



Volunteer Tennessee



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VOLUNTEER TENNESSEE CELEBRATES GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER STARS

(Nashville, TN — February 2, 2021) — The Thirteenth Annual Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards will honor volunteers from 47 counties on February 7, 2021 in a virtual ceremony. The awards will celebrate the efforts of 80 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 Piedmont Natural Gas and Terry Silver.

(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, Comcast, East Tennessee Business Honoree; The Surgical Clinic, Middle Tennessee Business Honoree; and Terminix Holdings, West Tennessee Business Honoree. The business awards are sponsored by Advance Financial 24/7. The non-profit honorees include, Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service, East Tennessee Non-Profit Honoree; Chapel Hill Lions Club, Middle Tennessee Non-Profit Honoree; and Thistle and Bee, 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 virtual awards will be available on Volunteer Tennessee's website www.volunteertennessee.net on February 9.

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 2020 Governor's Volunteer Stars Business Honorees

Comcast - East Tennessee Business Honoree – Comcast Corporate Volunteers perform various types of volunteer hours, serving many organizations throughout Eastern Tennessee. Each year, Comcast sends out a request for projects to better understand community needs that employees can help to address. Comcast launched the Comcast RISE Program that is a multi-year commitment to provide marketing, creative, media, and technology services to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned small businesses. Comcast's Internet Essentials Ambassadors has worked hard during the pandemic to ensure that students, older adults and BIPOC populations have the tools and knowledge to be able to connect and thrive through times of isolation. During the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway, Comcast celebrated the U.S. military and salute Comcast military employees from across the company that are working to keep communities safe and connected. As part of the race-day celebrations, Comcast awarded a \$30,000 grant to five community colleges in East Tennessee that have been designated as Veteran Education Transition Support (VETS) campuses by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

The Surgical Clinic – Middle Tennessee Business Honoree - The Surgical Clinic (TSC) is a group of private practice surgeons who volunteer their time to serve a specific demographic of underserved people — children and adults without insurance to pay for prosthetic limbs. There are 11 employees in TSC's prosthetics department, who cumulatively have volunteered more than 2,500 hours in 2020. They are dedicated volunteers to The Amputee Blade Runners, (ABR) a nonprofit whose mission it is to provide running prosthetics to amputees in all 50 states. So far, they have provided prosthetics to athletes in 31 states, who now serve as ambassadors to others in need. All the materials TSC uses to make prosthetics are donated by the business, as well as the time and talent of the surgeons who volunteer. These volunteers go above and beyond their call of duty through their commitment to the Amputee Blade Runners. "It is not an uncommon thing for multiple TSC employees to stay at work until midnight, helping an athlete regain mobility," said Joshua Southards, Executive Director of Amputee Blade Runners. Tennessee is so fortunate to be a trailblazer in offering this kindness to amputees, and by continuing to grow their impact across the country.

Terminix Holdings – West Tennessee Business Honoree - Last September, thousands of Terminix (formally known as ServiceMaster) teammates volunteered their time and energy to support community organizations across the United States as part of We Care Week 2020. Terminix wanted to address issues of social injustice, elder care, homelessness, education, food insecurity, and mental wellness, among others. Terminix dedicated an entire week to celebrate service, giving more employees an innovative way to donate to community organizations all over the country. Employees had the opportunity to participate in the week virtually through a program called "Caring Steps." For every step that employees walked, Terminix donated money to 20 charitable organizations. This uniquely-designed program allowed employees to give back while serving customers, working virtually and social distancing – and getting some great exercise in the process. Terminix employees walked over 53 million steps and helped raise \$335,000 for our community partners. To cap off the week, Memphis-based Terminix employees had the opportunity to be a part of a Make-A-Wish reveal for a child named Mya. Terminix employees from all around the country spent the weeks prior producing a video in the style of Odd Squad, Mya's favorite TV show.

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About the 2020 Governor's Volunteer Stars Non-profit Honorees

Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service – East Tennessee Nonprofit Honoree - The mission of Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service (SCHAS) is to improve the quality of life for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers by providing accessible care and supportive services in 18 East Tennessee Counties. CHAS has always utilized volunteers in its assisted living, affordable housing, and in-home caregiving programs. However, the need for services became greater with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. SCHAS started a shopping program in March 2020 to allow older adults to remain safely in their homes and still receive food, cleaning supplies, toiletry items, pet food, and non-prescription drugs.

Through the SCHAS website or by phone, a person can order and purchase essential items. Volunteers then pick up the items and deliver to the home of the client. In 2020, approximately 75 volunteers completed more than 5400 hours of service. The program has also expanded to serve younger adults with compromised immune systems. Many of SCHAS low-income clients have seen their budget go further due to the assistance of SCHAS staff and volunteers.

Chapel Hill Lions Club – Middle Tennessee Non-profit Honoree - The Chapel Hill Lions Club has been motivated by a concern for the improvement in their community since 1946. Annual volunteer activities have included conducting eye screenings for area students at Chapel Hill Elementary and pre-schools, building wheelchair ramps for the elderly and disabled, and collecting winter weather gear for veterans and nursing home residents.

The Chapel Hill Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, Rocket Band of Blue, Vanderbilt Children's Eye Center, and Tennessee School for the Blind have also been recipients of the Lions Club's volunteer and philanthropic efforts. The Chapel Hill Lions Club has organized and provided volunteer support to the Annual Lions Pull of the South, which is a truck and tractor pull. The annual event has moved national and become part of the National Tractor and Truck Puller Grand National Circuit. The money raised from Lions Pull of the South has helped to purchase fire trucks for the local volunteer fire department, fund an ambulance station and support local youth sports projects.

Thistle and Bee – West Tennessee Non-profit Honoree - Thistle and Bee is a Memphis-based organization with a mission to help women who have survived trafficking, prostitution, and addiction thrive. A part of Thistle and Bee's clinical model provides employment to the women in the program through a social justice enterprise centered around beekeeping, harvesting honey, and then manufacturing products.

The volunteers are an integral part of what makes Thistle and Bee operate smoothly on a daily basis. Volunteers perform an array of services to assist in advancing Thistle and Bee's mission including working sales events, transporting residents, and delivering merchandise.

Thistle and Bee's 52-member volunteer team has provided staff with more time and energy to devote to expanding resources for the agency's clients and increasing the service delivery rate. Thistle and Bee volunteers completed more than 300 hours of service in 2020. This is truly a testament to how much Thistle and Bee relies on its supportive volunteers, and how much Memphis citizens care about their community.

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About the 2020 Governor's Volunteer Stars Individual Honorees

Neil Vaughan – Anderson County Adult Honoree - From his time serving in the United States Army to 38 years at Boeing as a project manager. Neal Vaughan has spent his entire life serving others. Not only was he devoted in his career and military service, but Mr. Vaughan has dedicated decades to serving the Lions Club. In his 36 years with the Lions Club of Clinton, Mr. Vaughan has tirelessly served in all their programs supporting healthy vision, preventing blindness, and funding research to cure diseases that cause blindness. His current project is focused on teaming up with the city of Clinton, Milly's Wings, and the Clinton and Norris Lions clubs that has raised over \$400,000 to build the first inclusive playground in Anderson County where children of all abilities can enjoy being a kid. Mr. Vaughan is also an active member of Grace Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge and helps with many of their ministries in the community.

Brent Pewitt – Bedford County Adult Honoree - Brent Pewitt comes from a long line of community servants and is an asset through his volunteer work and commitment to his community. He has made a difference in our community, exemplified the mission of giving, and has positively impacted our community. He has been a member of the Shelbyville Optimist Club for thirty years and now serves as the club president. The optimist club with his guidance has been able to give back to our schools in so many ways. He has championed the optimist's club involvement in the Bedford County coat closet that works to make sure each student in need has a warm coat for winter. He also built coats racks and storage at the distribution center. He is also involved with several community programs such as Bedford County homeless shelter, Bedford Builds for Humanity, and Closing the Book Gap. He consistently has his eyes open for needs in our community and works to find solutions.

Karen Hudson - Benton County Adult Honoree - Karen Baker Hudson, is one of Benton County communities most active volunteers. Karen works diligently to improve our community and its quality of life through acts of selfless volunteerism. Being a Christ follower, Karen had been on mission trips in the past and two years ago, she felt God leading her to do local missions right here at home. This is how "JCommunityHeart" was created. When Karen began to share her calling with others throughout Benton County, community members flocked to be a part of such a ministry. This year was the second annual JCommunityHeart project, where hundreds of teams came together to do mission projects locally. The mission projects could be a variety of things, ranging from yard work for the elderly, visiting with the nursing home residents, working at the local foodbank, and delivering meals to those in need, etc.

Sydney Blackburn – Benton County Youth Honoree - Sydney Blackburn continuously looks for ways to serve in her community. During the 2020 summer, Sydney volunteered every Monday to deliver Meals on Wheels with the Benton County Senior Citizen Center. She averaged delivering 12-14 meals per week. In addition, Sydney completed a total of 51 hours of volunteer service with Maria Lee's Summer Youth Challenge. Her service hours included collecting toiletries for the homeless; cards, cookies and visits to elderly who were shut in due to COVID-19; Painting windows for the residents at the local nursing home and making table centerpieces for the residents; trash pickup in her neighborhood and the Veteran's Memorial Park; and Monument clean up at the Camden City Cemetery. Sydney has also participated in the "Benton County One Heart One Community" service day for the past two years. On this day, all community members come together and choose projects in the community to help their neighbors.

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Remy Green – Blount County Youth Honoree - Remington (Remy) Green serves as an academic mentor at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. He has served the MLK Center since Fall 2017 when he began his experience at Maryville College and his journey with the Bonner Scholars Program. Since he began, he has completed over five hundred service hours. He spends most of his time helping students with homework and overseeing enrichment programs involving sports, games, and other activities. In his service, Remy's main goals are to foster the academic and athletic abilities of the students he works with and help to show them what they are capable of. One of his favorite parts of serving with MLK is getting to fill a big brother role for many of the children that attend the after-school program. Remy is an excellent volunteer because he manages to see his time at MLK as so much more than service. He looks at the MLK Center as a home and looks at the workers and the children as his family.

Glenn Steakley – Cannon County Adult Honoree - Mr. Glenn Steakley, Director of the Cannon County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition has recognized the seriousness of substance abuse in the community and began to feel a calling to help. His many hours dedicated to research and talking with various organizations, led him to start the coalition. He hosts monthly meetings with guest speakers and programs, providing educational presentations and speaking engagements increasing awareness in the community. Mr. Steakley, through the coalition, organizes locations and days where unused medications are collected and safely dispose, and gives away prescription lock boxes to prevent medications from being misused. Mr. Steakley and the Cannon County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition coordinated Cannon County's first-ever "National Drug Take Back Day" event, partnering with the Woodbury Police Department, Woodbury Drug Center, and the Department of Justice. Mr. Steakley is very passionate in his mission to make the Cannon County community safer, healthier, and drug-free. Mr. Steakley also volunteers his time as a member of the Woodbury Lions Club, Cannon County Chamber of Commerce, EFSP Local Board, and UCHRA Advisory Board.

Elizabeth House – Cannon County Youth Honoree - Elizabeth House was the first student member and officer of the Cannon County Drug Coalition and Teen Ambassador for 2017-2018. She was one of the founding members of Cannon County's T4 (Tennessee Teens Talk Tobacco), a member of the Cannon County Health Council, and was the Healthy Living Ambassador for the Cannon County 4-H club. Her volunteer work with UT Extension helped to bring elementary health classes to the students in Cannon County that focused on nutrition, physical activity, and drug prevention. Her work with the Cannon County High School Health Council helped to bring awareness of the dangers of tobacco by coordinating a series of events focused on tobacco in every community. Elizabeth gathered donations for the Domestic Violence Center, the Nashville Rescue Mission, and our local thrift store whose profits fund our backpack food programs at our schools. Elizabeth was an active participant in the Cannon County Disaster Drills. She also works as a peer helper at Special Olympic events and provided healthy snacks for Special Olympic participants and staff as well as teachers on Teacher Appreciation Day.

John Sanders – Carroll County Adult Honoree - John Sanders John is willing to give both his time and his talents to several community events and organizations. He has the true volunteer spirit. John is involved in multiple organizations in Carroll County, and has been a member of the Huntingdon City Council for twenty-two years, making him the second-longest serving councilman. As a member of the council, he serves as the liaison to the Industrial Development Board for the Town of Huntingdon. He is a member of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, currently serving as its treasurer. Other groups he serves include Ducks Unlimited as president, Huntingdon FASA girls' softball as president, Huntingdon Alumni Association as a board member, Relay for Life, First Baptist Church, Never Quit Foundation as a board member, and Huntingdon Lions Club. He assists Relay for Life by cooking fish for the patrons.

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Emily Reeves – Carrol County Youth Honoree – Volunteering in the community is just a way of life for Emily Reeves. She volunteers at the Westport fire department fish fry, assists at the Clarksburg Christmas parade, and volunteers to do clean up at the city park. She is also volunteer at school in a variety of ways: She has cleaned the building during summer break; assisted teachers with numerous tasks, and helps with inventory, organize, and stock our school's food pantry and clothing closet. She is currently one of five students representing my school in the Youth Leadership Carroll County program sponsored by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Emily was selected by her classmates from Clarksburg High School to be nominated for this award. To be recognized by your peers is a true testament of the dedication Emily has to her community and Carroll County. She is a wonderful role model of a youth volunteer in Carroll County.

Shawn Witten – Carter County Adult Honoree - Shawn Witten the 2019 Tennessee Titans Coach of the Year, received a grant in the amount of \$2,000 from the Titans Foundation to benefit his football program. Coach Witten's selection also qualified him for the Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year award, honoring high school football coaches that display the integrity, achievement and leadership exemplified by the coach with the most wins in NFL history, Don Shula. Shawn Witten in 2016 was a Tri-Cities Dancing with The Stars STAR that benefits local charities in the East Tennessee area. He is an outstanding coach and at his time at Elizabethton, he has created a strong program that embodies many of the qualities that is celebrated in the NFL. Shawn gives his time to the Carter county community by assisting his bother Dallas Cowboy Star Jason Witten as he gives a free football camp to boys ages 7-18. Hundreds of boys attend these camps to not only better their athletic skills but to learn leadership and discipline. Shawn Witten serves Carter County with integrity.

Daxx Carr – Carter County Youth Honoree – Daxx is a 17-year-old Senior at University High School on the campus of East Tennessee State University. He has qualified for the TSSAA State Golf Championship twice in his high school career. When he is not playing golf, you will find him volunteering to help others in his community. At 7 years old he began volunteering to help animal shelters, and at 8 years old asked for cash donations and presented a check to a local animal shelter in need. He has also served as Community Service Coordinator for Wonder Images for 3 years. His duties include tracking, loading, and unloading all donations, as well as delivering to area organizations as needed. In 2019, Daxx participated in the CASA for Kids, Inc. Red Shoe Gala where he donated \$100 to the organization and received special recognition for wearing the Best “Red Shoes”. Each year he participates in numerous area charity golf tournaments. He believes that serving is the most important trait a leader can have.

Rilee Vest – Chester County Youth Honoree - Rilee Katherine Vest a senior at Chester County High School in Henderson, is involved in various clubs and organizations. Rilee attends the Sanford Baptist church where she is an active member and teacher at Sunday school classes. Rilee’s time spent is spent in service to our local community through the election office, helping with special needs basketball and softball, the soup kitchen, and West TN Healthcare. She has been involved with the election commission through volunteer work every year while in high school. She has worked this year brainstorming ways to keep the voting process safe with the COVID pandemic. She has helped students with special needs as the need arises to give them mentors and additional opportunities. Through her help with the local soup kitchen and helping special needs students, these opportunities also allow her to see how good she truly has it. Rilee has accumulated more than 400 hours of community service since her freshmen year of high school. She is an asset to our community and represents our student body with excellence.

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Roger Hansard – Claiborne County Adult Honoree - Roger Hansard has served Claiborne County for most of his life. As a volunteer, Roger has touched countless more in ways most could not or even would not think possible. In 2009 Roger took his service to his community to a new level when he, and his wife Judy, established R.E.C. Ministries to educate, elevate and evangelize in the communities of the Tri-State Area. Since its inception, R.E.C. Ministries has provided adult education and training by certified teachers in classes intended to help individuals overcome barriers that stand in the way of their success while opening doors for others. In 2011 R.E.C. Ministries turned another corner by opening a food pantry in 2011. Since its inception the food pantry has been able to serve Claiborne Countians with much needed nutritious, high quality food. Recently the food pantry reached a milestone by distributing over 49,000 pounds of food to over 1396 families in a single day. Given Roger's dedication to the individuals of Claiborne County and the pantry's financial partners, he can reach that goal.

Linda Lewanski - Cocke County Adult Honoree - Linda Lewanski has served as a volunteer for multiple non-profit organizations in Cocke County close to 20 years now. She has offered, selflessly, countless hours per year working with Keep Cocke County Beautiful. She has volunteered her time and efforts to assist multiple animal advocate groups. Linda has aided to secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants over the past two decades that has benefited this economically distressed county more than most would ever dream. Mrs. Lewanski greatly values the preservation of Cocke County's history, heritage and culture. She has volunteered many days over the years to arrange educational and preservation sessions through the local leadership program (Leadership Cocke County). As the county's Director of Tourism, Linda works tirelessly to maintain partnerships and friendships with the National Parks and Forests as well as state and regional groups that bring funding and marketing opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. Linda committed her personal time and resources over the course of two years to facilitate our first local Co-Starters program.

Lillith Moon – Cocke County Youth Honoree - Lillith (Lily) Moon has been volunteering her time at the Boys and Girls Club of Dumplin Valley for some time. Lily is patient, kind, and always the input needed when it comes to planning their calendar. Lily has been a Club member since she was seven and continues to grow as the club does. Lily's volunteer manager came to Newport in August and Lily was one of the first children to introduce herself and explain the club's routine. She patiently explains to children how to grasp concepts like multiplication, grammar, and addition. Typically, it is the student who's honored to go into the Junior volunteer program, but the organization was so honored to include such a responsible, level-headed young lady into this program. Boys and Girls Club of Dumplin Valley is beyond proud of Lily and know that if anyone deserves this recognition it is this Lily. Her volunteer manager's routine would be very bland without Lily's presence.

Howard Thompson – Coffee County Adult Honoree - Howard is the Commander of the Disabled American Veterans of Coffee County, Chapter 90. Currently he is the Quartermaster of our VFW Post 10904. He has served as a past Commander of our VFW Post, past Senior Vice Commander of American Legion Post 78 and Chairman of the Coffee County Veterans Association. He is a Grand Mason in the Masonic Lodge, past Master of Highland Lodge 214, and a member of Al Menah Shriners as well as staunch supporter of the of the Tullahoma Lions Club and Shriner's Children Hospital. Howard has participated directly in every public event hosted this year and last. This year, he was slated as the Master of Ceremonies for the Vietnam-Era Veterans Dinner and Vietnam-Era Veterans Vietnam-Era Veterans Honors Day and Fair, which we organize every March. The events this year have been postponed due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Since Howard could not open his store during the pandemic, he spent hours working on building educational displays signs for the Vietnam events. He is the Chairman of our Vietnam Veterans Advisory Committee, serves on the board of the Coffee County Veterans Association which

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coordinates all patriotic or veteran related programs in Coffee County including Patriots Day, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Loyalty Day, and raised many hundreds of dollars for the VFW in donations.

Shawn Aytes - Cumberland County Adult Honoree - Shawn Aytes has been with the Cumberland County Volunteer Fire Department for 15 years. He is currently the Captain at the Lake Tansi Volunteer Fire Station. He has volunteered many hours in his professional duties as a Cumberland County Volunteer Firefighter and District Captain of Cumberland County Fire/Rescue. His duties as District Captain include managing personnel, managing the fire station, and responsible for 2 apparatus'. Shawn also works with the Cumberland County Fire department's Fire Life Safety Educator teaching fire safety to the residents of his community. He has spent numerous hours of his personal time by participating in 489 of these teaching events in the last 3 ½ years. Through the Tennessee State Fire Marshall's "Get Alarmed Program," Shawn volunteers to install smoke alarms throughout Cumberland County and one of the alarms he personally installed ended up alerting the home owner during a fire event and saving this individual's life. This individual's saved life was number 301 of lives saved since the beginning of this very important program.

Wyatt Fairman – Cumberland County Youth Honoree - Wyatt has consistently been an enthusiastic supporter of his interests and surrounding community. He is an honors student who bring his natural inquisitiveness and gregariousness to the Cumberland County Election Commission. Wyatt recognized that the Cumberland County Election Commission needed more volunteers. He started volunteering for the election commission during the 2020 Tennessee primary season and has continued to volunteer to serve as voting machine operator. He explains COVID-19 regulations to voters, ensures the voting machines are in working order, and that individual ballots are recorded. Wyatt attempts to go beyond the call of duty in his volunteer work by helping people to understand as much as possible about the voting process. Wyatt views his role and those of others who volunteer at the election commission as having a direct impact on whether an individual will return in the future to cast a ballot. When asked about his experience as a volunteer, he recognizes that people need to heed the call to contribute to their community, but he is happy to do it.

Sherri Mitchell-Snider - Davidson County Adult Honoree - Sherri Mitchell-Snider is the co-director of Flashes of Hope, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating powerful, uplifting portraits of children fighting cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Sherri began her service role five years ago and works tirelessly as a liaison between Flashes of Hope, the Children's Hospital, local professional photographers, and the makeup artists to coordinate these photoshoots. Sherri's initiative and innovation, she has overseen the integration of Flashes of Hope as a regular, ongoing service at the hospital. Her impact has allowed Flashes of Hope to increase its capacity from hosting five to eight shoots a day to more than 12 for participating families. More than 600 families were able to enjoy these precious moments together over the past five years. Childhood cancer affects nearly 1 in 285 children in the U.S. Sherri, who has lost a child to cancer, uses her own experiences to comfort and connect with these families. Sherri offers compassion and understanding in a way only someone with her experience can.

Elizabeth Graham Pistole – Davidson County Youth Honoree – Elizabeth Graham Pistole is a young leader who has dedicated the better part of her adolescence to seeking equality and opportunity. Elizabeth had the awareness, compassion, and drive to recognize that these same opportunities were not being offered to her sister, who had down syndrome. At 15-years-old, she resolved to change that. Elizabeth and her mother founded "The Dancing Divas and Dudes." Under Elizabeth's leadership, the dance team grew by 500 percent in its second year and has continued to double year after year. Her organization's impact has been felt across the state, and now includes 28 dancers on multiple teams, and has expanded into Alabama in addition to Tennessee. She has been integral to

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creating the foundation and fostering growth. Elizabeth has spent the past five years creating sponsorship decks for The Dancing Divas, expanding its Board of Directors, creating volunteer strategy plans, development plans, establishing fundraisers, and has worked tirelessly to partner with like-minded organizations. In 2020, Elizabeth has already dedicated more than 800 hours volunteering as president managing her staff and volunteers.

Brooke Autry – Decatur County Adult Honoree - Brooke works as an RN Worker's Compensation Field Case Manager. She attends doctor visits with injured workers. Due to the COVID-19, the clinics started reducing the number of people allowed in the waiting rooms and exam rooms and eventually led to her company suspending all in-person visits. Brooke began watching the news and following the increasing numbers of COVID-19 closely and felt helpless. Many facilities were running low on PPE's (Personal Protection Equipment). She wanted to help protect the essential employee, so she decided she would make 100 masks and donate them to essential workers. She contacted her family and neighbors, and they helped cut fabric while she sewed the mask. She donated the mask to the local nursing homes and assisted living. Her goal of making 100 masks quickly turned into over 600 masks. She received many donations from others and kept sewing. Helping others is what nurses do, and she truly took it to heart and was proud to give back to her community that she loves.

Taylor Triplett – Dickson County Youth Honoree - Taylor is a senior at Dickson County High School. She began volunteering with her grandmother at a very young age and gradually became more involved in taking on her own projects. Through numerous service hours and projects, she has learned the value of commitment. Through Youth Leadership (a collaboration between Dickson County Schools and 4-H), Taylor was involved with the 'Red Sand' project designed to bring awareness to human trafficking. Taylor and other students poured red sand in sidewalk cracks in downtown Dickson to symbolize those who have 'fallen through the cracks' in society. As a part of these organizations, she has participated in numerous canned food drives, clothing drives and multiple bake sales. Outside of school, Taylor is an active member of her youth group at Pond Church of Christ where she has more opportunities to volunteer to help others. She rakes leaves for shut-ins and assists with the monthly 'Neighbors Feeding Neighbors' which provides free lunches to the community.

Melissa Lowery – Dyer County Adult Honoree - Melissa Lowery has been involved with the 4-H program since her daughter joined 4-H four years ago as a 4th grader at a School in Dyersburg, TN. Since that time Melissa has volunteered numerous hours to help the 4-H youth in Dyer County. Melissa volunteered to attend junior 4-H camp two years at the Ridley 4-H Center in Columbia, TN. Melissa has also been an asset to those who have been involved in the livestock and horse judging teams. Along with giving back to the Dyer County 4-H program, Melissa has also given back to programs in our community. She has been active in assisting with our county Agriculture Day for all county 5th grade students. Melissa has also given hundreds of hours to the Dyer County Junior Livestock Association and the annual Dyer County Fair. The youth would have not been able to attend camp, judging team contests, or other events that were held in the county without her help.

Lily Cravens – Dyer County Youth Honoree - Lily Cravens has been a member of the Dyer County 4-H Program for seven years. She was chosen to attend 4-H Congress and was a finalist for State 4-H Round-Up in her project work. Through 4-H, she donated her time and money to collect funds and canned goods for the Dyer County/Dyersburg Animal Shelter. She has volunteered to help teach in after school programs in Dyer County through the KEYS program, assisted the 4-H program during their annual volunteer, has given back to senior citizens back by visiting them and reading to them, and started a hygiene closet at her middle school to assist students who may not have the funds to purchase items. At the 4-H Contest Day, she volunteered to be a team member with students who did not have a partner for the 4-H Lego and 4-H Cupcake Contests. She organized and

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worked as a volunteer for younger students at a trivia night. Lily has been an asset to the 4-H program and Dyer County by giving her time to assist and help.

Lee and Karen Little – Fentress County Adult Honorees - Lee and Karen Little live by the philosophy that they may not be able to change the world, but they can help change that little part around them. A few years after starting teaching, Lee was asked to serve on the Fentress County Soil Conservation Board, which he enjoyed doing for 18+ years. He also served on the Fentress County Cooperative Board of Directors for 20+ years. Lee was elected to serve 2 terms as Fentress County Commissioner and Karen served on the Fentress County E911 Board for 18+ years. Lee has volunteered to serve on the Fentress County Fair Board of Directors for several years. Currently, Lee and Karen both serve on the Fentress County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. After Lee retired from teaching, he volunteered as a welding instructor at Clarkrange High School. Lee and Karen Little have committed a lifetime of service to the students and citizens of Fentress County.

Seth Vaughn – Fentress County Youth Honoree - Seth Vaughn has been an active member of his community. Seth has volunteered through various organizations including Tennessee FCCLA and Clarkrange FCCLA, the Fentress County Hope Foundation, Clarkrange FBLA, and the Fentress County Fair Association. At the local level, Seth volunteered to work with the EAP (Employee Appreciation Program), Head Start, and Operation Christmas Child. While Seth served as a State Officer, he was chosen to help lead a fundraiser campaign benefiting Monroe Carell Junior Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt and raised thousands of dollars to benefit the hospital. Through FCCLA, Seth was also able to travel to Washington D.C. and represent Tennessee FCCLA while advocating for Perkins Funding to District Representatives. Seth also volunteered as a member of the Fentress County Junior Fair Board and spent time assisting with various fair activities/events. He has also volunteered to assist at events for the Fentress County Hope Foundation, including their annual Easter Egg Hunt and the RAM Clinic.

Donna Stansberry – Grainger County Adult Honoree - As Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Grainger County Chamber of Commerce, Donna has spent countless volunteer hours coordinating events and other activities. Over the past year, Donna coordinated and assisted with all of the monthly board meetings, local business open houses and ribbon cuttings, the “Shop Local” small business expo, and the Grainger County Welcome Center grand opening. Within the past six months, Donna has acted as Tourism Director, promoting Grainger County. In addition, Donna assisted the Grainger County Mayor in writing a grant for the Historic Grainger County Welcome Center. After the grant was awarded, Donna coordinated meetings to ensure the project successfully promoted tourism in our county. Donna also coordinated Grainger County’s Tourism COVID-19 fund relief program to ensure Grainger County receives all funding available to assist with our tourism revenue shortfall. Donna is a volunteer member of Grainger County Industrial Board, Joint Economic Community Development Board, and the Three Star program. Donna also serves as a Sunday school teacher and Director of WMU ministry at her church.

Tanner Keck – Grainger County Youth Honoree - Tanner Keck is an active volunteer in Grainger County through the Greater Smoky Mountain Council and his school. Tanner is currently enrolled at Walters State Community College, where he is an active member of the Debate Team and the Adventurer’s Club, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Tanner is a 2020 graduate of Grainger High School where he was a member of the Beta Club, Golf Team, Future Business Leaders of America, Skills USA, and TVA Co-op Program. Tanner is also a member of the First United Methodist Church Morristown Youth Club and a former member of the church’s Youth Revelation Choir. He is currently an active member at Barnard’s Grove Baptist Church. Tanner is a member of Boy Scouts of America - 2019 Eagle Scout, as well as the Order of the Arrow and the National Eagle Scout Association. As an

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Eagle Scout, Tanner earned 50 merit badges and served in many leadership roles. He coordinated and constructed an outdoor pavilion for First Methodist Church Morristown as one of his scout projects.

Danny Ricker – Greene County Adult Honoree - Danny has spent 13 years as a volunteer chaplain with the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP), Greeneville Police Department, Greeneville Fire Department, Greene County EMS, Greene County Sheriff Department, Greene County 911, Emergency Management Agency, and the Greene County Volunteer Fire Departments. This volunteer career path started with a request from the THP asking for assistance with death notifications. Danny's early work with THP set him on a path of providing spiritual and emotional support to the officers, which eventually turned the notification position into an officer support program and statewide training program for THP chaplains. Feeling the desire to do more, Danny started the Emergency Chaplains in 2014. These volunteers are able to respond 24 hours a day in support of emergency responders as well as victims of any emergency. To serve "his" responders, Danny is paged out to all structure fires and is often on the scene of large motor vehicle accidents and search and rescue operations. His goal is to provide moral and spiritual support to the responders before, during, and after the incidents.

Lauren Madison Ratliff – Greene County Youth Honoree - Lauren Madison Ratliff "Maddie" is a 16-year-old Junior at Greeneville High School. When Maddie was 8, her mom had cancer. While her mom was recovering from surgery and radiation, she had reached out to the American Cancer Society, who provided support and fitted her with a new wig—for free. The next Spring, when Maddie's mom was in remission, she organized her first team for the Relay for Life in Greene County. Maddie was young, but she knew that she wanted to help. For her first fundraiser, she made bracelets and sold them for \$1. Since then, Maddie has raised money or awareness for many organizations throughout East Tennessee. Through the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization, Maddie developed a platform called "Make an Impact." This platform encourages teenagers to get excited about volunteering and guides them to many service opportunities throughout their community and East Tennessee. COVID-19 has taken a toll on Maddie's volunteering experiences; however, she has been able to volunteer in some appropriate social-distancing settings.

Samantha "Sam" Dykes - Grundy County Adult Honoree – Every day Sam sends a text of encouragement to every contact in her phone. Sam is an ENCOURAGER! She works tirelessly at her church. She co-leads a preteen girls bible study. She volunteers for EVERY vacation bible school. Sam is a MENTOR! Sam's church has a bus ministry that picks up children and brings them to church. Sam rides with another driver and records when a child gets on and gets off. She keeps the records organized for the church leadership. Sam is an ORGANIZER! Outside of church, she helps with the annual Lions Club golf tournament, Grundy County football concession stand, St. Jude Softball Tournament, the annual Fannie Moffit Stomp, and many more events. Sam helps an elderly woman with cleaning and putting up Christmas decorations. She also helps her Dad on the farm and takes care of her nephews. Sadly, this award is a posthumous honor. The love and help that Sam gave to her community were graciously given back to her family through an online fundraiser that fully funded her beautiful funeral and headstone. We invite you ALL to #shinelikesam.

William Isom, Sr. - Hamblen County Adult Honoree - William Isom fulfills a much-needed service as a volunteer driver for both Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority's Community Connect Program and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Morristown Chapter 59. He has been a volunteer with Douglas-Cherokee since July 2019, and he has volunteered with the DAV for nearly 5 years. While volunteering with the DAV, he noticed that local veterans struggled to find transportation to the Morristown Veterans Administration Clinic in order to catch the provided transportation to the regional Mountain Home Veterans Administration Hospital in Johnson City. He

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researched resources and discovered the Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority's free transportation program for seniors and people with disabilities, Community Connect. Mr. Isom called Douglas-Cherokee to see if they could work with DAV to use the Community Connect program to fill the transportation gap for area veterans. Because of Mr. Isom's impact, area veterans now have transportation when they need to go the VA clinic and hospital. Mr. Isom saw a need in our community and found a way to help area veterans. He volunteered to become a driver for Community Connect as well.

Lukas Wilkerson – Hamblen County Youth Honoree - Lukas Wilkerson has known since the first grade that he wanted to earn his Eagle Scout badge with Boy Scout Troop 91; and when he needed to choose a project that made a lasting impact on his community, he knew which organization to call. He knew MATS helped the community, and he wanted to help them with their new building on Main Street. Lukas's project consisted of several pieces--he landscaped around the facility, mailbox, and sign; set up a pergola on the back porch; installed a flag pole; built a water hose holder and purchased a new hose; built a bench for clients to use as they wait for their intake; stained the playground and patio fence; built a panel to hide the HVAC unit, and designed a beautiful prayer garden. Lukas planned the entire project, raised the funds, and pulled a crew together to help him complete the project. His hope was that these areas would provide shade and shelter for the residents as well as passersby who need a spot to rest and cool off.

Alan Johnson - Hamilton County Adult Honoree - Anyone who enjoys the exceptional mountain bike trails at Enterprise South Nature Park owes many thanks to Alan Johnson. Alan has volunteered over 1200 hours since the park opened in 2011. He championed the inclusion of 10 miles of mountain bike trails and has been dedicated to the growth of the local mountain biking community. His diligence in trail maintenance has ensured the quality of the trails inside the park. Alan's mission is to improve the park trails to reduce risk and increase the enjoyment of all users. He contributes to monthly trail maintenance, organizes volunteer workdays, conducts trail maintenance education, assists with design and construction, promotes and fosters respect for the environment, and educates all users in safe trail use. Alan organizes trail work events throughout the year to give the trails the love they need and to build an involved community of bikers. In addition, Alan has organized a nonprofit Friends-of-the-Parks group to ensure continued volunteer and financial support for all Hamilton County Parks.

Alex Brumley – Hamilton County Youth Honoree - The Chattanooga Community Kitchen works to "meet the most basic needs of hungry, homeless and vulnerable people in the community while offering a clear path to self-sufficiency. Its no-questions-asked meal program is open to the public and serves meals 365 days a year." Alex is a volunteer motivated by love and compassion. The switch to online learning in March 2020 was challenging for her because she could not socialize with her peers and spread joy. At the Chattanooga Community Kitchen, some of the staff noticed an overabundance of baking mixes that they weren't able to put to good use. Alex began using the mixes to bake on a weekly basis. Since March, the Community Kitchen has been serving three daily meals in to-go boxes. Alex's homemade desserts are a wonderful treat to include in the box. Alex has used this opportunity to express herself creatively, spread joy, and learn new baking techniques. Each week the staff looks forward to seeing what she's created, and participants ask with excitement what it is and if it will be included in lunch!

Alice Barlow - Jackson County Adult Honoree - When a volunteer job needs to be done in Jackson County, the first name that comes to mind is Alice Barlow. Whether she is leading the Chamber as Vice President or single-handedly moving the Chamber offices, no job is too big or too small for her. If ads need to be sold or donations raised to support organizations like the Rescue Squad, Alice is there. She is a member of numerous boards that support the community. Currently, Alice is on the Port Authority Board, the Community and Economic

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Development Board, and the County Innovations Team. She keeps the minutes at the American Legion meetings and does much of the work required to put on the county's Annual Poke Sallet Festival. Alice is a faithful member of the Historical Society and participates in many volunteer programs at her church. She has organized the county's Annual Christmas Parade for years. Alice embodies the spirit of the Volunteer State, and Jackson County is proud to present her as our Volunteer of the Year.

Zachary Pennington – Jackson County Youth Honoree - Zachary Pennington is an important partner and volunteer in our small community of Gainesboro. Our small town has its struggles, but many in the community are working to bring prosperity back. The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce approached Zachary about creating a short video about the town and its history. Without any question, he accepted and did a fantastic job in his portrayal of the community. What many didn't realize was that Zachary had been doing small things like this for many years. A couple of years ago, Zachary was upset with the way our town was deteriorating, so he created a historical video. He walked around the square and interviewed older residents. At school, he creates videos that capture all of the amazing times, such as prom, homecoming, and graduation. He is also the entire sound and video department for Jackson County High School. Zachary Pennington is a young man who does what he does, not for personal recognition, but because he loves his hometown. He is most deserving of this recognition.

Rae Hutchins - Jefferson County Adult Honoree - Rae Hutchins has faithfully served the town of Dandridge for several years. She has helped with many events, primarily Music on the Town. Music on the Town takes place over seven weeks with performances every Thursday evening in September and October. This weekly concert brings artists from across the region to perform and experience the beauty of East Tennessee and the charm of our town. Although the decision was made not to host this festival in 2020, Rae has coordinated the event for the past eight years. She has grown Music on the Town from a small, local gathering into a regional tourism event. Rae researches and books entertainers, raises the money to host the event, plans and executes all marketing, and produces Music on the Town. Even though admission to the event is free, the money spent by the 1,200 spectators before, after, and during each show contributes to the local economy. The pride that Rae takes in her work and her town is influential in the continued economic and cultural growth of Dandridge.

Mackenzie Lewis – Jefferson County Youth Honoree - Mackenzie Lewis is one of the top volunteers in Jefferson County High School's service-learning class. Mackenzie's project was to revive the school newsletter and put out the first issue in September. This task was important because over 500 students were doing virtual learning, staff and students with different political views felt at odds over mask wearing, and everyone felt disconnected after the long separation. Mackenzie reached out to every department in the school for content. She added new sections to display artwork and added a community outreach section to provide information about local resources. Each month the newsletter is posted on the school website, shared with the county newspaper, and emailed to several thousand people. Her efforts are helping the students and community feel connected and up to date. Recently, Mackenzie started filming short news videos for her school's social media platforms. These weekly videos create awareness about important student and community events. Mackenzie is also writing a newspaper article to promote a Senior Citizen Drive In event that she and her peers are hosting.

Evelyn Cook - Johnson County Adult Honoree - Evelyn Cook works tirelessly to improve her community, create opportunities, and serve others. Evelyn currently serves with Johnson County Center for the Arts. In addition, she serves on the Junior Appalachian Musicians (JAM) Board of Directors, the Heritage Square Board, and volunteers with Barter Theater and Heritage Square, an organization that came to life after she saw the need in our community. Evelyn also co-chairs the Long Journey Home Committee, which instills pride in our community and

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brings to light the nearly forgotten story of Johnson County's musical heritage. Evelyn has been the inspiration behind the Johnson County Center for the Arts and has worked nonstop since 2016 to enhance access to the arts in Johnson County. Evelyn serves as President of the Center for the Arts' board of directors. She plays a major role in fundraising and serves as a spokesperson for the Center and its projects. She is wholeheartedly committed to the mission of the Center for the Arts and works to address our community's need to become more connected and resilient through the arts.

Stacy Greer – Johnson County Youth Honoree – Stacy Greer, a senior at Johnson County High School, is not only an outstanding student but also an exceptional athlete. As a member of the football and baseball teams, he encourages his teammates through his dedication and sportsmanship. His strong character, respect for others, and genuineness make him a role model among his peers and community youth. Stacy attends First Christian Church where he plays music for the weekly worship services, assists with maintenance, serves in their food pantry, and is an active member of the youth group helping with service projects. During his free time, Stacy helps elderly residents in his community by mowing and landscaping yards, pressure washing homes, and working on other home-improvement projects. As a Youth Board Member of the ACTION Coalition in 2020, Stacy worked to develop and implement youth programming with a focus on drug and alcohol resistance. Stacy truly embodies the volunteer spirit that Tennesseans are known for.

Stella Barrett - Knox County Adult Honoree - Stella Barrett is a tremendous asset to CASA of East Tennessee and the children she serves. Even though her cases have, at times, been very difficult and trying, she works with all parties and children to reach an outcome that serves the best interest of the children. Stella was assigned her first case just after she was sworn in as an advocate and continues on this case 18 months later. The case is complex and was ongoing with CASA before Stella took over. From the start, Stella met with the children and all the involved parties. During the ongoing COVID pandemic, Stella meets with the children outdoors to maintain social distancing and safety precautions. Thus, she is able to see the children without risk to either herself or the children/family. Stella exemplifies the most desirable traits of a great CASA advocate. She is honest, fair, and willing to listen. She is not afraid of hard questions. CASA of East TN is honored that Stella chooses to give her time to our organization and the children of Knox County.

Anastasia Dunn - Knox County Adult Honoree - Anastasia (Anya) Dunn has served at East Tennessee Children's Hospital (ETCH) since June 2019. She splits her time between being a Child Life Intern in inpatient surgery as well as assisting in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. In this service, Anya's main goals are to assist medical staff in meeting the non-medical needs of both patients and families, physically and emotionally, so that they can receive the best care possible, regardless of race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status. Anya spends 8 hours/week at ETCH. Her presence helps soothe the anxiety of families who are in a strange environment, often worried about their little ones. Her warmth with children wins immediate trust, and her kindness can ease a child's fear or loneliness. The simple acts of playing with or reading to a child and cuddling newborns helps hasten the healing process. In the last three years, Anya has also volunteered at Carpenters Elementary School, Blount Memorial Pediatric Rehabilitation, and Birth-2-Three. Her skills with and commitment to children have formed in her a desire to work in pediatric oncology.

Colbie Niswander – Lawrence County Adult Honoree - Colbie Niswander and her husband, Matt were foster parents for four years and are blessed with three adopted sons who came to their home as infants: Jake, 10; Luke, 6; and Caleb, 4. Colbie and Matt enjoy coaching youth sports teams and are active in their church. As a foster parent, Colbie saw how substance use disorder affects children. As a medical professional, she sees the devastation

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it creates. As a farmer, she was one of 15 women across the country selected for leadership and media communications training through the American Farm Bureau Federation. In 2018, the Niswanders were panelists speaking on the Opioid Epidemic in Rural America at Farm Bureau conferences in St. George, Utah; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Colbie's awareness, experience, knowledge and training make her a powerful volunteer for the Lawrence County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (LCSAP). Her association with the Coalition began in June 2018 when the Niswanders spoke at a town hall meeting about opioid abuse. She has been involved in many other LCSAP projects but is a key volunteer working with its new Drug Endangered Children's Coordinator.

Haiven Potts – Lawrence County Youth Honoree - 14-year-old Haiven Anna-Claire Potts has had a passion to serve others from a young age. At five years old, she began volunteering with her mother for Lawrence County's domestic violence shelter - raising money, working at 5Ks, canned goods collections and other events. She has also served on many occasions at the Nashville Rescue Mission. Since accepting Christ she has been heavily involved in her church's work. She has been on three mission trips and three week-long youth camps that serve communities wherever those camps are held. Local projects include visiting nursing homes to sing Christmas carols, pass out cards, and spend time with patients. "My whole life, especially since I have been saved, I have always loved to love on others, help people in need, and be involved however that may be," Haiven says. "Being involved in my church has allowed me to give back to my community in more ways than I can count."

Annette Peery – Lewis County Adult Honoree - Ms. Annette Peery is a Founding member and still active of The Pilot Club. She is a Founding member and still active of The Lewis County Historical Society (has served as a past President). She serves the Lewis County Museum on its executive team, volunteers operational hours and has worked many projects in the museum and its outdoor Discovery Center. Whenever there is a need in our community, everyone knows they can call on Ms. Annette. She delivers meals to shut-ins each week. But most recently, during the Covid shutdown, our local nursing home had to be locked down from outside visitors. When Ms. Annette saw that one of the biggest needs was with our largest vulnerable population, she gathered others and has visited the windows of the local nursing home to cheer up the residents on a weekly basis! She has been a dedicated lifelong volunteer for the City of Hohenwald, meeting the small to large needs of our community, and everything in between.

Melanie Kelso – Lincoln County Adult Honoree - Melanie Kelso is a local teacher who is deeply involved with volunteering for literacy education. Melanie has been active in the Little Free Library for four years and is a national steward to two Lincoln County Little Free Libraries. These libraries have been a lifeline for many citizens during the COVID 19 pandemic. Melanie is also a founding mentor for the TN Promise Mentor Program for Lincoln County. In the past seven years, she has assisted more than 100 Lincoln County students who were working toward their associate's degree from Motlow College. She is in contact with her mentees weekly to help them find tutors, register for classes, or answer any questions about their degree requirements. She has served on the Imagination Library Board for Lincoln County and hosts a Literacy Night at her school each year. Melanie is also a Scholastic Red Apple Teacher. Scholastics Books gives this title to teachers who go above and beyond to promote early reading skills and a love of reading.

Harold Canada – Lincoln County Youth Honoree - Harold Canada is an active volunteer in Lincoln County. As a member of the Student Advisory Board (SAB) of the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau, Harold helped plan the annual fundraising golf tournament. He also organized teams to coordinate two chamber events that brought hundreds of visitors into the community. These two events, Host of

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Christmas Past and Slawburger Festival, are two of the best days for shopkeepers and local nonprofits in their quest for annual income and funds for activities that benefit the community. Harold's work on these events was essential to a successful outcome. For his efforts, he was recognized as the best volunteer in the SAB and was awarded a scholarship. From June through January, Harold worked approximately 400 hours as a volunteer in the office of the Lincoln County Mayor, while also volunteering with the chamber and working part-time. Harold was the person citizens spoke to when they called the mayor's office with questions and requests. He assisted office staff with anything they needed and greeted visitors with a welcoming smile and a helpful attitude.

Tom Christman - Loudon County Adult Honoree - Tom Christman goes above and beyond in his service to Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding, dedicating his time up to seven days a week for more than 20 years. He believes in Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding's mission of Healing Through Horses, fostering personal achievement by providing therapeutic experiences using horse-related activities for persons with disabilities or other special challenges. An engineer by trade, Mr. Christman has revolutionized the way the organization is able to cut, bale, and store their hay making it possible for the academy to be more self-sustaining, which is an invaluable asset. He's donated farm equipment to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Tom is also a community advocate, recruiting countless community members to whom he "sold the dream." He's seen first-hand the miracles Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding volunteers witness in their programs and does his best to make sure the surrounding community knows about them. There's no dollar amount that can put on Tom's service. The organization and community say a sincere THANK YOU!

Caroline Taylor – Loudon County Youth Honoree - Caroline Taylor is a student at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and has dedicated her free time to volunteering at Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding in Lenoir City for the past two years. Ms. Taylor volunteers in the Academy's Therapeutic Riding classes, helping both children and adults with disabilities prepare, ready their horses, then safely ride their horses in mounted lessons. Caroline spends many hours in the barn, working with both the horses and the participants. She has moved up the volunteer ranks and was recently recognized as an outstanding leader in both the classes and as a barn helper. Caroline can be called upon at a moment's notice. She never hesitates to jump in and lend a hand. She is unfailingly kind to each person she interacts with at Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding and truly sets an example for the STRIDES (Safety, Trust, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, Excellence, Sensitivity) to Success model for volunteers.

Allison Shipp – Madison County Adult Honoree – Dr. Allison Shipp became very concerned at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic about neighbors who were uncomfortable venturing out for needed supplies. Allison applied for and received the Starling Grant from #GivingTuesday which provided funds to coordinate the construction, painting, and installation of several outdoor cabinets in public places, stocked with food items, toiletries, and baby supplies. There are currently nine of these Blessing Boxes in Madison County with more to come. Items are anonymously donated and received. A simple rule applies – take what you need and bring what you can. Madison County Commissioner Jeff Wall says "Dr. Shipp has been a blessing to our community. Her compassion and enthusiasm has infected us all in a way I've never seen before and through social media, allows the boxes to stay full of needed supplies. She is the prime definition of a Tennessee Volunteer." The plan will last even after the COVID-19 pandemic ends, as the boxes are simply to help anyone who is in need.

Kendarius Dupree – Madison County Youth Honoree – Kendarius Dupree has always understood the importance of serving and blessing the lives of others. During high school, Kendarius served for over 1,000 hours within the community. His art can be seen throughout the city. His cartoons grace the classroom doors at Lincoln Elementary,

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and his painting in the high school stairwell highlights the art department hallway. His painted scenes decorate the walls of a local church and his pictures delighted children at Vacation Bible School. Kendarius helped create two pieces of art at the local Juvenile Detention Center to cheer residents and has made art for those at a local assisted-living home to let them know they're special. Not only does Mr. Dupree serve through art, but also through effort with local canned food and clothing drives as well as mentoring at summer day camps. His talent has now taken him to the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art in Dover, New Jersey where he hopes to continue his service through art.

David Delk – Marshall County Adult Honoree – A veteran of Tennessee's Army National Guard, David Delk serves his community in many ways. At work, David is a Senior Vice President at First Commerce Bank which has a tradition of community service. In his off hours, David serves on the board of the Marshall Education Foundation as a founder of Junior Leadership Marshall helping high school seniors learn about business, industry, and government. Mr. Delk is also a member of the Chapel Hill Lions Club and a key organizer for the annual golf tournament that benefits both the Lions Club and A Soldier's Child Foundation which serves children of military personnel who have lost their lives in active duty. Upon the death of a personal friend, U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Mark Golczynski who lost his life in combat and left a 9 year old son, David began work with A Soldier's Child not only fundraising, but also as a mentor and program advisor, coordinating hunting and fishing outings, and serving on the Annual Dinner Banquet Committee and the Annual ASC Golf Scramble Committee.

Chelsea Jade Hargrove – Marshall County Youth Honoree – Miss Lewisburg 2019, Chelsea Hargrove, is a senior at Marshall County High School where she serves with the National Honors Society, FCA, and as a Sub-Deb Sorority board member. Chelsea has been an active volunteer for many years working with Hopetown, the Pregnancy Resource Center, Cops for Kids, and Marshall County Head Start. For the last 5 years, Chelsea has worked with a local Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society fundraising team Lippsmackers which has raised over \$100,000.00 and hosts support group sessions for people who have been diagnosed or are caring for someone with MS. She has raised funds, collected donations, and helped serve meals for Hopetown. She has helped gather and deliver items for the Pregnancy Resource Center. Chelsea had the pleasure of assisting in the Cop for Kids Christmas event, and has enjoyed spending time with youth groups such as the students of Marshall County Head Start. Even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Chelsea has been able to support her community in virtual events and by helping raise awareness and funds through social platforms.

Diana White – McMinn County Youth Honoree - Diana is a senior who has been involved with various organizations and in the process, has volunteered her time to worthwhile activities at the high school and within the community. Diana is not only a compassionate and caring individual, but also a high achieving student. Diana has been involved with several different clubs, activities, and local programs throughout her high school years, while maintaining a rigorous course load and a weighted GPA of 4.35. She has served her community, outside of school, through community service in the following ways: helping with clean up and recycling at her high school, reading to elementary school students at the local farmer's market, yearly Math Fest for elementary school students, Yearly Haunted Hallways, Angel Tree, an activity organized by J-Teen which provides Christmas to students in need in our community. Diana is always dependable, and she is a fantastic leader.

Shawn Pitts – McNairy County Adult Honoree - Dr. Shawn Pitts has served on the boards of Humanities Tennessee, Tennessee Arts Commission, and the Tennessee Folklore Society where he served as president. He is a Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary International, he also served as president of the Selmer Tennessee Rotary Club. Shawn also served on the boards of the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce and the Selmer Industrial

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Development Board. In 2001, Shawn and his wife Joanna founded Arts in McNairy (AiM) believing that participation in the arts is a cornerstone for the development of a healthy community. AiM has demonstrated this principle through its arts programs, concerts, performances, cultural festivals, workshops, public art installations, exhibits, and in-depth exploration of McNairy County's rich cultural heritage. AiM's rural community theatre program is active and diverse, recognized at the local, state, and national level for excellence in rural arts development and planning. Shawn has organized, sponsored, volunteered, and performed at musical events in West Tennessee and North Mississippi. He has also spearheaded the McNairy County Music Hall of Fame inductions and tribute concert.

John Huff – McNairy County Youth Honoree - John Huff is a junior at McNairy Central High School where he has volunteered with the MCHS Bobcat Marching Band and civic organizations. John has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America since 2011 and is a member of the McNairy County Youth Leadership Class, 2021. For his Eagle Scout project, John built and installed eight Literacy Libraries in African American and Hispanic populated neighborhoods in Selmer, giving children access to high-quality books and school supplies. This project involved book and supply drives, as well as working with partner organizations including the McNairy County Health Department, Mary Lou Johnson Foundation, United Way of West Tennessee, McNairy County Libraries, Arts in McNairy, Selmer Parks and Recreation, Caterpillar Community Outreach Group, McNairy County Tourism, Selmer Utilities, and the Pickwick Electric Cooperative. In March, John's project was named the 2020 Community Enhancement Project of the Year at the McNairy County EDC and Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. Since completion of the project more citizens have become involved and Literacy Libraries are going up around the county.

Brenda Harris - Monroe County Adult Honoree - Brenda Harris serves many different nonprofit and community organizations throughout her community including the Monroe County Animal Shelter through the Monroe County Friends of Animals, a volunteer-led organization which provides shelter, food, care, adoption, and health services to stray dogs and cats. Brenda has been volunteering with Monroe County Animal Shelter for more than two years. As a retired nurse, she primarily assists with animal intake in the shelter, ensuring that all of the animals receive the correct care they need. The volunteer work she performs benefits more than just the animals in the shelter. She is also improving her community and its public health by helping to reduce the number of stray, unwanted, and abandoned animals in Monroe County. Brenda is an outstanding volunteer for many reasons, but perhaps most of all because each day she looks for a way to give back a little bit more than the day before.

Lydia Self – Monroe County Youth Honoree - Lydia Self has been involved in the Monroe County 4-H program since she was in the 4th grade, “learning by doing” through hands-on activities and community involvement while developing and strengthening life skills. Lydia currently serves as President of the Monroe County 4-H Honor Club which provides recognition of junior high 4-H members who have demonstrated consistent leadership ability and have been active members in their clubs and communities. 4-H Honor Club membership is granted to those 4-H'ers who have shown exceptional 4-H project work and a willingness to share what they have learned with other 4-H'ers as a junior or teen leader. Lydia leads the monthly meetings, was a member of 4-H Congress, and in 2019 was selected as a Senator. Additionally, Lydia has volunteered at numerous 4-H events, including Public Speaking, Animal Shows, and Clover Bowl. Some examples of her service projects include donating shoes, reading to youth at the Madisonville Headstart, writing letters to local service members for Veteran's Day, and picking up trash at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

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Karen Morrow – Montgomery County Adult Honoree - Karen Morrow has devoted seven years to the Montgomery County Imagination Library board. This year, due to shortfalls related to COVID-19, Karen took the lead to secure grants, reach out to businesses and media, and inspire other board members to step up to find the needed funding to keep the program for literacy growth going for the 8,500 children in the community. Through her efforts and the media coverage many people were motivated to give well beyond the requested amount to fund the program through the end of the calendar year. The Montgomery County Imagination Library Program is now positioned to promote childhood literacy for at least the next five months. Because of Karen's selfless hard work, the children in Montgomery County will not have to skip a beat in their access to these vital books.

Randy Hickerson - Perry County Adult Honoree - Randy is known for helping people, especially when it comes to benefits. If Randy knows someone with health issues, loss of home, any loss that caused major financial stress, he gets a benefit together to help them out. He is always looking out for others. If donations are needed, Randy is out there talking to people and getting those donations himself. He has said, "I will help with all the benefits as long as I can and as long as I'm able." During the holidays, Randy checks on people that he knows are alone or elderly to make sure they are doing okay and brings them a hot home cooked meal. He's also known to take people that need a ride to their doctor's appointments. Randy has performed and participated in the Perry County Hee Haw Show for over 20 years. They raised money for different charities including cancer, heart fund, and others. He always helps with the Coon Hunters Club fish fries, helping cook. He's not a member, just enjoys helping. Randy makes sure that his family is always taken care of as well.

Brexton Litle – Perry County Youth Honoree -Brexton is a hard worker and has volunteered many hours to help others. He has worked at several of the community benefits and is always willing to lend a hand to others. He has volunteered countless hours for Area 31 Special Olympics. He has also worked to raise money and awareness to Special Olympics. Brexton has participated in the Perry County High School (PCHS) Future Farmers of America (FFA) organization throughout his 4 years at high school. He is currently the President for the 2020-2021 school year. He loves the FFA organization and has enjoyed volunteering at all the events including the Tractor Show/Pull, Children's Easter Egg Hunt, and the Santa Program. He has participated at local, state and national events. He is an active member of the Tom's Creek Baptist Church Youth Group where he has helped with many activities including Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes, changing the church signage and helping with Vacation Bible School.

Ella McGugin – Putnam County Youth Honoree - Just before 2 a.m. on March 3rd, a violent EF-4 tornado touched down in Putnam County leaving a wide path of destruction. Nineteen people in the county died that night, including five children. It was a devastating time. The day after the tragedy, Venturing Crew 170 of Algood, Tennessee, did what others in the "Volunteer State" immediately felt called to do, serving meals and collecting food, cleaning supplies, clothing, and water to hand out to those in need in addition to cleaning up the damage. Led by Crew president Ella McGugin, a student at Cookeville High School, the Crew asked the county's mayor to approve construction of 19 crosses adorned with angel wings, hearts and photos of those who died that would be placed on the courthouse lawn. Ella led the project, recruiting local businesses and BSA Troops 20 and 2319 to help create and set up the display the wooden memorials provided a place for people to mourn and pray for 19 days amidst the destruction.

Kent Stephens – Roane County Adult Honoree - Kent Stephens is a Roane County native, an on-air personality for WIVK 107.7, and serves on the Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC) Board of Directors. Kent has worked for WIVK since 2003 and has generously served as a moderator for numerous RCADC events including:

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Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking, as well as the RCADC 15-year anniversary celebration which took place in December of 2019. Kent is active in the East Tennessee recovery community and volunteers at Cornerstone of Recovery as a mentor to clients and their families in treatment for alcoholism and substance use disorders. He was a four-term president of Cornerstone's Alumni Association and serves on the Board of Directors for Susannah's House as well as Hope of East Tennessee. Kent is a graduate of Leadership Roane County, class of 2018, a program that seeks to develop informed leaders who will support positive growth of the county.

Tom Tozer - Rutherford County Adult Honoree – For nine years, Tom Tozer has served as Chairman of the Board for Mindful Care, a Rutherford County organization that provides daily mental and physical exercise and fellowship for the county's 3,000 residents with dementia. Tom runs monthly meetings, attends community events, recruits members, and secures funding and grants. Additionally, during the COVID-19 crisis, Tom assumed the responsibilities of executive director, hiring new program assistants, writing governmental paperwork, and purchasing new printers and chairs best suited to participant's physical needs. When Mindful Care had to close temporarily, Tom created Sonic Picnics, in-car events at local Sonics where participants and caregivers ordered lunch and waved to each other, staff, board members, and volunteers. These joyful events allowed relationships to continue through the shutdown. Without Tom's leadership, Mindful Care would have closed, leaving this vulnerable population without the care and their caregivers the temporary respite they need. It is Tom's character that sets him apart including his work toward Mindful Care's goals, commitment to its financial stability, kind heart, leadership, and determined fundraising.

Abby Higgins – Rutherford County Youth Honoree – Abby Higgins is a junior at Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. For the past three years, Abby has been one of the most dependable volunteers with the Family Literacy's Read to Succeed (RTS) which offers free programs for children in the community through grants and donations from community members. Abby has assisted with preparation for the important fundraising mailing of the RTS Annual Report, setting up for and serving dinner at Family Literacy Night events, preparing 100+ literacy kits for RTS Imagination Station preschool/Head Start programs, reading aloud to children, distributing books, and wrapping Christmas gifts for homeless children. Abby shines brightest when she reads to the children, keeping even the youngest enraptured through her expressiveness. Abby wins the prize for leaving her audience with a memorable impact about reading! While Abby's school requires her to donate time volunteering, for the past two years, she has well exceeded the number of hours required, demonstrating her commitment to helping the community. Read to Succeed is honored to be the recipient of her volunteer spirit.

Molly Daniels – Sevier County Youth Honoree - Amelia Molly Daniels, a junior at Pigeon Forge High School, is an active member of several community clubs including Beta, Interact, FFA, Valley Baptist Church Youth Group and Girl Scout Troop 20659. She also helps to mentor and coach her former middle school lacrosse team. Molly held the position of Sentinel last year in the FFA and hopes to be reelected for this year. Through her Girl Scout troop, Molly has packed care packages for soldiers overseas, first aid kits for local classroom teachers, and created cards for soldiers, teachers, and nursing home patients. She has picked up trash, as well as helped form and lead a recycling group. At church, Molly assists monthly with Children's Church, helps pack food boxes at Christmas, assists with Trunk or Treat and the yearly Christmas play, and worked on two mission trips repairing homes of those in need. Molly is a service-minded young lady who lifts and encourages others.

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Lyle Udell – Shelby County Adult Honoree - Lyle has been with the Shelby County Urban Bicycle Food Ministry (UBFM) for more than six years, serving as the Executive director since February of 2016. He engages volunteers from all over the country to help with the mission of feeding hundreds of homeless people each week with a bicycle, a backpack, and a giving spirit. In addition to leading a team of volunteers to provide needed nutrition and supplies, Lyle creates special events and fundraisers throughout the year, trying to find better ways to serve his neighbors and build relationships. Lyle focuses on building relationships by learning each person's name, greeting them with a handshake or hug, and seeking to meet their needs every time he sees them. Lyle has worked tirelessly to ensure that UBFM continues to operate week after week. The work UBFM does is extremely needed as the homeless population often gets ignored day after day. Lyle seeks to provide faith and hope among all people, reminding them that they are loved and that they matter.

Yazmine Lyles – Shelby County Youth Honoree – Yazmine Lyles has been involved in her community since the age of 5 starting with feeding, clothing and providing “Blessings Bags” to members of her community in need along with her mother. She served as the youth president of Beautiful Spirited Women, served with Heal the Hood Foundation, served as a Peace First Youth Coordinator, a Royal Neighbors of America Youth Assistant Director and volunteered with Memphis Habitat for Humanity and the Memphis Food Bank. Yazmin is truly an amazing young lady that has a mind of a leader, is full of energy and loves to put in work to see progress. Through service, Yazmine shows compassion, leadership and dependability.

Debby Moore – Stewart County Adult Honoree - Debby Moore is an artist, retired teacher, and active volunteer. Debby serves the school system by speaking to students about careers in art and inviting other artists to speak. She is a member of the county's Arts and Heritage Council, providing service as a professional artist and judging for the Annual Art Show. Through the Family and Community Education Club, Debby helps support children that do not have the materials needed to be successful in school, presented the play, “Women Suffrage: Women's Right to Vote,” and was instrumental in bringing the "Voices of the Past" program and exhibit. For the UT Stewart County Extension, Debby mentored 4th and 5th graders in the Iron Chef Cooking Project and led her group to victory, as well as judged the baking competition. She and her husband, Dana, created a workbook to teach students social and emotional health skills such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and social skills which is used at the Camp Kids Club where Debby works to provide enrichment activities for students.

Megan Hawkins – Stewart County Youth Honoree - Megan Hawkins is a volunteer for many organizations. Her involvement with 4-H has led her to pursue a double major in Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Agriculture Education at UT Knoxville. As a 4-H member in Stewart County Schools, Megan was very active in community service and was initiated as a 4-H All Star. She served as a teen counselor for 4th-6th grade students at 4-H camp. Megan has also worked with 4-H junior camps, 4-H electric camps, school supply drives, clothing and shoe drives, farm days, tree planting, storm clean-ups, homeless supply runs, Christmas toy runs, COVID-19 food collection, Blankets for the Needy, hygiene collections, carnivals, Health Occupation Chicken Dinners for state competitions, and other events including the Coordinated School Health Kids Against Tobacco Substances Team for which she attended the Youth Summit, TN Strong as a representative for Stewart County. Megan is always busy helping others and we are proud for her to be named our Youth Star Volunteer.

Mark Presley – Trousdale County Adult Honoree - Mark Presley is a native of Trousdale County, graduate of Trousdale County High School, member of the Hartsville Rotary Club, founder of Hartsville Strong and a manager of the local Foodland grocery store. He has coordinated many fundraising and volunteer efforts in Trousdale and surrounding counties. Following the March tornadoes, Mark collected donations of food, water, clothes and

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supplies for those who lost their homes. Due to his efforts, five trailers of supplies were distributed. Mark also serves individuals in need whether with helping to provide running water to a residence or repairing a driveway, he finds a need and fills it. Shortly after the March tornadoes, Mark created a Blessing Box as a small free food pantry in front of his home and worked to form a non-profit organization, Hartsville Strong, to provide various forms of assistance to lower income residents in the aftermath of natural disasters. For these efforts, the Hartsville-Trousdale Chamber of Commerce recognized Mr. Presley as their 2020 Volunteer of the Year.

Deborah Buchanan – Unicoi County Adult Honoree - Debbie Buchanan is not only a breast cancer survivor but has also volunteered all over the state of Tennessee giving her time, talents, and heart to those in need. She has fundraised over \$6,000 in scholarship money for young women in East Tennessee and Unicoi County to further their educational dreams, and over \$60,000 for a nonprofit organization that helps provide education for children. Debbie has also served by collecting over 20,000 donation items for various charities and organizations in Unicoi, Carter, Washington and Sullivan counties including hats, gloves, socks, coats, personal hygiene items, and diapers for homeless women and children. Additionally, Debbie volunteers her time as a local preliminary director for the Miss Tennessee Organization. She is a pillar of service and volunteerism for organizations and charities not only in East Tennessee but throughout Tennessee as well.

McKenzie Evans – Unicoi County Youth Honoree - MacKenzie Evans is the founder of Kenzie's Cause for the Love of Reading. In the last 5 years, she has donated more than \$1 Million Dollars in books to 36 states and 2 countries. Mackenzie spends most of her time collecting and donating books to the children of East Tennessee and recently donated over 2500 to Unicoi County. She was inspired by Dolly Parton's drive to provide all children with books and is an ambassador for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. MacKenzie has also partnered with The Boys & Girls Club, East TN Children's Hospital, and libraries across the state. MacKenzie started her organization to ensure that all children regardless of economic status had the chance to further their education through books. Most recently, she partnered with a church mission group, sending 4000 books to Guatemala. She learned that many of the children who received the books were unable to read them due to poor eyesight, so she partnered with National Vision to send 1000 pairs of prescription glasses, as well.

Ruth Verhegge - Washington County Adult Honoree - Ruth Verhegge is a dedicated community volunteer, fundraiser, and problem-solver. She supports the Jonesborough Flag Project which adopts, replaces, and maintains the 100 flags that line Main Street. Ruth also leads an impressive annual flag retirement ceremony. Since 2003, she has served on Jonesborough's Historic Zoning Commission where the need for more K-9 units in the Jonesborough Police Department was brought to her attention following an officer-involved shooting. In 2017, she led a fundraising project to purchase and maintain multiple K-9 units for Jonesborough. By 2019, the 501(c)3 "Paws in Blue" had raised over \$75,000, added four K-9 units to the police department, and built better community relations with law enforcement by providing young people opportunities to interact with the police and their dogs. The additional K-9 units are a deterrent to crime in the community as the presence of drug-sniffing dogs sends a strong message to drug dealers. The K-9 officers also help to more safely apprehend people who are under the influence of drugs, benefitting both offenders and police.

Harlee Petretta – Washington County Youth Honoree - Harlee Petretta, now a UT Volunteer, is a 2020 graduate of Davy Crockett High School where she was active in community volunteer activities. As Beta Club President, Harlee served at Second Harvest Food Bank and the John Reed Assisted Living Facility providing items to families and the elderly in need in the Washington County community. Each year she has volunteered with the annual Jonesborough Area Merchants and Services Association activities such as the Chocolate Fest and Ice

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Cream Scoop Fest. Harlee's contributions included leadership in recruiting, organizing, and scheduling other teen volunteers and being their point of contact for the downtown merchants' events throughout the year including the Annual December Progressive Dinner Fundraiser for the Washington County Heritage Alliance and the local annual Kiwanis spaghetti dinner which raised money for Washington County Schools. Through her efforts many teens in Jonesborough have been introduced to volunteering and understanding community needs. Additionally, Harlee served her high school directly by collecting for the food pantry and hosting an appreciation breakfast for the school bus drivers.

Terry Crawford - Williamson County Adult Honoree - Terry Crawford serves the Raise Your Hand (RYH) Tutoring Program as an adult volunteer tutor addressing the need to increase reading proficiency levels of early learners in Williamson County. She teaches students practical literacy skills that they need to become self-reliant, proficient readers on track to graduate. Terry joined RYH in February 2016 and has worked her way up to Site Volunteer Captain. Volunteer tutors like Terry help teachers address issues with a child's reading comprehension before it becomes a significant problem. As a Volunteer Tutor, she provides guidance to other volunteers while engaging students in enjoyable experiences with literature. Terry helps students feel successful by giving them positive feedback and incorporating their interests into a fun lesson topic. Due to COVID-19, Terry volunteered to be a virtual host for an entire school making sure all teachers and volunteers could utilize the online platform properly. Terry's impact has improved learning outcomes and literacy rates by taking the time to focus on each child's need in a personal way.

Russell Warsetsky – Williamson County Youth Honoree - Russell Warsetsky serves Raise Your Hand (RYH) Tutoring Program as a student volunteer tutor for 1st-4th grade students reading below their grade-level. Russell joined RYH in the August 2018 and enjoys actively engaging students in critical thinking using story problems and working through solutions, playing learning games, and relating reading to current TV shows. Russell surpasses RYH's expectations for providing friendly service, valuing student responses, practicing positive feedback, offering one-on-one assistance when needed, raising student engagement, and inspiring higher levels of thinking. His services have produced positive change and serve as an example to others. Russell's students are eagerly ready to learn when he shows up and are always excited to see him because they view him as a friend.

Peggy Williamson – Wilson County Adult Honoree - Ms. Peggy Williamson was one of the founding members of the Native American Indian Association (NAIA) of Tennessee in 1982. For 38 years, she has loyally served this critical not-for-profit organization. She has been a member of the Board of Directors, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board, Chairman of the Membership Committee, and Chairman of the Merchandise and Food committee for the annual NAIA Indian Education Pow Wow of Tennessee, the largest multi-tribal pow wow east of the Mississippi. Her service to NAIA has helped ensure the viability of the only recognized nonprofit organization serving the 40,000+ Native Americans living in Tennessee. In addition to her service with the NAIA, for the past 9 years, Peggy has volunteered for Senior Citizens Awareness Network (SCAN) serving the needs of the seniors in Wilson County and mentoring new SCAN volunteers. She is always dependable and enthusiastic and is a real asset to our programs.

Mattie Smith – Wilson County Youth Honoree – Mattie Smith is a high school senior and member of the Leadership in Volunteerism invitation-only class. In the 2019/20 school year she volunteered a total of 140 hours in just 27 weeks of school, serving 65 more hours than required. Mattie has been involved with assembling food backpacks for the LSSD backpack program, feeding homeless in downtown Nashville, and serving individuals in Hancock County. Mattie worked to bring clean water to residents in East Tennessee and assembled Thanksgiving

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baskets for families in the Hancock County area. Due to her sincere efforts, leadership, and dependability, Mattie was invited to return to the Leadership in Volunteerism class for her senior year, as well, to help organize and lead service projects. She is bold and courageous enough to lead her peers yet humble enough to always lead by exemplifying service.

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