

NORTH CAROLINA MEDALLION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE 2006

The North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service program is an important part of the proud history and tradition of volunteerism and community service in our state. For 28 years, the program has honored the true spirit of volunteerism in our state by recognizing individuals, groups and businesses that make a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service.

The NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service in the Office of the Governor is honored to announce a new award in the program this year. The NC Medallion Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service is presented to the top 20 volunteers in the state.

It is the Commission's pleasure to announce the recipients of the Medallion Award and to provide a description of their outstanding volunteer service on the following pages.

**NORTH CAROLINA MEDALLION AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE
2006**

Recipients

Alamance County
Alleghany County
Brunswick County
Carteret County
Chatham County
Currituck County
Davidson County
Davie County
Haywood County
Hyde County
Macon County
McDowell County
Orange County
Pender County
Polk County
Rutherford County
Vance County
Wake County
Wayne County
Yancey County

Crystal Sharpe
Bonnie Vaughan
David and Mary Biesack
Ellis Jones
Bob Ligett
Marshall E. Cherry, Jr.
Hannah Hedgecock
Max Cranfill
Richard Reeves
Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Dept. Auxiliary
Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.
Louise McFalls
Abby Phelps
Todd Godin
John Hicks
Helen Rogers
Paul Parrish
Lou Mitchell
Emily Peacock
Neva Renaldo

The description of volunteer service on the following pages was created from information provided in the recipient's 2006 NC Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service nomination form.

ALAMANCE COUNTY

Crystal Sharpe

Crystal has been serving as a volunteer with Family Abuse Services in Alamance County for 7 years. An employee of the Graham Police Department, Crystal donates about 15 hours each week as a volunteer. She is a volunteer Board Member, provides transportation for clients, helps with event planning, consults with staff on difficult cases, provides supplies purchased with her own money, serves as an advocate for the clients of Family Abuse Services, and volunteers for 16-hour shifts at the domestic violence shelter. Her passion and volunteer service has made a huge difference in the agency by giving victims of domestic violence in Alamance County hope for a better tomorrow.

Crystal also volunteers for the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Junior Women's Club of Burlington, and the Graham Police Department.

County Coordinator: Ruth Pruitt



ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Bonnie Vaughan

Bonnie has been volunteering with the Alleghany Council on Aging for more than 19 years. She donates about 10 hours of volunteer service each week at Alleghany Cares and Sunbridge Nursing & Rehabilitation. Bonnie coordinates special events, teaches aerobics to seniors one day each week, manages a walking club for seniors, contributes to a monthly newsletter, and assists with fundraising activities. Bonnie has a contagious enthusiasm about her community and she has a personal mission of helping people. She gives of herself each day to the people of Alleghany County. She is a leader, motivator, and mentor.

Bonnie's other volunteer service includes serving in her church for over 63 years, and serving as a volunteer member of numerous boards and committees throughout Alleghany County.

County Coordinator: Bob Bamberg

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

David and Mary Biesack

David and Mary volunteer more than 20 hours each week. For 11 years, this husband-and-wife team has worked with the Loaves and Fishes Pantry at St. Brendan Catholic Church. Mary coordinates over 70 volunteers for the Pantry that serves approximately 10,000 people annually. She coordinates the transportation of donated food from area supermarkets and manages a budget of more than \$50,000. David procures perishable and non-perishable food products for distribution at the Pantry. The Biesack's coordinate with other area food pantries and assistance agencies and have reached out to help underserved areas in Brunswick County. David and Mary have worked tirelessly for over 25 years to feed the hungry. They make sure that each client is treated with dignity and respect.

County Coordinator: Jayne Mathews



CARTERET COUNTY

Ellis Jones

Ellis volunteers about 28 hours each week with the Newport Police Department. For over a year he has directed traffic at the Newport Elementary School on a regular basis. He also inspects/installs child seats, coordinates all activities for the Volunteers In Police Service program, makes public presentations, and patrols businesses – which has led to a decrease in shoplifting at one local business. Ellis' dedication and professionalism have made a great impact on the entire police department and its volunteer program. He has inspired not only other volunteers, but also the officers with his "can do" attitude.

Ellis also serves as a volunteer with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Britthaven of Newport, and the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce.

County Coordinator: Dora Irving

CHATHAM COUNTY

Bob Ligett

Bob is a volunteer with Chatham Habitat for Humanity. For about two years, he has donated between 12-15 hours each week as the Builders Blitz Coordinator. He recruited volunteer builders, oversaw detailed event planning including fundraising, builder donations, various subcontractor and vendor donations, publicity, safety, signage, acknowledgements, meetings with officials – all to support the construction of 5 houses in a period of 7 days. It normally takes an entire year to build 5 houses. After Bob volunteered to coordinate this effort, he stepped forward and never looked back. The blitz could have not happened without Bob's dedication and commitment.

Bob also volunteers with the Architectural Review Board at the Governor's Club.

County Coordinator: Alane Coore



CURRITUCK COUNTY

Marshall E. Cherry, Jr.

Marshall has served as a volunteer with the Corolla Fire and Rescue Squad for 23 years by donating at least 40 hours each week. He has served as the Fire Chief, President, Paramedic, and Ocean Rescue Director. He has volunteered as the General Contractor/Electrical Contractor for new fire stations at Pine Island and Whalehead Station. Under his direction fire and rescue services have kept pace with the rapid growth in the area. In 1999, he worked to reduce property owner's insurance premiums by 30% through a new ISO classification. Through his volunteer service, Marshall has demonstrated his commitment to the training, equipment needs, and overall excellence of a fire and rescue service which is crucial to residents and visitors.

Marshall has also served as a volunteer with Currituck County government.

County Coordinator: Mary Ellen Maxwell

DAVIDSON COUNTY

Hannah Hedgecock

Hannah volunteers with the Special Olympics of Davidson County. For 3 years, she has served as Special Olympics Aquatics Coach by donating 575 hours of volunteer service. Hannah began coaching with Special Olympics when she was a member of a high school swim team in Davidson County. She recruited other swim team members and school mates to volunteer with Special Olympics. She has been a driving force in improving the skills of the athletics, through comprehensive training, and giving them the confidence they need to compete. When Hannah's high school graduation ceremony and the Special Olympics State Summer Games were scheduled for the same day, she chose to volunteer at the Games so she could be with her athletes. Hannah has touched the lives of many athletes, parents, volunteers, and other coaches.

While Hannah was volunteering with the Special Olympics, she was the president of her school's Key Club, president of the National Honor Society, and had a part-time job.

County Coordinator: Kristie Hege



DAVIE COUNTY

Max Cranfill

Max has been volunteering with A Storehouse for Jesus for 3 years. He has donated between 40-80 hours at this volunteer organization that meets the medical, dental, vision, and pharmaceutical needs of the poor in Davie County, and the basic needs of food and clothes for Davie and surrounding counties. Max serves as the Building Project Manager and Board Member. He supervised the work of dozens of construction workers and volunteers in the construction of a new 27,000 square foot building and secured donations of materials and services that saved more than \$900,000 in construction costs. Max took the impossible task and dream of creating a space of dignity and caring for persons who have little of either in their lives. Because of his volunteer service and dedication, many people are being provided with food, clothing and health care in a safe environment.

County Coordinator: Lori Contos

HAYWOOD COUNTY

Richard Reeves

Richard has served one year with Mountain Projects by donating 35-50 hours each week. Serving as the Wood Project Coordinator, in 2006 he delivered over 150 loads of wood to the needy, elderly, and disabled in Haywood County. He cut, split, loaded, hauled, delivered the wood – and, upon delivery, he stacked and covered the wood. When delivering the wood, he also delivered hope and encouragement by talking with the clients and showing empathy for their situation. Richard also raised over \$1600 to purchase additional truckloads of wood. Because of his compassion and hard work as a volunteer, many people in Haywood County have been much warmer in the winter. When winter ends, Richard begins the process for the next year.

The Haywood County school system is also the recipient of Richard's volunteer service as he reads to children and chaperones school trips. He has also served as a volunteer in his church for more than 20 years.

County Coordinator: Elaine Kuhl



HYDE COUNTY

Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

For more than 30 years, members of the Ladies Auxiliary have provided a vital service to Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department. Currently with 20 volunteers, they organize and conduct various fundraising activities that provide \$18,000 - \$20,000 each year to the fire department. After Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and Hurricane Isabel in 2003, Auxiliary volunteers cleaned and sanitized the fire department's buildings which became the center of the community's relief activities. They received and distributed water, cleaning supplies, food, furniture, appliances, etc. to hurricane victims. Even though some Auxiliary members were hurricane victims themselves, they volunteered tirelessly for their community. Working with The Salvation Army in 2003, they provided hot meals 2 times daily to area residents who had lost everything to Hurricane Isabel. In that same year, they also coordinated with other organizations to distribute nearly \$1 million in furniture, appliances, and Christmas toys to needy families and children in Hyde County.

County Coordinator: Beverly Paul

MACON COUNTY

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.

This organization, with more than 110 volunteers and no paid staff, has existed for more than 34 years. It operates one of the finest small museums displaying gems and minerals in the nation. Featured on The Travel Channel, children from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia visit the museum to watch educational videos, observe demonstrations on gem cutting, and participate in hands-on activities. The museum is also visited by tour buses, Scout troops, and senior groups and serves as a resource center for people who go mining in the local mines. Volunteers work at the museum, make speeches throughout the county, and provide free educational materials at their own expense.

Volunteers have donated more than 400 hours each year at “Gemboree”, an event co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. They have also donated about 60 hours a year for the past 6 years in the “Streets of Franklin” festival.

County Coordinator: Barbara White



McDOWELL COUNTY

Louise McFalls

Louise has volunteered with Hospice of McDowell County for more than 6 years. She donates 5-6 hours each week as their Bereavement Telephone Contact. Louise makes weekly/monthly phone calls from her home to bereaved Hospice families for 13 months following the death of their loved one. She documents each call and reports concerns to a Hospice staff member for additional contact with the families. Her commitment to help the bereaved to cope with their loss is evidenced in the detail of her documentation and timely manner in which she brings it to the Hospice office. She has impacted hundreds of grieving Hospice families with her skill of compassionate listening. Many families have expressed that Louise's phone calls have made a difference and had an impact on their lives. In addition to this volunteer service, she also helps Hospice with special events such as their annual memorial service.

Louise has also volunteered in various activities at her church for 20 years.

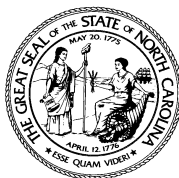
County Coordinator: Polly Graham

ORANGE COUNTY

Abby Phelps

Abby volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill. For more than 13 years she has donated about 3 hours each week working at the front desk at RMH. Being confined to a motorized scooter might present problems for other volunteers – but not for Abby as she displays a strong, positive perspective to those who come to RMH from great distances with varying life struggles. It is quite an undertaking for her to drive to RMH every Tuesday afternoon to fulfill her volunteer commitment to answer phone calls, write thank-you notes, help staff with clerical tasks, and assist guests and visitors. Her dedication to caring for children has made a difference in the lives of countless families.

County Coordinator: Monica Evans



PENDER COUNTY

Todd Godin

Todd has been volunteering with Hampstead Kiwanis Park, Inc. for more than 5 years. He donates about 20 hours each week as president of the organization. Todd helped establish a partnership with Pender County for the development, management, and maintenance of a public recreation park facility known as Hampstead Kiwanis Park. He led fundraising activities, advocated for the park, recruited volunteers, and informed the public about the park project. Todd secured donated equipment including a forklift, crane, bobcats and generator to use in construction of the playground. Because of his efforts, approximately \$20,000 was saved in the playground construction and it was completed in half the anticipated time. Todd's commitment to giving Pender County children a safe and fun place to play is validated through his commitment to the park project.

Todd has also volunteered for more than 6 years with the Hampstead Kiwanis Club, where he has served as president and board member.

County Coordinator: Kay Warner

POLK COUNTY

John Hicks

John has served over 7 years at St. Luke's Hospital, where he donates about 15 hours each week as the Print Shop Chairman and Medical Alert Co-Chairman. John coordinates print jobs for the hospital by printing, folding, and/or cutting forms and other printed materials which results in a saving to the hospital of approximately \$35,000 annually. John also installs and maintains approximately 150 medical alert units that are in the homes of the elderly or disabled persons living alone in Polk County. The equipment, connected to the telephone, allows the person to phone the local 911 dispatcher in an emergency, even if they are unable to get to the phone. John revised the medical alert service to save time and expense; savings to the hospital is estimated at \$30,000 annually. John's commitment to St. Luke's and compassion for the clients is commendable.

John has also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and his church for more than 10 years.

County Coordinator: Virginia Perrenod



RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Helen Rogers

Helen has volunteered over 35 years at Rutherford Hospital, Inc. She has consistently donated 20+ hours each week for a total of more than 12,500 total hours. She has served as a volunteer Auxiliary Board Member since 1975 and manager of the hospital's Gift Shop since 1985. She does all the buying for the Gift Shop, which produces 90% of the funds the Auxiliary donates annually to the hospital. Helen recruits and schedules more than 60 volunteers each month to staff the Gift Shop, which is open 7 days a week. To boost the sales of the Gift Shop, she plans and organizes a 2-day Annual Christmas Sale. Helen is dedicated to making the hospital a better place for their patients, visitors, employees and medical staff.

Helen has also volunteered for more than 25 years with the Girls Scouts of America, more than 15 years with Medical Missions and Disaster Relief Team, and more than 25 years with her church.

County Coordinator: Mary Brown

VANCE COUNTY

Paul Parrish

Paul has volunteered with Zeb Vance Elementary School for more than 3 years, where he volunteers about 25 hours each week as a classroom assistant. He serves as a valuable volunteer in a classroom for multi-handicapped/severe and profound special needs students. Paul volunteers each day in the classroom where he helps the students perform simple tasks, takes walks with them or pushes those in wheelchairs, helps them with their lunch, and tends to their other basic needs. He assists the teacher in setting up and putting away materials and equipment needed in the classroom. Paul is such a vital part of the class that the teacher considers him as part of the school staff – as does the entire school family. By assisting the special needs students and their teacher, he is greatly enriching the educational experiences for each of them.

Paul has also volunteered for more than 4 years at the senior citizen's nursing home and over 32 years with the Masons of NC.

County Coordinator: Nancy Gray



WAKE COUNTY

Lou Mitchell

For more than 5 years, Lou has served The Healing Place of Wake County, Inc., which she helped to found. She donates 20 hours each week as the chair of the Campaign Committee, member of the Board of Directors, and member of the Development Committee. She volunteers to educate key leaders about the need for addressing the problems of homelessness in Wake County. After a homeless shelter and recovery program for men was created, Lou launched a successful campaign to raise \$11 million for construction and operations of a new Women's Center, the county's first women's homeless shelter and 12-step recovery program for alcohol and other drug-addicted women. Lou's goal as a volunteer has been to improve the lives of NC's poorest and most vulnerable citizens through her volunteer efforts.

Lou has also volunteered with the State Capitol Foundation Board (35 years), NC State University Arts Board (6 years), Habitat for Humanity (2 years), Raleigh Hall of Fame (2 years), Raleigh Civic Center Development Commission (2 years), Learning Place (4 years), and other organizations.

County Coordinator: Anne Cameron

WAYNE COUNTY

Emily Peacock

Emily has been a Guardian ad Litem volunteer for more than 10 years, where she donates 3-6 hours each week. She serves as a volunteer advocate for abused and neglected children involved in the state's court system in Wayne County. Emily conducts an independent investigation into the needs of the children and assesses resources necessary to meet those needs. She advises the court on what needs to be put in place to keep the children safe. Because of her volunteer service and compassion, there are children in Wayne County who are safer because she was there to advocate for them. She has helped to secure long-term assistance for children that needed it, helped reunite children with their families, and helped children to succeed when everyone told them they wouldn't.

Emily has volunteered with Wayne County Department of Social Services (8 years), Wayne County Mental Health Board (10 years), Volunteer Wayne (2 years), Girl Scouts (15 years), Wayne County Red Cross, and other organizations.

County Coordinator: Barbara Stiles



YANCEY COUNTY

Neva Renaldo

Neva has been volunteering at the Yancey County/Burnsville Chamber of Commerce for over 8 years, where she serves as a greeter for visitors by answering questions and providing information about the local community. Neva assists with creating and mailing thousands of Visitor Packets and Relocation Packets every year. She also assists with the Chamber's information booth at the Crafts Fair. In 2005, Neva was voted Volunteer of the year by Chamber members.

Other organizations that are the recipient of Neva's volunteer service are the Brookside Nursing Home, Reconciliation House, Humane Society, Yancey History Association, Rush Wray Museum, Burnsville Women's Club, and her church. As a volunteer, Neva also wrote a weekly article in the Yancey Journal for many years,

County Coordinator: Linda Semon