

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page consists of a grid of colored squares in shades of purple, lavender, and grey. To the right of this grid, a faint, stylized purple star is visible, partially obscured by the text.

# New River Valley Leading Lights

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

Awards banquet & ceremony

Thursday, April 17, 2014

German Club Manor

**Life's most persistent  
and urgent question is,  
“What are you doing  
for others?”**

**—Martin Luther King, Jr.**



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## *About NRV Leading Lights*

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

Seeing the seemingly endless procession of first responders, students, counselors, and ordinary citizens performing extraordinary service inspired the German Club Alumni Foundation to find a way to recognize and promote volunteerism.

A committee was formed that included leaders from schools, churches, student organizations, nonprofits, universities, and governments to develop a process for identifying and recognizing community members with a passion for volunteerism.

Leading Lights is the result of these efforts. We seek 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. In the first six years of this program, we have honored approximately 265 people, and will have distributed \$30,000 throughout the NRV.

It is this spirit of volunteerism that we celebrate this evening. To each of the nominees, and especially to the award winners, 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.**



## *Tonight's program*

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.
Leading Lights Award.....	Andy Morikawa
Speaker.....	Frank Shushok, Jr. Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs & Assistant Professor of Higher Education Virginia Tech
Leading Lights Award.....	Andy Morikawa
Speaker.....	Kim Schwenk Director of Volunteer Services New River Community College
Leading Lights Award.....	Andy Morikawa
Closing Remarks.....	Dick Arnold NRV Leading Lights Chairman German Club Alumni Foundation



## Speakers

**Frank Shushok, Jr.** serves as Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Assistant Professor of Higher Education at Virginia Tech. In addition to serving as deputy to the Vice President for Student Affairs, he provides leadership for five departments: Housing & Residence Life, Career Services, Fraternity & Sorority Life, Dining Services, and Student Conduct.



Frank's writing and research interests focus on student learning and engagement, positive psychology and its influence on student growth and development, strengthening intellectual life in campus residential environments, honors programs, and reorganizing colleges and universities to ensure all students belong to a caring community of learning. A frequent contributor to higher education literature, Frank's recent articles can be found in *About Campus*, the *Journal of College and Character*, and the *Journal of Leadership Studies*, among others.

Frank holds a bachelor's degree from Baylor University; a master of arts in higher education and student affairs administration from The Ohio State University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in higher education policy from the University of Maryland, College Park. Frank and his wife Kelly, a United Methodist minister, have three children.

**Kim Schwenk** is a recipient of a 2013 Leading Lights Award. She was honored in recognition of her selfless actions to help others succeed, and for her work as the director of the Giving Tree Food Pantry.

Located in Christiansburg, the Giving Tree is an all-volunteer food pantry dedicated to serving the hungry in the New River Valley. The Giving Tree operates under the belief that "we are open to all without exception who come seeking food."

Kim recruits, trains, and schedules volunteers to work the pantry and recruits groups to sponsor food



drives. She is well known for her abilities to shop for the best deals for food for the pantry. Embodying the principle of love for others, Kim demonstrates this principle through her actions. She accepts people from all walks of life and makes a point of talking to and knowing the food pantry clients. No one is a stranger to Kim. A humble person, Kim finds the greatest joy in serving others.



# *2014 Leading Lights nominees*

## **High school students**

Shana Davis  
Erin Hamric  
Liandsey Janney  
Kyler Stemen  
Rebecca Kay Stephens

## **College students**

Nicole Abramson  
Kenna Crane  
Morgan Eary  
Chelsea Hall  
Lisa Hill  
Red Rae Lee  
Kylie McGoldrick  
Joanne Ng  
Sarah Rouzer  
Kieley Sutton

## **Lifetime achievement**

Wayne Bishop  
Wayne W. Campbell  
Edna Love  
Don Mullins  
Joe Sheffey  
Mary Susan Vehorn

## **General community members**

Dave Armstrong  
Marilyn Armstrong  
Antoine (Tony) Asselin  
Vicki Eggleston  
Deena Flinchum  
Don Fraser  
Roger Hudson  
Steve Jacobs  
Janet Keith  
Marian Kelso  
Rev. Jenene Lewis  
Rick Mansell  
Karli Minnick  
Janne Mathes  
Jettie Montgomery  
Matt Nottingham  
Nancy Rooker  
Merissa Sachs  
Jesse Sims  
Sally Anna Stapleton  
Gail Vaught  
Mary Susan Vehorn



## *A special thank you*

This evening's events are made possible through the generous help and contributions from our sponsors.

### *Leading Lights* (Major Sponsors)

German Club Alumni Foundation

### *Flood Lights* (Table Sponsors)

Anonymous

Balzer & Assoc.

Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

Christiansburg Lions Club

Community Foundation of NRV

Courtyard by Marriott

John and Lisa Dooley

Mike & Vicki Eggleston

Habitat for Humanity NRV

Managed Growth

Moog Components Group

New River Comm. College

Radford University Career Services

River Ridge Dermatology

Stateson Homes

The Rooker Family Fund

VT Engage: The Community Learning Collaborative

YMCA at Virginia Tech





## *Spotlights* (Supporters)

A Cleaner World  
Anderson, Desimone & Green  
Terry Arbogast  
Dick and Sally Arnold  
Blacksburg Rotary, Thurs. noon  
Blacksburg Rotary, Wed. morning  
Coleman and Nancy Brittle  
Carper Insurance  
Celco Credit Union  
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Charles and Nancy Warren  
Dr. Lewis Webb  
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## *In-kind contributions*

Community Foundation of NRV  
New River Community College  
Professional Catering, Inc.  
Radford University  
The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets



## *Steering Committee members*

**Dick Arnold**, German Club Alumni Foundation

**Coleman Brittle**, German Club Alumni Foundation

**Renee Cloyd**, Virginia Tech Pamplin School of Business

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

**Teresa Dickens**, Career Services & Community Engagement,  
Radford University

**Rachael Garrity**, Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

**Lindsey Gleason**, VT Engage: The Community Learning Collaborative,  
Virginia Tech

**Aliana Havrilla**, The YMCA at Virginia Tech

**Pat Huber**, New River Community College

**Bob Job**, The Christmas Store

**Bill King**, Pastor

**Andy Morikawa**, The Community Foundation of the NRV

**Annette Perkins**, Montgomery County Board of Supervisors

**Lewis Webb**, Giles County Public School Board & New River Community  
College Board

**Jessica Wirgau**, The Community Foundation of the NRV

## *Selection Committee members*

Pat Ballard  
Morris Fleischer  
Marcela Jara  
Bob Job  
Bill King  
Susan Verbrugge



## *A message from the committees*

The Leading Lights Steering and Selection Committees 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 lives of these volunteer written in the nominators' own words. Although only five awards will be given tonight, all of these wonderful nominees deserve our gratitude, encouragement, and commendation.

This banquet and awards presentation is intended as a heartfelt "thank you" to all volunteers across the New River Valley. We hope you continue in your paths of volunteerism and encourage others to join you in your efforts to serve.

We encourage every person attending tonight's banquet to think about others that they know who do volunteer work and to nominate them next year.



## Biographies for high school nominees

**NATURAL LEADER**  
**PASSION FOR MISSION WORK**  
**LOOKS FOR GOOD IN OTHERS**

### Shana Davis

Shana is a natural leader, evidenced by her positions as President of the SCA at Narrows High School, Captain of the Varsity volleyball and basketball teams, and as the creator and teacher for a teen girls Bible Study class at her church. Shana completed a weeklong mission trip to Honduras and has recently been accepted at Liberty University. She takes part in the Giles County Spring Clean up each year and enjoys spending time volunteering at the Giles County Mission. Shana, always looking for the good in others, has a passion for mission work and is preparing to spend a lifetime doing service.

**KIND WORDS**  
**CONSTANT WARMTH**  
**ENCOURAGES OTHERS**

### Erin Hamric

Erin began serving her community at a young age as a participant in summer mission trips with her church. Today her service has expanded to include leadership roles at her high school as president of the Student Council Association, president, coordinator of the Interact Club, 4-H club volunteer, senior class representative on the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, and several other significant contributions to her school and community. Aside from the innumerable hours of direct service that Erin actively participates in, she also serves others with her high spirit, constant warmth, kind words, and by making it a point to reach out to others who may not otherwise be involved.

**EXCEPTIONAL**  
**FINDS TIMES TO SERVE**  
**ALWAYS THINKS OF OTHERS**

### Lindsey Janney

Lindsey is an exceptional high school student with a 4.21 grade-point average, a part-time job at a local grocery store, and she still finds plenty of time to serve her community, whether volunteering to sing and visit with residents at the local nursing home or organizing a canned food drive at her school. She also serves as Student Council President, Senior Class President, and treasurer of her church youth group. Over the years, she has also engaged in service with Relay for Life, Angels in the Attic, the Roanoke Rescue Mission, and fundraising for Cystic Fibrosis. Lindsey is always thinking of others, and how she might help them improve their lives.



## High school nominees (continued)

**DRIVEN**  
**TAKES INITIATIVE**  
**LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

### **Kyler Stemen**

Currently a high school senior in Roanoke, Kyle Stemen used his Eagle Scout experience to revitalize a playground at the Narrows Head Start, so that it could help motor skills development and be a fun place to play for low-income preschoolers. He secured more than \$7,000 of in-kind donations for equipment, materials, and volunteer hours to improve the playground. He organized troop members, friends, and teammates from his football team to volunteer with removing old equipment, pulling weeds, and installing a new sandbox and balance beam. Through his service, Kyler is known for his leadership skills, his initiative, and his drive to see his work completed.

**ROLE MODEL**  
**PATIENT & KIND**  
**COMPASSIONATE**

### **Rebecca Kay Stephens**

Rebecca Kay Stephens is a patient and kind student assistant to a Special Education classroom at her high school, mentoring other students with a smile on her face. She has given presentations to local elementary schools about bullying, completed a mission trip to assist an elderly couple with home improvements, and supported the local Angel Tree at the holidays. She volunteers her time to be a cheerleading coach for Little League, is an active member of her church's youth group, and is the secretary for Students Against Drunk Driving. Rebecca is compassionate, responsible, and a role model to the students she works with.



**How wonderful it is  
that nobody need wait  
a single moment before  
starting to improve  
the world.**

**—Anne Frank**



## *Biographies for college student nominees*

DEDICATED  
CARING & LOVING  
ANIMAL ADVOCATE

### **Nicole Abramson**

When a couple wrecked their car on I-81 near the Dublin exit, Nicole was first on the scene, searching for their dog. She is an avid pet advocate, spending more than 3,000 hours each year fostering animals, assisting in search and rescue work, fundraising and adoption events, and transporting animals. She serves as the Pulaski County Humane Society's Rescue Coordinator and is also a graduate student in engineering at Virginia Tech where she maintains a 4.23 grade point average. Because of her dedication, the Humane Society was able to break their rescue record, sending 237 pets to rescue in 2013. Nicole spends every spare moment at the shelter, caring and loving for all pets.

### **Kenna Crane**

Kenna has been involved in community service for more than eight years. She is Vice President of Alpha Phi Omega, a National Community Service Fraternity, and has helped to nearly double the fraternity's community service hours. Kenna is actively involved in mentoring young high school students through her participation in the Appalachian Arts and Studies in the Schools program and Blacksburg Community Center youth programs. She has also spent more than 70 hours as a volunteer counselor at Camp Carysbrook. Kenna is a genuine and caring member of her community and is passionate about making it a better place.

MENTOR  
PASSIONATE  
GENUINE & CARING

LEADER  
COMPASSIONATE SPIRIT  
RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

### **Morgan Eary**

Morgan is the kind of person whose most impressive accomplishments are impossible to track or count. She is involved with numerous organizations and has held leadership roles in many of them. It is estimated that she contributes over 300 hours every year to volunteer projects with her church, tutoring/mentoring students at Christiansburg Middle School, Gilbert Linkous Elementary School, and with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the NRV, she is a senior council member with the SERVE Living Learning Community at Virginia Tech, and leading her peers in service immersion experiences. Morgan is most well known, however, for her compassionate spirit and dedication to relationship building amongst her peers and throughout her community.



## College student nominees (continued)

TEAM LEADER  
ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEER  
UNWAVERING COMMITMENT

### Chelsea Hall

Chelsea began volunteering at the age of 12 in a nursing home where her mother worked, and has volunteered ever since. Chelsea volunteers with AWARE, a mentoring program for middle school girls, where she serves as a team leader and volunteer coordinator; the Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group as a training Lieutenant, The Big Event at Fundraising, and with "Special Love" as president and founding member. During her time at Virginia Tech, Chelsea has volunteered an estimated 500+ hours a year, and she does so enthusiastically, with unwavering commitment.

### Lisa Hill

Lisa has been regularly involved in her community since kindergarten, starting with Girl Scouts and church groups and expanding in her college career to include work with SERVE Living Learning Community and the non-profit BreakAway. With SERVE, she has played a large role in the creation of a service immersion/alternative breaks program. Lisa is a believer in and advocate of the transformative properties of service. Whether she is leading a service immersion trip or helping to analyze a tough social justice issue, Lisa is known to be humble, dependable, and dedicated to her volunteer efforts and to those around her.

DEDICATED  
ADVOCATE FOR SERVICE  
HUMBLE & DEPENDABLE

ENCOURAGING  
WORKS TIRELESSLY  
ENTHUSIASTIC LEADER

### Red Rae Lee

Red Rae Lee is an encouraging and enthusiastic president of the New River Community College's Student Government Association. Red has worked tirelessly to enhance the services and outreach of NRCC through her leadership. Through her service work, she organized a food drive that sent approximately 40,000 meals to children in developing countries. She also collected food and led fundraising efforts for Radford Women's Resource Center and other community members in need during the holidays.





## College student nominees (continued)

ALWAYS SMILING  
STUDENT ATHLETE  
DEDICATED VOLUNTEER

### Kylie McGoldrick

Kylie performs service to her community, always with a smile on her face. She has been doing volunteer service for about six years, completing around 100 hours annually. She is an accomplished student athlete, being chosen for All-ACC, All-ACC Academic, and All-Region teams. She made the Dean's list, has been featured on HokieSports.com, and is involved in a host of other academic, social, and civic organizations.

SELF-STARTER  
LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER  
LEADS OTHERS TO SERVE

### Joanne Ng

Joanne is a self-starter who serves her community through her involvement with the Student Government Association's Diversity Committee, the Residential Leadership Community, and as Co-President of Hokies for Haiti. She has been involved in service for nine years and won the 2011 Honorary Service Award for her accomplishments. Since 2012, she has helped Hokies for Haiti raise \$2,800+. Joanne served 200+ hours of service this year, creating projects to benefit under-served areas and leading others to serve.

LEADER  
TAKES INITIATIVE  
DILIGENT MENTOR

### Sarah Rouzer

Sarah balances her academic life with work and extra-curricular service positions gracefully. She serves as a student program leader for the YMCA at VT for an academic mentoring program for elementary school students. Sarah also serves as finance officer for YMCA Student Programs and holds leadership positions with the Big Event, Relay for Life, and the Virginia Tech Union. She works diligently to mentor other student leaders, contributing more than 250 hours yearly with her YMCA work alone. Sarah shows foresight, initiative, and consistency in her service work.

DEDICATED  
VERY INVOLVED  
CARING LEADER

### Kieley Sutton

Kieley is ambitious, professional, caring, and dedicated. She is noticeably active in her community, and is a co-leader of the Crisis Response Team at Virginia Tech. Kieley plays a key role in the disaster preparedness group by setting up and facilitating training opportunities for her team. She also helped create "Conversations that Matter", a series of reflective discussions amongst her peers that address social justice issues. Serving others comes easily to Kieley, as is evident by her constant dedication to others and the innumerable hours she commits to her community each year.



If you have come to help  
me, you are wasting  
your time.

But if you have come  
because your liberation  
is tied up with mine, then  
let us work together.

—Lill Watson



## Biographies for general community member nominees

IDENTIFIES NEEDS  
LEADS BY EXAMPLE  
INITIATES SOLUTIONS

### Dave Armstrong

Dave leads by example in his volunteer positions on the Board of Directors for Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, Building and Operational Manager for the Christmas Store, and manager of backpack programs for children at two local middle schools. Through 22 years of volunteer service, he established and directs a scholarship fund for a Radford University student, helps fund the backpack programs he manages, and frequently assists with local food drives and food kitchens. Dave has an uncanny ability to identify a community need and initiate the actions necessary to provide a solution.

### Merilyn Armstrong

Merilyn manages volunteers for the Montgomery County Christmas Store each year and she is skilled at helping those volunteers truly enjoy their service to the Store. In addition to those managing duties, she has completed mission trips with her church, created a scholarship fund for a Radford University student, and she coordinates contributions from local food organizations to prepare 66 backpacks each week for low-income children. She helps seniors prepare income tax forms at the Senior Center and devotes two days each month at a local soup kitchen. Merilyn inspires others around her to commit to service projects.

DEVOTED  
SKILLED MANAGER  
INSPIRES OTHERS TO SERVE

GENEROUS  
COMPASSIONATE  
LIFELONG COMMITMENT

### Antoine (Tony) Asselin

Compassion, generosity, and concern for others could be used to describe Tony's approach to service. In his 30 years of service to the NRV, he served as board member or executive director for several groups, including United Way of Montgomery County, Breakfast Lions Club, and Habitat for Humanity-NRV. As the Executive Director for Habitat, he is credited with rebuilding the financial aspects and providing crucial reorganization and accountability that has helped Habitat prosper through unlimited hours of service. His dedication to selling parking passes and manning the lot during football games for the Lions Club has been a financial boon for them. Tony demonstrates a lifelong commitment to helping others through untold hours of service.



## General community member nominees (continued)

ENCOURAGING  
SKILLED MOTIVATOR  
POSITIVE IMPACT ON OTHERS

### Vicki Eggleston

Vicki volunteers over 300 hours to her community annually, notably with the Blacksburg United Methodist Church Fun143 ministry, which offers on-site tutoring at Blacksburg Estates Mobile Home Park, as well as opportunities to participate in church and community activities. She volunteers her time around the holidays to the Montgomery County Christmas Store and Operation Santa Claus. She is known as a skilled motivator, knows the right approaches to help students learn, can effectively encourage positive behavior, and can easily be distinguished for the lasting, positive impact she has on the children with whom she works.

MAKES A HUGE IMPACT  
PASSIONATE ABOUT HEALTH  
DEVOTED TO OLDER ADULTS

### Deena Flinchum

For Deena Flinchum, helping her community have a healthier quality of life is of utmost importance. For at least seven years, she has worked with the NRV Agency on Aging assisting older adults with Medicare enrollment, helping over 900 people save a total of \$389,956 in prescription coverage, and providing pet food for pets owned by low-income older adults with the Montgomery County Humane Society. She writes a regular newspaper column with healthy advice for older adults and their caregivers and speaks to groups on preventing Medicare fraud. She has made a huge impact on the health of people living in the NRV, making it a better place to grow up and grow older.

LEADER  
WORKS TIRELESSLY  
ORGANIZATION BUILDER

### Don Fraser

Don has served as the volunteer director of Bike the US for MS since he founded the non-profit in 2007. The organization, which Don started from scratch, now raises over \$250,000 per year, which helps fund MS clinics and research facilities, is a means to provide home modifications and mobility equipment, and as a way to coordinate volunteer efforts in the homes of patients with MS. It is estimated that he volunteers over 20 hours per week to this organization, and his colleagues describe him as “dedicated, working tirelessly and displaying a great amount of skill and ability to building an organization.” Aside from his efforts with Bike the US for MS, Don also serves on the board of the Blue Ridge Chapter of the National MS Society.



## General community member nominees (continued)

**HARD WORKER**  
**LEADS BY EXAMPLE**  
**PROVIDES TEAM DIRECTION**

### **Roger Hudson**

Roger began working as a volunteer with the American Red Cross after Hurricane Katrina and has since served on 16 disaster relief operations, ranging from wildfires in California to floods in the Midwest. He is now the Disaster Manager for the New River Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. Roger is a leader by example and provides his team the direction they need to deliver the best service to individuals and families at their lowest moments. His position is a full time volunteer position and it is estimated that he volunteers 8,600 hours a year with the American Red Cross.

### **Steve Jacobs**

In addition to operating a business full-time, Steve volunteers approximately 100 hours of community service annually. He is a current member of the Head Start advisory committee, a member of the Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club, NRV CARES, and several other non-profit groups throughout the New River Valley. He has dedicated his life to important, thoughtful service to his community with a particular emphasis on the education of parents on the care of their young children. Steve approaches philanthropy as an integral part of his residence in the New River Valley and sets a high standard and a terrific example through his continued dedication to others.

**TERRIFIC EXAMPLE**  
**THOUGHTFUL SERVICE**  
**DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY**

**GIFTED & PATIENT**  
**ACTIVELY INVOLVED**  
**PURSUES EXCELLENCE**

### **Janet Keith**

A gifted writer and teacher, Janet Keith shares her love of history with the people of Floyd County through her service to Old Church Gallery, an educational, cultural, and historical non-profit in Floyd County. She and her children honor the memory of her late husband by managing the D.J. Keith Memorial Scholarship, which has awarded \$4,000 to Floyd County High School seniors. She is actively involved with providing remedial support for fifth graders in math, science, and writing at Floyd Elementary School and curates and leads tours at the Floyd County Historical Society Museum. Janet is a charter member of the Slusher Family Organization since 1970, where her patience and pursuit of excellence have become her hallmarks.



## General community member nominees (continued)

**TALENTED**  
**AVAILABLE TO ALL**  
**A TRUE AMBASSADOR**

### Marian Kelso

Marian's volunteer experience exemplifies her wide-array of talents. Aside from volunteering her time as a receptionist, tour guide, and information guide at Warm Hearth Village where she resides she also contributed over 300 hours of community service to Lewis-Gale hospital in the past year, where she was named Volunteer of the Year for her efforts and dedication. She can often be found reading to students at Margaret Beeks Elementary School and can be found volunteering her time as Mrs. Clause around the holidays. Marian always ensures that she is available for those who need a little assistance and is considered a true ambassador and asset to her community.

**ACTIVE**  
**SERVES 24 HOURS A DAY**  
**ANSWERS CALLS FOR HELP**

### Rev. Jenene Lewis

Jenene is the Administrative Assistant to the Pastor of First Baptist Church, where she also serves as choir director; oversees the Praise and Worship Ministry, has been the chairman of the Community Church Committee. Jenene is also active outside of her church community as she is on the Radford City Board of Social Services, serves as the Advisor of the Association of Black Social Workers at Radford University and is the Co-Advisor of Radford University's Deliverance Gospel Choir. It is said that Jenene's contributions to her community cannot be measured as she serves others 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and does not discriminate amongst those that call on her for help.

**HUMBLE**  
**WILLING TO SERVE**  
**TACKLES TOUGH PROJECTS**

### Rick Mansell

In Rick's 32 years of practicing general dentistry in Pulaski County, he has never sought recognition for his service, instead choosing to quietly and effectively tackle tough projects by providing dental care to those who need it most. He is the President of the Pulaski Free Clinic Board of Directors and a regular volunteer dentist for the Free Clinic of the NRV and the Mission of Mercy dental clinic in Wise County. Last year alone, he helped organize 94 volunteers and together they provided more than \$188,000 in free dental care for the uninsured and low-income people. Rick has been doing service since 1976, demonstrating a true willingness to serve his community.



## General community member nominees (continued)

KEY LEADER  
LIFELONG COMMITMENT  
INVOLVED IN MANY PROJECTS

### Janne Mathes

Janne has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community service as a key leader for To Our House, a collaboration of local faith and civic organizations that shelters homeless men during winter months. Janne's work was paramount to the project's development in 2010 and she served as its first volunteer trainer. Janne is still actively involved with TOH today, as she serves as the Secretary for the To Our House Policy Council leadership group. Janne also coordinates the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church's Crisis Ministry and volunteers on the Steering Community, where she assists individuals in need with job searches and referrals. It is estimated that Janne contributes over 600 hours a year to multiple organizations and projects.

### Karli Minnick

Karli is known to be a selfless, genuinely caring volunteer filled with inspiring positivity and optimism on life. She dedicates over 130 hours of her time annually to the Giving Tree Food Pantry, where her compassion is most evident and she is the first friendly face greeting those who come to the pantry in need. Aside from her work with the Giving Tree, Karli volunteers her time with the Montgomery County Christmas Store, To Our House, and Micah's Backpack. She is a "true asset" to her community and is admired for her dedication and heart for service.

TRUE ASSET  
HEART FOR SERVICE  
INSPIRING POSITIVITY

CHEERFUL ATTITUDE  
HELPS HOWEVER HE CAN  
UNENDING WILLINGNESS TO SERVE

### Jettie Montgomery

Jettie's service to the NRV as a VITA volunteer is accented by his cheerful attitude. During tax season, he is available five days a week to provide free tax assistance to low to moderate-income people, helping them to make ends meet and pay bills through their tax savings. He is also a disaster instructor and Director for the local American Red Cross Chapter, Chairman of the Boy Scouts of America Local Troop 244, and an Elder at the Radford Presbyterian Church. Jettie has worked Saturdays, prepared taxes for residents of any locality, and assisted with generating reports when others were unable, demonstrating his unending willingness to serve others and help out in whatever ways he can.





## General community member nominees (continued)

DEDICATED  
QUIETLY AWESOME  
ACTIVE VOLUNTEER

### Matt Nottingham

As the spiritual and organizational leader of the MCEAP Blacksburg Clothing Shop, Matt was responsible for negotiating the transfer of its management so the shop could stay open, benefiting those in need and contributing 100% of proceeds to MCEAP. He notices the communities formed, the information exchanged, the human values of a project, which is how he helped save the Blacksburg Clothing Shop from extinction. He also serves with the Interfaith Food Pantry, Roper Solar Greenhouse at the Hale YMCA Community Garden, and the YMCA Neighborhood Fruit Harvest. Matt is quietly awesome with figures and people. A former bond trader, he often uses his statistical knowledge and intellect to contribute to the many projects he is involved in.

WILLING TO HELP  
ACTIVELY INVOLVED  
VOLUNTEERING A PRIORITY

### Nancy Rooker

Nancy is actively involved in her community with positions with To Our House and the New River Family Shelter. Her efforts her pivotal to the continuation of the To Our House program during a transition in location. She is known for her willingness and commitment to that program and for making To Our House a high priority. It is estimated that she serves her community over 100 hours a year.

### Merissa Sachs

Merissa Sachs has a desire to foster volunteerism in her community, especially in young people. She is actively involved in Christiansburg High School's Band Boosters and her company, Marketing On Main, has donated more than 200 packages to soldiers and donated her company's parking lot for a blood drive. She is a board member for the Salvation Army NRV, helping to organize the Community Day of Giving, and

recently donated more than 12,000 food bars to a local overnight homeless shelter for homeless men. Merissa has been volunteering in the NRV for over 25 years, leaving a legacy of service in this area that benefits everyone.



GENEROUS  
LEGACY OF SERVICE  
FOSTERS VOLUNTEERISM IN OTHERS



## General community member nominees (continued)

HELPS HOWEVER HE CAN  
PUTS HEARTS INTO SERVICE  
MAKES OUR COMMUNITY BETTER

### Jesse Sims

While Jesse Sims was not born in Christiansburg, it is certainly his home. He puts his heart into volunteering with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, installing fencing for the Bocce ball court and offering to perform almost any task he could take off the staff's hands. He has participated as a team member in Relay for Life and has begun devoting 20 hours each week to serving at the Chamber. Jesse has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for at least six years, building houses and making sure that this locality is a prosperous place for everyone who lives here.

### Sally Anna Stapleton

Sally Anna serves her community in a variety of ways, but she does it with zeal and creativity. In her capacity on the Board of the AARP Blacksburg chapter, she has become the go-to person for hunger drives, bringing in over three tons of food annually and contributing donations to two of the largest local food banks. She is involved with numerous other local service organizations, including Good Samaritan Hospice, the annual Dental Free Clinic, RSVP, Create the Good, and the NRV Agency on Aging. Sally Anna is known for her volunteer recruitment skills and her consistent efforts to lead others in service to their community.

LEADS OTHERS INTO SERVICE  
GO-TO PERSON  
CREATIVE

LEADER  
EMPOWERS OTHERS  
ADVOCATE OF THE ELDERLY

### Gail Vaught

Gail is known as an advocate of the elderly, as is evident through her active involvement and leadership with the Giles County Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP), her position as the director of the Giles County Senior Center, and her work with AARP. Through these organizations and others, she has participated in many volunteer projects including Soup for Seniors, where she has donated over 100 cans of soup and cleaning the New River every fall with ReNew the New. She is a natural caretaker and is known to be genuinely caring with a great capacity to make those she serves and those around her feel worthy and empowered.



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

—Mohandas Gandhi



# *Leading Lights Lifetime Achievement Award*

## **The Jim and Lenna Moore Community Service and Citizenship Award**

Lenna Moore was an active volunteer in the New River Valley. When she passed away suddenly in 1999, representatives from the four organizations that Lenna was most active in as a volunteer decided to dedicate this award in her honor.

The YMCA at Virginia Tech, 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, Lenna'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.



## Biographies for lifetime achievement nominees

TIRELESS ENERGY  
LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER  
DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE

### Wayne Bishop

Wayne has been involved with the Christiansburg Lions Club for over 40 years. He is well known for his work expanding the Annual Craft Fair; his dedication to that project has allowed the Lions Club to contribute over \$10,000 for glasses and hearing aids to those who could not otherwise afford them. For his tireless energy and dedication to excellence within that organization, Wayne was awarded the "Melvin Award", the highest distinction for service excellence in the volunteer field. Outside of the Lions Club, Wayne also serves with the St. Paul United Methodist Church as the chair of the finance committee and usher.

LEADER  
EMPOWERS OTHERS  
TRUE LEADING LIGHT

### WAYNE W. CAMPBELL

Sam has dedicated much of his volunteerism to Animal Hope Alliance (AHA). He is always working to keep animals (specifically cats) safe and healthy, whether it be through helping to get stray cats homes, fundraising for proper vaccinations for families who can't afford to medicate their cats, or even fostering cats until they can find a loving family. Sam also serves as secretary to the Campus Police Support Group at Tech and is a fundraising "whiz". He works Virginia Tech football and basketball concessions, special event.

### Edna Love

Since Edna retired from teaching professionally, she has become a lifetime member of the Fine Arts Center of the New River valley, where she is active in the Education and Programming committees. She has dedicated her time to teaching as a volunteer at the center as well as coordinating children's camps during the summers. She is also active in the Garden Club, the Pulaski Round Dozen Club, the Methodist Church, and Ladies Group, any several other organizations. Edna has dedicated the last 25 years as a volunteer to her community and is easily distinguished by her love of the arts and her passion for teaching.

LOVES THE ARTS  
PASSION FOR TEACHING  
ACTIVE IN MANY ORGANIZATIONS



## *Lifetime achievement nominees* (continued)

DEDICATED  
MAKES CHANGE HAPPEN  
UNDENIABLE POSITIVE IMPACT

### **Don Mullins**

Don Mullins has an undeniable positive impact on his community as a volunteer and co-chair to the YMCA and as a leader for NRV's Habitat for Humanity. Known for never giving up, Don's dedication to the YMCA was instrumental to the establishment of the Thrift Shop and its sustained growth over the years. With Habitat for Humanity, Don played a part in growing the Restore operation and also serves on the Board of Members. It is estimated that Don volunteers over 400 hours to his community annually and he is counted on as someone who "can make change happen."

### **Joe Sheffey**

Joe has a unique commitment to serving his community, a deep concern for the welfare of others, and a dedication for creating a culture of cooperation. In addition to providing support and leadership to 36 non-profit organizations ranging from work with local churches to statewide organizations with concentrations on everything from health care to sanitation efforts, Joe has also been the Chair of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors since 1996.

PROVIDES LEADERSHIP  
DEEP CONCERN FOR OTHERS  
CREATES CULTURE OF COOPERATION

ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY  
CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM  
DEEP RESPECT & AFFECTION FOR OTHERS

### **Mary Susan Vehorn**

When Mary Susan moved to the New River Valley, the first thing she did was ask about available volunteer opportunities. She began cooking meals for the Beans & Rice After-School Program, but she soon began working at the Radford Clothing Bank where she is now the coordinator and a board member. During her tenure at the Clothing Bank, they have grown the number of people served from 927 to 2,037. She also secured grant funding for a new program to provide clothing vouchers for children. Mary Susan is known for her deep respect and affection for all people she meets and her enthusiasm for fulfilling the needs of the community is contagious. In addition to being nominated for a lifetime achievement award tonight, she was also nominated twice for a general community member award.

