



Volunteer Tennessee



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VOLUNTEER TENNESSEE CELEBRATES GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER STARS

(Nashville, TN — February 13, 2022) — The Fourteenth Annual Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards will honor volunteers from 66 counties on February 13, 2022 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, TN. The awards will celebrate the efforts of 115 volunteers statewide, who have strived to improve their communities through service.

One youth and one adult volunteer were selected from participating counties to receive this prestigious award. Nominees were judged based on the community's need of the volunteer service performed, initiative taken to perform the service, creativity used to solve a community problem and impact of the volunteer service on the community. The individual awards are sponsored by Tracy Van de Vate and Betty White.

(Insert selected county honoree highlights here.)

The Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards also includes business and non-profit categories. One business and one non-profit were selected from each of Tennessee's three Grand Regions for their outstanding community involvement and service. The business honorees include, Be Caffeinated, East Tennessee Business Honoree; Abney CPA, Middle Tennessee Business Honoree; and Dannuhcakes Sweet Shop, West Tennessee Business Honoree. The business awards are sponsored by Advance Financial 24/7. The non-profit honorees include, Appalachia Service Project, East Tennessee Non-Profit Honoree; Habitat for Humanity Williamson and Maury Counties, Middle Tennessee Non-Profit Honoree; and The Junior League of Memphis, West Tennessee Non-Profit Honoree. The non-profit awards are sponsored by Friends of Volunteer Tennessee.

(Insert selected business and non-profit honoree highlights here.)

"Each year, 1.6 million Tennessee volunteers give more than 137 million hours of service, contributing the equivalent of \$3.3 billion to Tennessee's economy. By giving of their time and talents to fulfill needs that would otherwise go unmet, they embody the spirit of giving," said Volunteer Tennessee Executive Director, Jim Snell.

NewsChannel5 weekend anchor, Jennifer Kraus, will serve as emcee for the event. A recording of the ceremony will be available on Volunteer Tennessee's website www.volunteertennessee.net on February 15.

Volunteer Tennessee coordinates the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards at the state level. Volunteer Tennessee is the 25 member, bipartisan citizen board appointed by the Governor to oversee AmeriCorps and service-learning programs and to advance volunteerism and citizen service to solve community problems in the Volunteer State.

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[Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards Honoree Highlights on following pages. Individual honorees organized alphabetically by county.]

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About the 2021 Governor's Volunteer Stars Business Honorees

Be Caffeinated - East Tennessee Business Honoree – When Be Caffeinated opened in Red Bank as a drive-through purveyor of great coffee beverages, everyone was impressed with their products and stellar customer service. However, few anticipated that this start-up business would become such an impressive community supporter. In 2021, the company supported two area nonprofit organizations that address the needs of people in the North Chattanooga and Red Bank communities: The White Oak Bicycle Cooperative, which provides free access to bicycles and bicycle repair for those in need, and the Northside Neighborhood House, which offers assistance to residents who need help with rent, utility, and mortgage payments. Chris Wood, company co-founder, stated, “We aim to highlight and support the people that are already doing the work and improve their ability to help their own niche. We don't intend to reinvent the wheel, but rather help other wheels spin even easier. We believe in creating happiness, and this has been done for our baristas, our customers, and our partners that we work with.”

Abney CPA – Middle Tennessee Business Honoree - Abney CPA is helping to spur on entrepreneurship and leaders in Celina and Clay County. Led by Carol Abney, Abney CPA provides resources and free services to small businesses, nonprofits, and schools in the local community. Abney CPA employees are heavily involved with local committees and organizations including Upper Cumberland Tennessee Society of CPAs, Clay County Museum, Celina Park Foundation and the Clay County Educational Foundation. The firm has assisted four nonprofits in the community with incorporation, grant writing and marketing. Abney CPA also assist the local Chamber of Commerce with festivals and events. Abney CPA dedicates time and resources each year to the Clay County High School college bootcamp. The firm has helped students with their Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms and finding jobs. At the start of the pandemic, Abney CPA aided several businesses with their application for the Paycheck Protection Program. They did not charge any of these businesses for their services.

Dannuhcakes Sweet Shop – West Tennessee Business Honoree - Dannuhcakes Sweet Shop is a wonderful business in Adamsville, that has been a great community partner and constantly supports the city and other businesses. Owner, Deanna Bradley, started the Halloween Trunk or Treat in Adamsville over five years ago, and in 2021, it became a drive-through to keep families safe during the pandemic. Deanna encouraged other businesses to participate, and they gave candy to over 500 carloads of excited families. Dannuhcakes Sweet Shop sponsored and volunteered with the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism for the Red Sand Project, which increases public awareness of the depths to which slavery continues to be a contemporary reality. For Thanksgiving 2021, Dannuhcakes Sweet Shop partnered with the Adamsville First United Methodist Church to create the First Annual Adamsville Community Thanksgiving Meal, where anyone that wanted a Thanksgiving meal could come and spend time with others for the holiday.

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About the 2021 Governor's Volunteer Stars Non-profit Honorees

Appalachia Service Project– East Tennessee Nonprofit Honoree - Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is a Christian ministry that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. Headquartered in Johnson City, ASP serves 25 counties in 5 states through the labor of over 12,000 volunteers. Volunteers in Tennessee and across the ASP service area provide free home repair and replacement to families in need, many of whom are living below the poverty line or fall within low-moderate income levels. Volunteer labor is critical to extending ASP's resources and enabling ASP to serve approximately 80 families in TN annually, making homes warmer, safer, and drier. In addition to the construction related mission, ASP places emphasis on relationships. Engagement between volunteers and families served is a critical portion of the mission, with the goal of breaking down existing stereotypes and building hope among all.

Habitat for Humanity Williamson and Maury Counties – Middle Tennessee Non-profit Honoree - Middle Tennessee Nonprofit Honoree - Habitat for Humanity Williamson and Maury Counties is a faith-based nonprofit creating partnerships to build affordable homes, stronger communities, and life-changing opportunities for hard-working families in Middle Tennessee. By encouraging people in the community to volunteer their time and skillsets, Habitat brings together people from all walks of life to join hands towards giving their neighbors a “hands up” towards a better life. Volunteers have given their time to build homes, help in the office with administrative needs, and unload, organize and sell donations at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. With the help of volunteers, people in the community that would otherwise never attain the dream of homeownership are able to achieve that dream and so much more. From kindergarten to retirement, Habitat for Humanity Williamson and Maury Counties offers opportunities for volunteers to grow with the organization and experience the impact of helping others every step of the way along the complicated journey to homeownership.

The Junior League of Memphis – West Tennessee Non-profit Honoree - West Tennessee Nonprofit Honoree - The Junior League of Memphis (JLM) is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action of volunteers. The JLM is committed to revitalizing neighborhoods in and around Memphis through the development of programs that positively impact the environments where people live, work and play. JLM commits to revitalizing neighborhoods through programs and partnerships, hands-on service and advocacy. JLM plays a strategic role in facilitating conversations among community organizations, leaders and other stakeholders, in order to determine how JLM can address the unique needs of each community they serve. JLM has shifted from a project-based focus to an issue-based community impact model in order to have a deeper and more enduring impact on the community. This shift has moved the focus from meeting immediate needs to making a long-term impact on issues such as education, health, economic development, and community pride.

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About the 2021 Governor's Volunteer Stars Individual Honorees

Joey Smith – Anderson County Adult Honoree – Joey Smith is a realtor in Clinton, but he spends more time volunteering than he does showing homes! He serves as a Board Member of Anderson County Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Tennessee, Port Authority, and Clinton City Schools. As a School Board member, Joey covers classes when substitutes are not available, chaperones field trips, and makes frequent donations to the schools. Joey is often at downtown festivals working a face-painting booth or dressed as the Clinton City Schools mascot. He and a friend organized Clinton Strong, which is dedicated to sharing positive and uplifting information about local schools and the community.

Alex Shanafield – Anderson County Youth Honoree – Alex Shanafield is a faithful volunteer with Oak Ridge Computer Science Girls, a nonprofit with the mission to inspire middle school girls in East Tennessee to explore the possibilities of technology to empower their future careers. She started volunteering in 2019 after she aged out of the programs. Alex has volunteered as a classroom helper at in-person and virtual coding and technology events, co-directed three robot camps, and judged at most of their online competitions. She recently created a curriculum and taught new classes around algorithms, math art, and animation.

Heather Daniels – Benton County Adult Honoree – Since 2018, Heather Daniels has volunteered at the Second Harvest Ray Smith Family Food Distribution Center. As a member of the Tennessee Travelers of the Walk Across Tennessee 2021, a team-based walking program, Heather walked 136 of the 543 total miles logged by the eight-person team. At the library summer reading program, Heather assisted children by working a craft table and often taking and posting pictures to capture special memories. Each year, she volunteers at the Benton County Fair during their cleanup days, and Heather often spends her weekends picking up trash along the road or in a park.

Isabella Goodwin – Benton County Youth Honoree – Isabella Goodwin is president of the Leo Club and organizes service projects for the club. She helped line up Leo members for eye screenings in all the Benton County Schools, Head Starts, and Early Head Starts. She organized a project to sort and pack food for Second Harvest and led a team in helping with the Hope Fall Festival, an event for special needs kids and preschool kids. Isabella also scheduled several other service projects for the Leos for the remainder of the school year. Isabella is very active in school activities and a true leader.

Ruth Hanson – Blount County Adult Honoree – Ruth Hanson serves as an AmeriCorps Senior at Blount County Community Action Agency. As a SMiles driver, she provides transportation for nondriving seniors for doctor appointments, grocery shopping, and other health and wellbeing goals. Since joining SMiles, Ruth has filled 1,249 requests and served 885 hours. Ruth helped build “safe-to-serve” kits for drivers containing Personal Protective Equipment, cleaning supplies, and safety tools. She also helped design and launch a CARES Act-supported grocery delivery service. From February through September 2021, she took grocery orders, ordered the groceries online, and notified the office to line up a delivery driver.

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Nico Starcher – Blount County Youth Honoree – Nico Starcher has served with Rockford Elementary School since 2018, assisting the kindergarten staff with daily activities such as programming, lesson planning, reading, and general oversight of the children. When COVID first began to impact our daily lives, Nico assisted with virtual class, providing an additional adult in a zoom classroom. Over the last three years, Nico has logged over 500 hours, building relationships with the teachers and students alike. His supervisors say, "Nico has a heart for children and has helped the students in the classroom in so many ways."

Brandon Johnson – Campbell County Adult Honoree – Brandon Johnson is active in almost every part of his local community. Most of the time, you will find Brandon volunteering with the Lions Club. Most recently, he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Lions Volunteer Blind Industry, an East Tennessee nonprofit that employs nearly 200 people. The majority of those employed are blind or visually impaired, and the organization's mission is to provide dignity through employment. Brandon is also leading efforts in his hometown to build an all-inclusive playground so that every child has a safe and healthy place to play.

Mary Grace Myers – Campbell County Youth Honoree – Mary Myers has volunteered her time in many spaces, including assisting UT Knoxville students who have intellectual and development disabilities with a successful transition from high school to adult and professional life. She also volunteers with East Tennessee Children's Hospital for Camp Cure and with Club Vibes for visually impaired and blind youth. Mary has volunteered with Knox County and UT vaccine clinics and Tennessee School for the Deaf events. Mary continues to represent UT through services with alumni, in the Greek honor society, assisting with Big Orange Preview days, and various activities across campus.

Wade McMackins - Cannon County Adult Honoree – Wade McMackins is a former Art Instructor at Middle Tennessee State University. Since June 2021, he has volunteered his time teaching art classes every Tuesday and Thursday at the Cannon County Senior Center. Wade also volunteers as a Cannon County Board of Education School Board Member; is a sports announcer for the Cannon County High School football team; and developed and coached the Cannon County Middle School and High School Trap Teams. He is a board member of the Cannon County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. Following the death of his son to a drug overdose this year, Wade passionately educates the community about addiction and strives for a drug free society.

Alyssa Calamia – Cannon County Youth Honoree - Alyssa Calamia has served with her county 4-H program, Future Farmers of America chapter, and Beta Club for over 4 years. Alyssa is highly involved with the 4-H Health Rocks! mentoring program for at-risk youth at Auburn Elementary School, leading them through activities that focus on good decision making, planning for their futures, and healthy ways to cope with stress. She also helped facilitate a cheer camp for West Side Elementary students, put together care packages for nursing homes, made gift bags for teacher appreciation, and helped set up the stage for pageants at the Good Ole Days festival.

Don Reed – Carroll County Adult Honoree – Don Reed is a member of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and chief grill master at the Carroll County Fair. Don has served on the McLemoresville City Board for 14 years and volunteers to oversee the town's water system. He also serves on the Carroll County Property Tax Board for Equalization. For 12 years, he was a volunteer coach for the West Carroll High School softball and baseball teams, as well as for a summer league for 15 years. He currently volunteers as a commentator for a web broadcast of local school games.

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Jennie Simmons – Carroll County Youth Honoree - Jennie Simmons volunteered for her school's haunted trail by helping to set up the trail, building the different scenes, and cleaning out the trail before the build began. She also assisted in the haunted trail every weekend in October. During her school's blood drive, Jennie guided donors through the process. She volunteered with her school's Trunk or Treat and Christmas Carnival by passing out candy, setting up and running various games, and assisting with cleanup. Jennie also volunteers with the children in the daycare center at her local church.

Brenda Montgomery – Cheatham County Adult Honoree – After serving eight years as a Cheatham County Commissioner, Brenda Montgomery has continued to serve on the Cheatham County Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of Equalization, and the E-911 Board. For the last five years, Brenda has served as a board member and treasurer of Safe Haven, a nonprofit that provides a safe home for women breaking away from abusive relationships. Brenda and others from Safe Haven collected over \$47,000 for the program. Brenda also volunteers with the Braxton Lee Homestead group, whose mission is to save one of the oldest historic homes in Cheatham County.

Heather Griffin – Chester County Adult Honoree - Heather Griffin serves on multiple boards in Henderson and Chester Counties, including the Gene Record Park Board, Community Health Council, Community Soup Kitchen, and the Agriculture Committee. Heather volunteers at the Henderson Hee Haw Hootenanny and at the Chester County BBQ Festival. Heather is also a Remote Area Medical Clinic volunteer and organizer. Heather has obtained many grants to make the schools and community a better place. She gives countless hours and resources to have a positive influence in the community.

Jameson Carter – Chester County Youth Honoree – Jameson Carter has participated in many volunteer activities, including donating clothes, food, and other goods for charity collections; working a drunk-driving prevention booth at a local festival; and helping run a toy, food, and supply drive for the local animal shelter. In 11th grade, he began coordinating the packaging, loading, and distribution of food to over 100 students in the HOPE Program. Jameson continues to lead the program in his senior year. He also volunteers in additional activities, such as the recent car show at the school and the Future Farmers of America booth at a local event.

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Deborah Chumley – Claiborne County Adult Honoree – Deborah Chumley and others lobbied for free medical services, resulting in the creation of Claiborne County's only free, rural health clinic, Servolution Health Services. She serves on the Mountain Valley Economic Opportunity Authority, which ensures community services for the low-income population, and the Cumberland Trails United Way, which fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in Claiborne County in need. Deborah is currently working with others to form another nonprofit that seeks to help people who suffer from drug and alcohol addiction.

Whittlee Shuford – Claiborne County Youth Honoree – Whittlee Shuford has volunteered at the Claiborne County Animal Shelter for the last four years. She was instrumental in providing an alternative source for fundraising during the pandemic. Working with a local resident, who volunteered to shoot a video, Whittlee was able to spread the word about collecting donations. While other volunteers spoke about the history of the shelter, Whittlee showcased many of the puppies waiting for a home. Whittlee, Animal Shelter Board members, and her mother also collaborated with the GEARUP program to install benches in Harrogate and Cumberland Gap.

Kathy Merrett – Clay County Adult Honoree – Kathy Merrett has organized the Celina and Clay County Merchants Association to develop a plan for community events. Kathy planned and organized a fundraiser for a Students Against Destructive Decisions event, which provided back-to-school supplies for children. She was also involved in the Moonshine Car Show and the Roller Coaster Yard Sale. The Trick or Treat Celina event allowed parents to bring their children to celebrate Halloween at no cost. Approximately 750 children received treats from participating merchants. As the holiday season approaches, Kathy is planning and will oversee the Annual Christmas Parade and the Shop Small Saturday event.

Tamara Smith – Clay County Youth Honoree – Throughout high school, Tamara Smith has worked with Students Against Destructive Decisions, to solve the county's drug problem. She spread awareness through fundraisers, videos, and radio segments. On the annual Health and Safety Day, she distributed school supplies to children, while educating them about the dangers of substance abuse. Tamara also volunteers through the Grace Free Meal Center to pack and deliver lunches to underprivileged children, and she helped develop a summer program curriculum to address learning issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Tamara has also volunteered with Clay County Adult Education to encourage residents to obtain their GEDs.

Denise Holt – Cocke County Adult Honoree – As a second year Community Cares AmeriCorps member, Denise Holt provides direct independent living services to the frail, disabled, and elderly residents at Newport Housing Authority. She will stop in her tracks and give a hand before even thinking. She takes her residents to the grocery store and help them shop, or she calls them when she is at a store to see if they need anything. Denise continues to go the extra mile for the individuals she serves, but most importantly, she makes the residents still feel like they matter.

Kaylan Cole – Cocke County Youth Honoree - Kaylan Cole is an AmeriCorps alum, who has volunteered with Tennessee's Community Assistance Corporation for over 2 years. This summer, she started a painting class for the elderly and was a lead on a back-to-school program that provided children school supplies, clothing, and a haircut. At the Newport Housing Authority, Kaylan matched, wrapped, and delivered gifts to children for Christmas. She also helped start a new project called "Color Your Dreams," where children from the housing authority received a coloring page of a bedroom to color. Kaylan will help the winners of the coloring contest receive a bedroom makeover.

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Ed Reader, Sr. – Coffee County Adult Honoree – Ed Reader serves with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10904 and has served for over 40 years in the VFW. Ed has participated in events like Veterans Day and Memorial Day, and he worked at the Old Timer's Day Fair, talking to students and other veterans. He also gave out Patriot Citizen certificates to children who could correctly recite the Pledge of Allegiance. At 98 years, Ed never misses a meeting and always helps with fundraisers and events. Ed, a World War II veteran and Prisoner of War, is a hero to his local VFW and the entire community.

Andrew Hetrick – Coffee County Youth Honoree - Drew Hetrick has been a Boy Scout for 11 years. He advanced to Eagle Scout in October, and his Eagle Scout project was to build a fire pit at the Coffee County Veterans Building, where formal Flag Retirement Ceremonies are held. He designed the fire pit and benches himself and built with help from other Scouts. He also served as a volunteer with Horse Play, an organization that helps children with intellectual disabilities ride horses. Drew served with Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy, and this Christmas, he gave candy canes with positive notes attached to fellow students.

Loretta Bushart – Crockett County Adult Honoree – Loretta Bushart has made a positive impact in the lives of the people of Crockett County. She helps with the coordination of Stella's Pantry, which organizes and distributes 30 boxes of food to be given away each month. She helped lead, organize, and ensure all aspects of the first online auction for Stella's Pantry that was hosted in November. She has also helped with the Festival of Trees fundraiser, including a bake sale, silent auction, and bell choir. Loretta helped paint the town's mural in July. Loretta is also a Sunday School teacher and helps decorate the church.

Becca Butler – Crockett County Youth Honoree – Becca Butler is an honor student, whose passion for kindness and community service can be seen in the many hours she has given back to her hometown. She volunteered for more than 25 charitable events in 2021, including packing and loading food boxes, working in Crockett Mission's storefront, providing care and activities for senior citizens, and providing entertainment for various civic events. Recently, she spent an evening greeting veterans and handing out photographs of veterans taken by the Faces of Our Veterans Program. Becca also serves as Secretary of FFA and is member of the Beta Club.

Tim French – Cumberland County Adult Honoree – Tim French is a Navy veteran who walks 5 to 25 miles per day throughout Cumberland County carrying an American flag and a photograph of a fallen soldier. Tim started this service in 2019 and has logged over 4,000 miles. After he has carried a flag for 1000 miles, he retires the flag and donates it to be displayed. Tim also works with Healing Hooves, which uses equine therapy to help veterans, and he raises awareness for National Veteran Resources, which offers programs for the military and their families to help cope with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and suicide prevention.

Serenity Driscoll – Cumberland County Youth Honoree – Serenity Driscoll has volunteered at Christmas on the Mountain, Inc. and East Tennessee Gleaners Co-Op since middle school. At Christmas on the Mountain, Serenity picks up, sorts, and wraps age-appropriate gifts for children whose families cannot afford many Christmas presents. At the Gleaners Co-Op, Serenity gleanes fields of surplus crops and distributes healthy and fresh farm produce to the community through donations and food banks. Serenity's actions go above the usual call of duty, because she also has two jobs, college-level courses, and two clubs to take care of.

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Kathy Halbrooks – Davidson County Adult Honoree – Kathy Halbrooks volunteers with several organizations, including PFLAG Nashville, Tennessee Equality Project, Planned Parenthood, Open Table, Southern Alliance for People and Animal Welfare, Souls United, and Nashville Launch Pad. Kathy is driven by her desire for a more equal and inclusive society. She has served as President and Co-chair of PFLAG Nashville, TN State Coordinator for the organization, and now South Atlantic Regional Director, serving Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. While balancing a full-time job, Kathy volunteered nearly every day, including holidays, constantly putting others before herself.

Ian Hooper – Davidson County Youth Honoree – Ian Hooper began volunteering with Urban Bicycle Food Ministry to address a need and give back to his community. Since May 2020, Ian has volunteered twice a week, logging more than 130 hours of service in his first seven months, and biking hundreds of miles to deliver food, water, and supplies to those experiencing homelessness. Regardless of the weather, twice a week Ian and the team at Urban Bicycle Food Ministry deliver hundreds of burritos and water to those in need. Aside from food, Ian has identified a need for blankets, socks, and clothing, which he also distributes now.

Dr. Jeff Gordon – Dickson County Adult Honoree – In 2005, Jeff Gordon and another physician created the Dickson Community Clinic, the first faith-based healthcare organization to partner with a county health department in Tennessee. At his church, he chaired and served on various committees, participated in mission trips, and guided the church through the pandemic without a single contact-tracing event. Jeff was the Boy Scouts of America Friend of Scouting Chairman, earning the District Award of Merit, and he received the Silver Beaver Award given to exceptional volunteers. Jeff also served as medical advisor on Mayor Don Weiss, Jr.'s COVID Advisory Committee.

Katie Collins – Dickson County Youth Honoree – Katie Collins loves showing girls that they can do anything they want, even be a farmer. She shares her passion for agriculture in Tennessee 4-H State Council, where members advocate for agriculture and show how 4-H has impacted their lives. In addition to serving on the State Council, she is President of her 4-H Honor Club and Project Group Leader for the 4-H Dairy Project. She is active in numerous clubs, such as SGA, BETA, Mentors of Dickson's Emerging Leaders, and Youth Leadership Dickson County. She participates in canned food drives, clothing drives, and bake sales with these clubs.

Sheila Lowrance – Dyer County Adult Honoree - Sheila Lowrance has been an active 4-H volunteer for over 25 years. She has served as the 4-H coordinator for various grades, while also volunteering for the past decade at Northview Middle School. Sheila attends state 4-H events; encourages students to participate in 4-H; invites guest speakers; coordinates officers; teaches parliamentary procedure; and ensures students are prepared for meetings. Through participation in 4-H, Sheila's students have shared their talents and given back to the community making hundreds of cards for shut-ins, collecting items for the homeless, and raising over \$3,000 for the Dyersburg/Dyer County animal shelter.

Amelia Langford – Dyer County Youth Honoree – Amelia Langford has been a member of the Dyer County 4-H program for the past seven years, participating in local, regional, state, and national events. Amelia's giving spirit helped her see a need in her community, and she enlisted the help of family and friends to establish a food blessing box in front of her church that provides non-perishable items for community members in need. This year Amelia participated in CanStruction, building a structure out of over 300 food cans that were later donated to local charities. She and her family also serve as Bell Ringers for the Salvation Army.

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Jimmy and Angie Sweet - Fentress County Adult Honorees - Jimmy and Angie Sweet are lifelong volunteers serving with the county fair, youth sports, and other community organizations. Both have consistently served as coaches for t-ball and softball, as well as directors of the Fentress County Girls League. Jimmy volunteered as assistant softball coach at York Agricultural Institute while Angie spearheaded the booster club providing equipment, water, and snacks for athletes at the games. Angie has supported the Children's Shopping Spree and other activities at South Main Street Baptist. Jimmy and Angie are also active with the Fentress County Agricultural Fair beauty pageants, Flat Track Night, and Appreciation Day.

Kailee South – Fentress County Youth Honoree - Kailee South has been a member of the Fentress County Junior Fair board for five years and is the President of the Youth board. She has also served in the Interact club, Hope club, and HOSA club in concessions, at the front gate, on stage, in exhibit buildings, and bagging candy for the Christmas parade. During Kailee's service as President of the Fentress County Junior Fair board, she has demonstrated to other students that you can make a difference within the county. It brings her joy to be able to help her community through hard work and dedication.

Bella Paul Hartwig – Franklin County Youth Honoree - Bella Paul Hartwig is founder and president of her high school Best Buddies Chapter, which serves kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She serves as the Special Abilities Prom coordinator, rallying volunteers and working with sponsors to cover costs of tuxedos for every special-needs boy in the county school system, and collecting dresses for every girl. Bella Paul also volunteers with HorsePlay Inc., a horseback riding program for children with intellectual or physical challenges. She has also sewn masks during the pandemic, participated in food and clothing drives, conducted antibullying presentations, and volunteered for the Mt. Juliet tornado cleanup.

Sandra Jones – Giles County Adult Honoree - Sandra Jones has been a volunteer with the South Central Human Resource Agency Foster Grandparent Program for 11 years. The Foster Grandparent Program encourages senior citizens over the age of 55 to establish a personal relationship with children with special needs. She started her journey with the Foster Grandparent Program at Richland Elementary School and currently volunteers with the after-school program at the Boys and Girls Club in Pulaski, where she assists with tutoring in the computer lab. She develops one-on-one relationship with the children, working on homework, social skills, teamwork, respect for others, and self-confidence.

Kenneth Coffey – Grainger County Adult Honoree – Ken Coffey worked with the State to locate several Civil War markers and served on a committee to construct “A Trail Through Time” of historical locations in Grainger County. He assisted with the establishment of three kiosks noting locations of interest and lobbied for Highway 25E to be designated a scenic byway. Ken is member of the Grainger County Historic Society, Chamber of Commerce, Cumberland Gap Region Tourism Association, General Longstreet Museum/Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association, and several other organizations. Ken also speaks at events and coordinates with other historians to present area programs.

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Macy Strader – Grainger County Youth Honoree - Macy Strader serves on many clubs at Grainger High School, including the Beta Club and 4-H. Her school volunteer activities include serving as tour guide for the school's InService, teacher's aide for Lifespan Development, fundraiser for local sports teams, and recruiter for FCCLA. During the homecoming fundraising campaign, Macy coordinated a large car show event that raised several hundred dollars. Her community volunteer activities include serving as an actor for the Avondale Haunted Barn, fundraiser and care bag maker for East Tennessee Children's Hospital, and participant in the Pledge Against Tobacco campaign with the Health Council.

Daniel Johnson – Greene County Adult Honoree - Daniel Johnson has been a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Greeneville and Greene County for twenty years. He has worked with the Boys and Girls Club's building project, aiding architects on the design for safety and helping to raise funds. He volunteers for special events including the organization's regional Olympic games each summer. Daniel has also been active with the Greene County Adult Leadership Program, Upward Basketball, the YMCA, the high school soccer booster club, the Kiwanis Club, the American Cancer Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, First Baptist Church, and charity fundraisers.

Reeda Kaye Shelton – Grundy County Adult Honoree - Reeda Shelton has been involved at Pelham United Methodist Church for over 50 years. She has hosted Easter Sunrise services, assisted with the Christmas Drive-Through, and provided food for the meal delivery ministry. Over the years, Reeda has mentored children in sewing, pottery, childcare, farm work, music, and living a life dedicated to others. She founded the Pelham Elementary Youth Choir to provide music education in an after-school music program. Reeda also helps fundraise for community needs and participates in the Pelham Valley Annual Independence Day parade, helping promote community involvement each year.

Bergen Blake – Grundy County Youth Honoree – Bergen Blake is a youth leader in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, planning activities for youth to serve the community. She also assisted with tornado disaster relief in Nashville and surrounding areas in 2020, helping people with cleanup. Bergen uses her artistic and musical talents to raise money for youth summer church camp and to make cards and drawings to cheer others. She oftentimes will be found recording music to lift others on social media. She seeks out the people who are usually not included and makes sure they are involved in activities.

Ashley Long - Hamblen County Adult Honoree - Ashley Long serves many organizations, including the Hamblen County area Ministerial Association Temporary Shelter, where she helps individuals with daily tasks and financial skills. She is a mentor for new CAC AmeriCorps members and plans monthly meetings with the group. For several years, Ashley has volunteered with the non-profit Office of Letters and Light that runs National Novel Writing Month. Ashley sends out weekly pep talks, helps run a chat room, plans events, and works on sending mailers. Ashley also volunteers as a musical instrument teacher.

Mikalyn Hunt – Hamblen County Youth Honoree - Mikalyn Hunt serves as an AmeriCorps member at the Ministerial Association Temporary Shelter, which is a self-sufficiency program for the homeless population in Morristown. She interacts with clients and helps provide them with information and basic needs assistance. She also volunteers for the organization's fundraisers and other fundraisers in the community. The residents and staff at the shelter enjoy her outgoing personality and problem-solving abilities. Mikalyn also actively volunteers with the Central Services Holiday Hope Fund, the Head Start program, and Morristown Parks and Recreation.

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Benjamin Conner - Hamilton County Adult Honoree – Ben Conner, an Army Vietnam Veteran, has volunteered at the Chattanooga VA clinic each week for the past 10 years. He serves as the VA Van Shuttle Program coordinator, organizing volunteer van drivers and ensuring veterans get to and from their VA appointments in Murfreesboro and Chattanooga. Without these van services, these veterans might be unable to attend important appointments for services unavailable to them at the small Chattanooga VA clinic. Ben is active in several other Veteran Service organizations, including the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the VFW.

Rachel Young - Hamilton County Youth Honoree - Rachel Young has been a vital part of the Museum Apprentice Program at the Creative Discovery Museum since 2017. Rachel serves in all exhibits and provides support for camps, seasonal workshops, and special events throughout the year. Rachel is also a member of the Museum's Teen Advisory Board, which helps plan and execute activities like new apprentice training, special events, and service projects. Rachel is one reason the apprentice program was able to continue during the pandemic. She took over the apprentice program newsletter when the pandemic started and has been a constant presence every week since the museum reopened.

Doris Johnson – Hancock County Adult Honoree – Doris Johnson has served as an AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteer at the Sneedville Community Center for several years and provides a smiling face and a clean and comfortable place for the seniors when they enter the community center. She assists in preparing meals at the senior center and with meal delivery for homebound individuals. She provides companionship and visits gravesites and places flowers on ones that do not have any. Doris is the epitome of a volunteer that is willing to go above and beyond to help people and improve the community in which she lives.

James Shackelford – Hawkins County Adult Honoree – James Shackelford has served at Church Hill First Baptist Church for 20 years. Currently, he serves as chairman of the Buildings and Ground Committee and is active with the Baptist Men's Ministry. He is also active with the Baptist Disaster Relief Organization, leading relief efforts after disasters. As a member of the Baptist Builders, James has led home and church repair teams across the US and worked with Habitat for Humanity and the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home. He also partners with God's Warehouse which supplies furniture for families in crisis and local nonprofits.

James Jenkins – Hawkins County Youth Honoree - Jim Jenkins has volunteered for local organizations and events for many years. He has organized coat and food drives, made masks for essential workers, collected snacks for deploying service members, organized trash pick-up and recycling, and developed habitats for native species along waterways. Jim organized and participated in 4-H service projects benefiting homeless shelters, food banks, children in foster care, nursing home residents, and pregnant mothers in need. During the pandemic, Jim helped create the Hawkins County Hiking Club as a way for families to spend time together safely and worked with the local election office to organize voter sanitary packets.

Mitchell Lemaster – Hickman County Adult Honoree - Mitch Lemaster is a metal detection hobbyist who searches local properties in Hickman County for relics that he uses to support local history preservation. Mitch cleans, identifies, and preserves the items he finds, then donates them to the Hickman County Chamber of Commerce's county museum. Through his fundraising and sponsorship efforts, he has obtained display cases for the items in the museum. The treasures are primarily civil war buttons, bullets, tools, and household items. Mitch also serves on the Hickman County Chamber of Commerce and the Historic Downtown Centerville Board of Directors.

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Lake Bates – Hickman County Youth Honoree - Lake Bates is a 4-H member and All Star and is always giving back to the community. He helps with parades and chamber events and hosts youth activities at his home. During the pandemic, Lake delivered meals to homes, and when storms created flooding, he volunteered to assist with relief efforts. Lake is quick to offer his truck and a strong back to move chairs, haul equipment to and from an event, or to deliver meals to anyone in need. Lake also helps in his community by volunteering as an emcee and as a videographer for community events.

Polly Fussell – Houston County Adult Honoree - Polly Fussell is a past President and volunteer with the Houston County Farm Bureau Women's Association, where she organizes annual food drive collections. She is a financial supporter and volunteer for the Ag in the Classroom project, where she works with elementary school students to grow produce in school gardens. She is an active volunteer for the Houston County Fair and encourages young people to participate in agricultural events. She is an active member of the Erin Rotary Club and volunteers registering children for the Imagination Library, raising funds for All-Inclusive playground equipment, and reading to elementary school children.

Nancy Pruett – Jackson County Adult Honoree – Nancy Pruett was able to help beautify the downtown area of Jackson County by applying for several grants, bringing together local artisans and community members, and putting in a lot of her own time organizing the project. The beautification project included having iron basket hooks created and installed on the light poles around town and ensuring seasonal flowers were planted in the hanging baskets. She also oversaw the entire design of the newly renovated city park. Nancy is always a phone call away and willing to help make Jackson County remain beautiful.

Keagan Thaxton – Jackson County Youth Honoree – Keagan Thaxton has been active in-service learning by helping the middle school PE teacher develop fun and engaging activities for 6th-grade students. His main job is to ensure that all kids are participating in the activities, by using encouraging words to motivate students to get up and get moving. Keagan also ensures the coolers, practice jerseys, and uniforms are cleaned and ready to go for the middle school football team. Keagan has also helped the Chamber of Commerce when they were in dire need of volunteers to help set up for events.

Karen Smith – Jefferson County Adult Honoree - Karen Smith volunteers with the UT Extension in Jefferson County and chaperones 4-H events such as 4-H Camp, State 4-H Round Up, Fashion and Design Conference, and All-Star Conference. Karen leads her 4-H Sewing Project group, which made special items for the Christmas boxes the 4-H Honor Club packs for the elderly. She plans and implements a summer sewing day camp, assists with the Grill Master Challenge, and helps with 4-H t-shirts and embroidery needs. Karen also helps manage the 4-H Facebook page and lead the Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign, recruiting volunteers to provide daily snacks.

Jadyn Cotner - Jefferson County Youth Honoree - Jadyn Cotner is a member of the White Pine Club site of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dumplin Valley. She is president of the organization's Torch Club and served as the 2021 Youth of the Year. Jadyn participates in service projects in her local community, such as making bird feeders for local nursing homes and collecting food items for victims of Hurricane Ida. Recently, Jadyn was awarded a grant from the Riley's Way Foundation to provide personal care bags and pet care bags to victims of domestic violence in her community.

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Karla Arnold – Johnson County Adult Honoree - Karla Arnold has volunteered with 4-H for nearly 30 years, coaching youth, hosting practice sessions, and working with the Chamber of Commerce to bring a rodeo to Johnson County. She is vice president of the Johnson County Equine and Agriculture Association and serves on the Johnson County Extension Agriculture Committee. Karla and her husband have mentored countless youth, teaching them about life on a farm. Karla has volunteered with the 4-H horse project through training of judging teams and volunteering at the 4-H horse clinic and show. She was also organized a Fun Horse Show for her community.

Katie McCulloch – Johnson County Youth Honoree – Katie McCulloch is a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and volunteers at the Johnson County Senior Center. This past year, she was instrumental in organizing the Brad Reece Memorial Scholarship Softball Tournament, which honored the husband of one of Katie's teachers and will benefit youth for years to come. Her genuineness and respect for others has led her to serve with many Johnson County High School Clubs, including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Katie is also volunteers at the Johnson County Senior Center.

Madeline Sanders – Knox County Adult Honoree - Madeline Sanders has served with the Senior Companion Program 24 years, assisting homebound seniors and helping them maintain their independence. Madeline provides her clients with in-home services such as light housekeeping, meal prep, shopping, medication reminders, and companionship. At 87 years old, Madeline has gained an abundance of knowledge, patience, and understanding, which makes her an ideal companion. Throughout the pandemic, Madeline called her clients daily to check on them and remind them to take their medications. She shopped for them, and on many days, she would cook and deliver a hot meal to their doorsteps.

Erin Tilley – Knox County Youth Honoree - Erin Tilley has been a volunteer at the Knoxville Museum of Art for almost two years. Following the pandemic shut-down, Erin helped with the East Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition, managing the organization of hundreds of pieces of student artwork in a single day. As a weekly front desk volunteer, she helps spread excitement about the collections and rotating exhibits. Erin holds a volunteer leadership role at the museum, training new volunteers on the front desk. She has also won Girl Scouts of America awards, served as a Bible camp counselor, and volunteered at St. Jude's Hospital.

Gary Stewart – Lawrence County Adult Honoree - Gary Stewart has been a member of the Summertown Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years and has served as its chief for over 20 of those. He responds to 99.9% of the calls in his area and requests for aid from other parts of the county. In order to better serve, Gary earned Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) designation in 2016 and the department answered its EMR first call that very day. This certification qualifies him to provide emergency care when he arrives on the scene before Lawrence County's Emergency Medical Service arrives.

Sandra Thompson – Lewis County Adult Honoree - Sandra Thompson is a Chamber Ambassador, serves Thursday lunches at her church, fundraises for the Child Help Task Force for foster children, and hands out weekly supplies for the needy. She is also a volunteer fundraiser for the Cancer Victim Fund that she helped to start 35 years ago. As chair of the local hospital's Community Advisory Board, Sandra helped create Buffalo Valley, which helps area homeless citizens and those recovering from addiction. She also served on the Comprehensive Mental Health Board of Directors and secured the establishment of a South Central Human Services office in Hohenwald.

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Farris Beasley – Lincoln County Adult Honoree – Farris Beasley is a Camp Blount Historic Site Association and serves on the Lincoln County Museum Board, where he gives tours. He's a board member of Leadership Lincoln, teaches leadership classes, and educates participants on prominent county farms. As past president of the TN Angus Association and the Tennessee Livestock Association and a member of the Lincoln County Livestock Association, he promotes agriculture and educates local livestock farmers. He's been the director of the local County Farm Bureau Board since 2008 and a deacon of the Washington Street Church of Christ for many years.

Joyce Fields – Loudon County Adult Honoree – Joyce Fields has been working to save the Dunbar Rosenwald School built for Black students in Loudon in 1923. The school is one of thousands built by a partnership between Booker T. Washington and Sears and Roebuck's CEO, Julius Rosenwald, to advance early education in rural Black communities. It is one of only 39 remaining in Tennessee and was in disrepair. As an alumna of the school, Joyce and others decided to restore it. Joyce created and leads a foundation for the historic property, gained support from the city and county, and obtained a historic preservation grant. Through Joyce's hard work, the Dunbar Rosenwald School received a Certificate of Merit from the Tennessee Historical Commission and an East Tennessee Preservation Award from Knox Heritage.

Bailey Phelps – Loudon County Youth Honoree – Bailey Phelps is a high school freshman, is active in her church, and has been a volunteer at Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding (STAR) since 2017 when she started as a junior volunteer. She has since trained as a Side Walker, Barn Helper, and more recently as a Horse Leader. Bailey doesn't wait to be asked to help - when she sees something that needs to be done, she just steps in to do it. She is kind and compassionate with the riders, horses, other volunteers, and staff, and enriches STAR in many ways.

Barbara Stanley - Macon County Adult Honoree - Barbara Stanley was the founding chairperson of Dream Makers, an organization formed in 2017. Dream Makers makes and provides free beanies of familiar Disney and other princess characters for children with hair loss, usually due to cancer. To date, Dream Makers has made approximately 1200 crocheted beanies for children in Macon County and northern middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky. They have also provided beanies to Vanderbilt and Centennial Hospitals in Nashville and to Dallas Children's Hospital in Texas, with the dream of providing their beanies to every hospital in Tennessee that has pediatric oncology.

Trinity Nash – Macon County Youth Honoree – Trinity Nash, a member of Macon County 4-H Club, began working with the 4-H Mask of Love Project, organizing a fabric drive and making masks for healthcare workers. Trinity has donated over 1500 masks through this project. Trinity next created the Bears of Hope Project, making bears out clothes and other fabric. She used the proceeds from her bears to make bears to donate to children in the hospital or with special needs. Trinity has also made memory pillows for sick children and plans to make these for residents of nursing homes in Macon County.

Ella Watkins – Madison County Adult Honoree – Ella Watkins is the founder and Executive Director of Sisters with Aspiring Goals (SWAG), a faith-based, non-denominational youth development leadership program for girls ages 5 to 18. Ella founded this mentoring program to empower girls to stay focused, be positive, make good choices, and strive for the best in life. Ella focuses on assisting the girls in their development of positive character traits so that the members grow up to be successful women. The girls meet twice weekly and have mentors who expose them to lessons that promote self-care, self-worth, self-love, etiquette, money management, home economics, life skills, leadership, and college enrollment.

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Jed McWherter – Madison County Youth Honoree – Jed McWherter is an honors student who is a people-oriented, servant-hearted, and goal-driven individual who always finds joy in serving others. Jed is active in the Youth Advisory, Beta Club, National Honor Society, church tech team and youth group, and Jackson-Madison County General Hospital Junior Volunteer program. Jed has also been a member of the Boy Scouts since elementary school. He has over 300 documented service hours, and for his final Eagle Scout project, he made a fire pit and benches for a neighborhood park.

Betty Jo Holt – Marshall County Adult Honoree - For 27 years, Betty Jo Holt has dedicated every Tuesday to delivering an adult education class to residents at Oakwood Hall nursing home. She incorporates history, activities, songs, smells, and visuals into her classes. Nine years ago, Betty Jo developed a monthly meeting called “Forever Young,” which encourages family and friends of residents to visit. The club also hosts a yearly Fall Fling for residents. Betty Jo also participates in an on-going card ministry, coordinates food delivery to shut-ins at her church, and was instrumental in starting a Parkinson’s Support Group in Marshall County.

Chandler Burrow – Marshall County Youth Honoree - Chandler Burrow has been an active member of First Baptist Church Lewisburg Youth Group for many years. He participated in countless charity programs, including Operation Christmas Child, and volunteered for construction and handy-work projects for homeowners. After aging out of the youth group, Chandler assumed the primary role in managing the church’s media broadcast, which includes running the sound and video every Sunday and managing the Facebook and YouTube pages for live service broadcasts. Along with his sister, Courtney, Chandler also volunteers to teach a children’s choir class every Wednesday night.

Debbie Harrison – McMinn County Adult Honoree – Debbie Harrison is a longtime educator whose efforts to improve the community one child at a time have taken on many forms. After retiring as a teacher and principal, Debbie has been actively involved as a volunteer with her grandchildren's schools, helping many children as a reading mentor. She has also been an ongoing participant with Let's Read 20 since its inception. She has volunteered with the McMinn County Education Foundation and the Imagination Library and has also served tirelessly with Grace and Mercy Ministries, providing meals to those in need.

Emily Miller – McMinn County Youth Honoree – Emily Miller, a student at McMinn Country High School, has served her community in a variety of ways. An active member of the McMinn County Youth Group, she participated in several projects, including the “Campus Clean Up Project.” Emily helped the CASA organization with a 5-K fundraiser. Emily is also a member of the Anchor Club, which focuses on volunteering and serving the community. In March, Emily volunteered in the community’s “Small Business Saturday”, where most of the local businesses are highlighted. This past October, Emily volunteered at the fall festival, helping kids paint pumpkins.

LaShell Moore – McNairy County Adult Honoree - Whether it’s feeding people during the pandemic or giving out computers to students for hybrid learning, LaShell Moore makes things happen. As Vice President for Arts in McNairy County, LaShell initiated diversity outreach by coordinating events that celebrate the diverse culture and history of McNairy County. In 2007, LaShell founded the Mary Lou Johnson Scholarship Foundation to assist students with college expenses. For several years, children have enjoyed the Annual Dinner with Santa, creating crafts, building toys at Santa’s workshop, and dining on pizza and spaghetti. Proceeds from this event support the Mary Lou Johnson Last Minute Toy Store.

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Darby Benton – McNairy County Youth Honoree - Darby Benton has participated in and initiated numerous activities, including the organizing the very first local Transplant Games Volleyball Tournament. She also organized and hosted the Miss Pretty and Pink Benefit Pageant for breast cancer survivors. Darby has served over 5,000 free Thanksgiving meals, volunteered and raised money for My Hometown Christmas and Heart of Champions to benefit teachers. Darby has collected and packaged items for the Children's Christmas Shoebox Ministry and the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce Red Sand Project. She also participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's and the Selmer Elementary School Fall Festival.

Curtis Driver – Montgomery County Adult Honoree - Retired Major Curtis Driver has served as the Fort Campbell-Clarksville Team Red, White, and Blue Volunteer Veteran Engagement Director for the last 3 years. Curtis hosts regular fitness activities, social gatherings, and community service events, and facilitates strong connections with members and community organizations. When the veterans' home was closed to the public, Curtis worked to arrange door visits with the residents and started a letter campaign. Curtis is actively involved with the Montgomery County Veterans Coalition at Lifepoint Church. Curtis has also volunteered with the Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association, Wounded Warrior, and suicide prevention efforts.

Ethan Morrow – Montgomery County Youth Honoree – Ethan Morrow is actively involved in Boy Scouts. He serves as the Vice Chief of Chapter Operations for the Order of the Arrow (Scouting's Honor Society). Ethan's Eagle Scout Service Project consisted of building two Imagination Library Storybook Trails for the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation. These trails encourage children and their families to get outside and to read. Ethan partnered with the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation, and Montgomery County Parks and Recreation, and he raised the funding for this project.

Jack Sims – Morgan County Adult Honoree - Jack Sims has been president of the Friends of Frozen Head State Park for three years. He plays a pivotal role in park events, such as the Barkley Fall Classic trail ultramarathon, the Heritage Fall Festival, and the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. Recognizing a need for better management of wild hog species, Jack advocated that the Friends group purchase a trap for the park. He drove his personal truck to Georgia and back to pick it up and deliver it to the park. Jack, a world-renown photographer, also donates time hosting nature photography workshops for the public.

Wesley Adkisson – Morgan County Youth Honoree - Every other weekend, Wesley Adkisson volunteers with Frozen Head State Park. He assists with taking out trash, cleaning bathrooms, collecting litter, weed-eating, and maintaining trails. During the annual Heritage Day Fall Festival, he assisted in directing traffic, visitors, and vendors. Wesley took initiative to clean the park's major recreation areas, and this summer, he helped cut the tree branches that were overgrowing park roads. Wesley also worked with rangers in installing new signage at each of the park's picnic shelters, making sure each sign was painted to match the visual themes of the park.

Paige Dennis – Obion County Adult Honoree - Paige Dennis, a long-time public servant, has served on the board of directors of 17 different organizations. She was most recently appointed by Governor Bill Lee to serve as a Commissioner on the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance, where she is the only female member. As a designer, Paige continued to give back to her community by replacing winter formal dresses for victims of the December 2021 tornadoes. She also hosted a donation drive for survivors of the 2021 floods.

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Maclyn (Macey) Jones - Obion County Youth Honoree - Macey Jones is a spokesperson and board member for the Boys and Girls Club, an advocate for No Kid Hungry, volunteer for the Helping Hands, and a National Down Syndrome Society Ambassador. She began the “Be a Santa to a Senior” program at three senior facilities, started the “families first” initiative with the Boys and Girls Club, and is a leader in her local church. She has raised over \$100,000 for the underserved. Currently Miss Madison County Volunteer, Macey began her platform “Hugs not Hits” at age 14 to uplift lives instead of tearing them down.

Ashley Hancock - Perry County Adult Honoree – Ashley Hancock created the Adopt-A-Teacher Perry County page on Facebook after she recognized the need for school supplies for teachers and children. As this page has grown, many teachers have been able to have all the items on their wish lists provided. Following the devastation from flooding in August, Ashley recognized the need for a similar project to assist displaced teachers and students in Humphreys County. Ashley created the Adopt-a-Teacher Humphrey’s County page. Over 2,000 members of the page from across the state have assisted with the rebuild of classrooms.

Linley Choate – Perry County Youth Honoree – Linley Choate is an active member of Future Farmers of America (FFA). She has volunteered with packing and delivering Thanksgiving bags and served food at the Nashville Rescue Mission to adults experiencing homelessness. For the past four years, Linley has helped facilitate the Perry County FFA Alumni Tractor Pull, where revenue goes to scholarships. She provides golf lessons to children through Jr. Pro Golf. Linley also volunteers with the Maury Regional NICU Reunion, Perry County FFA Christmas Food Drive, the Perry County FFA Easter Egg Hunt, Farm Day, and the National FFA Convention Days of Service.

Judy Norton – Polk County Adult Honoree - Judy Norton volunteers to improve the rivers and parks in Polk County. She organized a Weed Wrangle at the Nancy Ward Burial site and performed litter removal during Wildflower Walks at state parks and national forests. She serves with the Cherokee Hiking Club to maintain trails. Judy has also served in cleanups along the Ocoee River, Hiwassee River, West Chickamauga Creek, and Conasauga River. Judy acted as a raft guide for Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Chattanooga. For years, Judy has served as volunteer for the Girl Scout Raft Race and to maintain a section along the Benton MacKaye Trail.

Kerry Masters – Putnam County Adult Honoree – Kerry Masters has been with the AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program since 2012 and RSVP since 2013. As a Foster grandparent, she serves children with special and exceptional needs. She plays with the children in the classroom and on the playground, helps with puzzles, reads to them, works on letters and numbers - anything a grandparent would do! As an RSVP volunteer she serves at least three people at least three days a week by calling them to make sure that they are okay and to listen for signs of depression, loneliness, and illness.

Villa Edwards – Rhea County Adult Honoree – Villa Edwards has been involved with countless volunteer activities, and she always goes above and beyond for the community in many ways through various organizations. She volunteers through the local Rotary Club and the Relay for Life program. She is also active with the Rhea County High School Football Club. A true inspiration for people of all ages, Villa inspires others through her active involvement through her church and its youth group. She is truly a dedicated soul and hard worker for the community.

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Baylee McCoy – Rhea County Youth Honoree - Bailey McCoy is very active in her community. She has volunteered with Spring City Chamber of Commerce for many years. She recently volunteered with the Chamber's golf tournament and assisted with Chamber banquets. As an active volunteer with her church and with her youth group, she has assisted with several local projects to help the community. As a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at her school, Bailey has always been someone willing to help where she is needed, and she is always coming up with new ways to help her community.

Florence Pinyon – Roane County Adult Honoree – As an AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteer, Florence Pinyon serves the Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition. Florence tirelessly supports the mission of Anti-Drug Coalition to reduce youth substance use; to educate and raise awareness of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug issues; to promote community involvement; and to strengthen community partnerships and prevention strategies. She also participates in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day each April and October. In addition to volunteering for the Anti-Drug Coalition, Florence and her dog, Star, volunteer with Human Animal Bond in Tennessee, which works to explore the circumstances and consequences of the human-animal bond.

Reina Teems - Rutherford County Adult Honoree - Reina Teems has volunteered with the American Red Cross for almost 10 years. She volunteered as interim Regional Program Lead and created a network of volunteer mentors to aid new volunteers in completing training. In just an 8-month period last year, Reina recorded over 800 remote and in-person volunteer hours. Reina also ensures that volunteers gain experience around the country on deployments so that when disaster hits the local community, volunteers have ample training and real experience. Last year, she deployed 151 volunteers across the country, and disaster services volunteers served 63 families in Rutherford County.

William Starling – Rutherford County Youth Honoree - Will Starling has been an active volunteer in several areas. At Mental Health America, Will has assisted with a national event for nine years, worked to increase mental health awareness, advocated against cyberbullying, and promoted suicide prevention awareness. When New Vision Baptist Church needed technology-savvy workers to aid in broadcasting their services internationally, Will signed up to work one of five cameras bimonthly. At Central Magnet School, Will participates in Spanish tutoring, connecting people transculturally, and breaking communication barriers. He also plays electric guitar with the Youth Band at Fellowship United Methodist Church.

Carmen Sutheimer – Sevier County Adult Honoree - Carmen Sutheimer has been a Girl Scout Volunteer for 7 years. In addition to serving as a troop administrator, she stepped up as a service unit manager in 2018 to support other volunteers and girls throughout Seymour and South Knoxville. When the pandemic forced changes with in-person activities, Carmen worked with troops to make sure that Girl Scouts continued; ensuring that troops were comfortable with the CDC and Girl Scout policies to maintain health and safety. Carmen provides the tools that her Girl Scouts need to grow into world-changers, full of courage, confidence, and character.

Afton Hickman – Sevier County Youth Honoree – Afton Hickman is in her 10th year as a Girl Scout. She has served in leadership positions for numerous Girl Scout events, including the annual Journey in a Day. Afton spent 150 hours making over 700 masks to donate to healthcare professionals. She also helped her church with missions and vacation bible schools. She spent hours with her family making sleeping mats for the homeless, scarves for those in need, and Christmas cards for seniors. Afton has volunteered for various fundraisers with her high school band and earned the Presidential Service Award for several years running.

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Shirley Senko - Shelby County Adult Honoree - For 15 years, Shirley has volunteered for Birthright of Memphis, Inc. As the volunteer manager of both the baby and maternity closets, she inspects each item, organizes the infant clothing, inventories incoming donations, and switches out seasons at appropriate times of the year. Shirley handles all the incoming maternity clothing donations, as well, making sure to have the items organized by season and size in the "closet". After noticing Senko's skill for organization, Birthright asked for her help with auctions and fundraising efforts, where she made an instant impact.

Jordan Ashley Greene – Shelby County Youth Honoree - Jordan Greene is a community advocate for girls. She has organized over 80 service projects, including letter campaigns to veterans and letter-writing to over 100 terminally ill children. She encourages other teen girls in writing "Sunshine" cards. When George Floyd was murdered, she became even more focused to work with the Girl Scouts, My Sisters Keeper, Boys and Girl Club, and schools to advocate for being a servant leader. The pandemic did not stop Jordan; she holds weekly webinars from her home on confidence, girls in leadership, standing up for what is right, and dealing with bullies.

Eden Daniel – Smith County Youth Honoree - During her freshman year, Eden Daniel adopted the Emmanuel House as her service project. Emmanuel House is a nonprofit with an 18-month rehab program for women. Eden organized Christmas drives and monthly donation drives, provided meals to residents, and helped raise over \$4,000 for a house van. She also volunteered with the food pantry, standing in all weather conditions for hours to hand out food. She helped wash abandoned puppies to prepare for transport to the animal rescue and orchestrated a dogfood drive for the shelter. She also volunteered for the Special Olympics and Christmas Shop with a Cop.

George Wallace – Stewart County Adult Honoree - Retirement for George Wallace means nonstop volunteer activities, from announcing at athletic events, parades, and festivals to earning the title of HOSA grillmaster. An active Kiwanis Club member, he can always be found working fundraisers. George and his wife serve at the archives and have donated countless hours to help visitors complete research. George regularly participates in living history events at Fort Donelson, Fort Defiance, The Homeplace, and in neighboring counties. George is a skilled mechanic and artisan who spends a lot of time at his shop helping friends with projects or repairing flat tires for stranded motorists.

Austin Terrell – Stewart County Youth Honoree – Austin Terrell is a member of Boy Scouts of America, and his studies in Principles of Manufacturing gave him the background needed to receive the rank of Eagle Scout. His project was building a waterfowl observation deck at Cross Creek National Wildlife Reservation. Austin is glad he was able to build something for his community, with hopes of making improvements and helping clean up a place that became a trash dumping area. Austin has been recognized by the Stewart County Disabled American Veterans for his dedication, patriotism, and service.

Jane Henry – Sullivan County Adult Honoree – Jane Henry devotes time to several organizations, including Cap the Gap for Foster Care, the Children Exceeding Expectations School for children with cancer and immune deficiency disorders, and AveNew, the Drug Education and Prevention Initiative of United Way of Greater Kingsport. Jane worked to bring together diverse sectors of the community to address substance use and recovery issues. Jane also made presentations to educate elected officials on current trends and treatments options and is working to develop criteria for disseminating settlement funds from the lawsuits to ensure the money is used to assist those most impacted by the opioid epidemic.

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Richard Edmondson – Tipton County Adult Honoree - Richard Edmondson is a devoted family person, a college student, a volunteer, and a heart recipient. In 2015, Richard had an unexpected heart attack. Exactly one year to the day from his heart attack, Richard received his new heart and embarked on a mission to give back. He became an Ambassador for Mid-South Transplant Foundation. He is now the face of the Foundation for county clerk and department of safety offices in several counties, including his home county of Tipton, and he was named the 2020 Ambassador of the Year.

Kristen Allen – Unicoi County Adult Honoree - Kristen Allen is the luminary chair for the Unicoi County Relay for Life, where she implemented a nursing home relay for residents. This included the decoration of luminary bags by children, a ceremony, and an “in honor of” and “in memory” lap at local nursing homes. Kristen also coordinates luminary bags for the annual Relay for Life events, coordinating with youth to prepare, set up, light, and take down the bags. She recently started a Garden of Hope in front of the Unicoi County Courthouse to raise funds while honoring those who have fought and continue to fight cancer.

Marilyn Toppins – Union County Adult Honoree - Marilyn Toppins has been an outstanding volunteer to several local organizations in Union County. She volunteers for the Union County Business and Professional Association, Preservation Union County, the Union County Museum, and the Union County Heritage Festival. Her desire to help others is also demonstrated while working hard for the Union County Historical Society. The type of person who never turns down a challenge, Mary is always the first to volunteer with anyone who needs a helping hand.

Chloé Ragland – Van Buren County Youth Honoree - While balancing schoolwork as valedictorian of her class, sports activities, and part-time job duties, Chloe Ragland also found time to volunteer with a variety of organizations and community events. Chloe has donated over 200 hours of her time, volunteering for the Van Buren County government, Van Buren County school system, Van Buren County health and fair groups, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, Fall Creek Falls special events, Lions Club, and Ronald McDonald House. Chloe also volunteers for church activities and helped with recent tornado clean-up.

Kristina Delaney – Washington County Adult Honoree - Kristina Delaney founded Cherished Mom to meet the need to support moms affected by perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, which is the number one complication of childbirth. As the volunteer Executive Director, she recruits board members, runs support groups, secures sponsors, writes grants, updates social media and the website, and completes compliance filings to keep the organization operating. She has raised over \$100,000 to support the organization's work, including support groups, online resources, in-person educational activities, as well as providing care packages to new moms, which Kristina initiated during the pandemic.

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Julia Gilmore – Washington County Youth Honoree – Julia Gilmore is the founder of The Gilmore Giving Tree, a volunteer program that promotes services to benefit children in Johnson City and assist with fundraisers for St. Jude Research Hospital and Ronald McDonald House. Her service includes fundraising, public speaking, educating, donating, assembling care packages, writing letters, and providing other support. She also promotes the value of service to her peers and is a resource and mentor to other teens. Julia is a kind, welcoming and focused leader with a warm heart and friendly demeanor that naturally draws people to her.

Katherine Reeves – Wayne County Adult Honoree – Katherine Reeves takes a very active role several local groups. She volunteers with Toys for Tots, Waynesboro First United Methodist Church, the Butterfly Foundation, Country Road Animal Rescue, The Ladies in Pink Society, Wayne County Food Basket Drive, and a Scentsy Buddies drive. Katherine also founded Love Bug's Initiative, later renamed to BJ's Love in memory of BJ Eaton. BJ's Love ensures that every child in the Waynesboro Schools receives a gift on Valentine's Day. Katherine has also been appointed to the Wayne County Commission to further serve the residents of Wayne County.

Addie Kate Littrell – Wayne County Youth Honoree – Addie Kate Littrell has volunteered since age 12 for the American Heart Association's yearly fundraiser. She also assisted with painting murals for Collinwood High School. Addie Kate led coin drives, blessing bag collection, and a toy collection for Operation Homefront. She is a youth group mentor, a vacation bible school leader, and is the President of Wayne County Junior Civitan Club. Addie Kate was awarded with the Tennessee Scholar Achievement for her community service hours. She is currently working for Shoals Habitat for Humanity and looking for ways to volunteer on their future projects.

Dr. Marvin Downing – Weakley County Adult Honoree – At 85 years of age, Dr. Marvin Downing works every day as a volunteer at WE CARE Ministries. He is willing to work in any area or do any job that he sees is needed. Marvin helps with donations, checks out electronics, encourages staff and visitors, and will do anything that will help the staff. He is kind and welcoming to everyone at WE CARE Ministries. Marvin brings a touch of humor to WE CARE every day, and he is a true example of what it the means to serve.

Jarrett Snider – Weakley County Youth Honoree - Jarrett Snider has been a volunteer at WE CARE Ministries since he was 12 years old. Now a college student soon to graduate, he has faithfully given his time to work in the thrift store throughout the years. He has worked the counters and served in other key roles in thrift store. In addition to serving in the thrift store, Jarrett has helped to organize projects to serve WE CARE. He has also assisted with bringing other youth to volunteer, and he has worked at many special activities and events for the ministry.

Liz Piper - Williamson County Adult Honoree – Liz Piper began as a GraceWorks volunteer in 2017 and has shown up every Wednesday since. She sorts and packs items in Fuel Bags, which contain food for the weekends for students qualifying for free or reduced meals. Her work has helped feed 530 students in Williamson County schools each week this school year. She has made it a priority to recruit others, including groups from her church and her recently retired husband. Every chance she gets, she asks people to volunteer at GraceWorks, to shop at the Thrift Store, and to donate food or items for the store.

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Ella Koecke – Williamson County Youth Honoree - Ella Koecke has been a part of the United Way of Greater Nashville's Youth Advisory Council for three years. She has helped plan and execute summer water play days, Tie Dye Day, and Christmas Parties for Community Child Care. She held fundraisers within her school to raise money for the United Way. She has served as President of United Way's Youth Advisory Council and Best Buddies. What makes Ella's volunteerism unique is that she leads her own classmates in philanthropy initiatives and sets the example of what giving back is all about.

Joyce Gaines – Wilson County Adult Honoree - Joyce Gaines has served as a leader with Compassionate Hands since 2013. She facilitated several milestones for the organization, including 501(c)(3) status, a facility purchase, and compliance for a \$761,000 HUD grant. Joyce initiated a summer food program that coordinates with families receiving assistance from Wilson County schools and coordinated a group of church leaders to launch SALT, a ministry that provides groceries for seniors and others unable to afford or acquire food and medicine. With her guidance, Cook's United Methodist Church was one of the first churches to host homeless guests overnight.

Nishika Shah – Wilson County Youth Honoree - Nishika Shah volunteers with Run4Water, 84 Days, and Friendship Christian Schools Leadership. She leads a homeless ministry in downtown Nashville and is organizing a Thanksgiving ministry for Hancock County. During a weekend in October, she spent the day meeting with families to determine their needs. In addition to her local and regional community work, she is a voice for girls in developing countries without access to feminine hygiene products. She raises awareness and funding for these young girls through 84days.net. Nishika also helps purchase and pack food bags for children in the school district that have food insecurity.

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