



# New River Valley Leading Lights

## 2016-17 Annual Report



*In 2017, we received nominations for 67 volunteers. Pictured above are some of these exceptional community members.*

## 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.



**9** years of honoring volunteers

**457** people nominated for awards

**57** awards presented to outstanding volunteers

**\$45,000** distributed to NRV nonprofits

## From the Board: stories of service drive our work

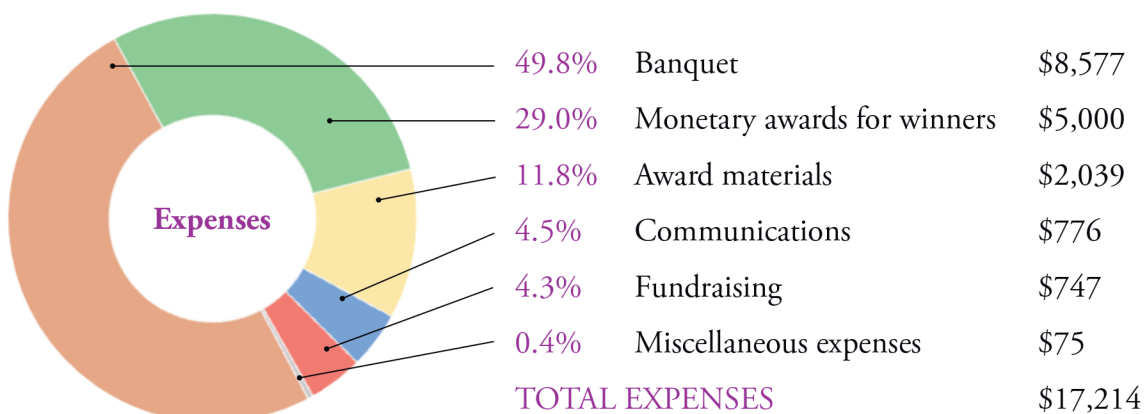
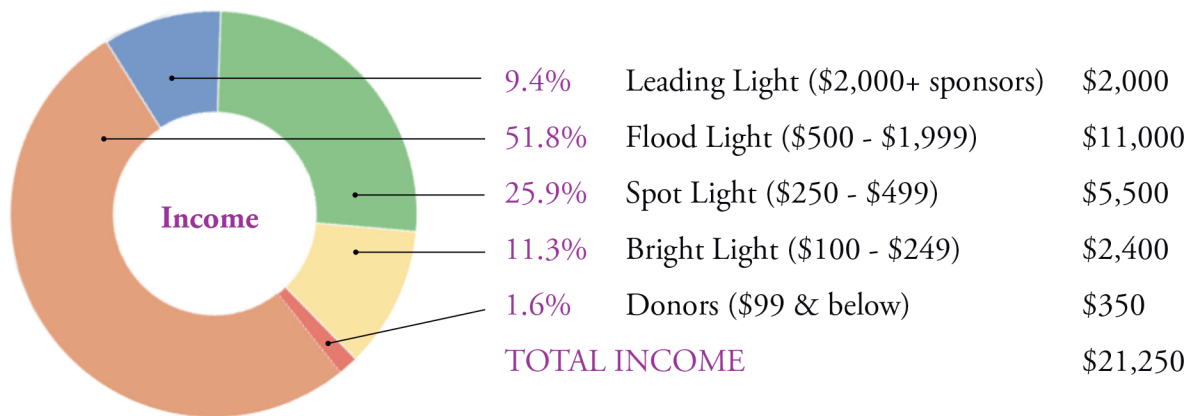
For nine years, NRV Leading Lights has honored and acknowledged volunteers across our region, and this work continues to drive each Board member. This year marked our second year of expanded awards (for a total of 11.) Awards were given in the following categories: High School (2), Collegiate (2), Floyd County (1), Giles County (1), Montgomery County (2), Pulaski County (1), Radford City (1), and Lifetime Achievement (1).

Also this year, our all-volunteer Board raised a total of \$21,250 from more than 70 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 \$17,214, with our banquet making up nearly 50% of what we spent. Other expenses included a total of \$5,000 in monetary awards that were given to this year's awardees. Each awardee chose an NRV nonprofit that is meaningful to them, and these donations are sent directly to those organizations.

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. This fall, please consider nominating someone at [leadinglightsnrv.org](http://leadinglightsnrv.org)!

### *-The 2016-17 New River Valley Leading Lights Board:*

Dick Arnold, <i>President</i>	Terry Arbogast	Karen Gilbert	Ryan Martin
Marcela Jara, <i>Secretary</i>	Brandon Brooks	Lindsey Gleason	Erika Tolbert
Lewis Webb, <i>Treasurer</i>	Mike Butt	Bob Job	Erin Webster-Garrett
	Kymn Davidson-Hamley	Bill King	





*Some of our 2017 winners (L-R): Christina McIntyre (who accepted the Giles award on Ann Goette's behalf), Taylor Hawkins, Jean Umberger, Scott & Mendy Sink, Diane Blair, Kyndal Stakes, Sydney Curtis, Catherine Pauley, & Jessica Shelburne.*

## 2017 Winner Snapshots

### High School

**Jessica Shelburne, Auburn High School**

Jessica truly cares for others, is generous with her time, and does all she can to help. For the past five years, she has been involved in the Rotary Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Beta Club.

**Taylor Hawkins, Floyd County High School**

Taylor is dedicated and compassionate. For five years, she has served with numerous organizations including Project Floyd, the Humane Society, and Plenty! Her largest contribution is to the Red Cross, where she heads and coordinates blood drives in Floyd.

### Collegiate

**Kyndal Stakes, Virginia Tech**

Before college, Kyndal was a Girl Scout for 12 years. At Virginia Tech, she became a mentor and teacher for her peers. A member of the SERVE Living Learning Community and service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, Kyndal is also active as a VT Engage service trip leader.

**Sydney Curtis, Virginia Tech**

Sydney is driven to better others' lives. Active with the VT soccer team, she has volunteered with many organizations, including the Special Olympics and Micah's Backpack. After a flood in West Virginia, she organized a food drive to help those affected.

**Floyd County: Susan Sutterer, Floyd**

Susan is caring and dedicated, with 10+ years of volunteer service. She is chair of New River Community Action's Empty Bowls, which provides meals for 550+ people. She also serves on the Floyd Center of the Arts' Community Membership Service Committee.

**Giles County: Ann Goette, Eggleston**

A quiet leader, Ann works tirelessly on behalf of Giles' environment and citizens. She is one of the founders of Renew the New, which organizes multiple river cleanups each year. Ann is also a founder and chair of the Giles Early Education Project.

### Montgomery County

**Scott & Mendy Sink, Blacksburg**

For 16+ years, Scott and Mendy have integrated all aspects of their lives into supporting their community. They are role models for youth and inspire others to serve. They teach work-force development skills to high schoolers with disabilities, and offer mentorship opportunities to high school and college students.

**Barnett Carr, Christiansburg**

Barnett is steadfast in his guiding principles to help others, pitch in, and step up. He is the assistant baseball coach for Blacksburg High School and a board member for Camp Alta Mons. Also, Barnett has served as his church's youth director for 14 years.

**Pulaski County: Diane Blair, Dublin**

Always in service to others, Diane is a vital volunteer for LewisGale Pulaski. She ensures that anyone in need is cared for, and is the first person to help when called upon. Hospice staff know they count on Diane anytime they have patients without family support.

**Radford City: Jean Umberger, Radford**

Highly involved in her community, Jean's dedication to helping others is contagious and inspiring. For 30+ years, she has coordinated volunteers and overseen operations at Radford Clothing Bank. For 20+ years, Jean has been an integral part of Radford Elf Shelf.

## Lifetime Achievement Award: Catherine Pauley, Floyd



For decades, Catherine's heart and efforts have been dedicated to helping the Floyd community understand the richness of its culture and encouraging individuals to appreciate their unique contributions to it. In 1978, she was one of three founders of the Old Church Gallery, Ltd. and she continues to direct its evolution as Floyd's cultural center. Currently, Catherine is the executive vice president of its Board.

She also serves with numerous other organizations, including the Ruritan Club, the Floyd Historical Society, the Floyd Public Library, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, and Farm Girls.

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## How to Get Involved

### Nominations open this fall at [leadinglightsnrv.org](http://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. Members serve three-year terms, commit to attending monthly meetings (September - May), and participate on one or more team. 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](mailto:leadinglightsnrv@gmail.com).*

### Connect with us!

You'll find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram:

 New River Valley Leading Lights

 @LeadingLightsNRV

 @LeadingLightsNRV

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*Above photos: Catherine Pauley & Dick Arnold; 2017 nominees from the Collegiate category; Giles County category; & High School category.*

