

Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards:

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

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Amber Taylor

Volunteer Job Title:

Program Associate

Years volunteered with organization:

1

Number of hours volunteered per week:

8

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

The Kindness Project, Inc.

Nominator

Ashley Dellinger

The Kindness Project, Inc.

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

Amber shows up week after week day after day with ideas to connect the dots for this organization. She is always looking for a bargain on items we need day to day. If I have to step away one weekend for my kids she is 10 toes down ready to lead the group for the weekend from picking up donations, making snack bags, organization donations, prepping Sunday plates and leading the group out to feed the unsheltered.

If i ask her to go with me on cold nights to go out and provide blankets to the unsheltered she not only shows up but shows up with sandwiches and snacks to provide to them as well. She is always going above and beyond for our clients.

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

She has came alongside me to other nonprofit meetings to learn about other organizations to be able to provide the educational info we obtain to the unsheltered for guidance on how to get a hand up. She is always making list of items they need and finding the items they need to survive. One of our clients rollator walkers were breaking down and she travels lots of miles on that walker, she went on a bidding website and purchased her one and was able to bring it to her put together ready to roll!

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

She provides the knowledge of how to better organize this incorporation. Always providing ideas for improvement, pushing me to keep forward in the progression of filing our 501C3. She has compassion for our unsheltered folks and loving them from the heart in trying to meet basic needs. She always carries the mindset of teamwork makes the dreamwork! Always has a positive attitude and commitment every week to our project. If we have no volunteers signed up one week she is there and asking family members to join to make it work that week!

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

I nominated this person because when I think of Giving from the Heart that's all Amber does. We are a volunteer organization and she spends hours upon hours weekly to make our Mission to Love these folks work, work! Its not an easy job and she makes it look so easy. Everything she provides to our group is truly from her heart and wanting to be able to make these folks successful. We not only help unsheltered folks. If we get a call there is a client that is from a DV situation she is trying to find items to provide clothing, resources for housing etc. to these patrons. I couldn't have came this far without her volunteer and loving heart for the community!

Volunteer Photo



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Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Ashley Reinhardt

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Licensed Career Technical Education Teacher at River Bend Middle School/ Summer Camp Director at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

Years volunteered with organization:

20

Number of hours volunteered per week:

25

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

Nominator

Jessica Ledford

Council on Adolescents of Catawba County

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

Ashley has led various projects for youth to clean up the community and volunteer at Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries (ASHURE ministries), volunteered on numerous occasions with teens from the Mt. Sinai Summer Program at Catawba County Backpack Program, she serves as a Board Member at Faith Sports Organization, and is the Secretary and Program Coordinator for Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Catawba.

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

Ashley is currently teaching as a licensed Career Technical Educator at River Bend Middle School in Catawba County. In this role, she encourages students to develop and fulfill their academic achievement and prepare them for college or a career- ready future. Each CTE career cluster teaches students life skills and career skills at the same time, jump-starting their lives and turning them into productive members of their communities.

In addition to her teaching role, Ashley coached the girls' basketball and soccer team for 5 years. She is the yearbook advisor and leads the Student Climate committee and the School Improvement Plan committee. In these committees' roles, she is an advocate for the students and implements plans and procedures to create a safe environment for the school.

In her role as the Program Coordinator for Mt. Sinai, Ashley serves as a summer camp counselor where she creates the budget and schedules the yearly plans that provide education and community opportunities for at-risk youth. Her volunteer work includes:

- Eastern Cooperative Christian ministries
- Backpack Program for Mt Sinai McCreary Community Center
- Board member for the Faith Sports organization
- Secretary for Mt Sinai Baptist Church

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

The principal at River Bend Middle School saw the great leadership skills and connection that Ashley has with her students and recommended that she go back to school and get her master's in education to become an Assistant Principal. This past year, Ashley completed her degree. Through the Summer Program at Mt. Sinai, she takes the kids and teens out in the community to do community service projects and teaches them how important it is to give back.

Each summer, Ashley coordinates a big trip to take each kid and teen from Mt. Sinai to go on. This past summer, she took them to Disney in Florida. While each of them paid a very minimal amount to go, she got the rest donated. Ashley works tirelessly to give back, she recently created a Backpack Program to ensure students have back-to-school items, food, and most importantly a person they can depend on when they need someone. In the first few years of the program, she served meals to over 240k youth. Ashley and the Program Coordinator at the Council on Adolescents, Jessica Ledford, have worked together for 5 years with the Teen Talk Program and the Mt. Sinai Summer Program to give teens the skills they need to make healthy decisions now and in the future. Two years ago, Mt.

Sinai helped pilot a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program through the state at the church with the Summer Program teens. If it weren't for Ashley working hard to get volunteers, parent involvement, and food for the program it would not have been so successful.

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

In her role as a CTE teacher she has guided and directed staff into bigger leadership roles. Ashley loves her community and giving back to those in need by ensuring students have back-to-school items, food, and most importantly a person they can depend on. Through her church, Mt. Sinai, she does wellness checks on senior citizens. Ashley sets each of her students and kids at her church up for success at an early age and gives them tools and resources to make a significant impact in the community. Ashley is a vital leader for youth in Catawba County and goes above and beyond for each student and teen she encounters. She is a champion in our community and truly deserves this award.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards

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Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Betty Lynch

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

{Empty}

Years volunteered with organization:

3

Number of hours volunteered per week:

21

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Ashure Ministry

Nominator

Allen Sherrill

Ashure Ministry

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

Betty comes in as often as she's able. She even apologizes when she can't make it in. From the time she walks in the door until the time she leaves, she never stops working. She will build carts, bag produce, or do whatever is needed of her. She always gives 100% effort to whatever she's working on. If we need something done, all we have to do is tell Betty, and it will be done exactly how we need it handled and usually quicker than we were expecting.

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

Betty has really helped us improve on the efficiency of our program. One of the things Betty does best is bagging produce. She can very quickly sort through all of the produce that comes in daily from the grocery stores and then proceed to bag it. When we don't have any pre-bagged, she takes the orders as they come in and makes them to whatever specificities are required. She's especially good at picking out and putting together produce bags that are culturally appropriate for our Hispanic clients.

Her consistency and efficiency helped us to start being able to pre-bag more and more of our produce. When the daily produce comes in, we split it into what we're going to use for the rest of the day, and what we're going to save for the next day. Betty gets everything bagged for the current day. Then bags up everything in preparation for the next day. This has really helped us improve on the speed in which we are able to serve our clients, and with the massive rise we've seen in clientele, this added speed has been a major blessing.

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

Betty is another one of our amazing volunteers who always seems to have a smile on her face. She's got a lot to keep up with whether it's bagging produce or building carts, but you'd never know it by looking at her. She always greets everyone as they come in. Many of our clients have gotten to know her over the years, and they are always happy to see Miss Betty. When you combine her wonderful personality with her incredible work ethic, she's just such a beacon of light to an organization like Ashure.

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

When we talk about what we look for in a volunteer, Betty is usually the first example that comes to mind. We've said many times that if we could just clone her and have another 2 or 3 Bettys running around, we'd be set. Watching her work is simply amazing. She just never quits. Even when she's talking with folks, she's still working on something. When Betty comes in, you can almost feel a sense of relief come over the staff and the rest of the volunteers as "Betty is here, we're going to be fine today." We have seen a massive growth in the number of clients we are serving every day in our Pantry. As such, we have had to develop a number of different strategies to make our operation more efficient to meet this demand. Having a volunteer like Betty makes many of these ideas possible. It's hard to imagine that we would have been able to achieve the levels of success we've seen over the past few years without Betty Lynch.

Volunteer Photo



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Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Chris Oram

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Whole Woman Assistant/Admin Assistant

Years volunteered with organization:

12

Number of hours volunteered per week:

14.5

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Safe Harbor

Nominator

Chasta E. Cole

Safe Harbor

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

Ms. Chris has been a staple of the Safe Harbor family. Chris has always been dedicated and committed to the women we serve working closely with them for the majority of her volunteer life-span at Safe Harbor. In the recent years her husband passed away and Ms. Chris surrendered herself to this ministry and blessed the women who in return blessed her. She went from one morning at our year long residence to two mornings and a full day because we were short on volunteers. She poured her soul into our ministry and even worked in the Admin department as well, working 4 days a week as a volunteer. She is passionate about our organization and the women who are trying to find their way. Chris is a blessing to all that she encounters.

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

Ms. Chris has found the key to unlocking someone's potential in themselves, she loves them. She meets our ladies where we are at, with her gentle voice, calming spirit, and willingness to listen, she opens a door for women to trust her so she can then pour into their lives. Chris has purchased clothes for our women, became their confidant, helped them work through emotions, been their sounding board when they felt as though they wanted to give up and recovery was "just too hard". Chris meets women where they are at; with no judgment, just love. The critical need that we have in our community is just that, the lack of community. The lack of individuals who will come along side someone struggling, sit in their filth with them, stretch out their hand, and help dust them off and provide that person with the courage to see themselves as a child of God! Chris is the embodiment of that spirit. In her darkest time after loosing her husband, she wanted to be at Safe Harbor because that is where God is. She makes a difference here! She spreads love. She truly is a light shining in the darkness of these women souls that walk through out doors. I am a product of Ms. Chris' love and if it was not for her, I would not be here writing this nomination today!

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

Ms. Chris is a go-getter; she is willing to complete any task needed. She has the gift of communication and when she answers the phone her sweet calming voice is able to sooth any broken soul needing a "safe" place. She is gifted in the art of compassion and puts her nurturing skills to use to pour out into the women that we serve and the ones that calling asking questions about our programs. Her smile with soften even the hardest of hearts.

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

I nominated Ms. Chris because to me, she embodies the phrase "Giving from the Heart". She truly has a heart for the women that we serve. She wants the best for them, she sees them as God sees them, not as broken, filthy, worthless, or some tragic story as society has led us to view addiction, homelessness and mental health. She sees them as they are: a child of God under the throws of sin because we live in a sinful fallen world. She gives from her heart every day, and when her heart broke at the loss of her husband after over 50 years of being married, she continued to pour into the ladies because they provided her a blessing as well. She is the real deal! So even if she is not granted this award; she is a winner in my book!

Volunteer Photo

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Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Cindy Clark

Volunteer Job Title:

Augustine Literacy Project Tutor

Years volunteered with organization:

5

Number of hours volunteered per week:

5

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Patrick Beaver Learning Resource Center

Nominator

Angela Lawrence & Lora Pulliam

Patrick Beaver Learning Resource Center

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

Cindy Clark attended the 35-hour Augustine Literacy Project Tutor Training during late January 2020. While she had intended to volunteer at the school closer to her house, she enjoyed working with the 2nd grader that she was paired with during the practicum so much that she chose to drive the longer distance to Saint Stephens Elementary. Cindy had only been tutoring a little over a month when the world shut down for the pandemic. Despite being new to tutoring and unfamiliar with the technology, when our agency announced that we would pivot to online tutoring over Zoom a month after schools shut down, Cindy gladly said she would continue tutoring and learn the new technology. Cindy continued to tutor her student through the end of the school year and throughout the summer. Next year, as students returned to schools, tutoring was still online, but twice a week Cindy faithfully tutored throughout the 2020-2021 school year. When volunteers were allowed back in school in the fall of 2022, both Cindy and her student were so excited that their tutoring sessions could resume in person. Cindy has shown such dedication to her student, working with him from 2nd grade through 6th grade!

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

Cindy has helped her student grow into a more confident reader. When she first started working with him, he was quiet and lacked confidence. Now, he has become a much more confident reader and student. Last year, he demonstrated excellent growth on standardized benchmarking assessments.

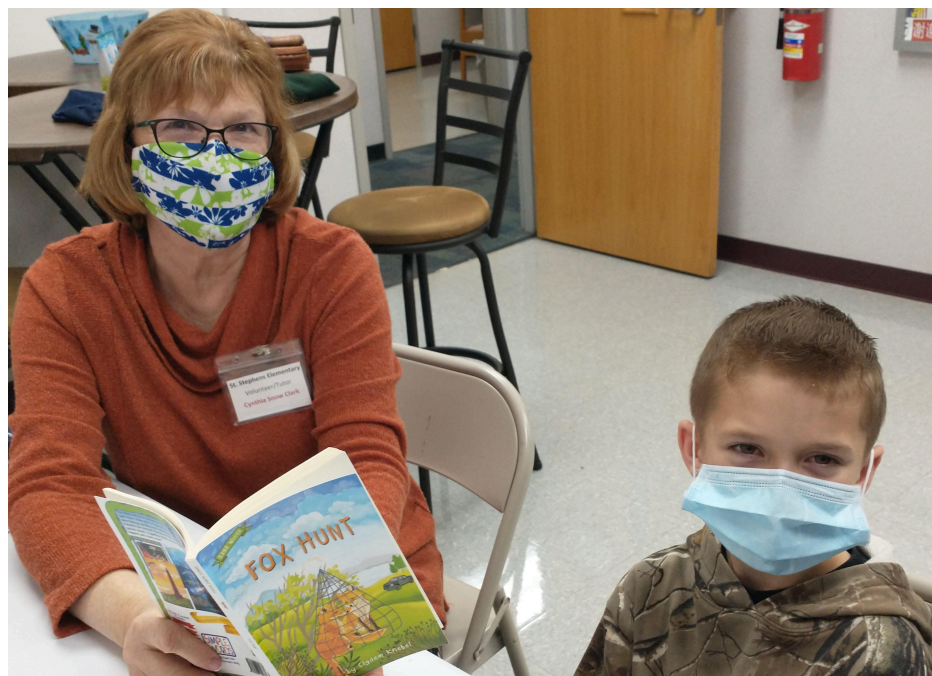
Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

In addition to taking the 35-hour Augustine Literacy Project training, Cindy is a regular at our monthly tutor enrichments. She always wants to increase her skills as a tutor, and when observed, she is always welcoming of and responsive to coaching. Cindy always has a smile on her face and brightens the day of her student. Each year, about midway through the year, her student begins to tell her that he is going to need her to tutor him the next school year. He enjoys not only learning from her but also seeing her each week.

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

Cindy is caring and compassionate. Recently, her student gave her a neatly colored picture where he expressed his opinion of Cindy. It proclaims her to be the "Best Tutor Ever." Cindy has invested so much of her time and energy into this student over the past five years, and we are confident that her efforts will help him succeed in school and in life.

Volunteer Photo



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Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Darlene Sanders

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Lead Site Manager/Thrift Store Manager/Business Office Assistant

Years volunteered with organization:

9

Number of hours volunteered per week:

50

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

52

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Exodus Homes

Nominator

Rev. Susan Smith

Exodus Homes

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

Darlene graduated from Exodus Homes in 2018 after being in the program for almost four years. Since the beginning, Darlene was always willing to volunteer in the program to do whatever she could to help us and help other residents as well. No job was too big or too small for Darlene to tackle while she dealt with her own health issues. While in the program Darlene was a Senior Resident over a house of five women, maintaining program guidelines and being a mentor to other women who were recovering from addiction and incarceration.

While she was in the program, Darlene volunteered in the office at the Horseshoe Apartments Monday - Friday, managing the traffic of residents in and out as well as answering the phone, and creating a schedule for other residents to volunteer in the office at night and on the weekends. While sitting at the front desk in the Exodus Homes office at Ridgeview, Darlene was always there to listen and help residents navigate the maze of feelings that people experience when they have lost everything and are learning a new way to live. Darlene is a no-nonsense woman who is firm and able to hold people accountable in a very loving, non-judgmental way. People came to trust her and seek her counsel. When the time came for Darlene to graduate from the program in 2018, nothing changed but her address. After she left the program, she became an even greater asset to Exodus Homes.

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

Darlene was very involved in our expansion after our three year capital campaign from 2018 - 2021. When we purchased our new corporate headquarters on 4th St. SW, Darlene was there as a full time volunteer to help set up our new offices and create the policies for supervising Exodus Homes residents in our new 12,000 sq ft home. At that time Darlene became the Women's Site Manager, supervising all the women in the program. Darlene continued to be a full time volunteer in the program and was always available seven days a week.

With the growth of our program after the capital campaign, our Business office expanded and we needed someone to help the Business Manager take up program fees and help with activities that would insure that the cash drawer would balance correctly. After having been to prison four times, Darlene was very proud that she had earned trust to hold the keys to the Finance Office and handle the cash of our organization.

Darlene continued to grow as a volunteer leader at Exodus Homes and in 2022 she became the Lead Site Manager over all of the men and the women too. Darlene's phone is always on. She comes out at all hours of the night and on the weekends too to handle crisis in the housing program. Darlene can volunteer all day in the office and after going to bed, get up and go deal with issues at any of our seven housing locations. Darlene is a tough cookie and our people respect her.

In addition to all she does, in 2023 Darlene became our Thrift Store Manager as well. It is hard to believe that anyone could do all that Darlene does as a volunteer but she is all that and more.

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

Darlene is a strong woman. She has 10 years clean and is an example to all of our residents that we can recover. Darlene is a very good listener and her heart is big enough to love everyone but she is not about any mess. Darlene will not allow anyone to disrespect our program, other residents, or themselves. Darlene is very reliable and always on her post. She has a great spirit. Darlene laughs easily and always has a smile on her face. She is grateful for what the Exodus Homes program did for her and she has dedicated her life to keeping the open for the next person who

needs to recover like she did. She has excellent customer service skills and the shoppers in our store love her! Darlene has been a speaker for us in the community many times and wherever she goes she always makes us look good. She is a backbone in our staff team and we don't know what we would do without her.

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

I have already explained why LOL

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards

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Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Darryl Drew Phillips

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

sorter/hanging organizer

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

12

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Safe Harbor ReSource Warehouse

Nominator

Taylor Martin

Safe Harbor ReSource Warehouse

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

Drew is very committed to us and our program he serves, he is always the happiest to be in the building and getting to work along staff and other volunteers, he loves telling stories and laughing the day away, i've never seen him in a bad mood or upset to be volunteering he is so sweet and such a kind and loving soul. He is always so happy to be here and to come to ReSource and gets upset when he has to leave but always has a smile on his face. We love his faithfulness he has to come and help at ReSource and his willingness to help. he plays such an important role here helping with sorting and hanging clothes in the back and organizing them and takes time looking through every little piece of clothing. He shows a huge commitment to Safe Harbor ReSource Warehouse and we are so thankful and blessed to have him apart of our team

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

With drew working 12 hours a week, he helps us greatly meet our needs as a store, so us as a store can help and meet the critical needs in our community. drew will do up to 4-5 clothes rack in a 6 hour time spand with 80-100 items on clothing per rack. this helps us out greatly as are pricers can price them as he hangs them and they can get on to the sales floor quicker and helps us move stuff in and out smoothly through the store, with him doing all of that helps us make the revenue to help our non profit organization for women is recovery from all kinds of additions and help the ladies in our community that are going through homelessness and just need a hand up instead of a hand out.

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

Drew is a team player and he is amazing in sorting and hanging clothes, We never have any issues with drew, everything is perfect when he is working at ReSource, he has such a huge heart and a love for safe harbor and loves giving back to our community and the ladies we serve. He is a hard working and very dedicated to his work when volunteering. he always is happy and has a smile on his face and is willing to do any task that is needed to be done. we are so thankful and blessed for him and his dedication for the store.

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

I am nominating Drew For the Giving from the Heart Award because he has such a heart for giving back to our community and the women we serve, he has a loving and sweet personality and we absolutely love having him here at ReSource, he always has a smile on his face and truly does not wanna leave at the end of the work day. he is so amazing at the job/role he plays here at ReSource and we are so thankful and truly blessed to have him here and getting to know him and love him.

Volunteer Photo



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Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Denise Bilhorn

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Safe Harbor Whole Woman Volunteer

Years volunteered with organization:

3

Number of hours volunteered per week:

4

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Safe Harbor

Nominator

Kiersten Abernathy

Safe Harbor

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

Denise is a faithful, committed, reliable volunteer at Safe Harbor's Whole Woman program. For 3 years, she has shown up every week to volunteer at Safe Harbor. Each week she gives her free time to transport women in recovery to their appointments and answer phone calls of those seeking recovery. She is always willing to do whatever is needed and will go above and beyond while volunteering. Not only is Denise always reliable in showing up on her day to volunteer, but she is always willing to go the extra mile and fill in on days when there is a greater need, and continuously expresses her willingness to help in any way that she can.

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

Aside from Denise volunteering in the Whole Woman program once a week, transporting ladies, Denise has also become a safe friend and mentor for women at Safe Harbor. This means that she give additional time each month to spend time with one woman at a time, by taking them on outings and being a safe, trusting person in the community that women walking through recovery can have a well-rounded support system. Her service not only has a lasting impact on these women as individuals, but helps the whole community become better as these women go on to serve and support other women and organizations because they had a safe person like Denise in their corner supporting and cheering them on. In addition to Denise's commitment to volunteer as Safe Harbor, she has various other ways she helps meet critical needs in our community through serving in her church, experience working in the medical field, mission work, and by being the kind, compassionate human that she is.

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

Denise is very gifted in how she communicates with compassion, grace, and gentleness when she communicates with those around her. She is quick to think of ways to lend her hand, and demonstrates excellent leadership qualities in her mentorship to women in the Safe Harbor community. Furthermore, Denise's experience with teaching and working as a doctor in the medical field comes with a variety of skills such as mentoring and teaching others, assisting others in remaining calm in situations that may be out of the norm, patience, and treating others with dignity and worth.

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

When thinking of who to nominate for the Giving From the Heart Award, I could not think of a person more fitting than Denise. Denise is a person who gives so much, shows up, is reliable, and has so many skills to offer that many may not be aware of. In every conversation I have ever had with Denise, she is always extremely humble. However, in taking time to get to know her and her story, I have been so amazing to learn so many amazing ways and seasons in her life that she has dedicated her life to serving others. Denise is the first to show up, but the last person to ever ask for recognition or applause for the things that she does. Giving from her heart is just simply what she does and who she is. For that reason, I feel Denise is a wonderful nominee for this award.

Volunteer Photo



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Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Denise Icenhour

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Horse Care

Years volunteered with organization:

3

Number of hours volunteered per week:

6

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

24

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Walk With Me Healing Steps

Nominator

Elizabeth Wise

Walk With Me Healing Steps

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

Denise shows up rain or shine to help us care for our equine herd. She is dependable, responsible, and willing to learn. She is always first to volunteer for events and always supports and encourages those around her.

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

Denise's support allows our staff to focus on the mental health piece of our work. She shows up to support us for events and helps us keep children safe during fundraisers.

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

Denise is one of the most caring and kind-hearted volunteers we have. She understands horse care, equine communication, and has a love for helping those in need. Denise hopes to one day become a certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor.

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

I have nominated Denise because she has been loyal to our organization for 3 years. We have grown tremendously as a non-profit and our needs have changed with that growth. Denise has stepped up and has been a willing participant for each stage of our growth. We are truly grateful for her service.

Volunteer Photo



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Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Elizabeth Ann Belvin

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Volunteer RN

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

6

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry

Nominator

Jane Duralia, RN

Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry

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

Elizabeth drives from Lincoln every Monday morning to volunteer in the medical clinic at GHCCM by 8am. There is nothing too big or too small for Elizabeth to join in to help the staff. She is the only RN in the clinic on Monday and she assists each of our providers with a dedicated intent, professionalism and the knowledge and tenacity the task may require. As a volunteer, she goes above and beyond to see to the patient's and the doctor's expectations of care. She never calls in sick, or call in that her "plans have changed" and she won't be coming in. She is extremely dependable and respect the fact the clinic depends on her to be there on Mondays and she always is. If the clinic is slow that Monday, she will seek other ways to help in the ministry. As a Bilingual nurse, she is extremely helpful in interpreting for our Spanish population. She is a treasured volunteer in so many ways.

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

Being Bilingual, Elizabeth is a tremendous help in communicating with our Spanish population. She greets each patient with a warm and reassuring smile. She is soft spoken and gentle with each patient, yet can firmly (yet lovingly) encourage a patient to calm down, or agree to a treatment the patient may have initially declined. She projects a level of concern toward each patient and is there to encourage and support each patient as the situation call for. A lot of our patients come in skeptical, "why would you help me at no charge?" .Elizabeth's gentle reassuring approach puts our patients at ease and makes them more receptive/compliant to care.

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

Elizabeth is extremely versatile in her skill set. One minute she is assisting a doctor with a basic physical exam, the next she may be in the middle of an GYN biopsy, taking multiple samples for laboratory evaluation. Next she may be giving a breathing treatment or teaching a new insulin dependent diabetic how to give their own insulin injection. All the while, Elizabeth is observant of what doctor needs what help and when. She has an amazing skill of observation, evaluation and action, efficiently and effectively. She is quick to take students under her wing where the need may arrive and professionally and efficiently "show them the ropes". As I have stated before no task is too small nor too big, that Elizabeth will not make herself available to help.

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

I am nominating Elizabeth Belvin for the Heart Award because she has the HEART for what we at GHCCM do everyday: Offer Hope, Help and Healing to all those who cross our threshold. Elizabeth offers a fresh look at our patients/clients and opens her heart, offering her knowledge, compassion and years of experience to help our patients. I have had the privilege of working with Elizabeth for the past two years. I can think of no one more deserving of the HEART AWARD. She is a quiet instrument of Christ .She goes about doing His work, guided by His loving heart. She never sees a task that is too small (beneath her) or too (too overwhelming) that she will put her faith in our Lord and following His word doing His work. Our Lord asks us to "follow me" and Elizabeth does just that in every way. We are blessed to have Elizabeth as our Volunteer RN at GHCCM

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards

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► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Jane Wesdyk

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Thrift Store Donation Sorter

Years volunteered with organization:

5

Number of hours volunteered per week:

4

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Ashure Ministry

Nominator

Cailee Swallow

Ashure Ministry

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

Miss Jane has been a vital volunteer to our ministry's thrift store for years. She volunteers two times a week (or more, if asked) and is always willing to give a helping hand.

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

Whenever a client has needed something in particular (like a blanket or a pair of men's pants), she'll stop whatever she's doing to help that person in need. She loves chatting with the seniors and engaging with the clients when they're feeling down.

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

Miss Jane is a knitter and very crafty. She'll often spend her free time knitting hats for our clients, so they have something warm to wear during the colder months of the year.

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

When the ministry was in need of hats during the colder months this past winter, Miss Jane knitted dozens of beanies and brought them in for our clients. We gave them out for free in the office and sold several in the thrift store. Always thinking of others, she made hats for adults, kids and infants. It was a wonderful act of kindness that came along when the clients needed it most.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards

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► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Jason Keating

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Program Director, Operation Battle Horse

Years volunteered with organization:

0

Number of hours volunteered per week:

30

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Walk With Me Healing Steps

Nominator

Elizabeth Wise

Walk With Me Healing Steps

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

Jason has shown up in every sense of the word. He treats his job as a full time position and has started to build up and build out Operation Battle Horse. He has demonstrated passion, persistence, and fortitude. He comes forward to serve the Veteran Population and has also started to volunteer his time to support all demographics.

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

Jason has further developed Operation Battle Horse by supporting our Trauma Recovery Coach in creating 4 day Workshops. He is leading by example by putting in the work necessary to be the best husband and father he can be. His story is not only inspiring but now he is able to be a peer support and encourage other Veterans to push through and live life without barriers. His presence on the farm allows other Veterans to feel welcome and understood.

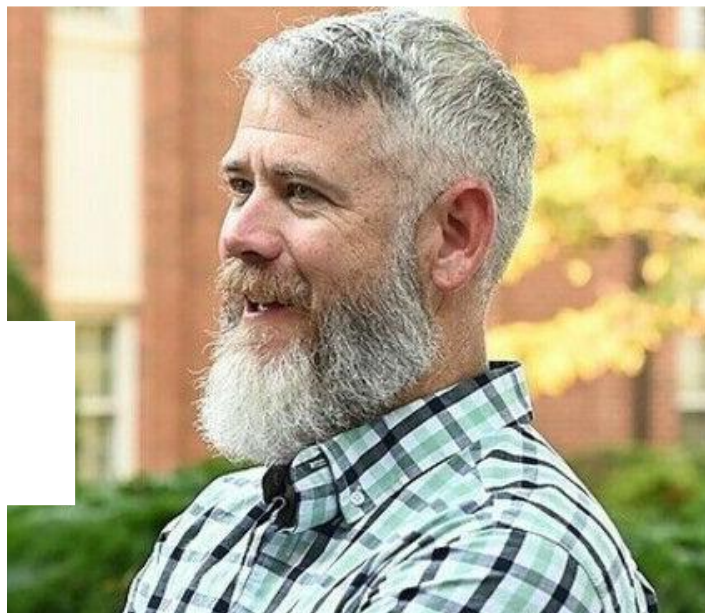
Describe nominee's special skills, qualities and/or leadership qualities. (300 words maximum)

Jason wanted to help in every capacity that he could. He is now Path Certified as a Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. He is currently going back to school to be a Certified Trauma Recovery Coach. He exemplifies leadership, action, and loyalty.

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

Jason not only showed up but he puts in the work. He has a vision and with the support of our team he is truly taking our program to the next level. We can not wait to see Operation Battle Horse as it moves to the next stage. Jason volunteers 30 hours a week because he knows what happens out here at the farm works and he wants to save every Veteran that he can. As many of you know, 22 Veterans a day take their lives. Jason is here to see that number decrease and he wants to be at the forefront of change.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards:

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► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Melanie Elrod

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Mentor/Safe Friend/Teacher

Years volunteered with organization:

15

Number of hours volunteered per week:

10

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Safe Harbor

Nominator

Elizabeth Caldwell

Safe Harbor

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

Melanie has served many years with Safe Harbor in a variety of capacities. She is a mentor for the ladies in the Whole Woman program as well as the GreenLeaf program. She also teaches a parenting class for the women at Safe Harbor. One special thing she does is at each holiday- Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc., she get's each woman a gift to let them know they are cared for and loved. Melanie has such a heart for the ladies at Safe Harbor and we are so fortunate to have her!

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

She never treat our resident's as if they're broken- she makes them feel special and worthy, taking them for meals, plays, etc.

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

Great all around experience in many ways, knowledgeable about local resources and contacts, teaching experience.

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

Melanie is so selfless. She would do anything she could for the ladies at Safe Harbor and she does! She truly does give from the heart, materially and non-materially. She spends quality time with the ladies at Safe Harbor, letting each know they are being prayed for and that they are worthy. A thank you just doesn't seem enough for all she does, she deserves to be recognized for all she does for Safe Harbor!

Volunteer Photo

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Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards

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► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Michael Matthew Jupin, Jr.

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Food Prep

Years volunteered with organization:

2

Number of hours volunteered per week:

5

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

The Corner Table

Nominator

Lorraine L Swagger

The Corner Table

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

Mr. Jupin approached us about a year ago requesting to volunteer. A year later there is not one more dedicated worker than him. He is a widower who just wanted to give his time to serve others. He reports every day of the week to help out with whatever the volunteer needs are at the time. He calmly and peacefully enters the facility and begins to work with very little direction. He seems to just know what to do, which makes for a great volunteer as the job gets done with little supervision required by staff. His jovial smile, and he is always smiling, brightens the day for everyone and makes the environment calm.

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

Michael is remarkable. He enters quietly each day, gets his food item for the day, his knife or appropriate utensil, then sits quietly at his table to work. He is so humble and gentle, simply wants to help others by completing any daily task. On any given day, you will find him slicing or chopping onions and peppers, potatoes, cabbage, or slicing meat. We have come to jokingly call him chopper. He never misses a day unless he is gone to visit his children and grandchildren. I cannot express how much slicing the item of the day to be used in a meal the next day is critical. We get a bit disappointed when Michael is absent as we have come to rely on him so much.

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

Michael brings an unexplainable calmness to our sometimes-chaotic environment. While this may sound funny, he can chop or slice any food item safely, whereas many of our volunteers may have accidents using the knife. He is one with expertise we don't have to worry about. We know he will complete the preparation for the day without fail. He will also clean up his area, carry heavy buckets of cut potatoes, and properly place the cut items in the cooler appropriately. While this may sound easy enough or an expectation of any volunteer, many do not perform these simple tasks. He will sweep up any peelings, sanitize the workstation, and any utensils - all without being asked or told. His service is one to be recognized as he works behind the scenes but without this preparation, we wouldn't be able to serve some of the specific meals our guests love.

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

We are nominating Michael Jupin, Jr. for the Giving From the Heart Award for his humble service helping others. He is one who doesn't get enough recognition or appreciation since he slips in, completes his work, and slips out. I wish everyone could experience his sweet spirit and attitude of service. We have almost 17 different volunteers each day, but Michael is a staple who serves every day. He is vital to the success of The Corner Table, and we are fortunate he walked through our doors and offered his service. He is one who is difficult to describe due to his meek, unobtrusive personality. Through his actions and character, he exhibits a true sense of service for others in everything he does. His true sense of giving from the heart makes him the perfect person for this award and I feel sure it would bring him to tears.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards

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► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Nancy C Lipe, Ms.

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Queen of Clean!

Years volunteered with organization:

6

Number of hours volunteered per week:

25

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Hickory Soup Kitchen Inc

Nominator

Austin C Pearce

Hickory Soup Kitchen Inc

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

~~Nancy has seen us~~ through thick and thin! She began working with us before the pandemic and has showed more commitment to our mission than any volunteer in that time. Day in and day out Nancy is always there to help anywhere throughout HSK's operation to ensure success for those we serve. She is dependable, friendly, hardworking, caring, gentle, and kind. The support she gives our staff is vital to their wellbeing and feeling of family we share at the Kitchen.

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

We have calculated Nancy has helped serve over 400,000 hot, nutritious meals to the hungry in our area over her time at the Hickory Soup Kitchen. When families and homeless individuals are at their most vulnerable, Nancy shows up every day no matter what to help make sure that no individual goes without food. Nancy has also been a big part of the development of the family culture that lives within HSK. She knows so many of our guests and provides friendship and love to all.

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

Nancy has an extraordinary attention for detail. This is most evident in the Kitchen area of our facility. She knows better than any other one how and where items are to be cleaned and stored properly. In the dish area she is our Queen! This is an often-overlooked area of importance, but it is central to the safety, quality, and efficiency of how our She is tiny in size but a giant during the lunch rush at the Kitchen. She works great under pressure and never loses her cool. As a retired schoolteacher Nancy works great with all ages of volunteers.

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

Nancy is of the highest quality of character, and grace. She brings light into a room when she enters. She is a shining example for all of us at HSK on how to live in a meaningful way that truly makes a difference in this complicated world. Nancy is warm, generous, committed, and HSK would not be the same without her. She would never look to be recognized for her efforts, but I feel she is more deserving than any other for all she has done and accomplished for so many.

Volunteer Photo

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Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards

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► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Robert "Bob" Sand, Mr.

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

Home Delivered Meals Volunteer

Years volunteered with organization:

3

Number of hours volunteered per week:

{Empty}

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

10

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Catawba County Meals on Wheels

Nominator

Kirstin Abernethy

Catawba County Meals on Wheels

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

While the typical volunteer commitment for delivering meals to homebound seniors is once a month, Bob is regularly scheduled to deliver meals 5 times per month on 3 different delivery routes in Hickory. In addition, he frequently fills in when we have a last-minute volunteer cancellation. Bob has gotten to know the seniors on his regular delivery routes and is good at communicating any concerns he notices while making deliveries. He also makes a point to get to know the client's pets and greet them while he is making deliveries. He truly cares for our clients and loves getting to know them.

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

Bob typically delivers 12-14 meals each time each he delivers a meal route. He is delivering these meals to homebound seniors who are unable to prepare a nutritious meal. In addition to providing a meal and warm smile, he is also providing an important safety check. If the senior doesn't answer the door when he delivers the meal, he notifies office staff so we can follow up to assure that the senior is okay. He is also able to report any other concerns he observes while delivering meals. We know that seniors are happier and healthier when they can remain in their own homes. The nutritional support the clients receive from Bob and other Meals on Wheels volunteers enable them to remain in their own homes for a longer period of time.

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

Bob's special quality is his availability and willingness to deliver meals. We are able to call him when a volunteer cancels at the last minute or forgets to deliver their route, and Bob is typically able and willing to deliver the route.

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

When Bob retired, he started to look for opportunities to be of service to his community. His early volunteer work included four years with the NC Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Program, two years repairing homes with Habitat for Humanity, and a stint with Mt. Pisgah's Lutheran Church's Good Samaritan Food Pantry. He has relatives that deliver for Meals on Wheels in Buffalo New York so when he saw a volunteer recruitment notice for Meals on Wheels in the local paper, Bob was eager to serve. He looks forward to continuing to serve as long as he is able to get out and drive in the community.

Volunteer Photo



Giving From the Heart Volunteer Awards:

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► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Category

Individual

Nominee - Individual or Group Contact Name

Will Monroe

If a Group - List all members here:

{Empty}

Nominee/Group Contact Phone Number

{Empty}

Volunteer Job Title:

{Empty}

Years volunteered with organization:

3

Number of hours volunteered per week:

10

Number of weeks volunteered per month:

4

Volunteer Organization

Organization Name:

Ashure Ministry

Nominator

Allen Sherrill

Ashure Ministry

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

Will is one of our most consistent volunteers. He comes every Monday and Tuesday morning to work in our cart building area. These are two of our busiest times of the week, so it's incredibly important that we have good workers here during those periods. Will goes around our cart building area and loads up the client carts with all of the daily commodities. There are dozens of items that have to be picked up and placed in boxes and on the carts. Things are also changing regularly as some items run out and are replaced with others and quantities change due to inventory. Will keeps up with this and continues to keep building carts throughout those mornings. He has also been known to stay longer if we've got a huge line and no one has come in to replace him yet.

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

Putting these carts together is not for the faint of heart and is a fairly physical job. There can be a good bit of bending and lifting required to continually keep these carts filled. Will does an amazing job of just continuing to keep our door workers supplied with ready-made carts on these mornings. We can see 100 or more clients on a Monday or Tuesday morning, and it can be a bit of a bear to keep up with the amount of clients constantly coming in. Will does so without fail. He literally just keeps going around in circles putting these carts put together for our folks working the client door.

Will is also very good about letting our Food Pantry staff know about the inventory. If things are running low, he's letting us know ahead of time so that we can be getting something in place to fill any holes. This really helps us to maintain a solid consistency and quality to the food going out to our clients at any given time.

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

One of the best things about Will his is amazing attitude. Yes, Will has a lot to keep up in building these carts, but he always has a smile on his face and is constantly kidding around with those he works with. He's got a number of running jokes he keeps going with several of our regulars and staff. You can always count of Will to have a quick little quip he'll throw out to get everyone laughing. And when Allen and Will get together in the morning, you might think you were watching ESPN. Those two will discuss everything going on in college sports, the NFL, MLB, NBA, and more. Plus since Will is a Carolina alum and Allen is a NC State alum, you can always count on some very witty exchanges to come out at some point during the morning. One of the things we work very hard on at Ashure is to create a very welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere for our volunteers to work in, and on Monday and Tuesday mornings, Will plays a big part in helping us to do so.

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

Will is something of the model of what we want a regular volunteer to be. You can pretty well always count on him to be there for his "shifts." If for some reason he can't be there, he lets us know well ahead of time, so that we can come up with someone to replace him that day. He works very diligently from the time he comes in until the time he leaves, and stays longer if need be. And he does all of this with a smile on his face and spirited personality people easily can gravitate towards. His work and his general disposition are what we'd like to see in anyone who volunteers with us. He sets a great example for others to follow and for our staff and volunteers, he makes working at Ashure to be a very gratifying experience.

Volunteer Photo

