

The 2022 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award Winners are as follow:



Loren Zander
EDUCATION & LITERACY AWARD WINNER



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.

Mary Lee DiSpirito
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



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.

John O'Connor
County Volunteer Award Winner



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.

Maria Lewan
RSVP Northern Virginia Award Winner



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.

Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps
Volunteer Group Award Winner



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.

Amini Bonane
Social Justice Winner



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.

Kirsten Mikolashek
Youth Leadership Winner



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.

Fairfax Master Naturalists
Environmental Sustainability Award Winner



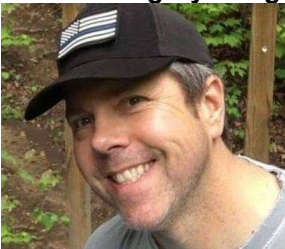
Throughout the pandemic, the Fairfax Master Naturalist (FMN) chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program offered refuge—for volunteers and citizens alike—who were seeking “outdoor relief.” By developing volunteers to assist with the beneficial management and preservation of natural resources and natural areas in the County, FMN widens opportunities for residents to enjoy the great outdoors.

Laurie Manning
Quality of Life Winner



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.

Frank Pappas
Award Category Hunger Hero



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.

**Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
COUNTY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AWARD WINNER**



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.

You can find complete Winner profiles [here](#). View Community Champions [here](#).