

## **NORTH CAROLINA MEDALLION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE 2007**

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 29 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. Created in 2007, 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  
2007**

Recipients

Alexander County  
Alleghany County  
Beaufort County  
Buncombe County  
Burke County  
Carteret County  
Currituck County  
Dare County  
Davidson County  
Edgecombe County  
Franklin County  
Lee County  
McDowell County  
New Hanover County  
Orange County  
Rutherford County  
Sampson County  
Vance County  
Wake County  
Wayne County

Dr. Joel Inman  
Alleghany CARES, Inc.  
Loraine Babcock  
Bud Lewis Group  
Keith Atkins  
Sydney Gray Pfaff  
James D. Moseman  
Debra Tierney  
Reverend Clyde Akers  
Della Sherrod  
Dorothy Robertson  
Grace Aiken  
Gary and Judy Dale  
Leon West  
Ana Prothro  
Ted Tedford  
Deidre Arndt  
Reverend Chuck Cook  
Rebecca Brenner  
Bill and Jan Edgerton

*The description of volunteer service on the following pages was created from information provided in the recipient's 2007 NC Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service nomination form.*



## ALEXANDER COUNTY

### Dr. Joel Inman

Dr. Inman has been volunteering at the Alexander County School System for the past six years. He serves as the "team doctor" for the varsity football team, and you can always find him on the sidelines caring for the players. By doing so, parents have peace of mind knowing that a medical professional is on hand at all times. Dr. Inman also orchestrates a clinic for physicals for any school athlete, and is available to the school nurse for consultations to discuss a student's health status. He also chairs the School Health Advisory Council, and is active in his local church... regularly leading Sunday night services.

*County Coordinator: Jamie Starnes*



## ALLEGHANY COUNTY

### Alleghany CARES, Inc.

Each volunteer becomes a part of the difference Alleghany CARES makes. People from all walks of life... doctors, pharmacist, nurses, teachers, tennis pro, homemakers, law enforcement, business executive, etc., make up the active volunteers who in turn collectively combine their talents to help provide the community with services that may not be available, or affordable elsewhere. Without the volunteers, Alleghany CARES could not have accomplished as much as it did last year. Alleghany CARES has been serving the community for approximately fifteen years at more than 250 hours a week. Not only giving their time, Alleghany CARES last year provided educational scholarships, free prescriptions, shoes, clothes, and many other vital necessities.

*County Coordinator: Bob Bamberg*



## BEAUFORT COUNTY

### Loraine Babcock

Loraine has been volunteering her time (over 20 hours a week for the past four years) at The Blind Center. Loraine is an accomplished designer and creator of crafts... and is the catalyst behind many of the crafting ideas. Crafts are valuable to clients in maintaining mental and physical dexterity as well as a sense of well being. Under her tutelage, the blind and visually impaired clients have worked with common household items to create crafts that are sold in the Gift Shoppe. Loraine will often take the crafts home with her to ensure their successful completion. Loraine's combination of dynamic leader, skilled craftsman, and teacher all come into play when she conducts her craft workshops for the general public. Not only do the classes create awareness of the Center, but she also donates her fee back to the Center as well!

*County Coordinator: Maryjane Carbo*



## BUNCOMBE COUNTY

### Bud Lewis Group

The Bud Lewis Group has been volunteering at the Black Mountain Neuro-Medical Treatment Center for the past 21 years. The Center treats and cares for people with Developmental Disabilities as well as those in the mid-stage of Alzheimer's Disease. Bud and his band play a variety of music such as bluegrass, gospel, popular, and old time favorites. They play every week, with Bud himself traveling the 100+ roundtrip miles from Burnsville. Not only do they play for the residents, but the members get acquainted with the residents on a personal level and reach out to them individually with special songs performed especially for them. If a resident is too ill to attend, then the band will often go to the bedroom and sing for them. Besides their weekly appearances, the Bud Lewis Group performs at special events such as the Independence Day Celebration, Fall Festival and the Christmas Lighting Ceremony.

*County Coordinator: Laura Jeffords*



## BURKE COUNTY

### **Keith Atkins**

Keith came to the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Program in 2002 to help a boy (Billy) who needed a male role model. Being a teacher in the Burke County School System, Keith knew the importance of this. Keith has done fun activities with Billy, such as taking him to his first football game, and to Carrowinds to celebrate Billy's moving on to middle school. But over the course of the last five years, it has probably been the seemingly small, everyday things that have made the greatest impact. Keith has taken Billy shopping on holidays for gifts for others... while at the same time teaching wise budgeting, purchasing habits, and the importance of doing things for others. Helping Billy with a science project serves as a perfect opportunity to teach planning and execution. Keith is always looking ahead with Billy and is currently trying to ensure that he attends college after high school graduation in four years (none of Billy's older siblings have completed high school). Stressing good grades, positive behaviors (staying away from drugs and alcohol) and helping Billy and his mother pursue scholarships are all part of this effort. In the big picture, by helping Billy become a better person, Keith has also enabled him to be able to give back to his community rather than be a negative statistic.

*County Coordinator: Lynn Doll*



## CARTERET COUNTY

### **Sydney Gray Pfaff**

Sydney started volunteering at the young age of four by pulling her wagon through her neighborhood and collecting food items for victims of a hurricane. For her sixth birthday party, she asked guests in lieu of giving gifts to instead donate money to the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. At age eleven, she planned and coordinated a fashion show fundraiser to benefit a young friend with cystic fibrosis. She recruited young friends who joined her in modeling apparel loaned by local merchants. The event raised over \$5,000. Sydney has since coordinated another fashion show, with proceeds in the amount of \$3,200 going to the Boys and Girls Club of Coastal Carolina. Sydney's special skills, enthusiasm and leadership abilities have been and continue to be an inspiration to everyone in her community.

*County Coordinator: Dora Irving*



## CURRITUCK COUNTY

### **James D. Moseman**

When James Moseman was appointed Chief, the Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire Department was in shambles. The prior Chief pled guilty to embezzling over \$218,000, member morale was low, equipment was neglected, and the citizens were worried and concerned. Since his appointment, membership has increased from 24 to 42. The department has acquired two new engines, two used engines, and a command vehicle. A successful online training program for volunteer members has been initiated. An additional fire station has been acquired, and the overall rating of the fire district has improved. In addition to all of this, the Chief and department do many other things such as participating in an annual boot drive, and assisting the Department of Social Services with delivery of food baskets.

*County Coordinator: Kathleen Foreman*



## DARE COUNTY

### **Debra Tierney**

Debra has been a Guardian ad Litem volunteer since 1997. Since being sworn in as an officer of the Court, she has advocated for twenty-one abused and neglected children in Dare County and in her ten years of service, she has never once said "no" to taking on a new case... no matter how large her current load was. Her diligence, tenacity, attention to detail, and punctuality in things such as court hearings, meetings, children visits, and interviews with family members and community professionals has made her an excellent advocate. In addition to the Guardian ad Litem program, Debra also has volunteered for over the past five years with the Meals on Wheels.

*County Coordinator: Bonnie Bennett*



## DAVIDSON COUNTY

### **Reverend Clyde Akers**

For the past four months, Reverend Akers has served as a volunteer chaplain for Hospice of Davidson County, visiting and providing spiritual counsel for terminally ill patients and their families. Reverend Akers is also an active volunteer chaplain at Lexington Memorial Hospital... which he has done for the past twenty years.

Additionally, he coordinates other volunteers that conduct over 30 worship services at area nursing homes and assisted living centers in the county. Reverend Akers is regularly called on to conduct services at funeral homes (hundreds each year) for those who do not have a home church or minister. All of this of course is in addition to his pastoring over his church which has grown from ten members to over 200. "I feel I am blessed to meet so many wonderful families through my work," says Akers. "I consider it an honor."

*County Coordinator: Kristie Hege*



## EDGECOMBE COUNTY

### **Della Sherrod**

Della has long been a servant and advocate for the sick, elderly and destitute citizens of Speed and Tarboro. For the past twenty years, Della has sought out those individuals needing assistance offering free of charge food, shelter, transportation and anything else that she can provide. This specifically includes things such as visiting the elderly, delivering food, cleaning homes, and running errands such as grocery shopping and paying bills. Her demonstrated perseverance and strength shows deep compassion for those that she serves and is an inspiration to the younger generations in her community.

*County Coordinator: Shannon Barker*



## FRANKLIN COUNTY

### **Dorothy "Dot" Robertson**

As a Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) volunteer, Dot assists any senior citizen who needs help with their Medicare or other insurance information. She schedules appointments at the Senior Center on a daily basis as well as regularly working from home. This has been especially important due to all the changes with Medicare Part D over the past two years. Dot also works with the local Meals on Wheels as a volunteer coordinator. She does not necessarily volunteer in one particular capacity, but rather helps wherever and whenever she can. This is further evidenced with her involvement at the Moose Lodge, Trinity Methodist Church and the American Legion.

*County Coordinator: Cedric Jones*



## LEE COUNTY

### **Grace Aiken**

Being challenged with the fact that one out of every eight persons in Lee County lives below the poverty line, a group at the Jonesboro United Methodist Church decided that what was needed was a more coordinated effort among local churches. This came to be in the form of the Christian's United Outreach Center of Lee County (CUOC). The first step was to establish a food pantry... and Grace volunteered to get the program started. Grace is an energetic lady with great compassion. It was this energy, compassion and the growing need in Lee County that propelled CUOC to go from a single Sunday School room, to its present 10,000 square foot facility. Over 7,000 pounds of food are distributed weekly. A Thrift Shop has been added, as well as financial services. Last year, nearly 200 volunteers gave over 2,000 hours of their time. Grace's attention to detail, encouragement and love greet all that come through the doors... and she is often referred to as the "glue" that has kept CUOC not only running, but growing.

*County Coordinator: Janice Holmes*



## MCDOWELL COUNTY

### Gary and Judy Dale

Gary and Judy have been Community Volunteers at both Marion Correctional Facility and Minimum Security Unit. They have a call to volunteer in a most un-traditional way, by working with inmates. Not only have they worked with inmates preparing for release, but have also ministered those serving lengthy sentences. Gary and Judy have also been trained as Community Volunteers as well as trained to provide a parenting program to Minimum Custody inmates about to be released back into society. Inmates are keen observers and they know that Gary and Judy show up not out of a sense of duty or because they have nothing better to do, but because they are genuinely concerned about their well-being. They enjoy working with the inmates and their positive example may well reach more lives than they will ever know.

*County Coordinator: Gloria Burrough*

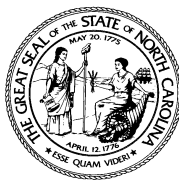


## NEW HANOVER COUNTY

### Leon West

Leon West is one of the founding members of the Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry (WARM). In 1997, he responded to the call to help repair homes damaged by hurricanes and in 1998, Leon helped WARM achieve its non-profit status and to continue the work that he and others had started. Leon has been the Project Manager for WARM over the last ten years... going out to interview clients, assessing the repair needs, working up cost estimates, finding and assembling volunteer teams to make repairs, supervising and working hands-on, and making final inspections and performing exit interviews. Over the ten years, Leon has interviewed almost 500 families, with 355 homes being worked on and repaired. He has formed positive relationships with other non-profit and faith-based groups in a five county area to help people living at the poverty level to remain in their homes. It is because of this work that well over 300 families have been able to continue to live in their homes in a safe and healthy environment that many in our society take for granted.

*County Coordinator: Annie Anthony*



## ORANGE COUNTY

### **Ana Prothro**

Duke Hospice Patient-Family Support Volunteers are valued members of the Interdisciplinary Team that provides medical, psychosocial, and practical support to the dying in the community. During the fifteen years that Ana has been a Duke Hospice volunteer, she has consistently and faithfully served the dying and bereaved of Orange County. Ana brings a positive presence, and active listening skills to those that she assists. She is truly an advocate of her patients and is committed to providing that extra bit of caring that makes such a difference. Her attitude about her hospice work spreads the message about hospice care in Orange County, ensuring that more people get the support that is available to them, and to live their last days that is dignified and as anxiety and stress free as possible.

*County Coordinator: Angela Rockett-Thompson*



## RUTHERFORD COUNTY

### **Ted Tedford**

Ted began his volunteer career the year he arrived in Rutherford County. He joined Habitat for Humanity in 1993 as a construction volunteer and quickly worked into a leadership position, taking over as chief of one of the two volunteer work crews. He has been a fixture on the sites by working on all 36 of the Habitat homes built since 1993. This does not even account for all of the time that he has spent as Construction Committee chairman, member of the Board of Directors, Vice President, and member of the Executive Committee. While not on the HFH site, Ted has led yearly mission teams to many hurricane and/or flood ravaged areas in the southeast (as well as Puerto Rico). In addition to this, Ted has led teams of church volunteers in making urgently needed repairs to the homes of low-income homeowners in Rutherford County through the Rutherford Housing Partnership. Out of that sprang the Hands of Christ: a summer youth missions organization that brings youth groups from across the southeast to the county to do mission work for the less fortunate. Ted has led a youth team for two weeks each year for the past two years... and he now serves on the group's Board of Directors.

*County Coordinator: Mary Brown*



## **SAMPSON COUNTY**

### **Deidre Arndt**

Deidre serves as the Premier Youth Attorney in the Sampson County Teen Court Program. She is always prepared for trials that she is assigned and serves as a model for other less experienced court related officials. She is called on many times to lend her expertise in trial preparation and benchside manner. Deidre is always willing and able to tackle any task given to her and accomplishes such to the best of her ability which far exceeds the norm. She works well with clients and is very well received by adult volunteers working in the Teen Court System. Deidre is dependable and can be relied upon to complete tasks in a timely fashion. In addition to Teen Court, Deidre also volunteers and serves in the local 4-H Program.

*County Coordinator: DeLeon Wilks*



## **VANCE COUNTY**

### **Reverend Chuck Cook**

Pastor Chuck has led his church, First United Methodist of Henderson, to develop a partnership with Pinkston Street Elementary School. During the 2006-07 school year, he posed a challenge to his congregation. He challenged them to "put feet to their faith and go out into the community and serve." Each of the parishioners has heeded the call. He led the church members into donating their financial resources, their time, and their talents to the cause of making a difference right in their own neighborhood. Pastor Chuck and many of the church members assisted in the school's very successful Block Party held last school year, which was attended by well over 200 students, parents and family members. Pastor Chuck also serves as a "Lunch Buddy" at the school where he volunteers weekly to mentor, tutor and eat lunch with some of the neediest boys in the second grade. Helping them with their work, reading to them, and teaching songs, has helped raise their self-esteem and respect for themselves and others.

*County Coordinator: Nancy Gray*



## WAKE COUNTY

### **Rebecca Brenner**

Rebecca began participating in the local Walk for Hope in Texas when she was nine years old. During that first year, she raised \$1,200 and has been one of the top ten individual money raisers for each Walk that she has participated in since. Her family moved to Raleigh in 2001 and Rebecca's dedication and determination to help raise money for mental health research began to deepen. Through her vision of finding "A Thousand Friends for Hope" who would each donate at least \$25 to the Walk, Rebecca has been able to help raise over \$85,000 for the Foundation of Hope during the last nine years and has twice been the top individual fundraiser. Her efforts and success have introduced the Walk and Foundation of Hope to countless individuals who perhaps have not paid particular attention to either one of them. It has also raised awareness and interest in the progress that is being made in the field of mental health.

*County Coordinator: Anne Cameron*



## WAYNE COUNTY

### **Bill and Jan Edgerton**

Bill and Jan are the reason that a Habitat for Humanity affiliate exists in Goldsboro. In 2001, the couple recognized the need for affordable housing in Wayne County and began researching what would be required to start an affiliate. They both worked five and six days a week to strengthen the affiliate and began to acquire a strong Board of Directors to help support the mission. Bill led the construction and physically labored as a volunteer on site for 25 hours per week, spending the other fifteen hours recruiting volunteers, working with limited staff, and acquiring donors. Jan led the efforts in searching for qualified low-income families to receive a Habitat home. She provided lunches to, and nurtured the relationships with volunteers. She assisted with documenting volunteer hours, and arranged volunteer appreciation picnics. Also due to their efforts, a "ReStore" was opened in 2003 allowing the community to donate items to be sold with proceeds benefiting the Habitat program. Because of all this, Wayne County has 23 families that now know the joy of home ownership, with five more in the process of being served.

*County Coordinator: Barbara Stiles*