



FAIRFAX COUNTY

VOLUNTEER

1992 • SERVICE AWARDS • 2022



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We would also like to thank our many individual and in-kind donors who give to us throughout the year.

IMPACT COLLECTIVE



CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF VOLUNTEERS

On Tuesday, April 20th, Volunteer Fairfax, together with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, celebrates 149 nominees, 11 winners, and 10 Community Champions in its second Virtual Awards Program. Now celebrating its 30th year, the 2022 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards ceremony highlights the remarkable achievements of volunteers in several distinct award categories.

The Volunteer Service Awards recognize the work of volunteers in 2021, a year of recovery and adjustment for so many in our community due to COVID-19. And yet, as we see in tough times, there are helpers - those who answered the call to support the community.

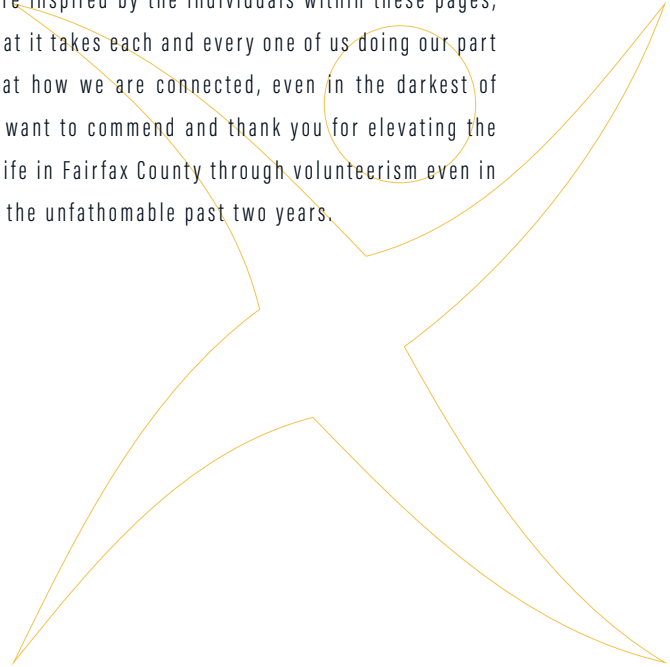
It was a year of innovating - of finding new volunteer experiences that were not only safe, but purposeful and impactful. When we realized the volunteering public was eager to take on these re-imagined volunteer roles, whether virtual, distanced or a hybrid, we thankfully found ourselves breaking historical records for participation in volunteer activities as a result.

Carla Claire, the Lee District Community Champion, demonstrated exceptional leadership as she worked tirelessly to make sure her community had weekly, occurring food distributions which provides food for over 200 families. She also worked closely with the Health Department to create COVID-19 vaccine clinics and to register over 600 residents for vaccine appointments.

The COVID-19 pandemic increased residents' desire for outdoor recreation and activities close to home. Jim Albright and the Annandale Greenway Team identified and highlighted opportunities in the Mason District for recreation, discovery, history, environmental habitat, etc. - that already was there, but often overlooked.

Through the tremendous work of Fairfax County nonprofit partners, government agencies, and the volunteer leaders who support them, volunteers recognized in the #StrongerTogether category are those who kept showing up to support the people and causes they care about. In challenging times and at the risk of personal health, they displayed kindness and care to others, showing the entire community that good really does connect us all. Charitable deeds large and small, from a prescription delivered for an elderly neighbor to a garden planted for the community to enjoy to a meal delivered for one or many - each of these acts binds our community and displays the deep caring and heart of this community.

While we are inspired by the individuals within these pages, we know that it takes each and every one of us doing our part to show that how we are connected, even in the darkest of times. We want to commend and thank you for elevating the quality of life in Fairfax County through volunteerism even in the face of the unfathomable past two years.



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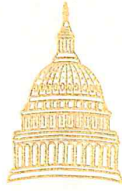
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GERALD E. CONNOLLY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 20, 2022

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 30th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards! Every year, Volunteer Fairfax and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors present these awards to recognize dedicated volunteers in our community. I am pleased to celebrate the individuals and organizations who have gone above and beyond to support our neighbors in need of assistance. I also want to thank the staff and Board of Directors of Volunteer Fairfax for your tireless efforts and dedication to serving our community.

For over 47 years, Volunteer Fairfax has served a vital role in supporting our non-profit community, acting as a central point to connect willing volunteers with local organizations. In 2021, nearly ten thousand individuals contributed over 30,000 hours of time — a value of over \$800,000! These staggering numbers speak to the lifelong commitment to community service that makes Fairfax County so special.

I have often said that civic engagement is a key indicator of the health of any community. The selfless efforts of the thousands of volunteers and the staff and leadership of Volunteer Fairfax are one of many reasons that our community is consistently rated one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family. Their actions are truly commendable.

I thank each of you for your service to our community and extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of the 2022 honorees. Please accept my sincere appreciation and my best wishes for your continued success.

With Warmest Regards and Appreciation,

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia

JENNIFER WEXTON
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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SUITE 120
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
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April 13, 2022

Dear Friends,

I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to all nominees and recipients of the 30th Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. I would also like to thank Volunteer Fairfax and the Fairfax Board of Supervisors for hosting this awards event and allowing me to express my gratitude to those who go above and beyond to contribute to our community needs.

Volunteer Appreciation Week gives us an opportunity to highlight these wonderful volunteers who are the best example of what it means to be a good neighbor. This year's nominees have made it their mission to help those in their own community and we are all indebted to them for their selflessness. It is inspiring to see so many Fairfax residents working to make our community stronger and more welcoming.

While today we are honoring the select few who will be recognized, I want to thank all the volunteers who are generous with their time and serve as a positive impact on our community. Your service does not go unnoticed and is worthy of our highest praise and respect.

I congratulate each of today's honorees and thank them, along with all the Fairfax volunteers, for their dedication to our community.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

2022 VSA PEER REVIEW JUDGES

Every year, we receive dozens of nominations for the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards, and every year we ask a select group of community leaders and volunteers to select just one winner for each of the competitive awards. Given the caliber of the nominations we receive, we invite representatives from the various sectors in the volunteering world to be potential judges. Historically, we ask a nonprofit executive director, a volunteer coordinator, a past volunteer winner, a corporate partner, and an active volunteer in the community. By bringing these individuals together, we attempt to create a balanced mix of perspectives of those who understand the value of volunteerism in our community.

We were honored that this year's judges accepted the heavy and solemn duty of selecting winners because of their own experience and expert knowledge on the sacrifices and commitments volunteers make every day.



A passionate advocate of libraries, Jennifer Disano serves on the board of the Fairfax County Library Foundation and is a member of the Friends of Fairfax City Library. An expert on aging issues, Disano is a Gubernatorial appointee serving on the Commonwealth Council on Aging and a Fairfax County appointee serving on the Long Term Care Council on Aging. Disano, a member of the American Association of University Women, hosts the television show "On the go with AAUW" on Fairfax Public Access.

JENNIFER L. DISANO

Executive Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
- George Mason University



Saira is an experienced Engagement Director with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit organization management and event management industries. She is a strong community and social services professional skilled in nonprofit organizations, analytical skills, government, event management, and fundraising.

SAIRA SUFI

Manager, Volunteer & Community Engagement
Cornerstones

2022 VSA PEER REVIEW JUDGES



Leslie Ann Wertz is a licensed social worker who boasts 22+ years of long-term recovery from mental health and substance use disorder. She received the 2021 Quality of Life Award and pledges to serve Northern Virginia's vulnerable mental health/substance use disorder/homeless population. Leslie is passionate about doing whatever is necessary to set her peers on the path of hope and healing. She spends all her free time in service & support of her peers as she models *Recovery is Possible...One Day at a Time*.

LESLIE ANN WERTZ
Founder, The Victory PRS



Bing is an attorney who is both a retired Federal Civil Servant and a retired Navy JAG reservist. He has been a volunteer for Volunteer Fairfax for 29 years and has been a docent for the National Archives in Washington since 1993. He is a certified mediator who works in both Fairfax County and Alexandria District Courts. Bing and his wife have retired to Greenspring and will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this fall.

BING VAN NUYS
Retired



As the Executive Events Manager in the Mid-Atlantic Events Department, Vicki Younes manages employee and member-facing events, both in-person and virtually. Vicki has pivoted from coordinating with brick-and-mortar venues to creating totally virtual event environments, allowing Kaiser Permanente to host workshops and conferences online. When she's not running meetings, Vicki enjoys cooking up fantastic meals for her family and watching her two boys play outside.

VICKI YOUNES
Kaiser Permanente



EDUCATION & LITERACY

Honors volunteers dedicated to education and literacy through activities including, but not limited to, tutoring, adult literacy, library-based initiatives, early childhood education, and intergenerational programs.



HUNGER HERO

Honors volunteers who advocate for and support the issue of food insecurity in through activities including food preparation, organizing food drives, recruiting and motivating community members to take part in food drives and raising funds to support organizations who work within this mission area.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Honors volunteers who work to protect and beautify our environment and natural surroundings, advocate for the preservation of our planet and strive to instill these values for our community.



QUALITY OF LIFE

An honor give to those working to improve the quality of life of others by providing care and support for the disabled, elderly, and veteran populations, homeless populations as well as those with substance abuse problems or mental disabilities. This category also includes those supporting animal welfare issues.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Recognizes volunteers actively working to bring about change in public policy on issues of racial and social injustice in the community. Any work taking place in the public sphere to overcome inequality or inequity will be considered.



VOLUNTEER GROUP

Acknowledges a volunteer group that has demonstrated exceptional service to Fairfax County in 2021. This can include corporate volunteer groups.



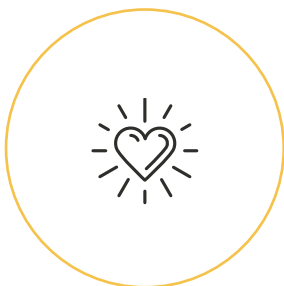
RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Honors the efforts of volunteers from the RSVP Northern Virginia program, which unleashes the potential of those ages 55+ to make a valuable, lasting impact in our community.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Recognizes volunteers (age 21 years or under) for their outstanding volunteer service for a cause or nonprofit.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Honors volunteers who, over the course of at least 15 years, have made significant contributions to Fairfax County through volunteer efforts.



STRONGER TOGETHER

These volunteers are the "Steady Eddy's" deserving recognition for their commitment to volunteerism. They serve as a reminder that small acts of volunteerism add up and make our community stronger.



Fairfax County Comm

MEET THE 2022 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS!

AS PART OF THE ANNUAL
VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS,
THE FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS SELECTS AN
INDIVIDUAL TO BE RECOGNIZED
FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO
PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM
WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY WHILE
ADDRESSING SPECIFIC NEEDS.



PAUL BERRY

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AT-LARGE



WADE SMITH

DRANESVILLE DISTRICT



**JAKELIN SORIANO
LAKE**

BRADDOCK DISTRICT



GLORIA RUNYON

HUNTER MILL DISTRICT



SYLVIA TAYLOR

HUNTER MILL DISTRICT

Community Champions



CARLA CLAURE

LEE DISTRICT



**JIM ALBRIGHT
& ANNANDALE
GREENWAY TEAM**

MASON DISTRICT



JIM KLEIN

MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT



MARY KENT

PROVIDENCE DISTRICT



JENEE LINDNER

SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT



GEOFF POHANKA

SULLY DISTRICT

The collage consists of 48 small photographs arranged in a 6x8 grid. The images depict various volunteer activities and events. Some images include text overlays such as "Volunteer Fairfax", "30th Anniversary", and "Celebrating 30 Years of Service to the Community". The photos show groups of people, individuals receiving awards, people working at tables, and community service projects.



EDUCATION & LITERACY AWARD WINNER

LOREN ZANDER



"LOREN IS AN EXEMPLARY INSTRUCTOR FOR ADULT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES AND A GENEROUS MENTOR TO NEW VOLUNTEER TEACHERS AND CLASS AIDES." XAVIER MUÑO, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR - TEACHING AND LEARNING

Since 2015, Loren has been an integral part of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia's positive impact on the lives of English learners in Fairfax County. Serving learners from many different nationalities, cultures, and backgrounds, Loren creates a supportive community by strengthening students' sense of belonging and confidence to engage with wider society.

Her students praise her dedication and note her passion for teaching. One student noted that she responds to questions, explains English easily and above all, her voice was good to hear. Another student noted that Teacher Loren responds to any questions promptly, in and out of the classroom. "Also, if the lesson has not been understood... even by just one student, she

insists on explaining the course until everyone understands." Loren spends countless hours preparing for her Beginning English classes. She teaches in the mornings, and then spends the afternoons planning lessons.

Because she takes the time to understand students' unique backgrounds and circumstances, she is able to craft instructional lessons that meet their individual needs and bring fun, creativity and energy to learning. Trained to administer BEST Plus, she uses this nationally recognized assessment tool to measure the proficiency of her English language learners, one by one, at the beginning and end of each semester.

HUNGER HERO

AWARD WINNER



FRANK PAPPAS



"WITHOUT FRANK'S LEADERSHIP, THESE EVENTS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN RUN SO EFFICIENTLY. HE IS A LOGISTICAL LEGEND."

**DANA POWERS
ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER LIAISON**

Frank was the impressive key volunteer leader of Fairfax County's 65 large-scale emergency food distribution events organized to ease the economic and food insecurity impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The events involved hundreds of volunteers of the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and other organizations. Frank formed the initial response structure in May 2020 and ensured its success over the next year. He demonstrated endless passion and energy to address the challenges of each event, ensuring the delivery of more than four million pounds of food (equal to 120,000 weeks of food to residents.)

Frank's skills as an experienced event planner, innovator, team collaborator and boots-on-the-ground leader proved to be invaluable. He worked closely with County officials and excelled at collaborating with Supervisors' offices, volunteer groups, and Fairfax County Police to conduct detailed assessments

of potential distribution sites, conduct site walk-throughs with stakeholders, anticipate issues, and develop detailed plans and event briefings. To execute food distribution, Frank coordinated with non-profits, houses of worship, and county agencies to determine volunteer needs, set up a volunteer sign-up system, and recruit and manage volunteers. The event operations required managing traffic flow (walk-up and drive-through), minimizing disruptions to surrounding communities, and ensuring volunteer safety and site security.

Frank inspired others with his leadership. He cross-trained key volunteers who proceeded to organize 10 small-scale food distribution events, thereby expanding the impact to the community. As they grew comfortable in their leadership roles, the volunteers subsequently partnered with the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to distribute more than over 70,000 pounds of pet food.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD WINNER

FAIRFAX MASTER NATURALISTS



Throughout the pandemic, the Fairfax Master Naturalist (FMN) chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program offered refuge — for volunteers and citizens alike — who were seeking “outdoor relief.” By developing volunteers to assist with the beneficial management and preservation of natural resources and natural areas in the County, FMN widens opportunities for residents to enjoy the great outdoors. Serving a variety of partner groups and institutions, in 2021 FMN supported more than 100 projects to preserve and protect Fairfax County natural resources and delivered 25% more volunteer hours than the prior year, for a total cost savings to its partners of \$538,732. FMN hosted two training opportunities during COVID for 40 Fairfax residents. The trainees met online weekly for two hours, and participated in socially-distanced field trips. Graduates completed training eager to positively impact the natural environment. One recent graduate used knowledge gained during coursework to rally other Girl Scout volunteers,

**“THE FAIRFAX CHAPTER
MASTER NATURALIST
TRAINING PROGRAM
SAVED ME FROM THE
GRIM CLAUSTROPHOBIA
BROUGHT ON BY THE
PANDEMIC IN THE
WINTER AND SPRING OF
2021.”**

**JULIE SHAW
FMN VOLUNTEER**

educate the public on the matter of environmental sustainability and preserving nature, as well as earn her GS Gold Award. FMN partners with parks, nature centers, government agencies and other organizations committed to preserving nature in Fairfax County. Volunteers supported Plant NOVA Natives and Trees by enlisting the public to pull invasive plants, shrubs and trees and plant native ones. FMN's ongoing support includes marking native plants with special tags at retail nurseries, distributing brochures, writing articles, and supporting HOAs interested in pulling invasive vines. FMN also assisted National Capital PRISM and US Geological Survey in their efforts to identify and eradicate an invasive water chestnut species at several ponds in Fairfax County. Members continue to report water chestnut when observed at area bodies of water.

QUALITY OF LIFE AWARD WINNER



LAURIE MANNING



Laurie has changed the face of Capital Caring Health's volunteer pediatric program through her dedication and leadership. She exemplifies how one volunteer can transform an entire program and while doing so, embrace many community members to join the volunteer workforce. Capital Caring Health marvels at how deeply Laurie's accomplishments have positively impacted Fairfax County.

Laurie developed a program and approach to providing hospice care to children that removes fear from the process. She does this by "memory making" with patients and families. Knowing how important a birthday is in the life of a family caring for a seriously ill child, Laurie began dressing in costumes to deliver birthday cakes and gifts. Her costume choices are endless - from Minnie Mouse to Princess Leia - and they always bring joy and laughter. Through her leadership, other volunteers have joined the cause, donning costumes of their own and delivering special gifts to other family members.

This innovative program has carried over to monthly initiatives for each pediatric family, culminating with The Elf Squad in December. Laurie chairs this large endeavor that provides gifts for our patients and their siblings. Last year, Laurie and her elves provided more than 200 gifts and delivered them in festive holiday costumers. Because of Laurie's energy and passion, Capital Caring Health was able to collect donations from the community to support this 100% volunteer-driven program.

LAURIE IS THE TYPE OF VOLUNTEER FOR WHOM NON-PROFITS GIVE THANKS DAILY. SHE IS LIKE A MAGNET; HER POSITIVE ENERGY DRAWS VOLUNTEERS IN AND BINDS THEM TIGHTLY TO AN IMPORTANT MISSION. LAURIE REALIZES THAT THE STRENGTH OF A COMMUNITY LIES IN THE PEOPLE WHO STRIVE TO HELP OTHERS. THERE ISN'T A DAY THAT GOES BY THAT LAURIE ISN'T FOUND HELPING A NEIGHBOR, FRIEND, STRANGER, VOLUNTEER, OR PATIENT AT CAPITAL CARING HEALTH."

**KATHERINE KNOBLE
DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - CAPITAL CARING HEALTH**



SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD WINNER

AMINI BONANE



Amini is a community builder, organizer, and advocate. She uses her titles of Miss Black DC 2020 and Miss Fairfax City 2021 to speak up for marginalized communities. During her time at George Mason University, Amini was a founding board member of the COVID Student Safety Corps. She also founded the Student Safety Advocacy Board, the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative, and GMU's first-ever delegation of the Model African Union.

In 2018 Amini started her own organization, Brains Then Beauty, an empowerment organization supporting personal and professional development. In the four years since its founding, the organization has provided almost 500 hours of community service as a group, helped pack more than 40,000 meals with partners, and raised \$10,000 in one night for local charitable causes. The group's activities include partnering with organizations such as Doorways For Women to collect donations and raise awareness for domestic violence; partnering with under-served schools to provide guidance and connect students with resources to seek higher education; and encouraging young women to step into their power by serving on executive boards and hosting an annual gathering of female leaders in Fairfax.

Organizations she has volunteered with include Brains Then Beauty, Volunteer Fairfax, Girls On The Run, Junior League, and Serve DC.

"I DIDN'T KNOW THAT I WAS LEADER UNTIL I JOINED BRAINS THEN BEAUTY."

**TAYLOR WILLIAMS, FOUNDING PRESIDENT
BRAINS THEN BEAUTY GMU CHAPTER**

VOLUNTEER GROUP AWARD WINNER



FAIRFAX MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS



"MY MOST POIGNANT MOMENT AS A VOLUNTEER INVOLVED A MOTHER WHO'D COME IN WITH HER THREE TEENAGERS TO BE VACCINATED THE DAY AFTER TEEN VACCINATIONS WERE APPROVED. I GAVE THE MOTHER THE STANDARD COUNSELING BEFORE COMPLETING HER INJECTION. AS I WAS FILLING OUT HER VACCINATION CARD, I COMMENDED HER FOR ALSO VACCINATING HER CHILDREN. SHE LOOKED AT ME AND SAID SIMPLY, 'THEY LOST THEIR FATHER TO COVID LAST YEAR.' WE BOTH HAD TEARS IN OUR EYES. AS I HANDED HER THE COMPLETED CARD I FELT A GREAT SENSE OF PURPOSE AS TO WHY I HAD JOINED MRC."

PHIL BEAUCHEN, FMRC VOLUNTEER

The Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps has grown from a six-member physician task force created in 2002 in response to anthrax attacks to more than 3,550 members today. Volunteers needn't have a medical/public health background, but they all share a passion for helping to keep their communities healthy and safe. Over the years, these local heroes have provided thousands of volunteer service hours to Fairfax County, supporting public health emergencies (such as measles, TB outbreaks and the Coronavirus Pandemic), responding to public health implications of severe weather incidents, and conducting educational and outreach activities.

Their dedicated service proved to be crucial throughout the COVID pandemic. In total, more than 1,450 Fairfax MRC volunteers donated over 65,000 hours in efforts to combat COVID-19, supporting the community's health and quality of life for an estimated

monetary value of \$1,896,700. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign was the largest, most important public health mission FMRC had ever supported, administering some 410,000 doses in Health Department clinics across the county. The Corps' team of 450 approved vaccinators was used as the state's future model for how to sufficiently scale up to meet the vaccination needs of communities throughout Virginia. In addition to working vaccination clinics and community testing events, FMRC volunteers conducted community outreach, provided logistical support to inventory personal protective equipment, supported isolation and quarantine efforts, and provided medical care in long-term care facilities. They even assisted voters at the polls by acting as infection prevention ambassadors.



RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA AWARD WINNER

MARIA LEWAN

Maria is a registered nurse who uses her clinical nursing skills to help those who face health issues. Her ability to provide compassionate, kind, and generous care makes her a perfect hospice volunteer. Maria is a community connector and resource for the social workers at Capital Caring Health. When a social worker has a patient with limited financial resources, Maria is the go-to person. She is helpful and knowledgeable. Each week, Maria makes calls to patients to provide a touchpoint check-in. These calls target any health needs, such as refills on medications, pain levels, and supplies, but they also provide emotional support to the patient and their caregiver.

"AS A SOCIAL WORKER, I HAVE COME TO RELY ON MARIA. I KNOW THAT MY PATIENTS ARE WELL CARED FOR WHEN MARIA IS INVOLVED. HER COMPASSION AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL IS REMARKABLE."

MARIA MCKAIN, SOCIAL WORKER



Sole caregivers are often completely exhausted; sometimes too tired to ask for what they need. Maria doesn't hesitate to make soups and other foods to bring to a caregiver. As their loved ones decline and subsequently die, Maria makes sure the caregivers don't feel alone. She attends to them every step of the way with a genuine compassion that comes naturally to her. Her support for patients extends beyond nursing; she often personally purchases Thanksgiving meals, birthday cakes, groceries, and dinners for patients in need. Capital Caring Health doesn't turn

anyone away based on inability to pay so Maria's generosity has directly impacted many families. Maria volunteers in two other efforts that also benefit our community. As a COVID vaccinator, she has bounced from working hours at Capital Caring Health to vaccination sites where she dresses in her cute scrubs to vaccinate children in the community. Maria also serves on the Board of Directors for Alice's Kids, where her knowledge and resources help children who need shoes, eyeglasses, books, school supplies and other important items.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER



KIRSTEN MICOLASHEK



"KIRSTEN JOINED THE VOLUNTEER TEAM IN 2019 AND WE COULD NOT BE MORE APPRECIATIVE OF HER DEDICATION AND FLEXIBILITY. SHE VOLUNTEERS MULTIPLE TIMES A WEEK. SINCE SHE LIVES WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE TO THE FARM, KIRSTEN HAS HELPED US OUT IN A PINCH ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS - WHETHER TO HELP LAST MINUTE IN A LESSON OR AS AN EXTRA SET OF HANDS DURING BAD WEATHER."

SHELBY MORRISON
GRANTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
NORTHERN VIRGINIA THERAPEUTIC
RIDING PROGRAM

Kirsten has volunteered for Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program over the past four years, giving 350 hours of her time and talents. The nonprofit provides equine-assisted activities to people with disabilities, youth-at-risk, recovering military personnel, and others in need of an inclusive, community setting and helps each individual realize their highest potential.

Kirsten's demeanor with the horses and clients has been a great addition to the NVTRP volunteer team. Her ability to work well with clients and volunteers of all ages is incredible. She brings laughter to all of her shifts. Kirsten's work with teenagers and young adults is particularly

noteworthy. Her easy rapport and ability to relate helps them to feel more comfortable during private lessons. Kirsten has been a great asset to the program due to her dependability, work ethic, and passion for helping others. She volunteers multiple times a week on top of being a full-time student and participating in other activities. She is willing to help out when NVTRP is short on volunteers and is at the barn - rain or shine - with a positive outlook and eagerness to do whatever needs to get done. Kirsten has also helped recruit new potential volunteers through her high school and has helped with special events and fundraisers.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

MARY LEE DISPIRITO

"MARY LEE HAS BEEN MY GUIDING LIGHT THROUGH THE EARLY STAGES OF MY CHAIRMANSHIP AND THROUGH THE PANDEMIC. I CONTINUE TO RELY ON HER AS A RESOURCE WHEN I NEED INFORMATION ON COUNTY SERVICES AND CLIENT BASE HANDLING."

**MARIE MARKEY
CHAIRPERSON
THE FAMILY EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE AT ACCA**



Mary Lee is a mainstay of the Annandale Christian Community for Action, a church-related volunteer organization providing rental assistance, day care, food, furniture, and other services to low-income families in the Annandale/Bailey's Crossroads area. She has devoted countless hours to the organization over the past 35 years (including 1,500 this year alone). She knows the ins and outs of every ACCA outreach program and is highly knowledgeable and resourceful.

The many ways that Mary Lee serves the ACCA include: overseeing "The Challenge Campaign" the largest fundraiser; co-chairing the furniture program to provide furniture for people in need; interacting with the County on various

programs; assisting with the Catalog of Philanthropy and more! Mary Lee has also been a tireless volunteer for the Providence Presbyterian Church. For more than 15 years she has supervised the monthly hot meal program the church provides to the homeless at the Baileys Crossroads Community Center. She purchases the food, recruits and supervises the volunteer team that prepares the food and finally, packs and delivers the food to the shelter. Mary Lee is also actively involved in and supervises other church volunteer programs, including Operation Share a Coat collecting warm winter coats and the church's Hypothermia Program, providing daytime lunch and snacks for the homeless.

FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNER



JOHN O'CONNOR



"INTAKE OFFICER JOHN ALWAYS GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND WITH HELPING OUR CLIENTS. WE OCCASIONALLY HAVE CLIENTS THAT CAN'T READ OR WRITE, AND WE USUALLY AREN'T AWARE UNTIL THE CLIENT IS IN OUR OFFICE. JOHN IS FANTASTIC AT PICKING UP ON THIS AND IS ALWAYS WILLING TO PROVIDE EXTRA ASSISTANCE TO MAKE SURE THE CLIENT GETS WHAT THEY NEED."

**LAUREN CASSEL
DOMESTIC RELATIONS
FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE & DOMESTIC
RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT**

John O'Connor gives generously of his time and talents to the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court where he's been a volunteer over the last eight years. John's skills as an intake officer are impeccable. He maintains a professional attitude that allows the clients to learn about the complex court process, while also displaying empathy, particularly for those with limited English proficiency. Often, clients come to the office after a recent traumatic experience and can be reluctant to open up during the court process. John is quick to make the clients feel comfortable by engaging in their native language in a calm, understanding and engaging manner.

John often suggests ways to improve internal procedures and is dedicated to following the cases throughout the various steps

of the judicial process. Due to his long experience interpreting for Juvenile Court, John has inspired other volunteers to learn and to their knowledge with those who need it the most. He shines as an example of what all interpreters strive to be: dependable, friendly, engaging, enthusiastic, personable, and professional.

John is always willing to go the extra mile, adjusting his schedule and using his own resources to better serve and accommodate the needs of the clients. Thanks to John's great skills the Court program has been able to serve more Spanish clients with the return of face-to-face services. By supporting clients and empowering them through the judicial system, John improves the quality of their life and the life of their families



COUNTY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AWARD WINNER

NORTHERN VIRGINIA LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

"OUR VOLUNTEERS HAVE MADE A CHOICE TO STEP UP AND VOLUNTEER IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HASN'T BEEN PORTRAYED IN THE MOST POSITIVE LIGHT, ESPECIALLY DURING THE PANDEMIC. THE VOLUNTEERS KNEW IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE RESIDENTS TO HAVE AN ADVOCATE AND WOULD NOT BE DETERRED. THEIR COMMITMENT TO OUR PROGRAM AND ITS RESIDENTS IS PRICELESS!"

**LAURA NICHOLS, DIRECTOR
NORTHERN VIRGINIA LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN
PROGRAM**



The Ombudsman Volunteer Program of NVLTCOP advocates for the highest quality of life and care for people receiving long-term care services. During the months in 2021 that volunteers had access to facilities (due to COVID-19), they volunteered 3,868 hours, provided 1,353 visits, helped ensure that 2,737 resident concerns were addressed, and advocated for systemic changes. Since the program's founding in 1985, Ombudsman volunteers have contributed 261,547 lifetime hours, representing a total value of \$7,621,473.

NVLTCOP's seven staff members serve a resident population that can exceed 12,000. Its volunteer program has allowed the NVLTCOP to expand its presence in the community. By committing to visiting the 137 facilities on a frequent basis, volunteers ensure that residents' concerns are heard and addressed at the facility level and the state and federal level.

The Ombudsman Volunteer Program navigated throughout the pandemic with patience, humor, grace, and an abundance

of compassion. In March 2020, LTC facilities closed to most visitors, including the ombudsmen volunteers. The volunteers took that opportunity to participate in ongoing training and communication. Many volunteers also kept in touch with their assigned facility staff and residents during the lockdown as a way to reassure them that services were available and that they still had an advocate.

After the COVID-19 visitation restrictions were lifted, 34 volunteers resumed visiting facilities, providing a friendly and caring presence for residents after a long, lonely year of isolation. Volunteers renewed their relationships and trust with residents (and their family and friends) and facility staff to advocate for improving the quality of life and care and empowerment of all residents. Additionally, volunteers attended 59 resident council and 15 family council meetings. Lastly, volunteers assisted NVLTCOP staff in training new volunteers with presentations and facility tours.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD NOMINEES

• ALISON DUNCAN	• FAIRFAX MEDICAL RESERVE	• LYDIA PATRICK	• SALLY BERMAN
• AMANDA FOWLER	• CORPS	• LYNN FOSTER	• SANDY GRIFFITH
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• BRAYAN POZO	• JEAN SCHIRO-ZAVELA	• MARY BREESE	• STEVE OLSON
• BRIAN GRITTE	• JOHN O'CONNOR	• MARY LEE DISPIRITO	• SUE MYRACLE
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• CATHY HOSEK	• JOHN K WOOD	• MICHELLE FREEMAN	• SUSAN JONES
• CATHY JAQUETTE	• JOHN KINGSLEY	• NANCY HARTMAN	• SUSY LEDGERWOOD
• CHANDRA & UMA CHAUDHARI	• JOSEPH BLACKWELL	• NANCY KARST	• TAMMY COLLINS
• CHRIS L0DA	• JOY KUBIK	• NANCY SPENCE	• TANJA MAJCA
• CLAIRE QUIN	• JUSTIN SADEGH	• NASRIN LESCURE	• TESS AILSHIRE
• CLIFTON COMMUNITY	• KAREN JOSEPH	• NEIL PATIL	• THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
• WOMAN'S CLUB	• KATHRYN RUSSELL	• NORTHERN VA LORNG TERM	• OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
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• EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM	• LOREN ZANDER	• TEACHERS	• WESLEY WILSON
• (CERT)	• LOU WOOD	• RHONDA MAYFIELD	• WILLIAM "BUD" PRIDGEN
• FAIRFAX MASTER NATURALISTS	• LOUIS "LOU" COGLIANESE	• ROBERT HISEL	• ZAHRA RAMAKDAWALA
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of Volunteerism*

*Help us pass the ethic of
volunteerism onto the
next generation.*

Through Volunteer Fairfax programs, our dedicated volunteers strengthened people, families, and our community through service.

Volunteer Fairfax cannot host these special programs and events without the financial support of the community.

To celebrate Volunteer Month,
MAKE AN IMPACTFUL GIFT to continue the programs
that are **MEANINGFUL FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.**

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difference.*

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