



New River Valley Leading Lights



2020-21 Annual Report



Celebrating Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Our Impact

New River Valley Leading Lights recognizes and honors volunteers across the New River Valley who are making community-changing impacts, culminating in an annual celebratory banquet.



13 Years of Honoring Volunteers

642 Volunteers Nominated as Leading Lights

100 Distinguished Recognitions

\$73,000 distributed to NRV nonprofits

From the Board: stories of service drive our work

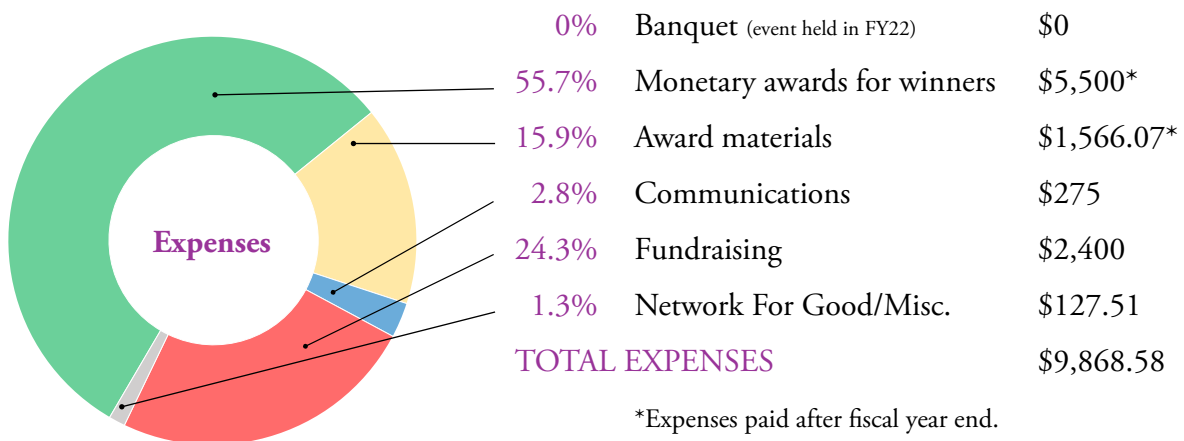
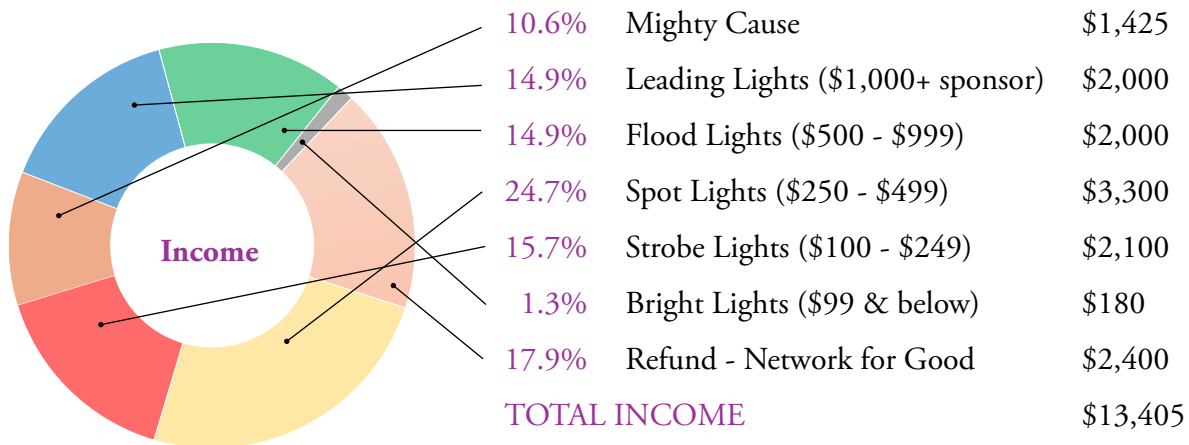
For 13 years, NRV Leading Lights has honored and acknowledged volunteers across our region, and this work continues to drive each Board member. Distinguished Recognitions were given in the following categories for 2021: High School (2), Collegiate (2), Floyd County (1), Giles County (1), Montgomery County (2), Radford City (1), and Lifetime Achievement (1). This year, a Covid-19 Heroes category was added, and four organizations were recognized.

Also this year, our volunteer Board raised a total of \$13,405 from more than 35 different sources, including individuals, businesses, nonprofits, civic clubs, foundations, colleges, and universities. Our work would not be possible without your generosity and support year after year. Thank you! Our expenses totaled \$9,868.58, with a majority of funds given to this year's distinguished recipients. Each Distinguished Leading Light chose a local non-profit meaningful to him/her as the recipient of these funds (donations).

As you read through this report, above all, we hope that you take away this: each of us owes a debt of gratitude to all those who serve our community. In 2022, please consider nominating someone at leadinglightsnrv.org.

The 2020-2021 New River Valley Leading Lights Board:

Bill King, <i>President</i>	Dick Arnold, <i>Past President</i>	Kelly Kaiser	Enrique Rebolledo
Ann Cassell, <i>Vice President</i>	Catherine Cotrupi	John McEnhill	Jill Ross
Jessica Twiest, <i>Secretary</i>	Kymn Davidson-Hamley	Christina McIntyre	Carol Smith
Tim Rosche, <i>Treasurer</i>	Janiele Hamden	Ryan Martin	Terri Welch



*Expenses paid after fiscal year end.



Pictured above are Distinguished Recipients honored at the 2021 banquet.

2021 Distinguished Recipient Snapshots

High School

Anna French, Auburn High School

Anna is a part of the MCPS Covid-19 Health and Safety Team, BETA, National Honor Society, American Sign Language Club, Heritage Club, and the Christiansburg Library Children's Reading Program. As part of the MCPS Covid-19 Health and Safety Team, Anna met regularly with school administration to discuss how to help her peers in the school system during the pandemic.

Brianna Moser, Narrows High School

Brianna has held a free Christmas dinner for the needy and lonely in her community for the past three years. Over the years, Brianna has also collected toys for Toys for Tots, blankets for local nursing home residents, coats for the homeless, dimes for the March for Dimes, toys and food for the local animal shelter, and food for the local food bank. Brianna asked for donations to be given to St. Junes Children's Hospital for her birthday one year instead of gifts.

College

Grace Ankeney, New River Community College

Grace has participated in packing food for the disadvantaged and fundraising as part of the Key Club, food distribution with Daily Bread, and a fashion show that raised money for Road to Recovery. She served as the Vice President of Service for Phi Theta Kappa at NRCC and oversaw the annual Honors in Action Project.

Jarrett Holmes & Erica Martin, Virginia Tech

Jarrett and Erica volunteer as Program Leaders for After School Programs sponsored through the YMCA. When the pandemic suspended the program, they created the Y Online Homework Help/Tutoring Program to help students in the NRV over Zoom with homework questions. They recruited other Virginia Tech and Radford University students to help staff the program.

Community

Floyd County: Elizabeth Warriner

Elizabeth began serving with Plenty! as a pantry preparation volunteer and food collection helper. Now she acts as a shift leader, is a board member and leads the committee that organized Plenty's major fundraising event. Elizabeth volunteers for the Board of Elections to assist with the local voting process. During the Covid-19 pandemic, she volunteered with the Health District to schedule people for their vaccine appointments.

Giles County: Hope Harrell

Hope is involved with Relay For Life; events with the Town of Pearisburg; Pearisburg Merchants Association; NRCC Giles County ACCE Race; Rotary Club; Cancer, Kids & Christmas; Pearisburg Community Market; and Pearisburg Jr. & Sr. Woman's Clubs. Hope helps coordinate the Festival Around Town, the Scarecrow Festival, and a county wide police recognition event.

Montgomery County: Darla Bray

Darla started the Buy Nothing Blacksburg group, which is a community-based group that encourages the free gifting (or recycling) of consumer goods and services to build community, reduce local waste, and help members save money.

Montgomery County: Martha Ann Stallings

Martha Ann's volunteer work includes the NRCC Race for ACCE, Blacksburg Baptist Church's community food and clothes drives, Dialogue on Race, NRV Covid-19 vaccine distribution and call center, tutoring, and the Virginia Tech Shoe Drive.

Radford City: Kathryn Daily

Kathryn started the We Are Radford Facebook group so that the community would have a ready outlet to share concerns, events and other information. She helps with the Women's Resource Center by covering the crisis phone line and assists at the Radford Animal Shelter.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Bill Ellenbogen, *Blacksburg*



Bill has been volunteering for 38 years, with a continuous and ongoing commitment to the health and enjoyment of citizens of Montgomery County, Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, and visitors. He has served as the president of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of the Huckleberry Trail, and the Downtown Merchants Association. Bill has also served on the board of the Christiansburg Institute. He has been a primary driving force in making the Huckleberry Trail vision a reality.



Above photos: 2021 Leading Lights event; 2021 Covid-19 Heroes category; 2021 Distinguished Recipient Anna French; 2021 Distinguished Recipient Grace Ankeney.

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How to Get Involved

Nominations will open soon at leadinglightsnrv.org!

Do you know individuals or couples who meet the following criteria? 1) Devote a significant, ongoing amount of time to service, 2) Their service makes an impact and addresses community needs, and 3) They demonstrate leadership and/or show initiative? Nominate them!

Become a Board member or community advisor.


We are always looking for talented people to serve on our Board and teams. Members serve three-year terms, commit to attending monthly meetings (September - May), and participate on one or more teams. Advisors have a less formal commitment where they lend their expertise to specific projects or teams.

Donate or become a sponsor.

Every donation or sponsor helps support our efforts, and, in turn, our community. *If you are interested in donating, becoming a sponsor, or joining the Board, please contact us at leadinglightsnrv@gmail.com.*

Connect with us!

 New River Valley Leading Lights

 @LeadingLightsNRV

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