

Volunteer Awards:

The **View** page displays a submission's general information and data.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Dana and Josiah Florez

If a Group - List all members here:

Dana and Josiah Florez

Volunteer Job Title:

4-H Club Volunteer

Years volunteered with organization:

3

Number of hours volunteered per week:

3

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

2

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Cooperative Extension - 4-H

Nominator

Donna Mull

NC Cooperative Extension

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (300 words maximum)

Volunteers are an essential part of 4-H. They are key in Cooperative Extension being able to offer different special-interest clubs for youth in Catawba County and it is difficult to find volunteers willing to make the commitment to serve in this role. We have 14 different 4-H clubs in Catawba County, with most led by volunteers and meeting monthly. 4-H clubs allow youth to develop life and leadership skills while exploring different interests that can even lead to future careers for youth involved. A typical 4-H club meeting includes a short business meeting led by youth officers and a hands-on educational program. Josiah and Dana Florez have been involved with leading the programs for the 4-H Electric Club and Lego Robotics for the past 3 years. In addition, they have also taught summer enrichment workshops and been group leader with the 4-H Library Lego Robotics series. Dana is also serving as the Treasurer of the Catawba County 4-H Leaders Association and in that role she chairs our scholarship committee. In 2023, she was one of the adult chaperones to attend NC 4-H Electric Congress with our county delegation. Once Josiah and Dana commit to a task, I can always depend on them to follow through and any workshop or program they lead is top quality for youth participants involved.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

Josiah has been a long-time and active member of the 4-H Electric Club, which involves 15 youth ranging from 8-16 years of age. Over the past 18 months, Josiah has taken a lead role in planning and leading the monthly club programs. Josiah explored options for resources to use and plans the monthly educational programs using the Arduino kits (blends electronics and coding) paired with chrome books.

Josiah and Dana have taught several STEM based summer enrichment workshops. One of the popular workshops they led was 3-D Printing. They coordinated with the Library to have computers for each youth to use and utilized the 3D printer at the library, so each youth could create their own 3D printed item to take home. Several youth who participated, have purchased 3D printers and continue to learn more about this technology on their own. Summer 4-H workshops are intended to allow youth to explore new topics, provide summer learning and spark new interest for youth. Josiah's 3D workshop certainly helped us accomplish that goal!

Josiah has also been involved in 4-H Robotics Club. He has served as a teen leader assisting with that club for several years. In 2021, 4-H initiated a 6-10 week Lego Robotics series for 2nd-4th graders using First Lego League Challenge kits. Dana and Josiah and been the co-leaders for Library Lego Robotics at Southwest Library all 3 years. This program allows youth to explore robotics, coding, and work together as a team and as they build and create using lego robotics.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

Josiah loves all things STEM. He is a very gifted student and wonderful young man. He is an independent learner and very knowledgeable of topics related to engineering, electric, and computer technology. After participating in the Electric and Robotics Clubs for a few years, he has moved into a role of sharing his knowledge with others with leading clubs and workshops with 4-H. In this role, he is also a positive role model for other youth.

His volunteer work is a team effort with his Mom, Dana Florez, and together they make an amazing pair. Dana has helped Josiah adjust materials as he presents programs using the Arduinos to the 4-H Electric Club, so it is age

appropriate and presented in an easy-to-understand manner for younger children and those who might not be as tech-savvy as Josiah. The two work together as an equal team with respect for each other and the perspective that each brings to the teaching partnership. Dana is an amazing teacher! She is able to take content and present in an engaging manner and adapt it to fit most any age group. She has amazing classroom management skills that she uses as she teaches in 4-H workshops. Professionally, she is a pre-school teacher, but she is equally comfortable (and awesome) leading a Lego Robotics lesson to 2nd graders or assisting Josiah with teaching a 3D Printing workshop to middle school students. She can find positive ways to manage the most challenging child in the group so all youth have a positive, inclusive learning experience.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

Dana and Josiah are committed volunteers. They give their time and are inspiring and creating our future engineers with the work they are doing through 4-H. We encourage teens to take a leadership role and lead some programs as they age in 4-H'er, but it is an exception to see a teen take on the sole responsibility for leading the club programs for a group for an extended period of time, which is the case for Josiah.

Volunteer Photo



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► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

If a Group - List all members here:

Drivers for The Corner Table:

Ken Baker, Karl Bechtold, Kevin Boggs, Doug Carter, John Cook, Kenny Dowell, Sean Downey, Tracy Gilbert, Dan Stecewicz, Lee Warren, James Weaver

Volunteer Job Title:

Driver

Years volunteered with organization:

{Empty}

Number of hours volunteered per week:

{Empty}

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

{Empty}

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

The Corner Table

Nominator

Lorraine L Swagger

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (300 words maximum)

Our drivers are committed to making sure that we can provide our services to those that have food insecurity. They commit to a day (or 2 days a week) and a specific time so that we can provide uninterrupted service. Without their dedication to taking care of donated food items, we would not be able to prepare meals each day. With their commitment, we can serve those in our community a meal each day.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

Our pick-up and delivery drivers make sure that we operate in a timely manner. Not only are they committed to being on time, but they are committed to processing the donations that come in. Each weekday, these gentlemen show up and work diligently on behalf of The Corner Table. Their work benefits a wide variety of individuals and even offsets costs for the organization. The in-kind donations they pick up, on our behalf, allows us to purchase fewer food supplies to cook with thus ensuring we have a greater combination of food to use and feed our community members. While these men are completing back breaking work, they are doing it for the greater good and in turn are not being paid a wage. This work is not glamorous, yet it is the backbone to ensuring we operate well and continue to serve our community, wholesome meals at no cost. This can be time-consuming but is very necessary. If we did not have the support of volunteer drivers, we would not be able to pick up food donations to keep our guests fed while operating within our budget. We completely rely on these donations to prepare meals each day. The dedication of these drivers is the only way we could operate.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

Our pick-up and delivery drivers are from very different backgrounds. What they do share is a desire to make sure that The Corner Table has the "behind the scenes" ability to operate in an efficient manner. Their dedication and reliability are why we can be confident we can provide meals every day. These drivers work hard to load and unload all donations which is hard work. This collective group of men are consistent in showing up and providing the manpower at a variety of community stores and they ensure a high level of professionalism while stocking the van with food supplies to distribute at our Community Kitchen and Backpack Warehouse. Though they are very appreciated they are often overlooked yet keep volunteering each week and expect nothing in return. They truly serve from their heart.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

We are nominating our team of drivers because we cannot operate without their service. They are committed to the mission of feeding those who are in need by assuring food donations are picked up, delivered, and processed. When thinking about the eleven individuals in this group and the work they do on a consistent, weekly basis, we are not only grateful for their help, but we also see the importance they make in the lives of the individuals we serve daily through our various feeding programs. If it weren't for these men, we would struggle to get the food supplies offered to us picked up in a timely manner and distributed to our Community Kitchen and Backpack Warehouse. While this work is not grandiose in nature it is imperative for our agency and the individuals we serve to thrive and succeed at best.

Volunteer Photo

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Category

Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

If a Group - List all members here:

Ebenezer UMC Volunteers:

Patsy Rhoney

Amy McCormick

Norris Huss

Myra Huss

Jerry Rhonex

Alice Rhonex

Betty Houser

Gregg Plott

Shelba Lackery

Volunteer Job Title:

{Empty}

Years volunteered with organization:

3

Number of hours volunteered per week:

27

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

1

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Ashure Ministry

Nominator

Allen Sherrill

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (300 words maximum)

We have a system where different churches are "responsible" for providing volunteers on certain days of the month. One of the most consistent to these churches is Ebenezer UMC out in Vale. Their day is the second Thursday morning of the month, and they always have a great group that shows up. When that day comes around, we always know that we need to have extra stuff on hand for folks to work on because Ebenezer will be here. They usually have 7 or 8 folks that show up and work all morning.

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

Ebenezer can be a handful to keep up with, but in a good way. Many of the folks they send to volunteer worked Production at some point in their lives. As such, these are folks who work hard and work fast. It is sometimes amazing to see them plow through projects in a morning that would take other groups a whole day to do. We always have to keep back-up tasks in mind for when they come because this group will more than likely complete what we have for them, and then want more to work on. We're always having to stay on task with them to make sure we take out the bins they fill up and replace them with new empty bins. We get a bit of a workout just trying to keep up with the folks from Ebenezer.

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

This group is amazing because of how consistent and effective they are. Whenever we are running low on things that we continually hand out, we always look at the calendar to see when Ebenezer is coming. If we're running low on bagged canned goods per se, we just set up the pallets we need bagged, the bags, and the empty bins to be filled, and then we show the Ebenezer crew what needs to be done. After that, we just watch as the pallets of separate canned goods turn into bins of bagged canned goods. It never seems to matter what the tasks is, the folks from Ebenezer will knock it out and save us a lot of worry in the process.

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

Ebenezer UMC is one of our most faithful and committed volunteer groups. One of the best compliments that we can give to a group is that we have to plan for them and we can make plans around them. Some groups just show up, work for a little while, and leave. All you have to do is just have something. Ebenezer is different. We know that when these folks are coming, they're going to work extremely hard from when they arrive to when they leave. We have to plenty of work on hand for this group as well as back up activities. It doesn't matter what we need done, whether it's bagging food, sorting through things, or even doing mailings; Ebenezer will take it on and take it out. They work so hard that we have to keep up with them, not hope they keep up with us. It is just a blessing to know that we have a group like that coming every month.

Volunteer Photo



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Group (2 or more)

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

If a Group - List all members here:

Rose Sipe, and Glenda Verbos

Volunteer Job Title:

Community Services Kitchen Assistants

Years volunteered with organization:

3

Number of hours volunteered per week:

8

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Safe Harbor NC

Nominator

Pamela Morrison

Safe Harbor NC

Describe the nominee's commitment to volunteering with the agency/organization they serve. (300 words maximum)

These ladies are amazing, and they show through their faithfulness to serve the LORD by serving the ladies that come through our program. They definitely been sent by GOD to help us meet the needs!

Describe nominee's accomplishments and how their service has helped meet critical needs in our community. (300 words maximum)

There are not enough words to describe this group, but if I had to use a word it would be, they operate in excellence!

Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

Very hospitable!!!

Explain why you nominated this person(s) for the Giving From the Heart Award. (300 words maximum)

Because that is what they do. They cheerfully give from their hearts!!!!

Volunteer Photo

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