

passionate caring
generous inspiring
welcoming
kind volunteer
tireless community
compassionate
supportive service

☆ *New River Valley
Leading Lights*



Celebrating Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Recognition Ceremony
April 12, 2018

mentor loving
leader driven
vital enthusiastic
supportive
go-to devoted
joyful



*2017 Distinguished Leading Lights Recipients from across the
New River Valley*

There are people in
your life whom you
unknowingly inspire
simply by being you.

- Unknown



2018 Leading Lights



High School

Allison Sparrer
Charlie Buchinsky
Megan Talarek
Neha Hudait

* * *

College

Amy Chen
Breanna LaTondre
Brooke Souders
Dana Draughn
Delaney Beattie
Emily Millar
Franklin Edwards
Heather McGovern
Hunter Cole
Jessica Tucker
Kaley Holloway
Martha Legg
Megan Mickey
Nicole Kurka
Olivia Obertello
Riley Clark
Tori Schmehl
Tyler Hall

* * *

Lifetime Achievement

Alecia Stanley
Judy Ison
Patricia Baird
Tom Sherman
Woody Crenshaw

* * *

Community Members

Ann Raridon
Archie Boothe
Betsy Hagan
Bill Roth
Bonnie Hawks
Carrie Owens
Cathy Shaut
Charlie Barbettini
Charlie Whitescarver
Christie Heslip
Janne Mathes
Jim Kelly
John Galbraith
Kelly McPherson
Lynn Brammer
Lynn Hill
Matt Adamo
Melinda Dunford
Penny Sweet
Raymond Lyons Jr
Robin Atkins
Ron Mady
Sharon Lowery
Sheila Nelson
Sid Bingley
Stephanie Palmer
Terri Welch
Vickie Spangler



About New River Valley Leading Lights

Since 2009, New River Valley Leading Lights has acknowledged and honored volunteers across the NRV who are making community-changing impacts, culminating in an annual celebratory banquet.

NRV Leading Lights was formed following the events of April 16, 2007 at Virginia Tech. During this time, our community witnessed an incredible outpouring of support from community members who performed extraordinary acts of service in response to the tragedy.

Seeing the importance of volunteers during this time inspired the German Club Alumni Foundation and other community leaders. They created NRV Leading Lights in an effort to recognize the incredible contribution volunteers make to our community every day.

**In this spirit of volunteerism,
we celebrate this evening.**

**We dedicate this night to all those
impacted by April 16, 2007.**



A Note from the Board

We owe a debt of gratitude to each of the outstanding volunteers nominated tonight, and to all their nominators. Thank you also to each of our organizations for granting us leave to serve with NRV Leading Lights.

Included in this program is short summary of each nominee that will give you a glimpse into each person's contributions to our community. We hope their stories inspire all of us to get more engaged in service.

Board of Directors

Dick Arnold, President

Virginia Tech German Club
Alumni Foundation

Rev. Bill King

Luther Memorial
Lutheran Church

Brandon Brooks

First Bank & Trust

Christina McIntyre

Giles County

Mike Butt

Virginia Tech German Club
Alumni Foundation

Ryan Martin

YMCA at Virginia Tech

Gary Eifried

Pulaski County

Mary Pettitt

Montgomery County

Kymn Davidson-Hamley

United Way of the New River Valley

Enrique Rebolledo

YMCA at Virginia Tech

Jessica Davis

VT Engage

Tim Rosche, Treasurer

Christiansburg Lions Club

Marcela Jara, Secretary

United Way of the New River Valley

Erika Tolbert

New River Community College

Bob Job

Montgomery County
Christmas Store

Lewis Webb

New River Community College
Educational Foundation Board

Award Selection Committee

Anne Walker

Bill King

Billy Motley

Bob Job

Christina McIntyre

Morris Fleischer

Mindy Sink

Sharon Eifried



A Special Thank You



This evening was made possible by our generous sponsors and donors.
Thank you so much for supporting NRV Leading Lights!

Leading Lights

Major Sponsors (\$1,000+)

German Club Alumni Foundation

Brian Long Foundation

Habitat for Humanity NRV (incl. Comm. Found. of NRV)

* * *

Flood Lights

Table Sponsors (\$500 - \$999)

Balzer & Associates

Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

Bob & Judy Job

Christiansburg Lions Club

David & Sharon Lowe

Dick Arnold & Dawn Musser

Dori-Del Hills Farm (Del Dyer)

Greg & Fran Rooker

John & Lisa Dooley

Managed Growth

Moog Components Group

National Bank

New River Community College Education Foundation

Stateson Homes

Union Bank

VT Engage

Spot Lights

(\$250 - \$499)

Blacksburg AARP	Gary and Sharon Eifried
Blacksburg Rotary	Jim & Sue McAllister
Bob & Scotti Dickenson	John & Wendy Byers
Craig & Susan Nesbit	Mary Pettitt
Charles & Nancy Warren	Mike Eggleston (Townside Realtors)
Courtyard by Marriott	Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club
Dr. Steve Jacobs	Tim Rosche
Earle Spruill	Wal-Mart Pearisburg
First Bank and Trust	Whit & Kelly Babcock
Foxguard Solutions, Inc.	

* * *

Strobe Lights

(\$100 - \$249)

A Cleaner World	Lewis & Catherine Webb
Bill King	Memorial Gardens (Jim Lucas)
Blacksburg Animal Clinic	Minnis & Louise Ridenour
Brian Torgersen	Montgomery County Rotary
Carper Insurance Associates	Pat & Peter Huber
Celco Federal Credit Union	Plott & French Financial Advisors
Christina McIntyre	Rick & Phyllis Geoghegan
Chuck & Andi Parron	Ryan Martin
Crockett Home Improvement	T.O Williams
Erin Webster-Garrett	Tom Dalzell
Floyd Rotary Club	Virginia Leader (Pearisburg)
Frank & Kelly Shushok	William Neely
John Olver	
Kymn Davidson-Hamley	

Bright Lights (Up to \$99)

Brandon Brooks

George Allen

John Hale

Marcela Jara

Mark Wigginton

Mike Butt

Reba Taylor



In-Kind Contributions

KymnImages Photography

Old Town Printing

Professional Catering, Inc.

United Way of the New River Valley



2017 City of Radford Community Leading Lights



Keynote Speaker



Anthony Wilson
Blacksburg Chief of Police

Anthony Wilson was appointed Chief of Police in March 2014. Mr. Wilson, a Blacksburg native, Marine, and Virginia Tech graduate, is a 21 year veteran of the Blacksburg Police Department where he has advanced from Patrol Officer to Captain of the Services Division to Chief of Police. He has served as Blacksburg's Homeland Defense Coordinator, Tactical Commander during the William Morva manhunt and the Virginia Tech shootings, Emergency Response Team Commander and K-9 Unit Commander.

Chief Wilson has volunteered with the Blacksburg Fire Department for 30 years and served as Assistant Chief. Wilson founded the No Hokie Left Behind program encouraging students to take care of students, and Be Safe Blacksburg, a K-12 community based program recognizing good citizenship in students. Chief Wilson initiated the Books to Badges program at New River Community College (NRCC), offering a college education to Montgomery County students interested in the field of criminal justice. Wilson has become the Access to Community College Education (ACCE) program champion in Montgomery County and volunteers as the Community Service Coordinator for ACCE students. ACCE allows all graduating seniors in Montgomery County the opportunity to receive tuition free education at NRCC.

Chief Wilson is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation's Professional Executive Leadership School. He has received a Medal of Valor, the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation's Life-saving Award, the Distinguished Service Award, Meritorious Service Award, and the American Legion Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer award.



Tonight's Program



Master of Ceremonies.....Christina McIntyre
NRV Leading Lights Board Member

Bagpipe Performance.....Bren Huggins
Virginia Tech Corp of Cadets

Welcome.....Mike Eggleston
German Club Alumni Foundation

Invocation.....Bill King
Pastor, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

Dinner.....Professional Catering Inc.

Leading Lights RecognitionChristina McIntyre,
Dick Arnold, Bill King
NRV Leading Lights Board Members

Keynote Speaker.....Anthony Wilson
Blacksburg Chief of Police

Distinguished Recipients.....Christina McIntyre,
Dick Arnold, Bill King
NRV Leading Lights Board Members

High School • College

Community: Floyd • Giles • Montgomery • Pulaski • Radford

Jim & Lenna Moore Lifetime Achievement Award

Closing Remarks.....Dick Arnold
NRV Leading Lights Board President



Our Impact



10 years of honoring volunteers
524 individuals nominated for awards
68 awards presented to outstanding volunteers
\$50,000 distributed to NRV nonprofits of winners' choosing

We are honored to recognize 55 Leading Lights this year. Tonight, 11 distinguished recipient awards will be given out: two High School, two College, along with Community Members for residents in the city of Radford, the counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery, and a Lifetime Achievement recipient.

Each distinguished recipient will receive \$400 to donate to a New River Valley nonprofit of their choosing. The Lifetime Achievement recipient will receive \$1,000. This will bring NRV Leading Lights' total to \$50,000 distributed to organizations in our region.



2017 Giles County Community Leading Lights



Stay Involved with Us



Nominate a volunteer this fall for the 2019 awards!

Do you know an outstanding volunteer and resident of the NRV who meets the below criteria? *Submit a nomination at leadinglightsnrv.org!*

- Devotes a significant, ongoing amount of time to volunteerism.
- Addresses community needs & is making an impact.
- Demonstrates leadership and/or shows initiative.

Join our Board or become a Community Advisor.

We are always looking for new board members. Members serve three year terms, attend monthly meetings (Sept. - May), and participate on one or more team (such as fundraising or banquet planning.)

Advisors have a less formal commitment, lending their expertise to specific projects or teams.

Donate or become a sponsor.

Every donation or sponsorship supports our banquet and awards, and, in turn, our community. *Donations may be made payable to:*

German Club Alumni Foundation
Memo line: NRV Leading Lights
711 Southgate Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Interested in becoming more involved with us?

Contact us at leadinglightsnrv@gmail.com.



2017 Montgomery County Community Leading Lights



A person's true wealth is the
good they do in this world.

-Muhammad (570-632 CE)



2017 Pulaski County Community Leading Lights



High School Leading Lights



Allison Sparrer, Auburn High School

Allison has held multiple leadership roles in school organizations, in addition to being a part of multiple choirs and her high school's tennis team. She is very active, serving her school in a variety of ways, including working concession stands, chaperoning middle school dances, working blood drives, and organizing a veteran's dinner with her chapter of the National Honor Society.

* * *

Charlie Buchinsky, Pulaski County High School

Charlie's Eagle Scout project started as a somewhat small endeavor, but continues as an ongoing volunteer effort to improve outdoor recreation spaces. Charlie has volunteered his time to repair and replace playground structures for NRCA Head Start, installed steps on the New River Trail, and improved various amenities at Wildwood Park. Described as having a fun-loving attitude and a great sense of humor, Charlie also participates in various band activities through his school. Using his musical talents, he has also volunteered to perform in several benefit concerts.

* * *

Megan Talarek, Blacksburg High School

Described as an energetic and giving young lady that is passionate about her hometown, Megan serves her community in many ways. As a youth volunteer at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, she has logged over 300 volunteer hours. She has also served as a volunteer youth soccer coach with New River United. At Blacksburg High School, she is the President of the Red Cross Club, as well as the President of the Help Save the Next Girl organization.



High School Leading Lights



Neha Hudait, Blacksburg High School

Combining her desire to help others with passions in oratory and coding, Neha serves her community in various ways. As a state champion in Original Oratory, Neha applies her speaking ability in the realm of advocacy for causes such as cancer awareness, mental healthcare, and the SCA's Thanksgiving Basket Project. Additionally, Neha's coding talent and desire to help others culminated in the creation of a sensor that detects vitamin and mineral deficiency in breast milk.



2017 High School Leading Lights

One of the most important things
you can do on this earth is to let
people know they are not alone.

- Shannon L. Alder



It is this simple. The religion of
a computer is to compute - the
religion of a scorpion is to sting
in the face of danger - the
religion of a human is to help
other humans.

- Abhijit Naskar



2017 College Leading Lights



College Leading Lights



Amy Chen, Virginia Tech

Amy serves as a student leader within the STEP UP program in VT Engage, having led two weekend service immersion trips and several day-long service trips over the last two years. During her time with this program, she has engaged in difficult dialogues as she works to understand the social issues and communities included in the trips. Her work to become more aware of social issues and injustice in society is important to her, and drives her to get others involved.

* * *

Breanna LaTondre, Virginia Tech

Breanna began participating in community service with Hurley Community Development, Inc. out of Hurley, VA in high school and has continued that passionate service throughout her time at Virginia Tech. She has worked to help develop her fellow student leaders through the development of the VT Engage Student Leadership team by serving as a mentor to several students over the last five years. Additionally, Breanna has continued to lead other service trips engaging students in deep reflection and critical service.

* * *

Brooke Souders, Virginia Tech

Active in VT Engage and the co-ed service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, Brooke is an extremely passionate volunteer that always brings positivity and kindness. She serves as Vice President of the APO chapter, which brings responsibility for organizing the many service projects for the chapter. As a student leader for VT Engage, she has led two service immersion trips to the Dominican Republic. Additionally, she is involved in Dan's Bandanna, a service effort that aims to raise awareness and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.



College Leading Lights



Dana Draughn, New River Community College

Described as “deeply committed to public service,” Dana routinely volunteers through her participation in the honor society at New River Community College. Dana volunteers at American Red Cross blood drives, sold raffle tickets to benefit Head Start and the American Diabetes Association, and has collected supplies to be sent overseas to soldiers. As a member of Phi Beta Lambda, she organized and facilitated a supplies drive for the Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley, collecting over 200 items for the Center.

* * *

Delaney Beattie, Virginia Tech

Delaney’s drive for community building and service goes far beyond the reaches of the US borders. Throughout her time at Virginia Tech and with VT Engage Delaney has been able to immerse herself in Latin American culture from a study abroad trip in Ecuador to leading a service trip on environmental conservation in Peru and completing conservation research in Bolivia. She is committed to diving deeper into issues of environmental justice by leading additional local and regional service trips with other VT students.

* * *

Emily Millar, Virginia Tech

Emily radiates service in her work with Alpha Phi Omega and all that she does at Virginia Tech. She is committed to spreading awareness around the stigma for mental health and has planned a service immersion trip in order to do so. She is a demonstrated leader as she is also on five of the service committees within APO. Additionally, Emily is also involved as a service chair for two Girl Scout troops, the Montgomery Animal Shelter, and has attended a week-long service immersion trip in the Dominican Republic.



College Leading Lights



Franklin Edwards, Virginia Tech

Franklin shows a deep commitment for bettering the community he lives in through his demonstrated leadership within Phi Sigma Pi and VT Engage. He has spent his last two spring breaks participating in alternative spring break immersion trips where he has focused on bettering his understanding on community and environmental issues within Appalachia. Franklin is looked up to as a peer mentor for his fellow student leaders and helps them discover their passions for service.

* * *

Heather McGovern, Virginia Tech

As a senior, Heather is seen as a natural leader and planner for the Walk to End Alzheimer's committee. She has helped to raise funds totaling over \$125,000 and has more than doubled the planning team for the walk. Along with her involvement with the Walk to End Alzheimer's, Heather is also very involved with Sigma Kappa Sorority at Virginia Tech, Physical Therapy Club, and is an IMPACT peer leader.

* * *

Hunter Cole, New River Community College

Hunter is a man with no time to sleep! He attends New River Community College full-time, where he majors in Instrumentation and Control Automation Technology. He also works full-time at Volvo Trucks. Then in his "free time" he volunteers 1,400 hours each year as a Firefighter for the Hiwassee Fire Department and also serves on the Riner Rescue Squad. Why does he do all this? He wants to make the world a better place through his volunteerism.



College Leading Lights



Jessica Tucker, Virginia Tech

Jessica is described as being extremely selfless. Along with being a full-time student she is an officer for Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity, a volunteer for the Literacy Volunteers of the NRV, a volunteer for Relay for Life, and works at the RAFT Crisis hotline. She is passionate about helping individuals who struggle with mental illness as well as reducing the stigma around it. Jessica continually puts the needs of others before her own.

* * *

Kaley Holloway, Virginia Tech

Self-understanding and empathy are two values which describe how Kaley leads and engages in community service. She has shown strong leadership while leading a month-long service immersion trip in Peru. Kaley understands the need for long-term sustainable partnerships that are community led. This was evident in her work of leading an alternative spring break this past year to New Orleans to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Kaley continually pushes her fellow participants to think deeper and engage fully with the community.

* * *

Martha Legg, Virginia Tech

As a senior at Virginia Tech, Martha has dedicated her time to being of service and to the development of other student leaders. She has been instrumental in building a service program for first year students and continually pushes others to engage in thoughtful service and critical reflection. After graduation, Martha wants to use her degree for the community, focusing on how she can intersect environmental engineering with community development.



College Leading Lights



Megan Mickey, Virginia Tech

Over the past five years Megan has continually shown her ability to guide and lead others in service. She was a part of the inaugural group that built the VT Engage student leadership team focused on service learning. She has worked to sustain a partnership with Hurley Community Development, Inc. out of Hurley, VA through five years of alternative spring break trips. As a graduating architecture student this May, Megan, hopes to continue her service mindset post-graduation.

* * *

Nicole Kurka, Virginia Tech

Nicole is known as a vibrant and committed volunteer. As a member of Alpha Phi Omega, she has planned a service immersion trip to her hometown of Pittsburgh. During the planning process for this trip she was able to work with Michaels Craft Store and Hard Rock Café to get donations to make over 100 homemade stockings for the children at Pitt Children's Hospital. Nicole often participates in several other APO service events and is always ready to give 100%.

* * *

Olivia Obertello, Virginia Tech

Olivia is a dedicated, compassionate full time student at Virginia Tech and a program leader for YMCA at VT for Margaret Beeks Cub Connections. She has volunteered at Harding Avenue Elementary and Margaret Beeks Elementary. She helps coordinate the Blacksburg Farmer's Market and has volunteered at The Farmacy Garden. Olivia is also academically accomplished. She was a Grant Project Intern for Sarah Marotto, RD and the Blacksburg Intern for Virginia Cooperative Extension Family Nutrition Program where she guided the community on healthy and sustainable eating. She has held two Undergraduate Research Assistant positions, one in the Psychology Department and another in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise (HNFE). She has also been an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant twice (HNFE). She is a VT Accelerated Masters Student researching Farm to School programs. Olivia has a busy schedule and a strong commitment to her community.



College Leading Lights



Riley Clark, Virginia Tech

Riley is the co-philanthropy chair for his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, at Virginia Tech with a dedication to improving the community. In his role as co-internal philanthropy chair, he chose to make the Women's Center at Virginia Tech his fraternity's beneficiary because no other fraternity on campus represents women's rights. In past years, the largest amount Alpha Tau Omega raised was \$2,000. But in Riley's first year as co-philanthropy chair, the fraternity raised over \$12,000. His devotion to community improvement does not stop at humanitarianism. Riley has worked with the local police force and will be interning at the Police Foundation in Washington D.C. doing research with the U.S. Department of Justice on Community Oriented Policing Services.

* * *

Tori Schmehl, Virginia Tech

Tori is a brother in Alpha Phi Omega at Virginia Tech and serves on the committee for mental health. She is described as inspirational and extremely passionate about mental illness. She started the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) at Virginia Tech and is the current president. Tori has made tremendous strides on campus to spread awareness, and reaching out to individuals who have been affected by mental health and suicide.

* * *

Tyler Hall, New River Community College

Tyler does it all. He is a full-time student at New River Community College, where he has a dual major of Instrumentation and Control Automation Technology and Electrical Engineering. He also works part-time at Lowe's. Then in his "free-time" (1,400 hours) he is a Volunteer Firefighter for Newbern and Pulaski Fire Departments, serves on the Riner Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Pulaski County Special Operations Team.



The best way to find yourself is
to lose yourself in the service of
others.

-Mahatma Gandhi



2017 Floyd County Community Leading Lights



Community Leading Lights



Ann Raridon, Blacksburg

Ann is described as hardworking, creative and always ready to work with a positive attitude. She has dedicated 10 years of volunteer service to organizations in Blacksburg like SEEDS- Blacksburg Nature Center and serves on its Board of Directors. As a volunteer at SEEDS, Ann was able to accomplish the redevelopment of the pollinator garden, and create and lead several events. She has been the lead fundraiser for SEEDS and the lead volunteer teacher for the nature center's Playdate Fridays. Ann is also the founder of the New River Creative Reuse Center and has volunteered with Master Naturalists of the New River Valley, Sustainable Blacksburg, Greening the Holidays, CROP Hunger Walk, The Kids Consignment Sale and Blacksburg United Methodist Church.

* * *

Archie Boothe, Pulaski

Archie has demonstrated a personal commitment to serve his community and church in a way which sets the bar high for volunteerism in Pulaski. Joining Scout Troop 249 in Pulaski in 1939, he has served 63 years as an adult leader, being a role model to over 300 boys and leading more than 60 scouts to the rank of Eagle Scout. However, devoting over 600 hours per year to Scouting does not keep Archie busy enough, even at the age of 81. He also volunteers each day at Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, as he has for the past 31 years, and serving several terms as President of the Board. He is currently the "go-to guy" at Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, giving over 750 hours per year in a role described as the lifeblood of the operation, ensuring on a daily basis that all the "behind the scenes" needs are met. In addition, he has been a key volunteer at the First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski for the past 50 years, 40 of these as a Deacon and 35 as Elder. His pastor estimates that Archie spends 600 hours annually serving his church, living out his belief that we all exist to help others.



Community Leading Lights



Betsy Hagan, Blacksburg

Betsy is depicted as reliable and invaluable as a cat caretaker for humane organizations at PetSmart in Christiansburg for nine years. Two of the humane organizations she has volunteered for through PetSmart are Mt. View Humane and Floyd County Humane Society. The longevity of her service demonstrates her passion for animals and her selflessness. Betsy's role as a cat caretaker is not a glamorous one. It involves cleaning and sanitizing the cat's living quarters, and she single-handedly takes responsibility for the regular laundering of the linens. In addition to quality care of the cats, she takes the time to train other volunteers how to care for the animals.

* * *

Bill Roth, Blacksburg

Bill is a genuine, humble man focused on others who cares deeply about the community he lives in. For years he was known as the "Voice of the Hokies" and during that time he created and sponsored "Bill Roth's United Way Kids Day" which has been ongoing for the past 16 years. Through this partnership with Bill, the Virginia Tech Athletics Department and United Way of the New River Valley, 150 at risk and low income youth each year have been given the full VIP treatment at an ACC VT basketball game. He was also the United Way NRV's community spokesperson from 2004-2015 emceeding and speaking at events, recording PSA's, and securing other speakers. Bill has also worked with the VT Department of Athletics to establish a scholarship for a VT student-athlete with an interest in communications. He truly has been a tireless speaker of service messages on behalf of several service organizations across the New River Valley.



Community Leading Lights



Bonnie Hawks, Christiansburg

Bonnie has volunteered at the Habitat ReStore since it opened in Christiansburg in 2013. She was instrumental in layout, set-up and merchandising. She also assisted with policy and process ideas for ReStore. She is described as kind and considerate with a wonderful sense of humor. Bonnie is a Retired Senior Volunteer Program member and she has volunteered at multiple organizations such as The American Red Cross, Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley and Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library.

* * *

Carrie Owens, Pulaski

Carrie has worked as a volunteer victim and witness advocate for the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for the past 15 years. She provides education and support for victims of crime at a very difficult time in their lives as they navigate the court system. This all takes place when the support is needed the most. She makes herself available days, nights, weekends and holidays. To Carrie, the time of day is not important, the caring is what matters. As a further indication of her dedication to victims of crime, she also serves on the National Organization of Victim Assistance Crisis Response Team and was recently selected to the Department of Corrections Victim Impact Program.

* * *

Cathy Shaut, Floyd

Cathy goes above and beyond when it comes to serving homeless and neglected animals. For more than 15 years, she has volunteered with the Floyd County Humane Society (FCHS), where she finds homes for animals, helps citizens find ways to keep their pets, traps feral cats to be spayed or neutered, transports animals to other rescues, assists when animals are pulled from abusive situations, and acts spokesperson for FCHS. Cathy also fosters animals. When FCHS's budget is low, she buys food for the animals. In 2015, she also helped provide over one ton of food to Plenty! Farm and Food Bank's pet program. The epitome of compassion, Cathy has helped save the lives of over 200 animals.



Community Leading Lights



Charlie Barbettini, Pulaski

Charlie founded and has run the Taking it to the Streets ministry since 2010 and also runs the Warming Station in Pulaski, which helps men and women who find themselves homeless on cold nights. Understanding that people need to know they are cared for before they can truly care for themselves, Charlie and his ministry focus on the things that can make a big difference to someone who is down. A warm place, a winter coat, a meal, and a word of encouragement are Charlie's tools to reach people struggling with addiction, financial problems, illness and other problems.

* * *

Charlie Whitescarver, Christiansburg

Charlie is a key member of and driven to continually make improvements with the organizations he's involved with. He is the president of Network NRV and was instrumental in developing and creating this networking group. Charlie has been the Community Impact Panel chair for the United Way of the New River Valley for five years and has also served as a United Way Community Ambassador leader. He previously served as president of the Radford Kiwanis, sat on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters, and served as a Big Brother. Charlie is an active member of the Dublin United Methodist Church. He is also a volunteer photographer for numerous nonprofits.

* * *

Christie Heslip, Blacksburg

After the death of her husband Lewis Heslip, Christie has worked tirelessly to grow his program, Captain Louie's Future Leaders, which is a leadership program built on student service in elementary schools. This year, the program is offered in 6 elementary schools in Montgomery County. In addition to co-founding an elementary school level leadership program, Christie leads and plans leadership sessions for Project 14, which helps bring police and community members together. She works hard as the manager at The Weight Club, a non-profit fitness center and in the past, she volunteered with Help Save the Next Girl. She is working to improve the community now and in the future by focusing on youth leadership and service.



Community Leading Lights



Janne Mathes, Blacksburg

Those who have worked with Janne say she has the unique ability to identify a current area of need in a community and commit to watching a team come together to help alleviate it. She was a leader in starting the emergency shelter program for men called To Our House and served on the policy council for 8 years. Janne was one of the founding members of the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership (BRP) and helped bring six refugee families to the community from Syria and Afghanistan. She also served in the Peace Corps in Peru for two years. She started the Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum in 1979 and was the first volunteer director for three years and remained on the board until 1993. She also volunteers with Caring for the Community where she connects people contacting Blacksburg Presbyterian Church with services in the New River Valley. Janne has had a long life of volunteering and creating more hopeful futures for people in her community.

* * *

Jim Kelly, Pulaski

Jim has been a volunteer for almost 50 years. He began volunteering at the Pulaski Free Clinic in 2004 and devotes over 300 hours annually in that role. He is currently President of the Board at the Free Clinic. In addition, he serves as chairman of several committees at the First United Methodist Church in Pulaski, has been in scouting for over 61 years, and has served as volunteer representative of the Virginia Military Institute class of 1971 for the past 20 years. As was said about him, "When Jim takes on a volunteer role, he does so with a great sense of responsibility. He doesn't do anything unless it is wholeheartedly. He is truly invested in whatever he does."



Community Leading Lights



John Galbraith, Blacksburg

John's vision to start a community gleaning group to collect surplus produce from farms and other places to distribute to hunger relief organizations in the community quickly evolved into the NRV Glean Team. Through his leadership these efforts now involve coordinating with over 200 volunteers, gleaning from 5 farms and recovering a minimum of 25,000 lbs. of fresh fruit and vegetables per year. He also initiated and still coordinates an annual "potato drop" that involves 50 volunteers that distribute a tractor trailer load of 43,000 lbs. of Maine potatoes to about 30 hunger relief organizations in the New River Valley. This event has been held for four consecutive years and has been such a success that the NRV Glean Team will host two potato drops in 2018. In addition to his work with the Glean Team, every Christmas John works with a church youth group to send dozens of Christmas cards to inmates at a prison in south Texas; he coaches VT's Soil Judging Team which serves as a professional development service to students at VT as well as helping establish and tend Micah's Backpack's first garden. John is a selfless individual who never remains idle, seeks the welfare of others less fortunate, and is available whenever needed to assist with a humanitarian project.

* * *

Kelly McPherson, Blacksburg

All of Kelly's volunteer efforts revolve around building community. She brings people together around a common cause in ways that build relationships, celebrates people's gifts, honors contributions, and builds the continuation of service to others in our community. In addition to teaching, she has served our community through her church, community fitness organizations like Kipps Family Fit Night, and fundraising for the establishment of the Casey Jones Memorial Scholarship. Now she leads Captain Louie's Future Leaders, a leadership and character-building program for 4th and 5th graders who serve their community by completing 14 services projects over the course of the academic year throughout Montgomery County. Kelly is giving and compassionate. She has such passion for bringing people together, helping people and serving others.



Community Leading Lights



Lynn Brammer, Christiansburg

Lynn has been a NRV Master Gardener since 1997. Share the Spare is one of the many programs she's been involved in. Its goal is to collect donations from farmers and farmer's market shoppers and to distribute the fruits and vegetables to area food pantries serving disadvantaged community residents. Under Lynn's leadership, produce totaling just under a ton was donated in 2013. Donations have jumped to 2 tons (4,480 lbs.) in 2017. Every Saturday and Thursday from May through October, her volunteer service for Share the Spare totals more than 4,000 hours of service to the New River Valley. Lynn's unwavering commitment combined with skill at building consensus permeates everything she undertakes. Lynn inspires. She is dedicated. She is untiring. She is unselfish. She is priceless. Her irrepressible zest for life is summed up by what she says: "Our community would be a better place if everyone would find time to volunteer."

* * *

Lynn Hill, Giles

Lynn Hill has spent decades leading by example and inspiration. A dedicated volunteer and gifted artist, she has relentlessly served the youth and overlooked citizens of Giles County as a long-serving and hard-working board member of the Christian Mission and Hope House. She has become the backbone of the Giles Early Education Project (GEEP). She and her husband built three "Little Friendly Libraries in distressed areas of Giles County. She also developed very creative projects such as an "Art Corner" in conjunction with the Narrows High School summer free lunch program, and an amazing painted rock project (2,000 rocks) with Christy Lawson that enlisted the assistance of day release prisoners that will culminate in a massive sculpture in Giles County. Lynn produced and designed GEEP's Smiles of Giles, a book that Giles County Administration distributes to every preschooler and kindergartener in the county. She is passionate, energetic and a gift to Giles County.



Community Leading Lights



Matt Adamo, Blacksburg

Matt has been an avid volunteer within our community over the past 15 years. He currently volunteers 3-5 hours every week from September to June with Special Olympics. He plays as a partner in basketball, volleyball, and softball alongside athletes with disabilities. He also serves as an on-the-court/field mentor and coach to the athletes. This year he will be leading the softball team as the only team in VA to compete in the USA Games in Seattle this June. Matt genuinely cares about each Special Olympics athlete. He goes out of his way to make each and every athlete feel important. He understands the meaning of inclusion and practices it every day.

* * *

Melinda Dunford, Radford

A deeply engaged volunteer, Melinda initiates action when she sees need and infuses kindness into the work that she does. She is the president of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, a member of the HH-Hunt United Way Campaign team, and a member of the Care Committee at her church. She also gives her time to food and school supply drives, and participates in various nonprofit fundraiser runs. As the campaign leader for HHHunt United Way, Melinda has helped HHHunt grow into a Top 10 campaign in the community. She is also a founding member of the NRV Express American Business Women's Association. At her church, Melinda serves on the Care Committee, caring for church members in their time of need, and helps coordinate drives for community resources.

* * *

Penny Sweet, Radford

Penny is generous and compassionate community member who is always willing to lend a hand to people in need. She is the NRV's Project Linus Coordinator, for which she organizes Blanket Day events where people from across the community send blankets to people in need. Penny has created partnerships with over 30 local agencies to supply blankets to children who have suffered loss and devastation. She has logged thousands hours of volunteers service with community agencies including Radford Elf Shelf, as a board member with Radford Department of Social Services, and Radford Clothing Bank. Penny has been a member of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program for 10 years, and is an active member of Grace Episcopal Church in Radford.



Community Leading Lights



Raymond Lyons Jr., Christiansburg

Raymond has been actively involved in community volunteerism for 7 years. He is a hard-working, reliable, and extremely motivated volunteer who is known for his spirited personality and a strong passion for helping those in need of emergency assistance. He is a Vietnam Veteran, having served in the U.S. Army, and an active member of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Raymond spends his time helping numerous organizations, including the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP) Thrift Store and More, the Shawsville Lay Ministerial Association Food Pantry, and the NRV Agency on Aging. Raymond reported 531 hours of service to RSVP in 2017. Since 2011, he has reported a total of 1,949 lifetime hours through the organizations that he serves.

* * *

Robin Atkins, Giles

Robin is a tireless servant leader with a servant heart. She annually organizes and leads teams for annual walk primarily for the American Heart Association and American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Newport. In her community of Newport, she serves as an Elder, Secretary and custodian of First Christian Church, and also serves on the board of the Newport Village Library and Museum. She collects food for local missions, school supplies for children, and supports Newport Cares with backpacks for the weekends. She rarely says no when asked to do something for others. Robin organized events to cover rent for a lady and her son for six months, and also raised over \$5,000 for a woman who was in a motorcycle accident. She voluntarily leads the Staff Diversity Development Group on Virginia Tech's campus. She loves the community where she and her family live and is so willing to give of her time to it.

* * *

Ron Mady, Dublin

Ron has a deep passion to do community missionary work, volunteering his time and talents to his church, GoPulaski, Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, and to the special needs of elderly. He has worked to organize multiple mission trips to help folks in need following disasters in Virginia and South Carolina. His humble, easy-going nature, coupled with his passion to help, mark him as a real asset to our community.



Community Leading Lights



Sharon Lowery, Giles

Sharon has voluntarily managed the Giles County Baby & Toddler Shop of the Children's Health Improvement Project (CHIP) for five years. While the shop meets physical needs of young families in need, it also reaches out to accomplish more, often connecting the families to critical services and parenting assistance. Sharon recruits, trains and supervises other volunteers at the shop; often stays after closing to clean and organize, or meets clients for after-hours emergencies. She even contributes funds to buy needed good and pays for a storage unit to keep out-of-season goods stowed away. Sharon's goal is to help each client feel loved and valued and make sure every client is treated with dignity and respect.

* * *

Sheila Nelson, Pulaski

Clocking an amazing 1,700 volunteer hours per year for the past 3 years, Shelia is the "go to" person at LewisGale Hospital in Pulaski. Ready to do whatever is needed, she devotes her talents to all areas of the hospital, from administration to Surgical Services to the Cancer Care Center. As the Lead Volunteer she helps coordinate the activities of all hospital volunteers. As if that is not enough, while at home, she crochets prayer cloths for the patients! She is an inspiration to all who know her. She has also been involved with Pulaski County Library, Pulaski County Visitor Center, Business & Professional Women, Senior RSVP Program, DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), Chamber of Commerce, Pulaski Counting Polling Worker, Democratic Convention and her local church.

* * *

Sid Bigley, Blacksburg

Sid has spent nearly 2 decades volunteering with Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and has done amazing work with patient care and leadership. He was instrumental in the development of the new facility. He also serves on several local and state level committees and advisory boards. Sid is a true servant leader who devotes a large amount of his time in leadership development of other personnel and advancing the EMS profession. Within the organization he has served as 1st Lieutenant, Captain (3 years), Chief (7 years), President (2 years), and Deputy Chief (2 years) with close to 900 hours of volunteer service per year.



Community Leading Lights



Stephanie Palmer, Shawsville

Stephanie has been a member of Shawsville Rescue Squad for many years and currently serves as their second in command First Lieutenant. Stephanie also serves the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission as secretary. In most years, she commits over 1,000 hours of volunteer service to the citizens of the Shawsville and Elliston area of Montgomery County. Stephanie is a great provider of emergency medical care, a great teacher, and excellent administrative officer.

* * *

Terri Welch, Christiansburg

Terri is incredibly involved and invested in serving our community. She currently serves on the Board of Directors and the Event Planning Team of the United Way of the New River Valley as well as the Board of the NRV American Business Women's Association. She was a co-founder of Network NRV, a local networking group, which incorporates a charitable focus into their mission. Through her Wine and Design business, she established the Paint It Forward Charitable Division. She offers discounted classes for charity organizations as well as offers free classes in exchange for donations to a non-profit. She has also been a volunteer with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce in several capacities and was a nominee for the Chamber "Small Business of the Year" for her innovative practices and service to the community. She bridges the gap between arts, colleges, and charities and is always looking to help make connections in the name of service for our community.

* * *

Vickie Spangler, Floyd

Vickie is the backbone of many successes, and is patient, generous, and kind. She is wholeheartedly dedicated to Floyd County's 4-H programs and the Farm Bureau. With 4-H, Vickie has served in many roles, including camp volunteer, volunteer leader, programs volunteer, and representative for Floyd County at conferences. A volunteer for over 40 years, several generations of children have been the beneficiary of her service to 4-H. Vickie is the treasurer for Floyd County Chamber of Commerce, the chair for Farm Bureau's Women's Committee, and a board member for the Farm Bureau. She also oversaw the growth and venue relocation of the Floyd Livestock and County Fair, which has shattered attendance records the past two years.



To know even one life
has breathed easier because
you have lived. This is to
have succeeded.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



*(C) Catherine Vaughn Pauley, 2017 Distinguished Lifetime Achievement
Recipient with Leading Lights Board president Dick Arnold (R) and
former board member Terry Arbogast (L)*

Lifetime Achievement Leading Lights

About NRV Leading Lights' Lifetime Achievement Award

The Jim & Lenna Moore Community Service & Citizenship Award

Given in honor of two longtime New River Valley volunteers, Jim and Lenna Moore, our Lifetime Achievement award celebrates volunteers who have devoted their lives to their community. The organizations Lenna was most active in - the YMCA at Virginia Tech, the American Red Cross, AARP, and Voluntary Action Center - decided to honor her memory with this award, which was first given in 2000. Jim's name was added to the award following his passing in 2001.

* * *

Alecia Stanley, Dublin

Alecia has a lifetime of service through her church, Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, Dublin Adult Day Care Facility and many other organizations. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Adult Day care Facility in Dublin. Her quiet work helping neighbors, friends and people in need is astounding. A community volunteer for over 60 years, Alecia typically still devotes over 300 hours annually to helping others because, as she says, "It's the right thing to do."

* * *

Judy Ison, Draper

Judy is the single most important person making what is said to be the single most important event in Pulaski County a reality. Judy has been working on the Claytor Lake Festival Committee for the past 18 years, 15 of that as the Chair. In 2017, she devoted 1,500 volunteer hours to making the Festival, which draws about 16,000 visitors to Claytor Lake State Park, a success. She continues as Festival Chair in 2018. She was also Director of the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley for 15 years, and has served on the Pulaski Chamber of Commerce, Greater Pulaski Alliance, Friends of the Pulaski Theater, Round the Mountain and the Pulaski Board of Tourism. Everything Judy has done has been with the goal of enhancing the reputation and appeal of Pulaski County. Her volunteer efforts have been ongoing for 30 years, 20 of which have been in Pulaski County.

✧ *Lifetime Achievement Leading Lights* ✧

Patricia Baird, Blacksburg

Patricia was involved with the Blacksburg High School Athletic Boosters Club from 1993-1998 and served as President from 1994 to 1998. She is currently a Blacksburg Children's Museum Board member, fundraising committee member, and volunteer during open hours. With the Boosters she was responsible for soliciting local businesses for monetary and product donations. She provided leadership for the first BHS Booster Club Dinner Raffle that generated approximately \$15,000 in 1993. These funds, and the effort of many dedicated parents, allowed them to build a much needed concession stand and restroom facility at the old Bill Brown Stadium. Patricia has also volunteered with the Montgomery County Christmas Store, March of Dimes and as an American Heart Association Neighborhood Volunteer for a number of years. As a Board Member with the Blacksburg Children's Museum, when she saw the interactive geospatial exhibit with a wall-sized satellite image of the region and historical images of past decades created by students and professors at Virginia Tech, she asked if the team could create a permanent display for the museum. She realized there was a unique opportunity to involve the university with the community and to offer a resource not only for museum members but for teachers. Some of the attributes that best describe her are dedication and perseverance to assist with the activity at hand.

* * *

Woody Crenshaw, Floyd

A persistent advocate for the causes he's dedicated to, Woody has given countless numbers of hours, and years of service to the NRV through his involvement in a variety of organizations and projects. With tireless hands-on support and leadership, he has served as the vice chair for the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Commission Foundation, the president of the Crooked Road board of directors, the president of Round the Mountain, a founding board member of the Jacksonville Center for the Arts, and president (as well as founding member) of Sustain Floyd. With Woody's personal support and leadership, Sustain Floyd created the Floyd Farmers Market and Friday Night Artisan Market, along with the Floyd County Artisan Trail and Tour Weekend.

Lifetime Achievement Leading Lights

Tom Sherman, Blacksburg

Tom has been a volunteer leader in every organization he has served. When discussing Tom's service the phrase "effective leadership" comes up time and again. Tom began his service after arriving at Virginia Tech in 1971. He and his wife served as PTA co-presidents and he later served as the Blacksburg High School PTA president advancing the community's reputation as a stellar school system. His service leadership in education continued as the President of the Faculty Senate where this work earned him the Baldwin Memorial Town and Gown Award in 2010. Tom was also a founding member of the Neighborhood Foundation, a group of activists working for the advancement of safe and reasonable development in Blacksburg. He has garnered utmost respect as an elected official serving 5 terms on Town Council and as Vice Mayor. Through his work with Habitat for Humanity serving as a board member for 8 years as well as Chair of Family Services Committee he has been pragmatic, empathetic, and a passionate about social justice. Tom is a strategic thinker that leads from the board room, as well as a skilled energetic and knowledgeable person with power tools. He is a vision volunteer leader with expertise skilled at building consensus among diverse community groups.



2017 Lifetime Achievement Leading Lights



Past Leading Lights Distinguished Recipients



High School

Taylor Hawkins, Floyd
Jessica Shelburne, Pulaski
Connor Moran, Christiansburg
Aaron Miller, Radford
Olivia Hodge, Blacksburg
Rebecca Kay Stephens, Giles
Laura Froggard, Blacksburg
Anna Keppel-Benson, Blacksburg
Jessica Vance, Blacksburg
Marie Stump, Christiansburg
Ben Webster, Snowville

* * *

College

Kyndal Stakes, Virginia Tech
Sydney Curtis, Virginia Tech
Kelly Berry, Virginia Tech
Elizabeth Domann, Virginia Tech
Austin Larrowe, Virginia Tech
Chelsea Hall, Virginia Tech
Ryan Brock, Virginia Tech
Analise Adams, Virginia Tech
Victoria Sarbin, Radford University
Matthew Johnson, Virginia Tech
Stephanie Connelly, Virginia Tech

* * *

Community Members

Susan Sutterer, Floyd
Ann Goette, Eggleston
Diane Blair, Pulaski
Jean Umberger, Radford
Scott & Mendy Sink, Blacksburg
Barnett Carr, Blacksburg
Susan Icove, Floyd

Donna & Doug Martin, Newport

Ben Crawford, Blacksburg

Melvin Robertson, Christiansburg

Nancy & Bill Hudson, Fairlawn

Keith Nunn, Radford

Todd Fitch, Christiansburg

Molly McClintock, Christiansburg

Dr. Steve Jacobs, Blacksburg

Mary Susan Vehorn, Radford

Col. John Getgood, Floyd

Doris Hendrickson, Radford

Kim Schwenk, Blacksburg

Jerry Higgins, Radford

Rebecca Rees, Blacksburg

Lindsay West, Blacksburg

Phyllis Albritton, Blacksburg

Pat Ballard, Christiansburg

Mary Ann Hinshelwood, Christiansburg

Jon McEnhill, Floyd

Dr. Nelda Pearson, Radford

Margie Vitale, Christiansburg

Karen Cronin, Shawsville

Fran Rooker, Radford

Rador Vaden, Blacksburg

* * *

Lifetime Achievement

Catherine Vaughn Pauley, Floyd

Don Mullins, Blacksburg

Merilyn & Dave Armstrong, Dublin

Dr. George Smith, Shawsville



 New River Valley Leading Lights

 @LeadingLightsNRV

 LeadingLightsNRV

 leadinglightsnrv@gmail.com

 leadinglightsnrv.org

*Program Production: United Way of the New River Valley
Original Design: Lindsey Gleason
Program printed by Old Town Printing, Inc. Christiansburg, VA*