

Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: JIM AND LINDA NANNEY #118

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Jim & Linda Nanney

If a Group - List all members here:

Jim & Linda Nanney

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Augustine Literacy Project Tutors

Years volunteered with organization:

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

PO Box 255

Hickory, North Carolina. 28603

angela@patrickbeaverlrc.org

828-624-2012

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

Jim and Linda Nanney trained to become Augustine Literacy Project tutors in September 2021. After completing the 35-hour training, they have remained dedicated tutors. Jim and Linda have tutored the same two boys since second grade. They consistently show up twice a week at Saint Stephens Elementary. They have helped each student grow in their reading skills, and they have also shown their commitment to their students by attending choral concerts or awards days when they were invited by their students.

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

Jim and Linda have helped their students grow in their reading skills and their confidence. Because of Jim and Linda, both students have had another caring adult presence in their lives. The students know that the Nanneys care about them. One student even expressed that he wanted them to continue tutoring him in middle school!

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

In addition to completing the 35-hour tutor training, Jim and Linda always strive to attend our monthly tutor enrichment sessions. They are eager to refine their tutoring skills, so they can help their students most effectively. Our Augustine Literacy Project Coordinator comments on how she often sees them putting into practice what they learned at tutor enrichment when she observes them.

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

When we asked Jim and Linda's students why the Nanneys are deserving of this award, one sixth grade student wrote, "I think they should win a volunteer award because they are really helpful, kind, generous and patient." The other sixth grader wrote, "They have taught me a lot since I was in second grade. They have helped me read and spell better." Jim and Linda Nanney exemplify dedication to striving readers and compassion for others.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: AUTHENTIC CHURCH #96

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Authentic Church

If a Group - List all members here:

Too many individuals to list. Mary Ann Younce is their coordinator

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Authentic Church Volunteers

Years volunteered with organization:

1

Number of hours volunteered per week:

3

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

1

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Ashure Ministry

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

245 East N St

Newton, North Carolina. 28658

Nominator

Allen Sherrill

Ashure Ministry

245 East N St

Newton, North Carolina. 28658

a.sherrill@ashureministry.org

828-446-5418

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

Even though, they are newer to Ashure Ministry, Authentic Church has made a major impact in a short period of time. As volunteers, they come in force, and work hard to handle whatever projects we put them on. They come once a month on a Saturday, and they tear through everything we set up for them.

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

Having a group like them, just provides a huge boost to Ashure Ministry. We're able to get ahead of schedule in terms of having food and other things bagged up and prepared for distribution. With such a small staff, it's great to have a group like Authentic who can come and bag up and entire month's worth of canned goods for us. That means all we have to do is just switch out the pallets as one is emptied. We're serving close to 300 households a day in our Food Pantry, so we really don't have time to wait for things to get bagged up to distribute. That ability to have everything ready to go to where we can just swap out pallets and keep continually serving our clients is a Godsend. There's no way we could keep up with the high volume of clients we see without the efforts of folks like Authentic Church.

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

Authentic not only just bags up food, but they tackle any tasks we have. They paint, they

sort, they clean, they help to rearrange, they just do it all. A volunteer group with kind of versatility is wonderful. Having them be able to come in and handle any project is a major boost to our operation as we tackle all of the issues we see in our Pantry, organization, and community.

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

Authentic Church has become such a wonderful partner for Ashure Ministry. Not only do they give their time, but they assist with their resources as well. For Thanksgiving, they purchased the food and made up dozens of bags filled with everything a family would need for a nice holiday meal. They then came to the Pantry to help distribute them. They've also provided a lot of financial support to Ashure to help us deal with the growing clientele we are seeing. Whether it through their time or their other gifts, Authentic Church continues to help push Ashure Ministry and enables us to serve all of the need we see throughout Catawba County.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: BACKPACK PROGRAM GROUP #94

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Aundrea Hawn

If a Group - List all members here:

Backpack Program Open Warehouse:

Frances Reese

Debbie Isenhour

Michele Ferber

Jim Dancoff

Dee Cook

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Open Warehouse

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

2.5

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

The Corner Table

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

122 N Main Ave

Newton, North Carolina. 28658

Nominator

Aundrea Hawn

Backpack Program

1925 Tate Blvd SE

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

backpack@thecornertable.org

828-464-0355 ext. 104

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

For many organizations, volunteers come and go. This group of five individuals has shown what true commitment looks like through their consistency, reliability, and heart for service. Every Monday, without fail, they arrive ready to work and dedicate three hours of their time to supporting our mission of fighting food insecurity in our community. Their service is not occasional or convenient—it is steady, dependable, and deeply rooted in a desire to help others.

Week after week, they stock shelves, organize supplies, and carefully pack food bags for underserved children in our area so those children have meals and snacks to take home over the weekends. They understand that for many students, school meals may be their most dependable source of food during the week, and weekends can bring uncertainty. Because of this group's commitment, children and families have one less burden to carry.

What makes their dedication especially meaningful is that they serve as a team, bringing positive energy and encouragement each time they volunteer. They have become an

essential part of our operations, allowing our programs to run smoothly and ensuring food is prepared and distributed efficiently. Staff and fellow volunteers know they can always be counted on.

Their commitment goes beyond the tasks at hand. They give their time, physical effort, and compassion to make a lasting difference in the lives of local children. Through their faithful weekly service, they embody the spirit of volunteerism and community care. This group has made an extraordinary impact through simple but powerful acts of consistency, kindness, and generosity.

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

This group of five volunteers has made a measurable and meaningful impact on one of the most critical needs in our community—childhood food insecurity. Through their faithful weekly service, they play an essential role in helping our Backpack Program prepare and distribute nearly 1,800 food bags each week to children across 45 schools in three school systems throughout Catawba County. Because of their efforts, students who may otherwise face hunger over the weekend have access to meals and snacks when school is not in session.

Their accomplishments go far beyond simply completing tasks. They help ensure that a large-scale operation runs smoothly and efficiently each week. By stocking shelves in our warehouse, organizing inventory, and keeping food supplies readily available, they make certain that the program is always prepared to meet demand. Their attention to detail and dependability allow packing days to stay on schedule and distributions to happen without interruption.

The need they help address is urgent and ongoing. For many children, school meals are their most reliable source of nutrition, leaving weekends as a time of uncertainty. This group directly helps close that gap, providing nourishment and peace of mind to students and families throughout our county.

Their service also strengthens our organization's ability to serve more people effectively. Because they consistently show up ready to work, staff can focus on expanding outreach and meeting additional needs rather than worrying about day-to-day operations. Their dedication has become a cornerstone of the Backpack Program's success.

Through their hard work, reliability, and compassion, these volunteers are helping fight hunger, support children's well-being, and build a stronger Catawba County community

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

This group of five volunteers brings together a unique combination of skills, work ethic, and leadership that has significantly strengthened our Backpack Program. While they began as strangers, volunteering independently and simply showing up to serve, they have grown into a tightly connected team that now operates with the trust, rhythm, and care of a family. Their transformation into a cohesive unit has enhanced both the efficiency and spirit of our volunteer operations.

Each individual contributes dependability and diligence, ensuring that every task—whether stocking shelves, organizing inventory, or packing food bags—is completed accurately and on time. They are highly reliable; staff know that when this group is scheduled, the work will be done thoroughly and without need for constant oversight. Their consistency has allowed our program to maintain high standards even during our busiest weeks.

Beyond their work ethic, they demonstrate quiet but powerful leadership. They naturally anticipate needs within the warehouse, step in to help one another without hesitation, and set a positive tone for other volunteers who join them. New volunteers often look to this group for guidance, as they model efficiency, organization, and teamwork.

What is most remarkable is how their relationships have evolved. Over time, shared service has turned strangers into teammates, and teammates into something much closer to family. They encourage one another, celebrate small wins together, and remain unified in their shared purpose of serving children in need. Their bond is evident in the way they work seamlessly together, often communicating without words and moving through tasks with a shared understanding.

Their special qualities—reliability, diligence, teamwork, and emerging leadership—have not only improved the effectiveness of our program but also created a culture of unity and care that extends beyond the warehouse walls.

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

I nominated this group for the Volunteer of the Year award because they represent the

very best of what consistent, community-driven service looks like. Week after week, they show up without fail, ready to work, and immediately contribute in meaningful ways to the success of our Backpack Program. Their presence in the warehouse has become not only helpful, but essential to our ability to serve thousands of children each week.

They help tremendously in the warehouse by keeping operations running smoothly and efficiently. Whether they are stocking shelves, organizing inventory, or packing nearly 1,800 weekend food bags, they approach every task with focus and care. They do not need direction for long—they quickly learned the flow of our operations and now know exactly what needs to be done each time they arrive.

What sets them apart is their dependability. We never have to wonder if they will show up or if they will be ready to work; they are always there. That level of consistency allows our staff to plan confidently and ensures that no time is wasted during critical packing and distribution days.

Equally important is the way they work together as a true team. Over time, they have developed strong communication and a shared understanding of how to move efficiently through tasks. They support one another, step in where needed, and maintain a positive attitude throughout their time in the warehouse. Their teamwork has created a level of productivity that directly benefits the children and families we serve.

I nominated them because their impact is both practical and profound. They make our work possible. Their reliability, teamwork, and commitment to service have strengthened our program and helped ensure that thousands of children in Catawba County have food to take home on the weekends.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: BLEY FAMILY #110

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

If a Group - List all members here:

Lizzy Bley

Katie Bley

Rachel Bley

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Lunch provider

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

{Empty}

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

1

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Safe Harbor NC

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

112 2nd Avenue SE

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

Nominator

Pam Morrison

112 2nd Avenue SE

Hickory, North Carolina. 28602

pam@safeharbornc.org

828-326-7233 ext. 109

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

Family united for Christ to serve our ladies faithfully.

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

Serve lunch and hold devotions

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

Faithful and loving from the heart.

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

They deserve to be acknowledged for the dedicated giving from their hearts.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: FOOD LION GROUP #97

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Chris Spears, Food Lion Volunteers

If a Group - List all members here:

Too many to list. Chris Spears is the coordinator.

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Food Lion Volunteers

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

5

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

1

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Ashure Ministry

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

245 East N St

Newton, North Carolina. 28658

Nominator

Allen Sherrill

Ashure Ministry

245 East N St

Newton, North Carolina. 28658

a.sherrill@ashureministry.org

828-446-5418

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

Food Lion has long been a great partner to Ashure Ministry in donating food through the Retail Rescue program. However, in recent years, they have begun to send groups several time a year to volunteer with us. They normally send over a dozen employees from stores all over Western North Carolina to us, and they come to work. They are another group that can get an amazing amount of things done in a short period of time. The last time they came, we actually had to run over to our warehouse to grab more things because they had already bagged and prepped everything we had set up for them at our Pantry.

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

Staying ahead of the game is essential at Ashure Ministry. With our small staff and large clientele, we can't afford to fall behind. Having a group like our Food Lion Volunteers come in and get so much done to put us ahead is just incredible. Their work ethic is amazing. It's all we can do to keep up with them sometimes, but that's a wonderful problem to have. We get excited every time they call us up to schedule a volunteer day!

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

With all their experience in the food industry, we can utilize our Food Lion volunteers to tackle all sorts of projects in our food pantry. When our trucks come back with food, these

volunteers know exactly how to stack it onto pallets to make it easier for us to move around the Pantry. They are experts at picking food orders, so we always grab a couple of them to help build carts for us and keep our food line moving. There isn't a task in our food pantry that these volunteers don't already do in their regular jobs. So it's great to have folks who can fill in with any holes that arise.

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

Food Lion has just been such a great partner for our Ministry for so many years. However, over the past couple of years, they have stepped that up even more. Not only are they just providing food donations for us, but they're now volunteering throughout the year and making financial donations as well. They are the exact kind of partner Ashure Ministry needs as we continue to fight food insecurity throughout our area. We are just incredibly grateful for all the time and resources they provide our Ministry, and we look forward to continuing to partner with them for a long time.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: KINDNESS PROJECT GROUP #93

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

If a Group - List all members here:

Madison Wright

Cindy Meadows

Art Meadows

Bruce McLeod

Linda Huffman

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Sunday Outreach Kitchen Volunteers

Years volunteered with organization:

2.5

Number of hours volunteered per week:

5

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

The Kindness Project

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

PO BOX 11464

Hickory, North Carolina. 28603

Nominator

Amber Taylor

The Kindness Project

PO BOX 11464

Hickory, North Carolina. 28603

KindnessProjectHky@gmail.com

8283203696

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

This group of dedicated church volunteers demonstrates an unwavering commitment to serving alongside The Kindness Project every Sunday. Week after week, they show up with compassion, consistency, and a servant's heart to prepare approximately 90 meals that are distributed to individuals experiencing homelessness or food insecurity in our community. Their commitment goes far beyond simply preparing meals—they are deeply invested in the mission and the people we serve.

Regardless of weather, personal schedules, or competing priorities, these volunteers make it a priority to be present and contribute. Their reliability ensures that our Sunday outreach program continues without interruption, providing a dependable source of nourishment and support for those who rely on us. They approach each opportunity to serve with humility and care, understanding that even small acts of kindness can make a significant impact.

Their consistent presence has helped create a stable foundation for our outreach efforts, reinforcing trust and familiarity among those we serve. This level of dedication reflects not only their generosity but also their belief in the importance of community care and human connection.

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

The accomplishments of this volunteer group are both measurable and deeply meaningful. Each week, they help prepare and distribute approximately 90 meals, directly addressing food insecurity for some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. Over time, this consistent effort has resulted in thousands of meals served, ensuring that individuals have access to nourishment they may not otherwise receive. Beyond meeting immediate needs, their service plays a critical role in the broader mission of The Kindness Project. The Sunday outreach program is the backbone of our organization, serving as a gateway for building relationships with those we serve. Because of the volunteers' dedication, we are able to maintain a consistent presence in the community, which fosters trust and opens the door for deeper engagement. Through these relationships, individuals feel more comfortable sharing their needs, whether it be housing support, employment assistance, or other resources to help rebuild their lives. The volunteers' work directly supports this continuum of care, transforming a simple meal into an opportunity for connection, dignity, and hope.

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

This group of volunteers exemplify a unique combination of compassion, teamwork, and leadership that drives the success of this program. One of their most notable strengths is their ability to work seamlessly together, creating an environment where everyone feels valued and supported. Their collaborative spirit allows them to operate efficiently while maintaining a positive and welcoming atmosphere.

They demonstrate strong organizational skills, ensuring that each week's meal preparation runs smoothly. From planning menus and coordinating supplies to managing time effectively, their attention to detail plays a crucial role in sustaining the program's success. Their adaptability also stands out, as they are able to quickly adjust to changing needs, whether it be fluctuating attendance, varying donations, or unexpected challenges.

Together, their skills and character create a culture of service that is both impactful and inspiring.

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

We nominated this group of volunteers because they truly exemplify what it means to give from the heart. Their service is not driven by recognition or reward, but by a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of others. Week after week, they dedicate their

time and energy to ensuring that individuals in our community are cared for, supported, and not forgotten.

Their contributions are essential to the success and sustainability of The Kindness Project Sunday outreach program. Without their dedication, it would be significantly more challenging to provide the consistent support that so many rely on. They are the foundation that allows us to continue expanding our services and helping individuals take steps toward rebuilding their lives.

What makes them especially deserving of this award is the way they combine action with compassion. They are not just meeting physical needs—they are building relationships, restoring dignity, and offering hope. Their impact reaches far beyond the meals they prepare, creating lasting change in the lives of those they serve.

For their unwavering commitment, selfless service, and profound impact on our community, this group of volunteers is truly deserving of the Giving From the Heart Award.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer

Awards: JOE NASH and JAKE BANDY #117

Category

Individual, Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

If a Group - List all members here:

Joe Nash and Jake Bandy

Nominee/Group Contact Mailing Address

Nominee/Group Contact Email Address

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

Volunteer Job Title:

Co-Director of Operation Battle Horse

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

10

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

3

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Walk With Me Healing Steps

Volunteer Organization Mailing Address

4170 LB Propst Drive

Conover, North Carolina. 28613

Nominator

Elizabeth Wise

Walk With Me Healing Steps

liz@walkwithmehealingsteps.com

8283304152

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

These men show up regardless of full-time jobs, families, and other commitments.

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

These two men have grown Operation Battle Horse to include 3 workshops each year that now have Beginner AND Advanced level work. The veterans are showing up and wanting to come back to learn more to better themselves. As co-Directors they have moved toward creating a group called "By the Fire" that quickly grew and blended veterans and men who want to find the same transformation.

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

These men lead by example. They show up and put in the work alongside our participants. They are not afraid of hard work and it shows up all around them.

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

I am nominating Joe and Jake because these two men have shown up and taken the reins of our veteran program with passion and purpose. They have a desire to help veterans in any way that they can. This shows up in various ways but one that recently stands out is a homeless veteran who needed support. They went to his car, brought him food, got him a hot shower, reached out to the community for resources, and were able to get his basic needs met within 12 hours. They visited him, sat with him, and listened to him. They

showed up for him in a way that everyone wants to be supported. These two men Give from the Heart every single day. Whether they are showing up for workshops, group, barn chores, to be a peer support for a veteran, or showing up to meetings to learn the business side of what is required to run a veteran program that provides services to veterans at absolutely no cost to the veteran. They have been on podcasts and speaking events to raise money because they believe in the transformation that comes from putting in the work at Operation Battle Horse.

Volunteer Photo

