generous inspiring welcoming welcoming kindVolunteer. tirelessCommunity compassionate supportive Service



Celebrating Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Recognition Ceremony

April 11, 2019







2018 NRV Leading Lights Distinguished Recipients from across the New River Valley.

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

- Unknown



2019 Leading Lights



High School

Kayla Blevins
Kaylee Corvin
Mackenzie Farmer
Bronzson Lawson
Jonathan Moore
Violet Neikirk
Morgan Rosenbaum
Hannah Shuff
Jaelyn Szerokman
Khushi Talajia

* * * College

Noelle Abbott Jacob Benjamin Clendal Brown Kyera Broxton Breon Case Derek Chen Lehi Dowell Morrgan Duncan Sofia Jorgenson Alexa Keeler Lisa Lane Gabriella Magasic Casey Molina Allie Parker Tanha Patel Denny Price Tiffany Smith Carl Yao

Lifetime Achievement

Wallace Huff Myrl Jones Bobbie Knoezer Carol Smith

Community Members

Mike Abbott Lynn Brammer Charlie Buchinsky Travis Cantrell Michael Carroll Aury Cook Betty Day Teresa Dickens Mike Eggleston Ronald Flanary Rodney Freeman Dan Grubb Ianiele Hamden John Hess Dean Jackson Betty Lou Kirkner Darcie Luster Kelly McPherson Sarah Merfeld David Pynn Freddie Ratcliff Jenny Riffe Ralph Robertson Stan Stanley Lee Stewart Martha Sullivan Ann Walker Chris Wolf



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.

Award Selection Committee

Michael Abraham David Brown Sharon Eifried Bill King

Christina McIntyre Charlie Mullins

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 a 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

John Byers Montgomery County

Catherine Cotrupi VT Engage

Kymn Davidson-Hamley United Way of the New River Valley

> Gary Eifried Pulaski County

> Sharon Eifried Pulaski County

Marcela Jara, *Secretary*United Way of the New River Valley

Bob Job Montgomery County Christmas Store Kelly Kaiser New River Community College

> Rev. Bill King Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

Christina McIntyre Giles County

Ryan Martin YMCA at Virginia Tech

> Charlie Mullins Giles County

Mary Pettitt
Montgomery County

Enrique Rebolledo YMCA at Virginia Tech

Tim Rosche, *Treasurer* Christiansburg Lions Club

> Jessica Twiest Radford University



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
Dr. George R. Smith

Flood Lights
Table Sponsors (\$500 - \$999)

Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club Bob & Judy Job Christiansburg Lions Club Community Foundation of the NRV David & Sharon Lowe Dick Arnold & Dawn Musser Dori-Del Hills Farm & Advantage Ranch Greg & Fran Rooker Habitat for Humanity of the NRV John & Lisa Dooley John & Wendy Byers* Managed Growth, Inc MOOG Components Group National Bank NRCC Educational Foundation Radford University Stateson Homes Union Bank & Trust

VT Engage

Spot Lights (\$250 - \$499)

Balzer & Associates
Blacksburg AARP
Bob & Scotti Dickenson
Brian Torgersen
Craig & Susan Nesbit
Christina McIntyre
Courtyard by Marriott
Dr. Steve & Cathy Jacobs*
Earle Spruill
First Bank & Trust
Floyd County Rotary Club
Freedom First Credit Union
Foxguard Solutions (CCS)

Gary & Sharon Eifried
Jim & Sue McAllister
Mary Pettitt
Mike Eggleston*
Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club
Plott & French Financial
Advisors
Tim Rosche
Wal-Mart Pearisburg
Whit & Kelly Babcock

Strobe Lights (\$100 - \$249)

Alonzo L. Jones (Blacksburg Animal Clinic) A Cleaner World Bill King Brown Insurance Celco Federal Credit Union Charles & Andie Parron Charles & Nancy Warren David Brown* Don & Claire Waldron* Janet Kirk Ryan Martin Jim Mattox Kymn Davidson-Hamley & Jeff Hamley Larry Linkous, Auctioneer Lewis & Catherine Webb

Mark J. Benson Memorial Gardens of the NRV (Iim Lucas) Minnis & Louise Ridenour Rotary Club of Montgomery County Pat & Peter Huber Karen Hult* PLott & French Financial Advisors Rick & Phyllis Geoghegan* Rock & Patty Roszak Terry & Odelia Arbogast Terry Strock Thomas Dalzell Virginia Leader (Pearisburg) William Neely

Bright Lights (Up to \$99)

Catherine Cotrupi Enrique Rebolledo John Gailbraith Kroger Karen Jaworski Marcela Jara Mark Wigginton Virginia Leader

* Signifies members of the Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

In-Kind Contributions

KymnImages Photography United Way of the New River Valley

Professional Catering, Inc.

Kelly Kaiser

Old Town Printing

PLOTT & FRENCH FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Congratulations and thanks to all Leading Lights and Distinguished Recipients! You help make the New River Valley a special place to live.

2401-C South Main Street Blacksburg, VA 24060 (540) 639-2139

P.O. Box 2866 104 Wadsworth Street Radford, VA 24143 (540) 639-2139



Keynote Speaker





Marisela Rosas Hemphill

Radford University's First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill is a true champion of education. She is a proponent of providing students with a global experience and interaction with a variety of cultures and languages, which are so important in today's economy. Additionally, as an avid reader, she has a strong passion for literacy.

Dr. Rosas Hemphill spent her childhood years in Chicago, Illinois and Davenport, Iowa. A first-generation college student, she received a bachelor's degree in International Business and Sociology from Cornell College, a master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Iowa State University of Science and Technology and a doctorate in Student Affairs Administration and Research from The University of Iowa.

Dr. Rosas Hemphill's professional career includes prior appointments as: Director of Student Activities/Associate Director of Campus Life at Colgate University located in Hamilton, New York; Associate Dean of Students at Hartwick College located in Oneonta, New York; and Special Assistant to the Vice President of University Relations at Northern Illinois University located in DeKalb, Illinois. Dr. Rosas Hemphill's scholarly research has been focused on college student activism, learning outcomes and first-generation college students.

Dr. Rosas Hemphill is married to Radford University's Seventh President Brian O. Hemphill. Ph.D. The Hemphills have two children—six-year old twins Catalina and Cruz. The Hemphill family resides in the historic Governor Tyler House and is very active on campus and in the community. The Hemphills enjoy attending a variety of events in support of the Radford family, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and community members.



Tonight's Program



Master of Ceremonies
Welcome
In Memoriam
Bagpipe Performance
Dinner
Leading Lights Recognition
Introduction of Speaker
Keynote SpeakerDr. Marisela Rosas Hemphill
Distinguished Recipients
High School · College
Community: Floyd • Giles • Montgomery • Pulaski • Radford
Jim & Lenna Moore Lifetime Achievement Award
Request for 2020 Nominations
Closing RemarksDick Arnold NRV Leading Lights Board President



Our Impact



II years of honoring volunteers

574 individuals nominated for awards

79 awards presented to outstanding volunteers

\$57,000 distributed to NRV nonprofits of winners' choosing

We are honored to recognize 60 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 \$500 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 \$57,000 distributed to organizations in our region.



2018 Montgomery County Leading Lights



Stay Involved with Us



Nominate a volunteer this fall for the 2020 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.





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

-Muhammad (570-632 CE)



2018 College Leading Lights



High School Leading Lights



Kayla Blevins, Christiansburg High School

Kayla has been involved with many different organizations and events that help benefit the community. She has been most involved with the Radford Summer Bridge Program, Teen Police Academy, and Church Camp where she volunteered to help a Disabled Center and completed yard work. Kayla believes every act of kindness makes a difference and creates a ripple effect. Her volunteer efforts have also been more hands-on, such as picking up trash or helping her high school janitors. Kayla has been able to inspire her fellow classmates and encourage others as an advocate for organizations like Help Save the Next Girl. Her outreach for organizations also allows her to encourage others to spread the word about important topics, such as driving safety and environmental issues. Kayla has a heart for the community and is kind, polite, and eager to help others.

Kaylee Corvin, Pulaski High School

Kaylee is a smart, motivated young lady who has volunteered for three years with several organizations. She serves as the National VP for High Schools for SkillsUSA, a group that provides free hair salon services for nursing home residents and mentally ill. She is also active with the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership, Service Learning, and various other opportunities through the National Honors Society. These include canned food drives (back pack program for all the Pulaski County Schools) and mentoring elementary students at Pulaski Elementary.

Mackenzie Farmer, Pulaski High School

Mackenzie is an outstanding student leader (National Honor Society), friend, family member and community role model. She has been volunteering for nine years, with a myriad of organizations. She loves animals, so she helps with the care of the animals at the Dublin & Radford Animal Shelters and the Dublin Animal Hospital. She answers the phone and visits patients at Intrepid Hospice in Radford and does clerical duties at WBLB radio. As an officer in Future Farmers of America, she volunteers at the Pulaski County Christmas Store, Ag. Day (5th graders), Ag. Literacy Week, fundraising for the Ricky Jones Memorial Scholarship, and their general store, Pat's Patch. She is involved with children's needs at McHarg Elementary School and Grove United Methodist Church, and went on a mission team to American Christian Indian Mission in AZ.



High School Leading Lights



Khushi Talajia, Christiansburg High School

Khushi is a hard working governor's school student. She never turns down helping teachers, fellow students, and anyone in need. Khushi has volunteered at the hospital where she helped with information and greeting. She helps her HOSA organize and run a blood drive twice a year. In her e-club role, she helps with recycling and educating her peers on ways to conserve our environment. Khushi is the treasurer for the Junior Class. She has helped organize meetings and events such as homecoming and other special events. If something needs to be done, Khushi sees and takes care of it before you even ask.

Bronzson Lawson, Pulaski High School

Bronzson shows leadership by example. He is kind and dependable and shows accountability for his responsibilities in his education and volunteer endeavors. He has been an example for his peers and many others in our community because of his enthusiasm for our community. Bronzson is a young man that has an inspiring heart. He has volunteered with the Raymond F. Ratcliffe Memorial Transportation Museum for the past six months.

Jonathan Moore, Eastern Montgomery High School

In addition to being an excellent student, Jonathan is seen as a role model to younger students for his work in Good News Club where he spreads the word of God to children at Eastern Elementary School and as a Stampede Leader where he creates lessons that are shared with 9th graders that address common issues faced by teenagers to help them transition successfully into high school. Johnathan also volunteers with Sundown Electric, Habitat for Humanity, and Interact with house repairs, medical needs (blood), and electrical work at the local fire department.



Violet Neikirk, Giles High School

Violet leads by an example set by her mother when she was a young girl. She believes in never quitting things you commit to when helping others. For her GSA Gold Award, Violet is starting a support group for students that may be dealing with the effects of mental illness with the goal of bringing that child and his/her serious issues to the attention of the school guidance counselor. Violet's inspiration for this project was a friend who committed suicide. Violet is also involved in a variety of service-oriented projects. She has coordinated and worked to provide food to homeless and animal shelters, worked on the backpack service program, worked for Home for the Holidays, traveled to New York City to donate hats and scarves to the homeless, worked on the Keyette's Angel Tree project, performed research into seatbelt safety at Giles High School, and other various projects.

Morgan Rosenbaum, Auburn High School

Morgan Rosenbaum is well-respected by students and staff at AHS. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and does so with a smile. Some of her efforts include volunteering at Carillon Hospital, Volunteer Teach Primary School at Auburn Baptist, story time at Grace Life Baptist Church and Volunteer Rescue, Jr. Morgan has sought out volunteer opportunities and has been active in assisting for many years. She serves as a positive role model at Auburn High School to her peers in her willingness to help others.



High School Leading Lights



Hannah Shuff, Narrows High School

Hannah is engaged in multiple volunteer activities, including serving as a Little League coach, volunteering at a nursing home, helping at craft shows, organizing the Narrows Easter Egg Hunt, serving as a peer tutor in a special education classroom, interning with the Department of Social Services in the area of foster care and child protective services, and actively working in the Rise Against Hunger program, which sent 21,081 bags of food to children in Haiti. According to her nomination, "She goes about her efforts in a positive, hopeful manner which is contagious to others. Hannah believes in the power of helping others, giving back to your community, and making a healthy impact, no matter how small." In addition to her own volunteer activities, Hannah encourages others to join her because she believes the impact on others is a great reward for her efforts.

Jaelyn Szerokman, Pulaski High School

Jaelyn is involved in local volunteer efforts in a variety of areas of her life and we can easily see the impact that she is having. She is a member of the Decoding Dyslexia in the New River Valley chapter that aims to raise awareness for dyslexia and accessibility to proper IEP's for students who have it. She joined other teenagers from the area to package 20,000 bags of food for Rise Against Hunger for struggling families in Haiti, while attending the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Seminar. Jaelyn requested pet supplies in place of gifts on her birthday to help support Pulaski County Humane Society. She is helping to co-teach Spanish and tutors individuals outside of school. As a result of her efforts, dyslexia awareness in the New River Valley is on the rise; 100 children with a disability will now have notes of encouragement, over 80,000 people will not go hungry, countless animals have forever homes, 10 students have passed Spanish courses that they had struggled in, and 27 students are receiving one-on-one attention that they may need to succeed.





Noelle Abbott, Radford University

Noelle brightens the lives of those she has touched through her service. Noelle works extensively with the Campus Crusade for Christ, United Way, and Richfield Living. She services these organizations in many ways. Whether it is planting trees or cooking and serving meals, Noelle's enthusiastic attitude is always present. She is also part of the Student Nursing Organization and strives to foster a community dedicated to volunteerism.

Jacob Benjamin, Virginia Tech

Jacob was first introduced to service by living in the SERV Living Learning Community. He then joined VT Engage and has recently become a student leader. Through VT Engage, Jacob leads trips and in-depth discussions about community issues. Jacob is passionate about considering root causes of social issues as well as eradicating human trafficking efforts.

Kyera Broxton, Virginia Tech

Kyera is committed to the values of social justice and engages in discussions about challenges that families are facing through VT Engage. Kyera is a VT Engage student leader and works to lead local trips and develop partnerships for VT Engage. In the role of student leader, Kyera educates and prepares her participants to engage with the community. Kyera is currently planning a trip that will focus on animal welfare through VT Engage.





Clendal Brown, New River Community College

Clendal has been distinguished by his colleagues due to his willingness to go above and beyond to help anyone in need. As a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Clendal actively volunteers and has served as president. Clendal also serves on the Black History Committee at New River Community College and serves as the student representative on the Giles County ACCE Committee. With his hard work, the Giles County ACCE was able to raise \$140,000 during the Muddy ACCE Race. Clendal is a full-time student, a part-time employee, and still manages to volunteer not only in his community but at NRCC as well. Originally a volunteer, Clendal is now employed at the Giles County Christian Mission and serves as vital member of their team. It is no question that Clendal is a Leading Light within his community.

Breon Case, Radford University

While a student, Breon has jumped whole heartedly into volunteering at several organizations in our local community which include Humble Hustle Co (a school coat drive), Bobcats Backpack Program, Giving Tree Mobil Food Pantry, Radford University MLK Day of Service, and Black Leaders Attaining Careers organization on campus. Through his work on food drives, serving meals with the food pantry, local school coats drives, and service days, Breon has become an excellent role model for other students.

Derek Chen, Virginia Tech

Throughout his time working with VT Engage, Derek has demonstrated his lasting commitment to service and has strengthened his leadership skills. In addition to being a student employee for Campus Kitchen, Derek has led Alternative spring break trips and attended the Dominican Republic international service immersion trip. Derek is the current Co-director for the VT Engage Student Leadership Program. As a part of this job, Derek mentors other leaders, supports trip development, and manages the overall program. Derek regularly challenges participants to think about their involvement in their community and to be aware of the decisions they make and how they impact others.





Lehi Dowell, Virginia Tech

As a second-year PhD, student, Lehi is the first person to be nominated and selected as a Virginia Tech Graduate School Diversity Scholar as a two-time participant. Lehi is recognized as someone who specializes in and advocates for the awareness and knowledge associated with diversity and inclusion in the Graduate School. Lehi will be traveling throughout Europe as a Virginia Tech Global Perspective Scholar to investigate how these countries are able to make important disciplines top priorities. There, he will be involved in a two-week dialogue with university faculty and administrators. Lehi is also the current Director of Events for the Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly, where he has been recognized as an inimitable member. Lehi is much admired by sincere desire to serve without anything in return.

Morrgan Duncan, Radford University

Morrgan's service goes to show the extent of her charitable nature. Morrgan has done amazing work with the Ronald McDonald House Charities by cooking and serving meals to RMH families. In addition to assisting families with food insecurity, she is also a volunteer with the Jefferson Area Board of Aging, where she creates handmade cards for the JABA residents. Morrgan also works to promote volunteerism in her co-ed fraternity, Lambda Alpha Epsilon.

Sofia Jorgenson, Virginia Tech

Sofia's dedication to the Virginia Tech YMCA is esteemed. She has been involved in the Y for two and half years and started as a Program Leader for the Y-Toss Program. She made it possible for the YMCA to collect 6.3 tons of items as well as increase their profits. The next year, Sofia became the Vice President of Y Student Programs and is now President, as well as the student representative on the Y's Board of Directors. Sofia now leads the YMCA's student programs and goes above and beyond her expectations. Sofia has been a strong advocate for environmentalism and sustainability, and through this she was able to recruit others to volunteer for not only Y-Toss but all of the Y's programs. Her endless proactiveness has made her a vital member of the YMCA.





Alexa (Lexy) Keeler, Virginia Tech

With a passion for issues such as poverty, inequality, refugee resettlement, and conservation, Lexy actively educates her peers on such issues and takes part in many service projects. As a VT Engage student leader, Lexy led numerous weekend trips and an international trip to Peru. VT Engage recognizes Lexy for her continuous desire to serve and learn about every community she is working with. Lexy is also a member of Alpha Phi Omega, where she has taken on numerous leadership roles and has lead both weekend and day trips. Lexy is committed to cultivating a community of understanding around current critical issues.

Lisa Lane, Virginia Tech

After joining the SERVE Living Learning Community, Lisa became committed to serving her community. Lisa has worked to help to redistribute food through Campus Kitchen. She then was chosen to be a STEP-UP leader with VT Engage. As a STEP-UP leader, Lisa promotes service reflection from participants. This works to gives participants the ability to understand social issues and to connect it to their contribution.

Gabriella Magasic, Virginia Tech

Gabriella exhibits enthusiasm in all she participates in. As a student leader with VT Engage, Gabriella leads local service trips to Feeding America, the Women's Resource Center, and other organizations. She will be leading the three-week service immersion trip to Peru this summer and is working to raise awareness of these programs. Gabriella is also a member of the Executive Board Fundraising Committee for the Big Event. Gabriella is an exceptional leader with her work through VT Engage.





Casey Molina, Virginia Tech

Reflection has been a very important element of Casey's service. After leading a winter break trip to the Dominican Republic thorough VT Engage, Casey has worked to challenge her peers' assumptions of service abroad as well as encourage them to relate their experiences to social justice issues in the United States. Additionally, Casey is a committed member of the Mozaiko Living Learning Community. She works closely with Mozaiko on their programming to promote multiculturalism on campus. Casey is also a member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity.

Allie Parker, Virginia Tech

Allie has a profound passion for social change and inequality. Allie's work with VT Engage as a student leader has allowed her to advance initiatives focused on community-identified needs as well as educate students about social issues. Allie dedicates her time to engaging students in service and educating students about the New River Valley. Recently returning from a study-abroad trip, Allie is now investigating how individuals and organizations can end inequality without causing negative effects on fragile communities.

Tanha Patel, Virginia Tech

Tanha has done so much in such little time at Virginia Tech. As an Ut Prosim Scholar, Tanha has traveled to Tanzania to develop a feminine hygiene program with local schools and even designed a pattern for a reusable menstrual pad. She also developed a curriculum to help girls teach how to make feminine products and make sure that the project was sustainable beyond her stay. Tanha is also a student leader for VT Engage and serves on the executive board as the Get on the Bus Program Assistant. Tanha has been able to help sustain VT Engage partnerships as well as inspire her fellow leaders.





Denny Price, Radford University

Denny has exhibited a passion for women empowerment and development with her work in Alpha Kappa Alpha and PRETII Women. Through Alpha Kappa Alpha, Denny aids her community by mentoring children at local schools. Denny is committed to inspiring volunteerism in the organizations she is a member of and has increased her involvement in her community throughout the last three years.

Tiffany Smith, New River Community College

Tiffany has shown a dedication to service through her work with Phi Theta Kappa. She serves as the College Project Administrator for Phi Theta Kappa and is an active facilitator of ideas. Aimed to enhance her college community, Tiffany has organized a Faculty and Staff Appreciation Brunch with over 100 attendees. Tiffany is recognized as being a great asset to the New River Community College chapter of PTK for her outstanding leadership.

Carl Yao, Virginia Tech

Carl is a dedicated leader who has been involved in civic engagement and service through VT Engage. As an international student, Carl has astounded his colleagues with his devotion to serving and learning about his new community. He is not only committed to understanding the context here, but also raises his peers' awareness of Chinese culture and its intricacies. By being a Step-Up leader for VT Engage, Carl has led trips to New York City to advocate for HIV/AIDS education and awareness as well as assisted in sustaining some of the VT Engage partnerships. Carl brings a new perspective and new ideas to the New River Valley.





Mike Abbott, Radford

Mike is very active in the Boy Scouts. Since taking over Troop 141 in 2017, he has increased its membership from six to 30 Scouts. Mike has added activities to the scouting program which have had a great impact on the community, including Adopt a Street clean up, Claytor Lake mussel salvage, a food drive, collection of ponchos for the homeless, Meals on Wheels delivery, James Cave roadway clean up, and US flag retirements. His nominator says, "Mike has inspired me to continue in my volunteerism with the Boy Scouts. He does things the right way...Mike has brought along most of the adult leaders in our troop, and I would dare to say that without his leadership, the rest of us would struggle with our desire to participate."

Lynn Brammer, Christiansburg

It seems like Lynn is everywhere, from the NRV Master Gardeners "Share the Spare" program, to the NAACP, the Montgomery- Floyd Regional Friends of the Library, Sustainable Blacksburg, Appalachian Voices, 100+ Women Who Care, League of Women Voters, Sierra Club Virginia, The Lyric Theatre and the Hahn Horticulture Garden. For over 30 years, Lynn has devoted her time, energy, leadership and passion for justice to improving the quality of life of all of her neighbors in the NRV. She inspires us all to do just a bit more to support those under the radar and those less fortunate. She is the role model demonstrating that regardless of your time availability or monetary resources, you can contribute in many ways.





Charlie Buchinsky, Radford

A Radford resident, Charlie has served many communities in the NRV. For his Eagle Scout service project, he coordinated major repairs to the Christiansburg, Pearisburg and Narrows NRCA Head Start playgrounds. This included coordinating volunteers, materials and equipment. The project was valued over \$ 9,700.00 in kind, including 250 labor hours. He has also been instrumental in facilitating other Eagle Scout Projects such as installing steps on the New River Trail, repairing headstones at local cemeteries and painting the Parrott fire station. Charlie is an accomplished musician playing in several benefit concerts as a jazz band member.

Travis Cantrell, Floyd

Travis is the founder of SameFight.org, which assists families in Floyd with children under 18 who are fighting cancer. This organization provides not only financial support for these families, but emotional and spiritual support as well. Travis devotes countless hours toward recruiting volunteers and coordinating fundraising events not only for SameFight.org, but also for Joshua's HOPE foundation. Joshua's HOPE provides scholarships to local students and financial contributions to pediatric cancer research. Travis has been involved with both programs for over a decade.

Michael Carroll, Christiansburg

In just three years, Michael has committed over 900 hours to the Raft Crisis Hotline, and has changed not only callers' lives, but those of fellow volunteers as well. He is one of the most active and involved volunteers in the organization and is a big reason why it is so successful in making a difference in community member's lives. He has a very genuine, caring attitude toward all callers, providing the empathy and support they need at a critical time in their lives. Michael is constantly uplifting and supporting callers and other volunteers. He is always ready to support others in work on a crisis team, knowing that it can be scary to work the lines alone when something untoward happens.





Aury Cook, Blacksburg

Aury is someone always focused on helping and making our community a better place. Not only does she do this through service, but also through continuous involvement in the community since moving here 12 years ago. Her leadership, creativity and insightful ideas help enhance current programs and develop new ones. She was the creator of the Blacksburg Junior Women's Club March of Ales fundraiser which has netted over \$206,000 for the community. Her current effort, the Cinderella Project, serves to offer free prom attire to local high school students to improve their opportunity to attend and experience prom.

Betty Day, Blacksburg

Betty Day is an inspiration to others who hear her story, who work with her, and who experience her presence. She has the gift of service and a love for learning. Volunteering with both Blacksburg Baptist and United Methodist churches, she demonstrates her gift of service and devotion to others. In Adam's Mark and Fun 143, she worked with other team members to provide after school education support and snacks for students who needed a safe and nurturing place to go once school was over. In the Grief Group, she worked with ministers to provide guidance, insight, and reflection as people talked openly about their hurts, pain, and frustration with losing loved ones. Her love for life, joy for living, excitement for learning, and honor in giving encourage people to rise up and work alongside her to do God's work for others.

Teresa Dickens, Radford

Teresa was one of the founding members of the Radford Gives Back donation drive at Radford University. Radford University is able to provide one-third of the resources for the Bobcat Backpacks Program. Her nominator says, "Teresa is so willing to take on extra tasks, and she does it with a smile and a laugh. She is great at building relationships with the community, both at the university and beyond. As the chair of the Radford Gives Back Planning Committee, she is responsible for all the logistics of the event, as well as making sure the campus is aware of the event."





Mike Eggelston, Blacksburg

Mike epitomizes dedicated service to the community. The Lions Club is a natural outlet for Mike's abilities where he can impact local, national, and world-wide service. Besides serving as President and Vice President, Mike has been on the Board of Directors for most of his over 40 years of service. Mike has always been the voice of reason and guidance. He always has a well thought out position and argument. He is a good listener and weighs all sides before providing an informed opinion. He has an uncanny ability to inspire others. He has been our Membership Chair for many years and has brought in more new members than anyone else. His excitement and dedication are contagious, and he is a tireless worker. It is always a pleasure to work with him and you know you are working hard to provide for those less fortunate.

* * *

Ronald (Chub) Flanary, Christiansburg

Ronald is a dedicated volunteer who serves his community by splitting his time between various organizations. He spends his time preparing and delivering supplies to homebound seniors. He supports local veterans by bringing them flowers on Veteran's Day and celebrating their birthdays at the Salem VA. He also volunteers for the American Red Cross at blood mobile locations, provides eye screening and testing for all schools in the Christiansburg area to assist the nurses in determining if students need further care, and assists with the Lion's Club's annual holiday craft show where the proceeds go to help purchase glasses for those less fortunate. His commitment of service ensures a higher quality of life for many in our community, and watching him complete these tasks is an inspiration to folks of all ages.





Rodney Freeman, Giles

Rodney has been a remarkable member of the New River Valley Community. He has worked on the Giles Rescue Squad for 35 years as an on-call EMT. Rodney was one of the first responders to the tragedy at Virginia Tech. Rodney was a Pembroke Firefighter for eight years and a CPR instructor for many years. Along with working as a firefighter, Rodney was also a Pearisburg Police Officer and an instructor at the New River Police Academy for 15 years. Rodney's service in our community is unmeasurable. He has received several awards, including the Governor's Award for Valor.

Daniel Grubb, Pulaski

From very early on, Dan has given back to his community in various ways. He has served since 1986 in many capacities such as the President of the Board of Directors of the Pulaski YMCA, District Chairman and VP of Programs for the Boy Scouts of America/Blue Ridge Mt. Council, as well as board member of the Randolph House Foundation and the Pulaski Chamber of Commerce. Dan has a heart for non-profits and dedicates both his time and resources to local causes. His work behind the scenes and a special knack for bringing people together motivates others to get involved as well. He is the first one to say "sign me up," and he is there to meet the needs of the Pulaski community.





John Hess, Christiansburg

As a key member of Literacy Volunteers of the NRV over the past 12 years, John has had a major impact on many individual lives, families, and the community. He worked with adults throughout the entire NRV, and most recently, has added a new role — tutoring literacy to inmates at the Montgomery County Jail. The accomplishments achieved as the result of John's volunteer work are the accomplishments of his adult literacy students. Because of John, four NRV residents achieved U.S. Citizenship, three obtained a driver's license for increased independence, and one earned a commercial driver's license. Other students attained English skills to run their own business, access news, help their children with homework, and read to them. He assisted students with computer skills, including on-line access to job searches and access to health care. Additionally, he has had even more impact by mentoring new tutors and sharing different strategies to help students progress in learning. His sustained support of LVNRV and selfless efforts with so many individuals has been an inspiration.

Janiele Hamden, Radford

According to her nominator, "Janiele is 'one of a kind!' She has a heart for the under-served, the under-loved, and those who could use a boost of confidence and support." She has volunteered with her daughter's school, the Bobcat Backpack Program, the Women's Resource Center, Radford City boards, Glencoe Museum, and the city recreation department. When she learned that a program to assist those in need might not be continued, she took the lead to insure that 15 families at McHarg Elementary School would receive Thanksgiving Baskets. She has offered pro bono mental health crisis counseling and connected students to appropriate resources. After becoming aware of a lack of structured after-school activities for older elementary and high school students, she presented the Radford city council with a plan to create supportive programming at the end of the school day.





Dean Jackson, Pulaski

Dean is a lifelong volunteer. He serves as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and currently volunteers at the Auxiliary station on Claytor Lake, where he ensures the safety of boaters by checking buoys and markers. Dean is also a volunteer member of the Newbern and Dublin Fire Departments responding to emergencies, day or night. He is a founding member of the Friends for Claytor Lake, an organization dedicated to the cleanup and enjoyment of the lake for residents and visitors alike. Dean is always a phone call away for anyone who needs help and unselfishly gives his time to the community.

Betty Lou Kirkner, Pulaski

Betty is a 50-year strong volunteer and committed to the vision of her late father, Raymond F. Ratcliffe, past mayor of the Town of Pulaski. Her devotion to preserve and display the history and heritage of the town inspired her to propose and support the creation of the Ratcliffe Transportation Museum in Pulaski. She has served on the board of directors for the Friends of the Raymond F. Ratcliffe Memorial Transportation Museum as well as served at the museum in various capacities such as curator, docent and volunteer coordinator. The museum continues to grow and thrive due to her unwavering commitment and leadership to preserve and honor the history of Pulaski.

Darcie Luster, Floyd

All of Darcie's volunteer efforts revolve around animal welfare. Darcie is currently serving as President of the Floyd County Humane Society and has been a volunteer for over a decade. Darcie's efforts have reduced the overpopulation of cats in Floyd County and have made the pound no longer accept cats. She also acts as liaison to community members, the Floyd county Humane Society, and other organizations to assist in rehoming, adopting, and fostering of pets. Darcie is instrumental in the Floyd County Humane Society's efforts and has contributed to the implementation of their Trap, Neuter, and Return program for feral cats.





Kelly McPherson, Blacksburg

All of Kelly's volunteer efforts revolve around building community - specifically, bringing people together around common causes in ways that build relationships, celebrate people's gifts, honor contributions, and build the continuing service of others in our community. Captain Louie's Future Leaders is a truly remarkable program, bringing 4th and 5th graders together from Montgomery County schools, helping them build character and relationships with each other, and supporting our local communities by completing 14 service projects. This year's cohort has reached its largest size yet, with over 100 kids participating. Watching the involvement of these kids and their families and the impact their service has on our community is truly inspiring.

Sarah Merfield, Floyd

Sarah is deeply committed to creating opportunities for people to get healthier in their bodies and emotional lives. She is greatly involved in the programs at Springhouse Community School. Sarah has led The Well Program that is focused on aiding young adults as well as the Tides Program that benefits girls and their mothers. Sarah is enthusiastic about her work at Springhouse and has been able to inspire multiple individuals to volunteer for the Springhouse programs.

David Pynn, Radford

For many years David Pynn has volunteered his bookkeeping and accounting skills to non-profits and individuals who can benefit from his knowledge. Non-profits often struggle to recruit CPAs; David has generously given his time and skills, most notably to Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley (HH-NRV) and The New River Review, a non-profit publisher of short stories and poems. He has served as the Executive Director, a board member, and treasurer for HH-NRV. According to his nominator, "David performs a most challenging and sometimes unrewarding task of keeping the team's ambition aligned with our capacity... He does not always get the glory or recognition we often receive at the job site, but without his diligence, attention to detail, and financial management expertise, we wouldn't have a job site."





Freddie Ratcliff, Giles

Freddie has exemplified what it means to give back. He has been volunteering at the Rich Creek nursing home every week for about nine years. Deeply involved in his church community, Freddie is a Sunday school leader and often is Santa Claus during the holiday season, not only for the church but for many other organizations. Freddie is also a member of the American Legion and Honor Guard, where he hosts fundraisers to raise money that goes back to the community. Freddie's service is wide-reaching, and he has been an active member of his community for over 30 years.

Jenny Riffe, Radford

Jenny is one of the founding members of the Bobcat Backpack Program, which provides food for families who are food insecure. She was one of the key people who saw the need and has worked incredibly hard to meet it. According to her nominator, "Jenny encourages others to volunteer in how she leads by example. She is the first person to volunteer. She is organized and most importantly, she is passionate about helping children."

Ralph Robertson, Giles

Ralph has been volunteering for over 40 years. He is the captain of the ReNew the New Committee and is a member of the Virginia Tech Outdoor Club. Ralph maintains many of the trails in Giles County, including the Appalachian Trail, by removing trash and making improvements. He helps coordinate and assists with bi-yearly efforts to clean up the New River. Ralph is incredibly involved in taking care of the nature of the NRV. Ralph is also a lifetime member of the V.F.W. and assists with many matters, including military funerals.





Stan Stanley, Pulaski

Stan has been a stellar example of volunteerism throughout his life, starting as basketball coach when he taught school to now where he dedicates himself to St. Edward Catholic Church and the Master Gardeners Association of the NRV. As a member of St. Edwards's, he is the "go to person" and has held positions such as President of the Parrish Council, social minister and treasurer. He and his wife also lead the training program for adults who wish to join the church. Without his efforts, many projects in the church would not get completed. Stan's work with the Master Gardner's Association is exemplary. He is in charge of the rain barrel project which includes procuring barrels and retrofitting them to work as rainwater collectors. Stan's rain barrel efforts bring in over \$2,000 each year which is distributed in the form of grants to local community organizations.

Lee Stewart, Radford

Lee was instrumental in creating the Radford Gives Back event three years ago. It is an annual event at Radford University that encourages specific food donations to the Bobcats Backpack Program. Lee has been instrumental in getting this event to be an annual activity for the RU community and has helped to establish strong bonds between the university and the city. Lee inspires by being who she is, a wonderful community member who strives to serve others.

Martha Sullivan, Floyd

Martha has been a Board Member of the Floyd County Center for Arts for more than 10 years, including a term as President and as Head of the Development Committee. Martha has also been a board member for the Blue Mountain School for five years, two of which she was acting President. Under Martha's leadership, Blue Mountain School was able increase enrollment, start new programs, begin work on accreditation, and start planning for a building project. She has been a dedicated member of the board at BMS, working with fundraising and school administration. Martha exemplifies her dedication as she makes time to be deeply involved community while professing and making time for her family.





Ann Walker, Radford

Ann's commitment to serving her community is evident in her 19-year tenure as President of the Board of Directors of the Elf Shelf in Radford. Elf Shelf is an all-volunteer organization, and under her leadership in 2018, 364 children and 226 families were served with food, vouchers, toys and family items during the holiday season. She has served 10 years on the local advisory board as secretary for New River Community Action. She has also served the Radford library with the lamplighters for 20 years and coordinated the yearly book sale for 10 years. Ann also serves her church, Grace Episcopal, in many volunteer capacities such as Sunday school teacher, the pastoral care committee and the search committee for a new pastor. Ann also leads a small but dedicated group who facilitate the Radford Clothing Bank. Ann has a heart to serve and provide for the needs of the Radford community.

Chris Wolf, Floyd

Chris is deeply committed to helping raise healthy and inspired youth. He has been a devoted volunteer and leader of the Ridgelines Program through the Springhouse Community School, which benefits boys and their fathers. Chris has inspired other men in the community to volunteer with him and continues to mentor participants even after the programs end. In addition to volunteering with the Ridgelines program, Chris also promotes leadership development in young adults through his involvement in The Well program. Chris offers programs in the Floyd community that are unlike any other and works to spark inspiration within the community.



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

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



Mike Eggleston, long-time supporter of NRV Leading Lights, speaks on behalf of the German Club Alumni Association



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.

Wallace Huff, Blacksburg

Wally has been involved in volunteer activities for about 50 years, starting with providing meals to needy families as a member of the Blacksburg JCs. His main efforts now center on providing annual free dental service and care, "Give Kids a Smile," a mission of mercy RAM project in Wise County, VA. This program gives time and compassionate care to those in need that can not otherwise have access to dental care. As President of the Virginia Dental Association, he also increased efforts for compensation for Medicaid and inspires younger dentists to volunteer their time and services. He also volunteers with the Blacksburg Rotary Club, Montgomery County Christmas Store, and Blacksburg United Methodist Church.

Myrl Jones, Radford

Myrl has been involved in multiple organizations for a lifetime, saying that "volunteering gives life meaning for me and for the friends I meet." At Radford Fairlawn Daily Bread, he began serving Meals on Wheels in 1975, served on the Board for seven years, and has traveled 50,000 miles to serve over 60,000 meals to the needy. He also has volunteered at Radford Public Library, Department of Social Services, Hospice of the NRV, and he has also served as a former President of Radford Association of Retired Employees and the Radford University Art Society. On many occasions, Myrl has encouraged Radford University students in their volunteer efforts.

Bobbie Knoezer, Pulaski

Bobbie has been involved in volunteer activities for over 50 years, beginning when she was a teenager. She has a "Mother Theresa" quality about her, exhibiting kindness, compassion and gentleness and has dedicated her life to helping others. She has been a church planter and pastor, a volunteer chaplain and visitor for LewisGale Hospital in Pulaski, Augusta Health Care, and Shenandoah Hospice House. Bobbie also prepares food boxes for families in need at SHARE-Feed America Program.

Carol Smith, Draper

Carol has been an exemplar of outstanding community service for a lifetime. She is dedicated to serving the Pulaski County community and does so as both a leader and a worker bee, and her volunteer efforts have made a difference in the lives of many. Carol has volunteered at such places as Girl Scouts, Daughters of the American Revolution specializing in honoring veterans, Pulaski Community Partners Coalition to create a drug free community, Friends of the Pulaski County Library, Ratcliffe Museum, Draper Community Park, Pulaski County Courthouse historic exhibits, Sunday school teacher and youth leader, PTA at three elementary schools, Boy Scouts, and many others.



Lifetime Achievement Leading Lights





Dick Arnold presenting 2018 Lifetime Achievement Distingished Recipient Award to Tom Sherman (R)



2018 Floyd, Giles, Pulaski and Radford 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 Neha Hudait, Blacksburg Megan Talarek, Blacksburg

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 Hunter Cole, NRCC Olivia Obertello, 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 Vickie Spangler, Floyd Lynn Hill, Giles Archie Boothe, Pulaski Penny Sweet, Radford Janne Mathes, Blacksburg John Galbraith, Blacksburg

Lifetime Achievement

Catherine Vaughn Pauley, Floyd Don Mullins, Blacksburg Merilyn & Dave Armstrong, Dublin Dr. George Smith, Shawsville Tom Sherman, Blacksburg





- f New River Valley Leading Lights
- @LeadingLightsNRV
- LeadingLightsNRV
- ✓ leadinglightsnrv@gmail.com
 - leadinglightsnrv.org

D. D. L. M. M. C. M. D. M. H.

Program Production: United Way of the New River Valley

Original Design: Lindsey Gleason

Program printed by Old Town Printing, Inc. Christiansburg, VA