



2023 Governor's Medallion Recipients

Alamance County

Freedom's Hope Compassionate Ministry

Freedom's Hope Compassionate Ministry's mission is to assist those impacted by poverty to achieve sustainability, and they are doing just that. They saw a community need for a day shelter and pulled together volunteers to make it a reality. They are a completely volunteer-led nonprofit that serve our most vulnerable neighbors in Alamance County.

Beaufort County

Kurt J. Ryan

Kurt J. Ryan has devoted thousands of hours to the revitalization of the Aurora-Richland Township community since his retirement from the Army in 2021. From working with Town, County, State and Federal leaders to establishing citizen-led committees to identify critical needs; to development of the Town of Aurora's first Strategic Plan; to cleaning, painting, and clearing hurricane damage; and rallying others to serve; his actions continue to embody his lifelong credo of "Service Before Self" and have resulted in tangible progress towards the Town's revitalization.

Brunswick County

Christy Judah

Ms. Judah is founder of Brunswick Search and Rescue and served 20 plus years as President/Chief. Under Ms. Judah's exceptional leadership, BSAR has participated in over 350 callouts for missing persons throughout NC and surrounding states. Ms. Judah has become recognized internationally as an expert in the use of K9s in Search and Rescue.



2023 Governor's Medallion Recipients

Buncombe County

Tricia and Charlie Franck

Tricia and Charlie Franck have been volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, locally and internationally, for more than 15 years. Since moving to Buncombe County in 2010, the Francks have been involved with many different volunteer opportunities at Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity. They call their service with Habitat their “retirement passion.

Burke County

David Tubergen

Mr. David Tubergen is an active volunteer in his county especially with the American Red Cross, the Disabled American Veterans, and the local hospice agency. A few of the things he does is visits patients in their homes, goes to the local schools to instruct on safety issues, responds to fires in the community, transports veterans to medical appointments, and more. Dave is a wonderful asset to his community. He truly has a heart for helping others through volunteering.

Cabarrus County

Johnny Carroll

At a grassroots level, Johnny Carroll's volunteer efforts at the Community Free Clinic in Concord ensure that healthy foods and recipes are available to the Clinic's uninsured, low-income patients. At the community level, Johnny also serves as the Clinic's representative at the Cabarrus County Hunger Taskforce, addressing food insecurity at a systemic level.



2023 Governor's Medallion Recipients

Catawaba County

Mike Turney

If you come into The Corner Table, there isn't one volunteer that doesn't love Mike Turney. He genuinely cares about each one of our guests — asking how they are doing today, thanking them for coming—he makes them feel welcomed and respected each day they eat with us.

Craven County

Gayle Midyette

Gayle Midyette spent her career as a school guidance counselor and has spent her retirement serving children in one of the most at-risk schools in Craven County. Through coordinating tutors and mentors, leading fundraising events, and organizing post-hurricane restoration efforts, Gayle has helped support her own community, but didn't stop there. As the Sound District Coordinator for Congregations4Children, Gayle coordinated with nearby churches to support schools in nine counties.

Cumberland County

Cheyenne and Cali Rae Campos

Cheyenne and Cali Rae Campos truly exude volunteerism and giving back in all that they do. As successful actresses and models, at a young age they began giving back to others through Christmas Blessing food drives, distributing shoes to schools, and forming their own 501c3 nonprofit, Giving Back Warm Hugs. All proceeds they earn from their popular Fizzy Friends Bath Bombs business go back to the local community, with the girls keeping no compensation. They work tirelessly to find ways to positively impact others in all that they do.



2023 Governor's Medallion Recipients

Dare County

Patricia Bourexis

Patricia Bourexis co-founded the Coastal Humane Society in 1997 and has served as the President for over 20 years. She has helped over 10,000 pets and their families by providing affordable spaying/neutering, vaccines and financial support for expensive veterinary procedures. Other initiatives sparked by Patricia have included the donation of 64 pet resuscitation kits to fire departments as well as distributing over 10,000 pounds of pet supplies during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Davidson County

Victoria Robinson

Through her own nonprofit, Tori's Lemon-Aide, she sells lemonade and accepts monetary donations to support her platform, Fighting Childhood Hunger. She has contributed over 6,000 pounds of food to community outreach centers and also started and stocked our headquarters pantry to serve our care families and aged out foster youth with meals, snacks and grocery gift cards.

Duplin County

Doris Hatcher

Doris Hatcher has served in numerous volunteer capacities for over 50 years. In 1970, her involvement was key to incorporating the Chinquapin Water System and she continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the Chinquapin Water Association. Her dedication to serve at risk children and the elderly is ongoing through her efforts with the "Blessing in Store" thrift store and outreach efforts with Sharon Baptist Church.



2023 Governor's Medallion Recipients

Franklin County

Bernard Meader

Mr. Bernard Meader a resident of Franklinton has been the mastermind of the town's community garden at the Senior Center for the past four years. The garden provides fresh vegetables and fruits for the elderly, impoverished, and others in Franklin County. Bernie has cultivated a core team of volunteers from young to old and has united them under a common purpose, despite their diverse backgrounds.

Henderson County

Rick Merrill

Rick Merrill had a servant leadership mentality that began at a young age when he served for with AmeriCorps in college. Rick promoted local land conservation, served on the board of Conserving Carolina for 13 years, and was deeply involved with Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM), a nonprofit crisis services provider. Until his passing in February 2023, Rick served in a variety of volunteer roles with IAM including Board President and was instrumental in the building and completion of IAM's thrift store, serving as the Project Manager overseeing construction of the facility.

McDowell County

Vonnie Durant

Vonnie Durant goes above and beyond to help with emergency services/ disaster relief with the American Red Cross. She averages more than 40 hours a week in volunteer time. Vonnie has helped so many people that are trying to pick up from bad disasters or emergencies.



2023 Governor's Medallion Recipients

Mecklenberg County

The Morrow and Harper Family

Alan and Lynn Morrow, their daughter, Brooke Harper, and her husband, Matt, have created a volunteer legacy at Habitat For Humanity of the Charlotte Region that is both broad and deep. Alan's involvement began 40 years ago, when the organization was founded. The family has served on build sites in Charlotte and overseas, in boardrooms, warehouses, in Habitat's ReStore, café and bookstore.

Nash County

Cindy Worthy

Cindy Worthy has served many nonprofit agencies including serving 25 years on the Board of Directors for United Community Ministries, the largest local provider of food and shelter for homeless and hungry individuals & families. Cindy's passion for helping this population inspired her to lead a fundraising campaign that engaged 250 individuals, city government, and others, to raise over \$91,000 for this organization, ensuring their doors stayed open during a financially trying period.

New Hanover County

Sanders Lewis

Sanders Lewis dedicates her free time to the service of others, the way some athletes dedicate themselves to their sport. During her school week, she tutors a local 3rd grader in reading and considers the time spent with him a bright spot. She also serves on our Surf Rider's Foundation Club and regularly picks up trash at our beaches. She greatly appreciates the need to keep our beaches and waterways clean for all.



2023 Governor's Medallion Recipients

Orange County

Bruce Ballentine

Bruce Ballentine has volunteered countless hours to ensure the success of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County's largest development ever. His expertise in engineering and construction has been instrumental in the Weavers Grove community and is creating a replicable national model.

Polk County

Dr. Warren J. Carson

Dr. Warren J. Carson, is a steadfast community leader and retired educator whose notable work has helped ensure equity for youth, adults, and seniors for over forty years. Dr. Carson not only continues to support, develop, and uplift low-wealth citizens and communities in Tryon and Polk County, but he also gives of his service throughout the county, state and nation. Polk County has truly benefited from Dr. Carson's decision to return to Tryon after college and his lifelong commitment to volunteerism and community service.

Stokes County

Karen Gordon

Karen has served as a volunteer for Heroes Helping Heroes and it's Seeds of Hope programs working with foster, adopted and at-risk children. She has also served as a Guardian Ad Litem, advocating for Stokes County children who may not be able to speak for themselves. She fiercely loves the children in her care, serving them with dedication and compassion.



2023 Governor's Medallion Recipients

Wake County

Nona Wright

Nona is a volunteer that is always willing to step in when needed. She is always ready and eager to attempt new ideas to better the organization and it's philanthropic programs. She is a true humanitarian and a very important part of the Assistance League of the Triangle Area for over 20 years.

Wilson County

Shannon Nichols

Shannon is the former coordinator for the Hope Alliance Initiative, which supplied direct and equitable treatment access for SUD/ODU under her watch. Shannon spent many hours beyond the original call of duty to support our community members and their families as they found themselves in moments of crisis. Every community would be a better place if they had a Shannon Nichols.