



NORTH CAROLINA MEDALLION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE 2008

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 30 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 2006, 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
2008**

Recipients

Alamance County	Jack Sink
Alleghany County	Larry Prince
Beaufort County	Patricia Lurvey
Buncombe County	Clarence Schmidt
Burke County	Magdelene "Meg" Lane
Carteret County	Hal Taylor
Catawba County	Cissy Fish
Chatham County	Lil Royal
Dare County	Doris and Arthur Schultz
Forsyth County	Nell Wilkins
Madison County	Veda Davis
Martin County	Jerry G. Savage
Mecklenburg County	Elijah Watson
New Hanover County	Reverend John Drewry
Onslow County	Tom and Goodie Wolf
Pitt County	Ian Luke Bryan
Randolph County	Bill Hoover
Stokes County	Paul Richard "Dick" Wilson
Wayne County	Louise Faison
Wilkes County	Dr. Helen Latour

The description of volunteer service on the following pages was created from information provided in each recipient's 2008 NC Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service nomination form.



ALAMANCE COUNTY

Jack Sink

Jack has volunteered with several different organizations in Alamance County, where he has lived all of his life. With Meals on Wheels, Jack delivers food at lunchtime to people unable to prepare their own meals. Jack was instrumental in helping the American Red Cross (ARC) of Alamance County find a home at Loaves and Fishes, a nonprofit organization that provides long-term and individualized support to at-risk children. Jack also volunteers at the ARC with children and adults who have disabilities. Jack also is involved with the NC Disaster Relief Team where he travels to areas hit by natural disasters and assists with helping victims recover. Jack's greatest impact has been with Loaves and Fishes. He volunteers in the Distribution Center where he talks with clients and helps load groceries. It is in these conversations that his heart and empathy truly shine through as he laughs and cries with the clients. He is ready with a cake for those who are having a birthday and a gift for all of the children who enter. Jack also does home deliveries for Loaves and Fishes and volunteers at all of their outside events.

County Coordinator: Ruth Pruitt



ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Larry Prince

Larry is involved with many different volunteer initiatives in Alleghany County. He was instrumental in the new Food Closet building where he drew up the plans, awarded the contract to a builder, negotiated for the site, lined up grants and donations, recruited volunteer labor and volunteered daily with the contractor as the building was erected. As a member of the Lions Club, Larry oversaw renovation of the Lion's pavilion and served on its board for the past four years. Currently, he volunteers with the Lion's Vision Van to provide free eye screenings. At Sparta United Methodist Church, Larry served as past president of the United Methodist Men, chair of the Church Council and received the 2007-2008 Sparta UMC Volunteer of the Year Award. Larry also performs numerous maintenance duties throughout the facility and was co-leader of three missions to Mississippi to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

County Coordinator: Bob Bamberg



BEAUFORT COUNTY

Patricia Lurvey

Patricia has provided immeasurable volunteer service to the Literacy Volunteers of Beaufort County over the last several years. From a kitchen table in 2001, Pat was part of a handful of volunteers who helped start the organization with money that the group donated. Since then, Pat has taken charge of obtaining many of the organization's grants and sizeable donations. Her expertise in outreach (due to her years as Media Specialist with the state school system) has allowed the Literacy Volunteers to become a household name and recruit new volunteers. She was instrumental in the organization becoming a member of ProLiteracy America and the NC Literacy Association. Since 2002, she has been director of training, and she has become a certified instructor. Patricia is a perfect example of giving and asking nothing in return.

County Coordinator: Maryjane Carbo



BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Clarence Schmidt

Clarence has volunteered at Habitat for Humanity in Polk, Henderson and Buncombe Counties for 25 years. He also has volunteered at MANNA Food Bank in Henderson and Buncombe Counties, both as a member of the Board of Directors and as a volunteer who sorted and prepared food donations at the Food Bank. At Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community, Clarence is treasurer of the gift shop, organizes annual mission trips, donates blood and helps lead the weekly "Circle of Friends" event at the Givens Health Center. What also cannot be left unmentioned is that Clarence is the official outside light bulb changer at the Givens Estates and has changed more than 5,600 light bulbs between 1992 and 2006!

County Coordinator: Erin Sebilus



BURKE COUNTY

Magdelene "Meg" Lane

Meg is not just a cog in the wheel at the sewing room of the J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center. She is the grease that makes everything go. At the center, which is a residential facility for people with developmental disabilities, she frequently accompanies staff as they visit the different homes and departments to measure residents for special clothing. Meg ensures that residents receive items that are of the highest quality and designed for their needs. Not only does Meg apply her skills and love in making clothing, but she also makes other items such as dolls. Many residents love to play with dolls but cannot because of safety concerns. Meg completes all of the hand work that goes into making a safer version, known as a "flippy doll," and now residents can enjoy playing with dolls. Meg also spends time and effort making costumes for events like the annual Christmas pageant. Not only that, she helps out in anyway that she can with other Center events such as the Special Olympics.

County Coordinator: Lisa Miller



CARTERET COUNTY

Hal Taylor

Hal initially became interested in volunteering with the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP) when he realized his own mother had difficulty in trying to navigate the system. Since then, he has been described as a blessing to the senior citizens of Carteret County for his immeasurable service as a SHIIP Volunteer Coordinator. In his patient and thorough way, he assists seniors as they navigate through the maze of Medicare. During open enrollment for "Part D," Hal volunteered endless hours running drug coverage comparisons for his clients. He coordinates training for volunteers, as well as "Medicare for Rookies" seminars for people about to join the plan. Hal regularly visits churches, community centers or any other places where he might reach a senior citizen who does not understand the program. It is perhaps the highest compliment to say that Hal treats every client with the same care and concern that he would his own mother.

County Coordinator: Dora Jones



CATAWBA COUNTY

Cissy Fish

Cissy single-handedly started, developed and now maintains the “Girls on the Run” program in Catawba County. Girls on the Run is an after-school running program for girls in 3rd through 8th grade to help build self-esteem. The program aims to decrease the number of adolescent pregnancies and eating disorders, as well as cases of depression, suicide attempts, substance/alcohol abuse problems and confrontations with the juvenile justice system. Currently, this program serves more than 700 girls each year, and they expect to have their 1000th participant complete the program this May. The program accomplished its success with an all-volunteer staff who lead the program in seventeen different locations. The amount of work to train the coaches, prepare program supplies and coordinate activities over so many different sites is monumental, but Cissy always downplays the efforts she dedicates to the program and the youth of Catawba County.

County Coordinator: Cheryl Abee



CHATHAM COUNTY

Lil Royal

Lil volunteers on the Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services (FVRC) hotline. Over the years, Lil consistently has served as a safe haven in the night for victims in crisis by listening and assisting many women. She goes beyond the call of duty by checking in with staff and advocates over the following days to make sure that someone took care of the caller. Lil volunteers during the late hour and weekend shifts and steps up to take additional shifts when the hotline does not have enough volunteers. Lil also serves as a volunteer sales staff in the resale boutique. There she works willingly and cheerfully with the managers and other volunteers at whatever task is needed. On top of all of this service, Lil also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities, Haw River Assembly and Church of Reconciliation.

County Coordinator: Alane Coore



DARE COUNTY

Doris and Arthur Schultz

Doris and Art have been volunteer fixtures at the Fessenden Community Center in Buxton since it opened its doors in 1996. Twice monthly, they coordinate a senior luncheon where they cook the main course, set-up tables, clean the kitchen and dishes and put all of the tables and chairs away. Doris also answers phones at the Center, makes reminder calls to program participants and helps with assembling and distributing the monthly newsletter. Doris and Art also help plan and coordinate senior trips and activities. They also are part of the senior group that started "The Fesstivities" organization. The Fesstivities is in charge of the concession stands at the Center, with Doris and Art sometimes volunteering up to twenty hours a week working the concessions, ordering and stocking. The majority of the funds raised in these concession stands are then donated as scholarships to local high school seniors that have volunteered their high school years at the Fessenden Center. The remaining funds then go back to purchase items for the senior luncheon or trip fees.

County Coordinator: Bonnie Bennett



FORSYTH COUNTY

Nell Wilkins

Nell gets up early each week to volunteer at Cancer Services as an equipment repair specialist. There she quietly works to help others deal with the experience of battling cancer. Nell spends her day huddled at her desk in the basement, working on numerous equipment donations that come in each week. On any given day, she ends up tending to as many as twenty wheelchairs, potty seats, canes, walkers, shower stools and the other various equipment that clients with cancer need to have for a higher quality of life. She is an inspiration to everyone on staff with her dedication, compassion, strength and perhaps above all else, her humbleness. Rumor has it that Nell will sneak in the morning so that no one makes a fuss about her being there.

County Coordinator: Amy Lytle



MADISON COUNTY

Veda Davis

Veda is a long-time contributor to her immediate and expanded community. She has served as a member of the Cooperative Extension Advisory Council, Madison County Community Club Council and Spring Creek Community Club. In these organizations, she has served in many capacities, from fundraiser to event organizer to leader. In each of her roles, she showcases her professionalism, compassion, dedication and sense of civic responsibility. Veda also has spent seven years as the volunteer coordinator at Spring Creek Methodist Pre-School. She created and manages a program that teaches children critical life and knowledge skills as they transition to kindergarten. The constant wait list serves as a reminder of the program's success.

County Coordinator: Pauline Cheek



MARTIN COUNTY

Jerry G. Savage

Jerry began volunteering 53 years ago when he enlisted in the North Carolina National Guard. Since then, he has served with the Boy Scouts of America, the Martin County Department of Aging, and currently, the Martin County Council of Aging. At the council, Jerry leads meetings, guides members and organizes projects at the local wellness center and food bank. During Christmas, Jerry helped to assemble and distribute two weeks worth of food to be delivered to senior citizens. He exemplifies his commitment to his community by driving veterans to their doctor appointments, teaching Sunday school and serving as a deacon at his church for more than 20 years. One of Jerry's former scouts said it best: "I would not be the man I am today had it not been for Jerry's involvement and commitment to the scouting program."

County Coordinator: Marsha Anderson



MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Elijah Watson

Elijah has volunteered at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Charlotte since 2001. After learning about the academic challenges confronting his mentee, Elijah created S.T.A.R.S. (Striving Together, Achieving Real Solutions), a program designed to improve the academic success of all youth involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters. Elijah envisioned S.T.A.R.S. as a Saturday Math and English Academy that would double as a free tutoring and life skills course. Elijah, dedicated to getting youth excited about learning, incorporated additional components, such as art lessons and African-American history education, to create a well-rounded program. Elijah recruited volunteer tutors and organized retreats and weekly meetings for them to learn how to be effective tutors. The program's membership has become so large that Big Brothers Big Sisters had to find another place to house the Saturday sessions. Elijah has a passion for serving youth in need, and most importantly, he connects with the children and their families.

County Coordinator: Leslie Rink



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

Reverend John Drewry

John greets everyone at the Good Shepherd Center each day by saying, "Good morning, what can I do?" At the center, which is a transitional living center for homeless veterans recovering from substance abuse, John has spent the past 24 years supporting the residents, staff and programs in a myriad of ways. A veteran himself, John is dedicated to easing the suffering of fellow veterans and guiding them on their path to sobriety, housing, employment and independence. John drives them to and from doctor's appointments and job sites, allowing employment to become reality for the veterans. He also offers pastoral counseling and is committed to the mental, spiritual and physical well-being of the veterans. One example of John's selflessness is arranging for his personal dentist to perform pro bono emergency dental service on a patient who would not be eligible for treatment for 90 days. While every volunteer is valuable, the Good Shepherd Center could not function without the contribution of time, energy and love from John.

County Coordinator: Annie Anthony



ONSLOW COUNTY

Tom and Goodie Wolf

Tom and Goodie volunteer with all center and outreach programs organized by the United Service Organization (USO), whether the two are needed at 2 p.m. or 2 a.m. Since 2002, they have assisted with deployments, homecomings, parades, holidays and other special events. Tom and Goodie make themselves available to fulfill any volunteer need that the USO requires, including Thanksgiving and Christmas, where they serve, greet and spend time with military men and women. Tom and Goodie told the USO volunteer coordinator to ask them to do anything that the USO needs and to never feel as if it was too much or too often. One important event is homecoming, in which single service members, who might not have family waiting for them, return to find a welcome home bag waiting on their rack for them. These bags include snacks, hygiene and entertainment items as a token of appreciation. To ensure that all single service members received a "rack pack," the Wolfs helped to make 20,000 in just one year. Their unwavering support of the military and the USO makes them superheroes in the eyes of the USO staff.

County Coordinator: Sandra Wyrick



PITT COUNTY

Ian Luke Bryan

Ian is a leader and role model for his peers and the 5-7 year old children he coaches in soccer. These children are often nervous about playing, but Ian assures them of their abilities. Ian recruits his friends to serve as volunteer soccer coaches as well, and they not only teach the children the rules of soccer, but help them learn important life skills such as sportsmanship, teamwork and discipline. As a special event assistant, Ian helps to implement activities such as the Junior Olympics challenges. Ian also serves as a volunteer teen leader at Pitt Memorial Hospital, where he assists the child life staff by spending time with children, training other teen volunteers and helping the patients as needed. In this volunteer role, as well as all of his volunteer roles, Ian relates to the children by motivating them and having fun at the same time. His spirit of concern has made him a positive impact in his community – whether he is helping out in the hospital or on the soccer field.

County Coordinator: Dollie Lucas



RANDOLPH COUNTY

Bill Hoover

Bill is a full-time volunteer in the Asheboro and Randolph community. He has served with the YMCA for more than 10 years – currently, he is trustee chair and a member of the board of directors. Bill campaigned to raise more than \$25,000 to begin his program, "Invest in Youth," which is dedicated to helping underprivileged youth and their family. His desire and dedication to make a difference in the community is evident by listing the number of organizations he has helped to lead: the United Way Community Foundation, the Hospital Capital Campaign, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, the Chamber of Commerce and The Human Race. Bill always is ready to lend a hand and does so with a smile and a willing heart. His volunteer spirit has opened doors for the YMCA that might not have been opened otherwise.

County Coordinator: Amy Byrd



STOKES COUNTY

Paul Richard "Dick" Wilson

Dick has volunteered twice a week in the same class for 20 years. He co-founded a GED class at Forsyth Technical Community College, where he tutors students in the five subject areas of the GED – reading, math, language, socials studies and science. In addition to his time spent tutoring at the GED class, Dick created a reading class at the local library and serves as commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. Dick is characterized by his limitless supply of energy and his ready smile. As a tutor, Dick has one mission: to make sure all GED students receive the exact amount of help they need. He says his biggest thrill as a tutor is when former students come back to tell him that they received their GED. When students are having difficulties, Dick always tells them to relax, assuring them that they can succeed.

County Coordinator: Susan Maxey



WAYNE COUNTY

Louise Faison

Louise is an assistant troop leader, troop consultant and recognitions chair for the Girl Scouts – N.C. Coastal Pines. Louise's dedication to the group stems from her recognizing the benefits of the organization, especially for those women living in underserved populations. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that girls receive the best experiences possible. Louise has served as co-leader for the past 10 years in several different age levels of troops. Without her work, these girls would not have achieved the desired outcomes of the organizations. She is a role model for young girls, never says no to what is needed, is dependable, conscientious and personifies the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

County Coordinator: Barbara Stiles



WILKES COUNTY

Dr. Helen Latour

Helen founded "Volunteers for Wilkes Literacy," in 1989 in an effort to serve the community by offering literacy services to anyone needing them. Her initial focus was to serve the fast-growing Hispanic population of Wilkes County. Volunteers for Wilkes Literacy tutor students in an after-school program called CORE, hold a summer literacy program called SEEK and encourage community involvement through an annual spelling bee. For 17 years, Helen donated her time spent as the executive director. She organized groups and volunteers to serve hundreds of children and adults with ESL initiatives as well as basic literacy programs. Helen still remains active with the organization and offers recommendations, support, program curricula and personal monetary donations.

County Coordinator: Tina Krause