safe, are vital to Women's Resource Center.

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

Leanne also makes a point of celebrating and recognizing the efforts of those around her. From helping organize appreciation events to leaving small, thoughtful gifts or notes of encouragement, she consistently goes out of her way to make staff and volunteers feel special and appreciated. Her warmth and intentionality build strong, trusting relationships and inspire a culture of kindness, gratitude, and connection throughout the organization. We would like to return this gesture of appreciation for her as well.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #85

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Marc St. Germain

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

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

Guardian ad Litem volunteer

Years volunteered with organization:

6

Number of hours volunteered per week:

2

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

NC Guardian ad litem (Catawba County)

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

1097 South Brady Ave.

District Court Annex

Newton, North Carolina. 28658

Nominator

Amy Jackson-Kincaid, District Administrator

NC Guardian ad litem

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

Marc has been a dedicated volunteer with the Guardian ad litem program in Catawba County for over six years, serving as a steadfast advocate for some of the most vulnerable children in our community. Throughout his service, Marc has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to child-clients, often remaining on cases for several years until a safe, permanent home was achieved. His dedication includes attending every court hearing, writing detailed and thoughtful court reports, and visiting his child-clients regularly no matter how far they are placed.

Marc goes above and beyond in his role, never shying away from the difficult work. He consistently requests to be assigned to the most complex and challenging cases that many others might avoid. When given the opportunity to choose among several cases, Marc deliberately selected the one deemed most difficult, explaining, "it seemed those are the children that most needed a Guardian ad Litem" ...and in reality, they were in fact children that are most difficult to find a Guardian ad litem to cover. That simple but powerful statement perfectly captures Marc's commitment to volunteering with the program. Marc does what is right and what is most needed, rather than what is easy.

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

Over the past six years, Mar has served several children through some of Catawba

County's most challenging Guardian ad Litem cases. Despite the complexity and emotional difficulty of these cases, every child assigned to Marc has ultimately achieved permanency in a safe nurturing environment. In a county where over 100 children are currently without a Guardian ad Litem volunteer, Marc's willingness to take on high need cases ensures that some of the most vulnerable children are not left without an advocate.

Marc's contributions extend well beyond his direct advocacy work. He actively supports the GAL program's broad mission by helping to recruit additional volunteers from his personal and professional networks. He participates in recruitment events and connects the program with other community organizations to expand its reach and impact.

In addition, Marc's involvement with the Kiwanis Club has been instrumental in raising funds for the Catawba Valley Guardian ad Litem Association (CVGAL), which provides critical support for children served by the GAL program. These funds allow children to participate in sports, organized recreational activities and academic programs that help them heal and thrive. CVGAL also supports youth aging out of foster care as they transition into adulthood.

In 2023, Marc further demonstrated his selfless spirit by volunteering his time, equipment and expertise to support recovery efforts in Western, NC following devastating hurricane damage. Marc's service supports the most vulnerable of our community through both direct advocacy and broader civic engagement.

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

Marc exemplifies leadership, integrity and compassion in every aspect of his volunteer work. He is a steady, reliable presence in the lives of children who often experience instability and change. While many adults such as social workers, foster parents or kinship caregivers may come and go during a child's time in foster care, Marc often remains the one consistent adult figure offering unwavering support and advocacy.

Marc is respected in all of his interactions, treating children, families, and professionals with dignity and professionalism. His calm demeanor and empathetic nature allow him to build trust with his child-clients, which is vital in helping them feel seen, heard, and supported. Marc goes to great lengths to be there for the children he serves, driving across the state for monthly visits, regardless of distance or inconvenience.

Marc's work ethic is unmatched. He thoroughly investigates each case, ensuring he is fully prepared for every court hearing. Marc takes the time to explain the legal process to children in ways they can understand, empowering them to participate in their own cases. Many of Marc's older child-clients have attended court and confidently expressed their wishes; an outcome made possible by Marc's guidance and support.

Despite the incredible impact of his work, Marc remains humble and never seeks the spotlight. He is driven not by recognition, but by a genuine desire to make a difference. His leadership is quiet but powerful. Marc leads by example, and his consistency, integrity and compassion inspires others to follow.

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

Marc is the epitome of the spirit of service and selflessness, making him an outstanding candidate for the Giving from the Heart Award. His six years of service with the Guardian ad Litem program are marked by integrity, resilience, compassion and unyielding commitment to doing what is right, not what is easy.

What makes Marc extraordinary is not just the length of his service, but the way he serves. He intentionally chooses the most difficult and demanding cases; cases involving children with the greatest needs and the least likelihood of finding an available volunteer. He does this work not for accolades, but because he believes every child deserves someone in their corner, no matter the challenge.

Marc's impact is profound. He changes lives through individual advocacy and strengthens the entire GAL program through his recruitment efforts and community outreach. Marc supports children beyond the courtroom, helping them access opportunities that foster resilience and growth. When disaster struck Western North Carolina Marc did what he always does; he volunteered to help in meaningful tangible ways to support recovery efforts that made a difference.

Marc is humble to a fault, always deflecting credit and redirecting praise to others. But his contribution is undeniable. Marc is the kind of volunteer every community needs. He is reliable, compassionate, effective and committed to serving others from the heart.

It is for these reasons, and so many more, that we proudly nominate Marc St. Germain for this well-deserved recognition.

Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #73

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Melanie Elrod

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Maiden, North Carolina

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

Teacher

Years volunteered with organization:

5

Number of hours volunteered per week:

3

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

3

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Safe Harbor

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

210 2nd St SE

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Ally Carswell

Safe Harbor

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

Melanie is a very constant presence not only at the GreenLeaf program but around Safe Harbor as a whole. She has volunteered at Safe Harbor for many years and is faithful to do what she says she is going to do.

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

Melanie has helped to better the lives of our residents by making them feel seen, special and valued. There isn't a holiday that goes by that she doesn't bring gifts for each one of our residents AND their children. Melanie has a heart for our residents and wants to make them feel worthy and she goes the extra step to achieve that.

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

Melanie's bubbly personality is infectious and you just can't help but smile when you're around her. She teaches parenting classes to our residents and she has a wealth of knowledge in local resources. I know that I can reach out to her with any questions regarding schooling, education, parenting, etc. and she will have the answer!

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

Melanie truly is a giver- she gives her time, talents and gifts in a desire to help better the

lives of the residents in the GreenLeaf program. She knows these ladies are worth pouring into to help them change their lives and she is always willing to do what needs to be done. She is an asset to the ministry and I don't know what we would do without her help. She's a gem!

Volunteer Photo

{Empty}

Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #62

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Ralph Dell

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Newton, North Carolina

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

{Empty}

Years volunteered with organization:

7.5

Number of hours volunteered per week:

7

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)

Ralph has been volunteering in our Food Pantry for the past seven-plus years. In that time, he's done about every job there is to do in our Pantry. He's helped to build carts. Bag and sort all kinds of food. Take food out to clients. Sort and organization our freezers. And take the company van out to our local stores to pick up grocery donations. Currently, Ralph comes every Monday and Wednesday mornings to do the Target grocery run and then sort the frozen meat donations and organize the freezer. He's also been know to come in on an afternoon when he doesn't have anything else going on. Ralph is also more than willing to pitch in with anything we need him to do when we find ourselves short-handed or in a pinch. Ralph is just one of those amazing volunteers who you know is always going to be there and will always get the job done.

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

Driving to our local stores to pick up grocery donations is one of the most important jobs we have for volunteers at Ashure Ministry. Six days a week, we go to a number of different stores and pick up these donations that we then distribute to our clients. These donations can consist of produce, dairy/deli items, frozen meats, baked goods, dried goods, and much more. To do this job, a volunteer must be able to maintain good relations with the stores they visit, organize the donations as they pick them up so that they can be weighed properly (Second Harvest requires that we weigh each stores donations individually and by category), and also alert our staff to any extra pick ups or

other issues that may occur, as well as be responsible with our company vehicles on the road.

Ralph has been doing these grocery runs for us for years. He loves doing the runs and has always taken on these tasks with great dedication. Ralph currently does our weekly runs to the Hickory Target on Monday and Wednesday mornings. These are some of our biggest and most involved grocery runs. Not only does Ralph have to load the van, but he also has to go through the store to collect all of the donations. It takes a lot of extra work and organizing to do the Target pick ups, and Ralph never fails. He also is more than willing to fill in for other drivers when they can't do their scheduled runs, or to come in holidays to do pick ups for us. Ralph is one of volunteers who really helps to keep Ashure Ministry running smoothly.

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

Ralph's skills at organizing are quite impressive. When Ralph first started with us, one of the first things he did was help us to organize our freezer. At that time, we would label our meat boxes by date, but then just stack them in the freezer as they came in, without much thought to any real system of rotation or spacing. As fate would have it, Ralph worked with a group of school kids one day trying to consolidate our meat boxes a little to create space in the freezer. He very quickly saw what we were doing and what we were up against, and then revamped our entire system.

Instead of just dating and throwing the boxes in as they came (full or not), Ralph began unpacking the partial boxes and then repacking them to full capacity. By doing this, we have been able to make sure each box maintained its full shape. As such, they could be stacked much tighter, and there was no worry of partial box collapsing under the weight of heavier boxes on top of it. By doing all of these things, Ralph managed to nearly triple the amount of meat we were able to store in our walk-in freezer. Since starting this system, Ralph has stayed with it to make sure we maintain everything he established. He's taught his system to our employees and several volunteers who now help him. This system has done wonders to improve the amount and quality of meat we are able to provide our clients and to make life so much easier on us in the Pantry.

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

Ralph is just one of those special volunteers who helps to make Ashure Ministry feel like a family. Ralph has a very distinct personality and he finds his own ways to get a smile and

a laugh out of everybody. You never know what might come out of his mouth sometimes. One of his best quips had to do with some chicken we received one time. The boxes were labeled as "Smart Chicken." Ralph saw that said, "Well good, I'm glad they sent us some Smart Chickens. We don't want any of them dumb chickens." We all just looked at each other and shook our heads. "Only Ralph could come up with something like that."

Ralph is definitely one of a kind. He always comes in with a smile on his face, and even when he's finding something to gripe about, he always does it with a chuckle. He's just one of those volunteers you look forward to seeing every week, and you just couldn't imagine the place without. We are just so grateful for everything he does for Ashure Ministry and the joy he brings with him every time he comes into work.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #72

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Renny Whetzel

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Vale, North Carolina

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

Driver

Years volunteered with organization:

4.5

Number of hours volunteered per week:

3

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

2

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Meals on Wheels of Catawba County

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

PO Box 207

Newton, North Carolina. 28658

Nominator

Kirstin Abernethy

Meals on Wheels of Catawba County

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

Renny has been volunteering for Meals on Wheels for about 4.5 years. During life changes five years ago, he saw a little blip on the news about Meals on Wheels. He thought volunteering for Meals on Wheels would be a great way to give back to the community. Ever since, he hit the ground running to serve our seniors.

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

Some Meals on Wheels recipients have little to no social support, cannot afford food, or cannot physically prepare their own meals. Therefore, recipients rely on Meals on Wheels solely to provide a nutritionally balanced meal and a social connection. Renny's goal is to make sure meals are delivered with a hello and a smile. Outside of Meals on Wheels, Renny helps an older couple with housework and transportation to appointments.

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

Renny is one of our only "floater" delivery drivers. He is willing to deliver any of our 29 routes throughout the county at any time. He is willing to fill in on a delivery when there is a last-minute cancellation and he encourages others in the community to give back by volunteering somewhere, whether that be for Meals on Wheels or any other organization. He set a goal for himself this year to encourage 10 people to begin volunteering in the community and 10 people to begin moving their bodies for personal health. Renny has a

tradition of dressing up in holiday attire around Christmastime for our seniors. The meal recipients love seeing Renny show up dressed in festive attire and some even snap a picture! Renny goes above and beyond to bring a warm smile to our homebound seniors – some who receive minimal social connections.

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

Renny has a servant heart, and he is a United States Marine Corps Veteran. Not only did he give of himself to the military to protect the United States years ago, but he also now gives of his time, vehicle, and gas to serving homebound seniors in the community. He cares deeply for the meal recipients and looks after their wellbeing. He alerts the office if he has concerns about any of the meal recipients, so the family can be made aware. He is such a valuable volunteer to Meals on Wheels because he is willing to deliver “anytime, anywhere”. We are grateful for Renny and his giving heart.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #79

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Richard Jessee

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Resource Warehouse Volunteer

Years volunteered with organization:

1

Number of hours volunteered per week:

6

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Safe Harbor

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

210 2nd St SE

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Ally Carswell

Safe Harbor

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

Richard works here at resource warehouse on Tuesdays and Fridays, We are a non profit that supports Safe Harbor NC

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

Richard serves our community by helping us at the store that all the proceeds go to homelessness and recovery here in hickory.

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

Richard is truly a blessing here, he has speedy skills of putting clothes and shoes out and also putting buggies of hard goods out. Richard makes circles around all of us here, he has such a huge heart and a love for our ministry and what we do here at Safe harbor. Richard always makes our days better and brings such a light here at the store and helps us more than anything. We are so grateful for him and all this time and dedication he has.

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

We are nominating Richard this year as he is truly what a volunteer is. he has the biggest heart and love for this ministry and is such a dedicated worker. He makes circles around

all of us and will spend many hours though the week with us, some days he stays the whole 8 hours cleaning and organizing and putting stock out. We are so blessed and beyond grateful to have Richard to have him as a volunteer and a part of our ReSource family!

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #78

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Robin Ray Martin

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Newton, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Treasurer / Donation Delivery / Storage Room Administrator

Years volunteered with organization:

6

Number of hours volunteered per week:

15

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Fostering Hope Catawba Valley

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

P.O. Box 381

Hickory, North Carolina. 28603

Nominator

Megan Burns

Catawba County DSS / Fostering Hope Catawba Valley

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

Robin Martin is instrumental in accomplishing the mission of Fostering Hope Catawba: to support the physical, emotional, and social needs of children in foster care and the village that surrounds them. Robin has spent countless hours volunteering as the treasurer for Fostering Hope, which includes managing the non-profit status, filing taxes, creating monthly reports, and working with our accountant to assure the best management of the financial blessings that have been given to the group. But her most impactful work is in the storage room administration and donation delivery. She has a van that travels all over Catawba county delivering requested supplies to foster parents, adoptive parents, kinship parents, and birth parents (after receiving a request from a DSS social worker). Deliveries include beds, car seats, baby shower in a basket, dressers, diapers, clothing, freezer meals, etc. Robin delivers with a smile and an encouraging word, which is so important since she has over 15 years experience in being a licensed foster parent herself. The foster care community has come to know and love Robin and all that she does to support our local children experiencing foster care and the families that hold them. Robin is a dedicated board member to Fostering Hope, attending every meeting and function. She is the heart of the organization.

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

Robin has been a dedicated board member to Fostering Hope since it's inception. She helped obtain 501(C)(3) status for Fostering Hope Catawba and has managed the

finances for the organization since that time. She has put in a significant number of volunteer hours working for the mission of Fostering Hope in the many capacities in which she serves, including a large number of miles put on her personal van to deliver donated items to foster, adoptive, kinship, and birth families. Although Robin did not deliver every single item listed below that Fostering Hope distributed in 2024, she likely delivered the majority of these items to people - to their homes and into their hands along with a warm smile and kind words of encouragement:

467 packages of diapers

232 beds

218 freezer meals

66 baby shower baskets

84 car seats

13 graduation baskets (to graduating foster youth)

11 18th birthday gifts (for foster youth)

9 welcome home baskets (to foster children being reunified with their parents)

278 Sound of Hope movie tickets

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

Robin is a phenomenal foster/adoptive parent, with over 15 years of experience in being a foster parent through Catawba County DSS. She is a confident leader with exceptional people skills, which has allowed Fostering Hope to grow and prosper.

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

Robin has a heart and passion for serving children experiencing foster care in Catawba County and helping the families that care for these children. She and her husband have been licensed foster parents for over 15 years with Catawba County and this passion has continued with her work as a board member of Fostering Hope Catawba. She serves tirelessly as the treasurer, supply closet administrator, and donation delivery. More importantly, she has cultivated outstanding relationships and partnerships within Catawba County that have allowed Fostering Hope to grow and serve more and more families and children. Robin has a servant's heart and does this all without any expectation of pay, praise, or thanks - she deserves to be honored for all she does to serve this community.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #81

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Rose Sipe

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Newton, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Community Center Volunteer

Years volunteered with organization:

10

Number of hours volunteered per week:

5

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Safe Harbor

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

210 2nd St SE

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Ally Carswell

Safe Harbor

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

She has been volunteering consistently for over 10 years with our organization; she is stellar when it comes to commitment.

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

She is very faithful when it comes to preparing and serving the ladies' lunch. She encourages the ladies while dining with them.

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

She has a plethora of skills, such as compassion, empathy, kindness, and she is an awesome cook and is just an all-around unique person.

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

Because she puts others above herself. Despite her own health challenges, and she does have many, she never skips a beat on serving others.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #74

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Samantha Hubanks

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

WW Residential Office and Driver

Years volunteered with organization:

1

Number of hours volunteered per week:

5

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Safe Harbor

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

210 2nd St SE

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Ally Carswell

Safe Harbor

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

Samantha is incredibly dedicated to Safe Harbor and helping in any way she can. She comes in weekly consistently and also fills in for shifts or errands we need covered. Samantha has even volunteered to take clients to court, driving up to 8 hours round trip so day staff could stay back and complete other tasks. In addition to weekly volunteering in our front office answering phones, doors, and running errands, Samantha also volunteers as a Safe Friend for our program participants. This role is crucial in helping residents create new, healthy relationships.

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

Safe Harbor residents are ladies who are in recovery from substance use among other hurts and hang-ups. Samantha is a familiar face that the ladies can resonate with and relate to. She provides transportation to appointments (doctor, dentist, chiropractor, probation, grocery shopping, drivers license, social security office ..) and other essential things like court dates and such. These services are very necessary for our program participants to get back on their feet.

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

Samantha is very kind, intentional, and detail oriented. She is a leader and does not hesitate to carve out time for Safe Harbor a few times a week. Samantha uses her

experience as a SH program graduate to be relatable and understanding to current participants. Samantha has technology skills and is able to assist or take on any task we ask of her.

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

We nominated Samantha due to her commitment to show up each and every week, multiple times a week. She shows up as a volunteer, safe friend, program alumni, confidant, and so much more.. That, combined with her sweet and loving nature, makes her a dedicated and bright volunteer we are so blessed to have.

Volunteer Photo

{Empty}

Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #82

Category

{Empty}

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Sarah W. Huffman

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Hickory, North Carolina

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Visitor Services Volunteer

Years volunteered with organization:

45

Number of hours volunteered per week:

3

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

3

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Catawba Science Center

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

243 3rd Ave NE

Hickory, North Carolina. 28601

Nominator

Carly Domanico

Catawba Science Center

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

Sarah has consistently given her time educating our visitors, a positive presence for all, providing science knowledge to all those who visit. She is a retired teacher who enjoys coming in to educate our field trip students, busy mornings etc. and teaching all about the science wonders we exhibit. She has volunteered with us for over 40 years and never misses a chance to lend a helping hand.

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

Sarah provides a fun and unique experience for each one of our visitors. She has volunteered with Catawba Science Center for over 40 years, starting at our original location, as has been a huge part of making our organization grow. As a retired teacher, she creates an interactive learning space whenever she can throughout the museum. Everyone visitor is sure to leave with a new mindset on exploring science and wonder, which is our mission here at Catawba Science Center.

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

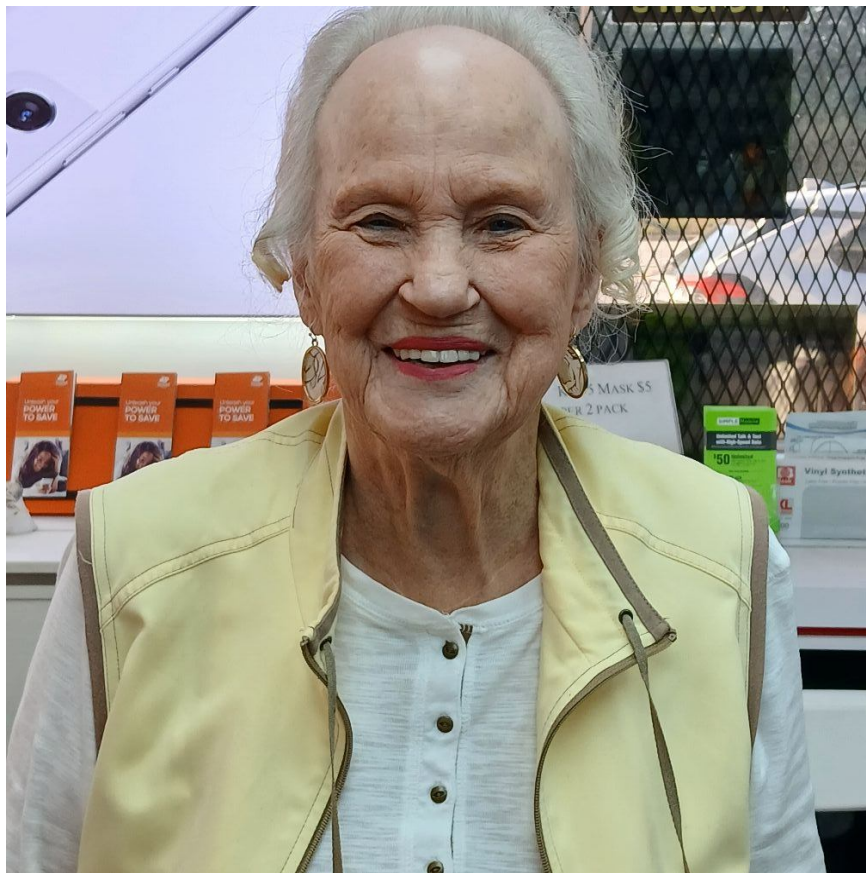
She is always ready to answer anyone's questions, she communicates with our visitors in a positive, fun and unique way. This is a huge asset for us to have, as she loves to interact with each one of our visitors. She shares all her years of knowledge with everyone she interacts with. She is incredibly engaging, often times creating each exhibit

like an interactive classroom to teach each visitor a new fact. She interacts with not only our visitors in a positive way, but as well as with other staff and volunteers here at the science center. Everyone leaves with a huge smile on their face after chatting with her.

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

Sarah comes into her shifts always with a smile on her face, ready to ensure each and every visitor leaves with a pocket of knowledge, and a fun and unique experience with Catawba Science Center. She has volunteer with Catawba Science Center since almost the beginning and gives her all to us as an organization. She is an incredible asset to us, and we are so lucky to have her on our team.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #87

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Shannon Ratcliffe

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Newton, North Carolina

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

Augustine Literacy Project Tutor

Years volunteered with organization:

4.5

Number of hours volunteered per week:

4

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Patrick Beaver Learning Resource Center

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

PO Box 255

Hickory , North Carolina. 28603

Nominator

Angela Lawrence & Lora Pulliam

Patrick Beaver Learning Resource Center

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

Shannon has served as an Augustine Literacy Project (ALP) tutor for Patrick Beaver Learning Resource Center for four and a half years. Despite the fact that she works part-time, Shannon still makes the commitment to plan lessons and tutor twice a week. Shannon has even continued to tutor her students during the summer. She is also quick to volunteer for other activities that help the agency like participating in Charity Chase.

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

Shannon has tutored three children over the past four and a half years. She has helped each student make strides in their reading skills, thus enabling the children to succeed in school. Shannon is great at explaining concepts in a way that children understand. At one point in time, she had a student with challenging behaviors, but her patience and skill in helping children learn enabled this student to make progress. One teacher noticed how much progress Shannon's Augustine Literacy Project current student had made and asked if Shannon would please consider tutoring another child over the summer whose family's income exceeded the amount to qualify for ALP.

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

Shannon completed the 35-hour Augustine Literacy Project tutor training. This training teaches volunteers how to apply the science of reading and work with struggling

readers. Plus, Shannon always seeks to further her skills as a tutor. Patrick Beaver Learning Resource Center holds monthly tutor enrichment sessions during the school year, and Shannon is one of our most frequent attendees. In fact, she rarely misses a session, and if she does, she often stops by the office to pick up any materials and discuss with our Augustine Literacy Project Coordinator what she missed. Whenever she comes to a concept that she hasn't taught before, Shannon asks questions to make sure that she is teaching the concept correctly, which shows her dedication to excellence and, more importantly, to the child she is tutoring. Shannon is one of our most highly skilled tutors.

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

Shannon generously gives of her time, and children in Catawba County are better off because of her dedication to helping children read. Perhaps her student best expresses why she deserves this award--her student stated, "I love Miss Shannon because she helps me so much. She helped me so much that it improved my reading so good [sic] . . . and she plays games that are reading games and that's so fun!" Shannon's commitment to children helps them succeed at school, which is essential for their later success in life.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: Submission #84

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Trey Hamilton Ward

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Conover, North Carolina

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

Advisory Board Member

Years volunteered with organization:

10

Number of hours volunteered per week:

1

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

1

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

The Salvation Army Of Greater Hickory and High Country

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

750 3rd Ave. Pl. SE

P.O. Box 1167

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Andrea Beatty

The Salvation Army Of Greater Hickory and High Country

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

Hamilton's commitment goes beyond the 1 1/2 hours monthly where he plays an active role on The Salvation Army of Greater Hickory Advisory Board. He is committed to spreading the mission of the Army and is always willing to lend a helping hand. As past Chairman of the Advisory Board, he participated in several committees, spear heading the property committee and providing guidance and resources to the golf tournament committee. In the past 10 years his leadership and dedication has made a major impact on The Salvation Army and the community we serve.

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

As an entrepreneur and business leader, Hamilton has leveraged his relationships in the community to support the Salvation Army financially. He provides resources to help meet critical needs. What is special about Hamilton Ward is that you don't have to ask him for help. He identifies a need and then takes the necessary steps to meet it. He is the one who asks, "How can I help?", and "Is there anything else you need." In the two years that I have worked with Hamilton he has provided substantial support for our annual golf tournament, secured sponsors, secured foundation support, evaluated properties and locations, and donated resources for building repairs and maintenance. His support enables us to conduct a successful fundraiser for our Red Shield Youth Center - which provides after school and summer day camp to youth ages 5-15 throughout Catawba

County.

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

As a business leader he is respected in the community. As an entrepreneur he is creative and an expert at leveraging resources.

His leadership skills provide guidance, connections, and open communication. Although quite busy, he is always available for a quick conversation. Hamilton inserts appropriate humor into most conversations and manages to put you at ease and bring out a smile even when things are not going according to plan. Despite his success in building and growing businesses, he does not usurp his authority. He is gracious, kind, and fosters cooperation among committee members. Perhaps the best way to describe Hamilton is as a 'gentle giant'.

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

When I took the job as Development Director of the Salvation Army, it was late April. The Red Shield Youth Center's one major fundraiser, a golf tournament, was scheduled for the first of June. With less than two months to prepare and put together a golf tournament, Hamilton was the one who volunteered "I'll help you any way I can." And help he did. We raised over \$30,000 that year, and I am forever grateful for his wisdom, guidance and support. Now in our third year of working together on this tournament, he still provides valuable resources, secures community contacts, sponsors and teams. With all that said, he remains humble, prefers not to be singled out, and is more than deserving of the Giving from the Heart Award.

Volunteer Photo

