



GOVERNOR'S MEDALLION AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE 2009

The Governor's Award for Volunteer Service program is an important part of the proud history and tradition of volunteerism and community service in our state. For thirty-one 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 Governor's Medallion Award for Volunteer Service is presented to the top twenty volunteers in the state.

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

**GOVERNOR'S MEDALLION AWARD
FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE
2009**

Recipients

Beaufort County	John Morgan
Buncombe County	Madeline Pflaumbaum
Carteret County	Richard Eisemann
Cumberland County	Great Oak Youth Development Centers, Inc.
Gates County	Dillon Kyle Chappell
Granville County	Betty Lynne Currin
Guilford County	LaToya Marsh
Harnett County	Joyce Rosser
Madison County	A.C. and Susie Honeycutt
McDowell County	Dr. James Gaskill, DDS
Mitchell County	Frances Herrell
New Hanover County	Donna Sweetman
Onslow County	William Sidberry
Pasquotank County	Sonja Hibbard
Perquimans County	Rosemary Smith
Polk County	William Wuehrmann
Rowan County	Pete Teague
Tyrrell County	Andrew Swain
Wake County	Peter Zierz
Wayne County	The Parrish Family

The description of volunteer service on the following pages was created from information provided in each recipient's 2009 Governor's Medallion Award for Volunteer Service nomination form.

All costs for this event, purchasing of materials and printing were paid for through private funding



BEAUFORT COUNTY

John Morgan

John Morgan has been volunteering at the Mental Health Association in Beaufort County for twenty-five years. He has served as its President, Treasurer, and acting Executive Director. He contributes to projects that reach out to embrace and impact the lives of the mentally ill, developmentally disabled, and those struggling with substance abuse problems. John is an advocate for a segment of the public comprised of those who often cannot speak for themselves. He helps to educate the public on mental health issues and erase the stigma of mental illness. John is an extremely giving person who puts others before himself.

County Coordinator: Carolyn Burke



BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Madeline Pflaumbaum

Madeline has been a volunteer with Charles George VA Medical Center for five years. She volunteers every day and averages at least twelve hours per week. Madeline transports a homeless veteran to church, she offers a hand up to veterans and others who are homeless, visits veterans in hospice, and provides pet therapy to those in assisted living. She even makes eighty lunches for the homeless each week with her own resources. Madeline once spent twelve hours at the bedside of a dying veteran. She is an exemplary individual who has made a tremendous difference in the lives of those she has encountered.

County Coordinator: Cheryl Wilson



CARTERET COUNTY

Richard Eisemann

Richard has been volunteering with Crystal Coast Habitat for Humanity for over eight years. He provides leadership on the Board of Directors and chairs the Family Nurture & Support Committee. He also directly services the low-income families in Habitat homes and those who are in the program to have a home built for their family by providing homeowner education workshops, assisting with home warranty issues, and serving as a liaison between the Habitat office and the low-income families. His nurturing and volunteering have helped more than twenty-five families obtain their dream of homeownership. Richard demonstrates the true spirit of volunteering. He is an important contributor to the effort to eliminate poverty in the community.

County Coordinator: Dora Jones



CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Great Oak Youth Development Centers, Inc.

Great Oaks Youth Development Centers, Inc. was established in 2006. It provides programs designed to strengthen the lives of young men ages six through eighteen through leadership development, mentoring, cultural awareness, and education assistance. Since its inception, Great Oaks has touched the lives of approximately 300 people who live in inner-city communities. It is making a real and lasting positive impact in the lives of people and is doing it with the kind of volunteerism that is essential, but far too rare in our world.

County Coordinator: Deborah McMillan



GATES COUNTY

Dillon Kyle Chappell

Dillon has been volunteering his time at Wild Things Fawn Rehabilitation Center. As a rehabber, he saves fawns that would otherwise die without a helping hand. Dillon assists in educating the public about doe and fawn behavior, as well. His efforts are a great help to wildlife officers, and his volunteer service demonstrates his commitment to natural resources and wildlife. He also sets an example to others of how one person's time and commitment can make a difference in the community.

County Coordinator: Reba Green-Holley



GRANVILLE COUNTY

Betty Lynne Currin

Betty has been a Guardian ad Litem volunteer in Granville for eight years. As such, she investigates and determines the needs of abused and/or neglected children petitioned into the court system by the Department of Social Services and makes independent recommendations to the court for services which focus on the needs of the children. She has offered over 100 children a voice in court and the support they need as they hope for a better future. Betty has also helped in giving children a second chance to experience the joys of childhood in a loving, nurturing, secure environment.

County Coordinator: Linda Dameron



GUILFORD COUNTY

LaToya Marsh

LaToya volunteers as a cheerleading coach of a squad of special needs children for the Special Olympics. She holds practice with the girls every week and her squad cheers for the Special Olympics basketball games on the weekend. She also enters the squad in competitions. LaToya creates all the cheers, chants, and routines that the girls perform. With her leadership, her squad was able to take home the bronze medal at the State Games. She is a wonderful and giving individual who is also a volunteer for several other organizations. She has a gift for helping others and is very genuine, compassionate, and empowering.

County Coordinator: Hollie Rose



HARNETT COUNTY

Joyce Rosser

Joyce is the Vice President of the Western Harnett Overhills Area PTO Thrift Shop. She was instrumental in the store's establishment and spends twenty or more hours per week overseeing the running of it. Eleven schools and over 6,000 students benefit from this project. Joyce has great compassion for others. She is also an excellent leader who can organize volunteers and capitalize on the strengths of individuals. Joyce devotes her time to other volunteer activities, as well, including visiting the sick. There are not words to describe what she gives of herself to others.

County Coordinator: Nancy Wright



MADISON COUNTY

A.C. and Susie Honeycutt

A.C. and Susie are the founders of Fields of Hope, a community garden which serves to empower others to join them in meeting the needs of the hungry in the western part of North Carolina. Last year they obtained and coordinated the efforts of 300 volunteers to produce 42,000 pounds of vegetables. Hopefully they will produce even more this year. A.C. and Susie not only manifest a commitment to volunteerism, they also inspire and enable others to do so.

County Coordinator: Pauline Cheek



MCDOWELL COUNTY

Dr. James Gaskill, DDS

James has volunteered his professional services as a dentist to numerous organizations for fifteen years. James provides dental care during non-working hours to disadvantaged children, group home residents, nursing home patients, and others who cannot afford dental services. While many professionals choose to work as much as possible to maximize profits, James has always made it his personal mission to give back to the community by donating his time and professional services to those less fortunate. He is setting the best example for others.

County Coordinator: Gloria Burrough



MITCHELL COUNTY

Frances Herrell

Frances has dedicated her time and energy to Communities in Schools of Mitchell County for four years. As a lead tutor and mentor, she volunteers seven hours per week providing one-on-one academic assistance and encouragement to students in kindergarten through eighth grade and communicating with teachers and principals about student progress and needs. Frances brings her professional training and skills as a certified teacher to her activities as a tutor and mentor and as a trainer for other volunteers. She often works with students who have the greatest needs academically, but she is able to connect with and assist them because of her dedication, dependability, and caring nature. The quality of her volunteer work can be seen in the real, measurable success of the students she helps.

County Coordinator: Jeff Vance



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

Donna Sweetman

Donna has been a volunteer at Carolina Canines for Service for nine years. She is dedicated to making sure that highly skilled service dogs can be provided to persons with disabilities. She averages 120 volunteer hours a month. Donna is an advanced trainer that has trained nine service dogs. She has also shown immense leadership skills by accepting the role of head trainer for foster puppy and advanced training classes. The impact that the service dogs which Donna has helped train have had in the lives of those with disabilities is immeasurable.

County Coordinator: Annie Anthony



ONSLOW COUNTY

William Sidberry

William has volunteered with the Guardian ad Litem Program for more than thirteen years. He is the longest serving Guardian ad Litem volunteer in Onslow County.

William, paired with an attorney advocate, represents the best interest of abused and neglected children in court. He has personally advocated for several dozen children and has accumulated more than 3,120 hours in this volunteer activity. His efforts have a lasting impact on the lives of children, whole families, and the community.

County Coordinator: Sandra Wyrick



PASQUOTANK COUNTY

Sonja Hibbard

Sonja has been volunteering her time to the Albermarle Hopeline, a non-profit agency that provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, for twenty-four years. She is a certified public accountant and handles all Hopeline financial matters pro bono. Without her help, Hopeline would not be able to successfully secure grant funding or fulfill grant requirements which allow the agency to serve more than 1,000 victims each year. Sonja is dedicated and committed to helping victims of domestic violence. She is truly an outstanding volunteer.

County Coordinator: Mary Walker



PERQUIMANS COUNTY

Rosemary Smith

Rosemary Smith volunteers over twenty-five hours per week at The Open Doors of Perquimans County, Inc., a community food pantry. She serves as the Program Director and is responsible for the day to day operations of the organization. Rosemary demonstrates unbounded enthusiasm and diligence. She is open to any and all challenges. Her leadership abilities have grown the volunteer base to more than 100 participants and have dramatically increased the number of meals being served. She epitomizes the word "giving."

County Coordinator: Sylvia Wyatt



POLK COUNTY

William Wuehrmann

William has been a volunteer with the Hospice of the Carolina Foothills for more than twelve years. He has served in a number of capacities, such as associate chaplain and board member, and is involved in a wide range of administrative and patient care-giving activities. He is also involved in almost every worthy cause in the community. He is dedicated to helping others and lives by the credo "Find a way to make the world a little better than you found it."

County Coordinator: Virginia Perrenod



ROWAN COUNTY

Pete Teague

Pete has been a volunteer with Rowan Partners for Education, which gets the community motivated to take an active role in the public education of students, for sixteen years. He is Chairman of the Board of Directors and oversees the general operations of the organization. He has amazing leadership skills. He is involved with several organizations, and his volunteer activities center upon making our community a better place to live. Pete puts others before himself. He is a take-action type of person and is a positive role model to the community.

County Coordinator: Jackie Harris



TYRRELL COUNTY

Andrew Swain

Andrew has volunteered with the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. In 2009, he volunteered forty hours each week. He has helped a refuge biologist to complete numerous biological and environmental education projects. He was particularly instrumental in completing the installation of forty wood duck nest boxes in accordance with a wildlife rehab plan. Throughout his volunteer work, Andrew has exhibited strong leadership skills. He has tremendous potential and is an asset to the community and an excellent role model to other youth.

County Coordinator: Dee Furlough



WAKE COUNTY

Peter Zierz

Peter has been a volunteer with PLM Families Together, Inc., a provider of short term housing for homeless families. During the 2008-2009 year he served as the President of the Board of Directors and was responsible for the overall fiduciary and legal activities of the non-profit agency. His leadership and involvement with the Board of Directors over the last few years have been important in pulling the organization out of financial crisis. In addition to working on higher level activities, Peter also hosts a birthday party every month to celebrate the birthdays of homeless children who live at PLMFT. He shows courage, grace, intellect, and commitment. Peter is a model of philanthropy.

County Coordinator: Caroline Lee



WAYNE COUNTY

The Parrish Family

The Parrish's has been volunteering with the Wayne County Special Olympics. The family has been involved in coaching a track and field team. They have fourteen core athletes that they train, but they also open their practices for any disabled person who wishes to participate. The impact of the family is evident in each of their athletes. They help all of their athletes realize new goals and bring a true team spirit to the athletics program. The family has also lent its support to other organizations. The entire family is dedicated to making a difference in their community.

County Coordinator: Barbara Stiles