



New River Valley Leading Lights

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Awards Banquet and Ceremony

Thursday, April 12, 2012

German Club Manor

Leading Lights

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

April 12, 2012

Leading Lights

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Master of Ceremonies Andy Morikawa

*Emeritus Executive Director
Community Foundation of the New River Valley*

Welcome/Invocation Bill King

*Pastor for Social Ministry and Outreach
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church*

Dinner. Professional Catering Inc.

Speaker. Zetta Nicely
*Graduate Student, Counseling Psychology Program
Radford University*

Leading Lights Award. Andy Morikawa

Speaker. Fran Rooker
*Inaugural recipient of the Leading lights award
Founder of Brain Injury Services of SUNA & the Jason Foundation*

Leading Lights Award. Andy Morikawa

Speaker. John Dooley, Ph.D.
*Formerly Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs
Virginia Tech*

Leading Lights Award. Andy Morikawa

Closing Remarks. Bert Poole
President, German Club Alumni Foundation

2012 Leading Lights Nominees

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Analise Adams | B.J. Flack |
| Dawn Barnes | Jason Forsyth |
| Anna Keppel-Benson Logan | Elizabeth Foster |
| Brooke | Kyle Gardiner |
| Gary Brumfield | Joel McCormick-Goodhart |
| Joseph Chase | Justin Graves |
| Kate Delaney | Jessie Gunter |
| Sharon Duncan | Kristin Haas |
| Mike Dunn | Danny Hazelwood |

Gerard “Jerry” Higgins

Henry Ingram II

Thora Jo Jervey

Bob Job

Arlean Lambert

James T. Lee

Mary Lough

Julie Ann Ligon

Angela Little

Jo Martin

Nicholas Mason

Donna Morgan

Matt Nottingham

Steve Pond

Rebecca Rees

Minnis Ridenour

L. David Roper

Mike Rosenzweig

Sharon Scott

Pat A. Shelor

Karisha Summers

Sally Anna Stapleton

Brenda Springer

Paul Smeal Jo

Ellen Taylor

B'easy Thompson Lindsay

B. West Dorothy Williams

Emily Wilkinson

Timothy Worles

In Memoriam

Earlier this year NRV Leading Lights nominee Thora Jo Jervey passed away. In recognition of her spirit of volunteerism the committee wanted to include an acknowledgement of Thora Jo's life and commitment to the community.

Thora Jo Jervey was an icon in Radford. She shook things up, she touched the lives of almost every resident in one way or another, whether they knew it or not. Thirty years ago, this year, she founded the Radford Clothing Bank. It started out small – in the basement of the old Grove United Methodist Church on 3rd and Grove. Then, to the Seventh Day Adventist Church basement on 2nd Street, two different store fronts on East Main, and finally, five years ago, to the beautiful new building on West Street where it is located today. Last year, the Clothing Bank served almost 2,000 citizens in the NRV.

Thora was instrumental in establishing an offshoot project of the Clothing Bank called August Kids, which provides vouchers for NEW back-to-school clothing and shoes to Radford City school children. Last year, the program served 251 children.

When Thora came to town, our public library was a dusty, dark, small room in the Recreation Building. Thora started “The Lamplighters” organization that collected money, applied for grants, pleaded with City Council, and finally, a gorgeous library was build.

These are a just a few examples of the deep impact Thora Jo Jervey had on the Radford community. What is remarkable, is that for more than a decade, Thora did a lot of this confined to a wheelchair because of an auto accident and stroke. She spent weeks at Roanoke Memorial Hospital and in rehab. It took great effort on her part to learn how to speak intelligibly, but through it all she continued to preside over meetings, offer ideas, prod you to action, and GET IT DONE.

Tonight we recognize the incredible dedication of Thora Jo and remain inspired by her accomplishments.

Leading Lights Speakers

Zetta Nicely is a 4th year student in Radford University’s Psy.D. Counseling Psychology program. She obtained a M.A. in Adult Clinical Psychology from East Carolina University in 2006. Her undergraduate education at Berea College fueled her interest in Appalachian issues, particularly social and environmental justice, cultural dignity and traditional wisdom, as well as women’s concerns in general. While at Radford, Zetta had practicum placements at the Women’s Resource Center, Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute, and Dr. G. Wayne Fralin Free Clinic for the Homeless in Roanoke. Zetta’s dissertation is entitled Appalachian Girls’ College Preparedness: An Intervention Programs Comparison. Zetta cooks, gardens, explores nature, and invents crafty projects every chance she gets.

She's passionate about living locally and sustainably, and is thrilled by all the new friends, growers, and teachers she is meeting in Radford. She is slowly learning to sew and is eager to adopt 5 "Easter Egg" backyard chickens this spring.

Fran Rooker is the Founder of Brain Injury Services of SWVA and of The Jason Foundation, and an inaugural recipient of the Leading Lights Award. In 2010, she was one of 10 national recipients of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leader Award. Recently, she was commended through a Joint Resolution of the Virginia General Assembly for being one of only three Virginians to receive this award, and recognized for her volunteer efforts "which have changed the quality of health care in Southwest Virginia."

Leading Lights Speakers

John E. Dooley, Ph.D., became the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., on April 1, 2012, following ten years as Virginia Tech's Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs. As the Foundation's COO, he works with the Chief Executive Officer and the board in fund management, real estate development, and management and support of university initiatives.

As Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs, Dooley provided leadership and vision to the comprehensive range of programs and services related to the university's outreach and international missions. Under his leadership as Vice President, Virginia Tech pursued an aggressive global presence by more than tripling the number of students who annually study abroad, growing its active sponsored international research and development portfolio to over \$70 million, and the establishment of five international centers.

Additionally, Dooley was responsible for Virginia Tech's domestic engagement enterprise, including the university's off-campus graduate centers, continuing and professional education and economic development programs, and the university's two hotels. Previous leadership positions at Virginia Tech include: Associate Provost for University Outreach (2001-2003), Assistant Dean of the College of Human Resources and Education (1996-2001), Associate Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension (1995-2001), Executive Director of the Virginia 4-H Foundation (1991-1995), and Director of the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center (1982-1991).

Dooley has been an active member of the Virginia Tech community through several committees and special projects and has served in leadership roles with many professional associations/organizations. He also serves on the boards of several organizations.

In addition to his bachelors degree in elementary education from Alderson-Broaddus College (West Virginia), Dooley earned a masters and Ph.D. at Virginia Tech. Both graduate degrees are in higher education administration.

NRV Leading Lights Steering Committee Members

Dick Arnold – German Club Alumni Foundation

Gail Billingsley – The YMCA at VT

Coleman Brittle – German Club Alumni Foundation

Wayne Campbell – German Club Alumni Foundation

Renee Cloyd – Pamplin School of Business

Kymn Davidson-Hamley – The United Way of Montgomery, Radford and Floyd

Teresa Dickens – Academic Engagement & Community Partnerships, Radford University

Pat Huber – New River Community College

Whitney Johnson - Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnership, Virginia Tech

Bill King – Lutheran Campus Ministries, Blacksburg

Wayne Muhammad – Christiansburg Institute

Andy Morikawa – The Community Foundation of the NRV

Annette Perkins – Montgomery County Board of Supervisors

Rhonda Poindexter – Christiansburg High School

Dr. George Smith – Shawsville community representative

Charles Warren – German Club Alumni Foundation

Lewis Webb – Giles County Public School Board

Jessica Wirgau – Community Foundation of the NRV

Leading Lights Selection Committee Members

Bill King

Wat Hopkins

Pat Ballard

Carol Johnson

Paula Dawson-Downs

Morris Fleischer

A Special Thank You

This evening's events are made possible through the generous help and contributions from the following. Please take time to thank them.

Leading Lights - Major Sponsors

- VT German Club Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Flood Lights - Table Sponsors

- The Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club
- Center for Student Engagement & Community Partnerships at Virginia Tech
- The Community Foundation of the NRV
- Courtyard by Marriott
- The German Club Alumni Foundation Board members:

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 - o Bert Poole, Mark Wigginton, Craig Balzar & Andy Scherzer
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- Pat Huber
- Dr. Wally & Chris Huff
- Bill King
- Kroger – South Main & University Mall, Blacksburg

- Memorial Gardens of the NRV
- Andy Morikawa
- National Bank
- Annette Perkins
- Wal-Mart, Pearisburg
- Charles Warren
- Lewis Webb

In-Kind Contributions

- Old Town Printing Company
- Professional Catering, Inc.
- The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

Jim and Lenna Moore Community Service and Citizenship Award

Lenna Moore was an active volunteer in the NRV and when she passed away suddenly in 1999, the four organizations that Lenna was most active in as a volunteer decided to dedicate this award in her honor. The YMCA at VT, American Red Cross, AARP, and Voluntary Action Center (VAC) began discussing the award criteria and a time to hold the first volunteer recognition event. The first recipient, Bob Stuart, was chosen in 2000 to receive the award, with nominations coming from the four organizations involved. In 2001, the event was expanded to the entire New River Valley.

The recipient that year was Nelda Pearson, who was chosen among nominees submitted by non-profit organizations that utilize volunteers.

Sadly Jim Moore, the late Lenna Moore's husband, passed away shortly before the 2001 event. Jim Moore was also a very dedicated volunteer in the community. The planning committee voted to name the award in honor of both of them.

A Message from the Committees

The Leading Lights Steering Committee and Leading Lights Selection Committee owe a debt of gratitude to the outstanding volunteers of the New River Valley, to the numerous individuals and organizations who saw a deserving individual and took the time to nominate him or her, and to our respective organizations for granting us leave in order to serve on the committees. The following brief biographies of the nominees are only a glimpse into the volunteer life of each one. A cursory reading of each biography will reveal the caliber and character of each nominee. Although only five awards are being given tonight, all nominees deserve our gratitude, encouragement, and commendation.

Please find tonight's banquet and awards presentation to be a heartfelt "thank you" from Leading Lights to all volunteers across the New River Valley. We hope you will continue in your paths of volunteerism and will encourage others to join you in your efforts to serve.

On the following pages you will find a brief description of the Leading Lights Award nominees in the nominators' own words.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Analise Adams

Analise is a student leader in the SERVE living-learning community at Virginia Tech. As part of this, she volunteers with this organization to lead her peers in service projects both locally and abroad. Analise has mentored more students, led more service projects and initiated more life-changing conversations within the context of SERVE. Her most significant accomplishment continues to be a work in progress as the many students she has inspired to serve follow their own passions and seek social change within their communities.

Separate from her work with SERVE, Analise is heavily involved with the RAFT Crisis Hotline through New River Valley Community Services and the Younglife program in Floyd. This is her third year with RAFT and she currently serves as a Crew Chief. She has worked for seven years with the Younglife program as a whole and three in Floyd.

Each hour she serves is multiplied as she is always introducing new faces to the idea of living a life of community and commitment.

L. Dawn Barnes

Dawn has dedicated her entire life to community service—from her childhood involvement in 4-H to her current civic engagement and dedication to health and nutrition education and individual financial counseling. In addition to teaching children, youth, adults and seniors about healthy lifestyle choices and financial literacy, Dawn has singlehandedly initiated two very strong volunteer programs in the NRV—The Master Food volunteer program and the Master Financial Education Volunteer program.

Like many true life-long committed volunteers, Dawn has a selfless nature and a dedicated passion to helping others. She is hard working and committed to encouraging all members of the NRV, particularly those in need, to become the best individuals they can be. Through her life-long work, the sustainability of our community has changed for the better.

Anna Keppel-Benson

Anna is very active in the community. She is a straight-A student enrolled in several advanced placement classes, a member of the Blacksburg High School track team, an accomplished pianist who performs in recitals, as well as a leader with the Unitarian Universalist Youth Group, the president of the STAND (students for Darfur) club at Blacksburg High School, and member of the student council.

Above and beyond volunteer time, however, Anna is consistently an inspiration and role model for peers. She has been a leader in the student organization, Goodness Gorillas. Through the organization Anna has inspired and helped organize over 40 specific projects to support local and global community.

Anna has an amazing gift for inspiring others to join her in what she feels is a tremendous responsibility to give to others and to work for justice in the world.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Dr. Logan Burke

Logan has been a major contributor to The Blacksburg Partnership's signature community festivals for the past four years. He serves as a member of the Blacksburg Fork and Cork and Blacksburg Brew Do planning committee and takes major responsibility in helping to supervise both events. Logan's dedication to the success of his volunteer organizations sets him apart from all other 400 festival volunteers. Logan commits whole-heartedly to making sure the festivals go off without a hitch. After the last festival Logan happily stayed an additional four hours past his double shift to clean up, volunteering an impressive 10+ hours that day.

Logan enthusiastically dedicates himself 100% to the task at hand, and urges others to do the same.

Gary Brumfield

Gary has not only been a role model to his children, but also to the community. His service to others has been an inspiration. Both professionally and voluntarily Gary has worked with the Christiansburg Police Department, Christiansburg Rescue Squad, TRIAD, Citizen's Police Academy, "5-0" Club, The Women's Resource Center, Leisure Directions and the Boy Scouts of America to name a few. His current leadership roles include Scoutmaster of Troop 42, in which he plans activities for over 60 Boy Scouts.

Gary is also the Deacon at his church, Trinity Baptist Church, in which he tends to his "flock." Through his efforts in working with young people, and the oppressed in his personal time demonstrates his commitment to serving his community. Gary has truly led a life of service to others and is a true testament to "serving with a cheerful heart."

Joseph Chase, Ph.D.

Joe has involved himself thoroughly in the community—seeking out needs and how to fill them. In 2005 Joe co-established a new Boy Scout troop, 342, a much needed positive program for young boys in the area. Joe can be found wind, rain, shine, or snow leading a trail of young people in the outdoors. Having many skills and seeing much need, Joe transitioned into volunteering year-round at Alta Mons on many youth-centered development programs and outdoor education.

Joe has a strong passion for working with youth, finding opportunities to strengthen their leadership skills. He believes in being a role model through service, teamwork and personal support. He celebrates their achievements with them, encourages them and motivates them to reach their potential. Joe is committed to the lives of the young people he serves, building them up with a solid foundation and an appreciation for others, and the world we live in.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Kathryn "Kate" Delaney

Kate donates approximately forty hours a week to various groups—mainly doing graphic design and publicity often at nights and on weekends. She regularly volunteers 15 hours a week to the Giles County Historical Society not only doing graphics, publicity and exhibits, but historical research as well.

Two attributes that best describe Kate: enthusiasm and creativity!! She has given the Giles County Historical Society new energy bringing local and regional history alive for not only county residents, including school children, but visitors from neighboring counties and states.

Sharon Duncan

When a baby with special needs is born, families experience a mixture of emotions including love, joy, anxiety and fear of the unknown. They reach out for information, support, and encouragement. In the NRV, Sharon Duncan has served as a Leading Light for these families for the last 14 years.

Sharon is the founding President and board member of the Down Syndrome Association of the NRV. The organization currently includes approximately 35 families. Through her work with the organization, Sharon assists with and coordinates community seminars with the Biomedical Information Group, a support group for families with children on the autism spectrum. Sharon also provides helpful guidance and advice as parents seek medical care, educational opportunities, and therapy resources for their children. Sharon is an effective organizer and a caring person.

Mike Dunn

Mike is the commissioner for the recreational soccer program for the New River United Soccer Association. He has devoted countless hours to creating a successful and enjoyable environment for youth soccer players.

The attribute that best distinguishes Mike is dedication. Regardless of the task, Mike is willing to go above and beyond what is necessary to making this club a better organization. He is constantly exploring better practices to implement as value added processes; these efforts have considerably improved the experience for over 600 youth participants.

B.J. Flack

B.J. has headed up the New River United Soccer Association's Academy program for seven years. Although the positions he has committed to over the years render a small stipend, he has never accepted any monetary compensation, always donating his extrinsic rewards back to the club, as his vision for the success of the club is greater.

B.J. was one of the creators of the travel program, NRU Youth Academy. This program has been instrumental to the development of our youth players, both in the way of becoming better soccer players, but also in becoming better young individuals.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Deena Flinchum

Deena provides office support for New River Community Action in Montgomery County. Additionally, Deena volunteers her time with the Humane Society of Montgomery County, Christiansburg Institute, Literacy Volunteers, RSVP, NRV Agency on Aging and this is only the beginning of the list. Annually she donates well over 1,000 hours of her time to a multitude of organizations each year.

Working with the Agency on Aging, Deena has helped to save residents in the NRV over \$100,000 in medication costs by helping to find them less expensive Medicare plans. Her work extends to helping to educate the broader community on Medicare issues through writing articles for the Roanoke Times, Current/ Bargs.

Deena always has a very positive attitude and is never too busy to help others. Deena does not just volunteer, she provides her knowledge and experience to organizations and nonprofits so that they may use their staff more effectively.

Jason Forsyth

Jason has served for several years as the coordinator for a tutoring program for middle and high school students in the Blacksburg Estates community. The program is supported by Blacksburg United Methodist Church; however, without Jason's leadership, the program would not be possible. In addition, he has coordinated weekly meals for the group as well as other activities to motivate students in their academic studies. Jason has dedicated many hours each week to this program while working on a Ph.D. at Virginia Tech. He insured that students had access to Internet services, which had previously been unavailable to them. He has provided other services not related to tutoring, but essential in providing a platform for success.

Jason never served in this capacity for recognition. Indeed there has been little recognition. He did not serve in the position because it was going to somehow improve his resume. He served because he genuinely cares about people and the people he serves recognize that.

Elizabeth Foster

Elizabeth was instrumental in the organizing of Valley Interfaith Child Care Center seven years ago. She served on the committee to make it a reality. After the Center was up and running, she volunteered in many capacities. She is an active member of Christ Episcopal Church, visiting the home bound, serving as Lay Reader, Lay Eucharistic Minister, director of Christian formation, Interfaith Food Pantry and many other organizations.

There are many words to describe Elizabeth but the first one that comes to mind is her patience. Patience for getting a project planned and completed. She has a way with everyone that brings all together when working on a project. Her talent with decorating food dishes with her flowers out of the garden, visiting a home bound individual, volunteering at the Center with the children, to mention a few. Elizabeth gives so much to everyone and every organization that she works with.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Laura Froggatt

Laura volunteers with "What's on Stage", a program that provides support to at-risk children to promote leadership and confidence. Additionally, Laura has as an aide to the Girl Scouts

and a camp-wide activity leader at the Trefoil Academy. Through her time working with each of these organizations she has routinely demonstrated her leadership skills. Laura has always stepped up and volunteered to help out at the Academy whenever needed even if it means implementing programs on short notice.

Not only will she help out, but also Laura's programs with the youth at the Academy are always a favorite.

Words that describe Laura are maturity, responsibility, creativity, resourcefulness, and dedication to helping others.

Kyle Gardiner

Kyle is 21 years old and came to the New River Valley just four years ago and has been working virtually non-stop since to create a better community at Virginia Tech and in Blacksburg. This year Kyle founded the Feet Fleet program in Blacksburg, which gives local elementary school students an opportunity to walk home from school on selected Fridays with a group of volunteers escorting them home. This program promotes a healthy lifestyle for Blacksburg children by giving them a change to get outside and exercise while they return from school. Kyle currently serves as director of Sustainability for the Student Government Association at Virginia Tech. He spends 10 hours a week with this, but also volunteers with several other organizations.

Kyle's best attribute is his inexhaustible passion for humanity. Kyle plans to devote his life to public service in order to make our communities and the world we live in a better place.

Justin Graves

The world has been impacted in so many ways by Justin's community service. As president of the Hokie Ambassadors, Justin reaches out to every single person that he meets. In addition to Hokie Ambassadors, Justin also is vice-president of Alpha Kappa Delta, public editor of the Collegiate Times, and captain of his relay for life team. He also volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters, works through the YMCA at Virginia Tech as a council member and a first grade classroom volunteer.

Justin in addition to all of this took 26 credits in the fall to finish his degree early so that he could dedicate his entire spring semester to earning admissions into the master's in Higher Education at VT and continue his Hokie Spirit for years to come.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Jessie Gunter

Throughout her three years at Virginia Tech, Jessie has been involved in community through the production and consumption of food. During her sophomore and junior years she volunteered at the Hale-YMCA community gardens and became involved with the

Sustainable Food Corps. Now she organizes the Sustainable Food Corps free monthly community meals, for which volunteers prepare food donated from local businesses to feed up to 100 Blacksburg residents. Jessie also demonstrates her commitment to service outside of academia, where she helps teach a weekly civics class for refugees seeking U.S. citizenship through the Coalition for Refugee Resettlement in Roanoke. Her service and engagement extended abroad when she interned in spring and summer of 2011 in Ecuador. Jessie is very creative, energetic and engaged. Her passion for social justice fuels her extensive community involvement.

Kristin Haas

Kristin has been a moving force in community service in not only Blacksburg, but abroad as well. She took to Ghana was to place motivated undergraduates in carefully selected research projects in sub-Saharan Africa toward extending their educational experiences on the global level. Kristin blossomed as a student and as a leader in the program and continues to grow and impact the community at home in Blacksburg. She is also heavily involved with the YMCA at Virginia Tech, organizing volunteers in the local community in addition to excelling academically.

Kristin realizes that she is a part of something much larger than herself, and works hard to give back to causes that she believes greatly in.

Danny Hazelwood

Danny volunteers with The Christian Life Center in Blacksburg by offering guitar clinics. This began last spring to help others learn music. Danny works with people from 5 to 65 years old. He has volunteered for mission work in the inner city of Memphis through Blacksburg United Methodist Church where he also volunteers. I believe one of Danny's greatest gifts is how he is able to impact youth. They seek him out and because of that he is able to help shape how they see the world.

When asked about his volunteering Danny said, "As much as volunteering is about others, I have been truly gifted a great gift."

Gerard "Jerry" William Higgins

Jerry is a tire-less, can do-volunteer who leaped into action to start the Radford/ Fairlawn Daily Bread program when he realized there was basic human need in his own backyard. Jerry's role in both Daily Break and Meals on Wheels has been critical to their success. His leadership has kept these organizations thriving. Jerry was able to add a backpack program in order to reach more children in the community through the local Kiwanis chapter. Jerry began volunteering in 1978 and hasn't stopped working with human service and civic community organizations. His motto: "Helping others isn't just the right thing to do – it's the only thing to do."

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Henry Y. Ingram II

Hank is an active assistant Scout Master to Boy Scout Troop 152. He has served the Boy Scout Council as a trainer. He has also taught senior high Sunday school class at Blacksburg United Methodist Church for over ten years. In addition, Hank also is active in the Emmaus

Community of the NRV and a faithful supporter of Operation Christmas Child, helping with everything from loading shoebox cartons to driving a truck.

Most of all, Hank has a profound influence in the lives of the young people he teaches, mentors, and works with. We may never know the exact accomplishments, but Hank has always been faithful and there for young people.

Bob Job

Bob has done volunteer work all his life, and after he retired to the NRV about 12 years ago, he became even more involved. Bob is active year round for the Christmas Store, picking up surplus items from retailers weekly, plus he is in charge of the check out line during the week it is open. In his church, Fieldston UMC, he is one of the founders and advisors of Project SPY, which brings youth from all over the state to work on construction projects for the needy in the NRV. This has helped teach youth the importance of life long service. Through his tireless efforts and expertise, he has helped manage and focus the creation and growth of Project SPY. Bob has the heart of a servant. He selflessly offers dedicated yearlong service to many organizations, and through his ability and passion for teaching servant leadership he offers an example of service to others for all to see.

Arlean Lambert

Arlean served as the beloved Marshall Elementary School librarian in New Jersey for nearly 25 years fostering an enduring love of books in thousands of children. Returning to her native Blacksburg in 2009, she now dedicates herself nearly full time to helping with the community garden. When not engaged at the gardens, she can be found promoting gardening to school children, helping to pick apples with they Y's Neighborhood Harvest, and advocating for her community. Arlean has lead the Hale YMCA community Garden Project from its inception – purchasing the land, identifying the Y as a community partner, encouraging project development, and nurturing all participants.

Arlean's engaging graciousness distinguishes her. She shares her garden, her food, her energy, her wisdom and her joy of life with everyone she meets.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Frank Lau

Frank has worked with the Blacksburg Community Center for 11 years providing free tax services for the working and senior citizens in the community. Through this volunteering Frank has helped with 1,560 tax preparations and several hundred in tax preparation and computer tutoring. He also assisted in raising over \$100,000 over ten years with the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club. Frank also served as an active member of the local AARP chapter.

Frank's willingness to help all those asking for help regardless of their social or economic status is one of his most distinguished characteristics. He cares for the whole community.

1st Lieutenant James T. Lee, CAP

In Civil Air Patrol, Lt. Lee is the Deputy Commander for Cadets, meaning he is responsible for the organization and management of our youth development program. He maintains an active youth development program for local teenagers with weekly meetings and regular weekend activities. One Cadet under his command was recently awarded the organization's highest cadet award! His meetings focus on essential skills that will help youngsters succeed in the military or everyday life.

Lt. Lee is extremely committed to the ideals of the organizations he works with. In addition to the sheer amount of time he logs, he is also a full-time student at New River Community College and will graduate this spring with two associate degrees.

Julie Ann Ligon

Julie is active in animal welfare in the area. She started the first comprehensive spay/neuter program for Montgomery County citizens over 25 years ago and continues to do this work on a volunteer basis. She is on the board of directors of the Mt. View Human Society Low Cost Spay-Neuter Clinic and the Animal HOPE Alliance of Montgomery County. Julie has worked as an administrator and teacher of children and youth with disabilities for Montgomery County Public Schools for over two decades.

In addition, as a single parent, Julie put herself through graduate school at Virginia Tech earning a Ph.D. in May of 2009. Julie models compassion, advocacy, and commitment to volunteerism in her community for her students, family and those in need.

Angela Little

Angela is the director of Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Angela is one of the most loving and understanding people that I know. She has a heart of gold and great dedication for the seniors she works with through RSVP. She is very protective and caring about the volunteers that work with her and will go a mile for anyone. Angela goes above and beyond for seniors in the NRV.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Mary Lough

Mary is currently in her fourth year of preparing income tax returns for low-to moderate-income families in the NRV. At Northside Presbyterian Church, she serves her community through the mission committee; serving as an elder, a deacon and a member of the session; helping to grow vegetables for those in need, and singing in the choir. In her spare time, she has created items for those in need, including bandages for third world countries, sweaters for children around the world, pillowcases for cancer patients, blankets for the Linus Project and Prayers & Squares and shawls for survivors of domestic violence.

Jo Martin

Community, groups and professionals throughout Giles know of Jo because of her varied volunteer ventures. Her outgoing personality, “We can do that” attitude and pleasant humor has made her invaluable to nonprofits. Jo volunteers with a thoroughness and creativity that enthuses those around her.

The first thing generally noticed about Jo is her smiling welcome, acknowledging each person entering the room, even if a meeting is in session. This small gesture gives people a feeling of being included. Someone notes, “She makes you feel like she’s glad to see you again – even if you’ve never been there before.”

Nicholas Mason

Nick was a principal founding member of the Bridges to Prosperity student chapter at VT (B2PVT). Following the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Nick was instrumental in VT campus efforts, via Hokies United, to raise funds for earthquake relief. He also worked as a volunteer intern from May to August 2010 with Engineering Ministries International. Through these experiences, Nick has volunteered extended periods of his time to live and work, under very difficult conditions, alongside Haitians who need his engineering expertise, but also his love and acceptance of them as fellow human beings. Nick understands that “serving others” does not mean doing things for them—but helping others live into their full potential by empowering them to be full participants in meeting their community’s needs.

Joel McCormick-Goodhart

Joel was nominated and selected for a prestigious scholarship through Virginia’s Community Colleges in which only two students were chosen. Joel was selected because of his volunteer and community service. Currently, Joel volunteers with his church to assist with technical aspects. He also volunteers with a youth basketball program. This is a church-based recreational league in which Joel coaches a team of eight middle school boys. Joel is a great role model to the youth he volunteers with regularly. He has an excellent “step out and go for it” attitude when it comes to any challenge he is faced with.

*NRV Leading Lights Nominees***Alexandra Miley**

Alexandra volunteers regularly with the Christiansburg Animal Shelter and fosters dogs until homes are found for them. Additionally, She volunteers in the summer for Appalachian Service Project, helping rebuild/repair homes. Additionally, Alexandra serves on church service projects including Feeding America Food Drive and the Drumstick Dash on Thanksgiving Day to help provide food for the needy.

Alexandra is caring, dedicated and compassionate. She volunteers as much as possible while being a full-time high school student. Alexandra does not believe in stopping until the job is done. She cares deeply for people and animals.

Donna Morgan

Donna has volunteered for over five years with the Blacksburg United Methodist Church ministry known as fun 143, where they offer on-site tutoring to children who live at Blacksburg Estates Mobile Home Park. She serves as the Tuesday facilities manager as well as an informal music coordinator. Donna contributes in many ways, but her greatest accomplishment has been providing musical opportunities for children. Through Donna's initiative and sustained commitment, the children have become members of the BUMC choirs and participants in the Performing Arts Institute of Virginia. Not only have the children benefited from the music itself, but the experience has also helped them to feel connected to their community and church.

Dale Mull

Nearly 13 years ago Dale started a local food bank in Shawsville. He acquired the site and regularly gets the food from various sources. Almost single handedly he has gathered and now directs 30 volunteers who assist him in distributing food to about 130 families each month.

Dale has been volunteering in various capacities for more than 40 years. His early volunteer work was with the White Memorial Church and the Shawsville Ruritan Club. In addition to the food bank, Dale currently is collecting warm coats for the needy plus acquiring shoes for needy school children as recommended by the teacher

Matt Nottingham

Matt and his partner Brenda moved to the New River Valley in 2007 to do more volunteer work related to food and poverty mitigation. Matt regularly volunteers with New River Community Action. One of his major accomplishments in working with NRCA was single-handedly saving the Blacksburg Clothing Shop from closing, allowing 30-55 low-income customers and craftswomen to buy clothes at affordable prices. Matt's most distinguishing attributes are dedication and intelligence. His presence in the NRV has been wonderful for the community.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Steve Pond

Steve has volunteered with the American Red Cross in our community as a disaster services volunteer for at least 15 years and as a board member for the past five years. He also volunteers for MCEAP, going on "Panera runs" to retrieve donated baked goods and delivering them to food pantries.

Steve is a compassionate and caring person. He listens and helps to find solutions that make our community a better place to live. It is the day-to-day contact that Steve provides that means the most, you know that he cares and will happily jump into serve no matter what the need is.

Rebecca Rees

Rebecca serves as the Chairperson of the To Our House steering committee. Through her leadership, Rebecca called attention to a community need—a shelter for homeless men. Prior to the establishment of To Our House, no local shelter existed for this population. Rebecca has provided critical leadership to the development of the project from leading the steering committee, coordinating local town ordinances and developing schedules for host sites.

Rebecca's gentle leadership style, along with her perseverance and dedication, provided the foundation necessary for the projects success.

Minnis Ridenour

After retiring from Virginia Tech as Executive Vice President, Minnis could have done many things, but he decided to give back to those less fortunate than he. Minnis created the Methodist e-Academy, which is used across Europe to train young students in Theology. Once the students have finished the e-Academy they can go on to become pastors. Not only did Minnis create the program, he also helped to raise the funding to develop it and provide scholarships for young people.

Minnis is dedicated, effective, a man of great faith, high morals and perseverance.

L. David Roper

Dave isn't one for the limelight. He takes a quiet, but important role. If Dave is on a committee he will rarely be the one to chair it, but he is often the person that the chair relies on to keep things moving. He supports numerous community organizations including, YMCA, Valley Interfaith Child Care Center, Cool Cities Group and Citizens First.

Very simply, Dave isn't one to sit around and say, "someone should..." Dave sees a need or a problem or an opportunity and immediately gathers the right group of people to get it done. He's a wonderful collaborator and an amazing inspiration.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Mike Rosenzweig

Mike has a strong commitment to environmental education and an impressive ability to introduce children to nature in a way that is safe, fun and exciting. He co-founded and is the current director of SEEDs, a nonprofit organization whose mission focuses on discovery, learning, community awareness and learning about and enjoying our environment. Mike spearheaded the establishment of the Blacksburg Nature Center.

Mike's most significant accomplishment is the influence he has on children and young adults for whom he provides an outstanding example of volunteerism and a wonderful outlet to put that volunteer spirit into action.

Sharon Scott

Sharon is the developer, coordinator and facilitator of Leadership New River Valley program through the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. In addition to working with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Sharon also volunteers for the local Habitat for Humanity, the Ronald McDonald House, the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation and many more.

Sharon is a positive, driven, self-motivating individual who is generous and giving of her time. She uses her talents to help others succeed thereby creating a better community. Sharon has the ability to bring others together to unite for a common cause and common good. Her support and encouragement empowers those who meet her.

Pat A. Shelor

Pat has helped coordinate fundraising efforts for Floyd area organizations with great success over the last nine years. Her volunteer work has helped to support the Floyd County Woman's Club, New River Community Action and the Jacksonville Center. Additionally, with the help of another RSVP volunteer, Pat started the Backpack Program to benefit low-income children in the Floyd County Public Schools. This program benefits children who are at risk of having no food at home during the weekend—as many as 74 students have been served through this program.

Pat spearheads fundraisers in the Floyd County community that when combined numbers upwards of \$22,000 annually to benefit charities, low-income families and children.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Paul Smeal

Paul started volunteering in 1961 as a member of a committee at his church. In 1962 he joined the Margaret Beek's PTA and he hasn't slowed down since. He was instrumental in the New River Special Olympics and served on the Town Parks and Recreation Committee for over 20 years. His volunteer time has contributed to the Blacksburg greenways, bike lanes, and sidewalks. He helped start Senior Olympics and Huckleberry trail trash pickup and maintenance.

Paul's most important accomplishment has been serving as a role model for others who have a handicap. Because of macular degeneration, Paul cannot drive. He uses the Blacksburg Transit, catches a ride, or walks to where he needs to go. Nothing seems to slow him down.

Brenda Springer

Although Brenda has her own CPA business completing taxes for profit, she dedicates one to two days per week preparing taxes for less fortunate people at no charge. Her services are a great asset not only to New River Community Action, but to the people she works with. Brenda continually helps clients and volunteers alike to answer questions outside of their expertise. Her never-ending willingness to help underprivileged and less experienced tax preparers is inspiring. Brenda has been volunteering for 22 consecutive years.

Sally Anna Stapleton

Sally Anna has served as the RSVP Advisory Council Chairperson for the past year. Additionally, Sally Anna is the coordinator for AARP's Create the Good website for the local chapter and facilitated food drives for MCEAP and other local food pantries for the Drive to End Hunger. In conducting the Drive to End Hunger last May, Sally Anna successfully collected more food donations from the Blacksburg Kroger stores than any other areas in the state.

Sally Anna is a woman of action, passionate, and has a natural gift for getting people excited about making a difference in their community. She models a servant's heart, is always looking out for others and is an example for all of us.

*NRV Leading Lights Nominees***Karisha Summers**

At only 18 years old, Karisha is dedicated and passionate about her volunteer work. She continually demonstrates that young people care about giving back to make their communities better. Karisha volunteers at a nursing home and with kindergarten through 2nd graders with reading each week.

Karisha demonstrates selflessness and compassion in all that she does.

Jo Ellen Taylor

Jo Ellen is an outstanding and dedicated Girl Scout leader. She goes above and beyond the standard duties, for example, she took her trip to New York City last year and this summer she will take them to Europe. Moreover, Jo Ellen takes time to mentor each girl in her troop to help them be the best they can be.

Jo Ellen is outgoing, selfless, dedicated and humble. Her work with young girls in the area is inspiring and deeply impactful.

B'easy Thompson

B'easy is an integral part of the New River United Soccer Associations success. She dedicates numerous hours to the recreational program—the largest part of the organization. With her assistance, NRUSA has acquired a greater facility, better coaches and more equipment.

B'easy currently serves as the commissioner of recreational soccer overseeing over 300 4-7 year olds. She is also a team manager of 14 and under girls travel soccer team—which is also voluntary.

B'easy is relentless in her effort to ensure a positive and healthy environment for the youth in the community.

Lindsey B. West

Lindsey began volunteering for local community groups shortly after she moved to Blacksburg in 1962. She has been a dedicated volunteer to many organizations ever since. 2012 marks her 50th year of service to the New River Valley.

Lindsey's most significant accomplishments include being the founding president of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley and the founding chair of the Lyric Council. Both organizations started from scratch and have become critical to the quality of life in the NRV.

Lindsey exemplifies the idea of 'servant leadership'. When she sees a need in the community, she goes to work to fill that need.

NRV Leading Lights Nominees

Emily Wilkinson

Emily is the Vice-President of the Student Government Association at Virginia Tech. In addition to this role, Emily also volunteers regularly with Special Olympics, the Coalition for Refugee Resettlement, the Rescue Mission and in local elementary schools through her sorority, Chi Delta Alpha.

Emily is driven, passionate, kind, inspiring, and exuberantly cheerful. She says, "Ut Prosim, to me, does not just mean 'That I May Serve', it means to unselfishly serve, to be the small piece in someone's life that they consistently rely on, to better the community that you are a part of no matter where it is."

Dorothy 'Dot' Williams

Dot has volunteered with Carillion Giles Community Hospital for 16 years. She is the definition of volunteer. She greets every task with a smile and a positive attitude and leads others to believe that there is never a reason to stop trying or giving of yourself. Not only is she a wonderful volunteer, but also Dot takes time to support others in the hospital community. The hospital is as successful as it is much to the dedication and contributions of Dot.

Timothy Worles

Tim is an athlete—member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a member of his schools student council and co-founder of a Christian youth group called “The Rock”.

Timothy is an outstanding young man and good citizen. He is a leader among his classmates. His classmates turn to him as a model for compassion, strength, and good morals. One of Timothy’s most distinguished attributes is his positive outlook on life and his enthusiasm for life. He approaches life with joy and treats everyone with equal respect.

Leading Lights Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The events of April 16, 2007 made the members of our community acutely aware of the fragile nature of life, of how precious our loved ones are to us, and of the importance of volunteers in maintaining and protecting our society.

Seeing the seemingly endless procession of first responders, spiritual counselors, caring students, and sleep-deprived ordinary citizens performing extraordinary service inspired the German Club Alumni Foundation to enable the creation of a means to recognize and promote volunteerism. A committee was formed that included leaders from NRV schools, student organizations, churches, service

organizations, universities, governments, and other non-profit organizations to develop the processes for identifying and recognizing those special people who have exhibited a passion for volunteerism.

Leading Lights is the result of these efforts, and seeks to recognize volunteers from all sectors in the New River Valley who are making a community-changing impact and serving as a model to inspire others. It is this spirit of volunteerism that we celebrate this evening.

To each of the nominees, and especially to the five award winners that the selection committee members have chosen, we offer our sincere gratitude.

We dedicate this program to the victims, all those impacted, and the countless volunteers of the tragedy of April 16, 2007. May this be a living memorial to them and a commitment to service as inspired by the volunteers on that day of infamy.

