



The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) is a statewide, bi-partisan group comprised of at least 15 members, appointed by the governor, with diverse service and volunteerism backgrounds. The KCCVS actively engages citizens in community service opportunities that enable volunteers, organizations and businesses to share ideas and effectively collaborate to address Kentucky's needs. Please visit our Web site at www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.

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2007 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service



Reception and Awards Ceremony

Rotunda and Mezzanine of the
 Kentucky State Capitol Building

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Reception 6 p.m. EDT
 Awards Ceremony 7 p.m. EDT

Your hosts

Governor Steve and First Lady Jane Beshear
 and the Kentucky Commission on Community
 Volunteerism and Service

Cover photo courtesy of Gene Burch Photography



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Welcome

Welcome to the 2007 Governor's Volunteer Awards presentation and celebration.

Now in its 13th year under the direction of the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service, the awards program offers a rare glimpse into the lives and achievements of Kentuckians who serve without expectation of compensation, recognition or commendation.

It's been our distinct privilege over the years to recognize a few of the thousands whose volunteer service contributes immeasurably to a better Kentucky.

We're so glad you're here to join us in honoring the latest Governor's Volunteer Awards recipients.

Schedule of Events

Welcome:

- Master of Ceremonies - Steve Nunn, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Opening Remarks:

- Janie Miller, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- Jane Beshear, First Lady of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Award Presentation:

- Master of Ceremonies

Event Musicians - The Wurtsmith's

Event Photographer - Angela Baldrige

Program and Event Coordinator - Shannon Ramsey



Michala Riggle

Special Citation

Inspired by her brother's success with an experimental treatment for autism, Michala Riggle of Louisville founded Beading to Beat Autism to raise money for autism research. Eleven-year-old Michala raises money selling beaded bracelets at arts and crafts shows and community events. Since June of 2007, she has raised more than \$161,000 to help find new and

better treatments for autism, while making the world a prettier, more fashionable place. Michala's campaign, Beading to Beat Autism, has been recognized with a \$100,000 grant from the Ephram and Wilma Shaw Roseman Foundation. In December, Michala was named Kentuckian of the Year by Kentucky Monthly Magazine. She also has appeared as a guest on the Ellen DeGeneres Show and her story was featured on ABC's Good Morning America.

My Old Kentucky Home

Words and Music by: Stephen C. Foster

The sun shines bright in the old Kentucky home
'Tis summer, the people are gay;
The corn top's ripe and the meadow's in the bloom,
While the birds make music all the day;
The young folks roll on the little cabin floor,
All merry, all happy, and bright,
By'n by hard times comes a-knocking at the door,
Then my old Kentucky home, good night!

Chorus:

Weep no more, my lady,
Oh weep no more today!

We will sing one song for the old Kentucky home,
For the old Kentucky home far away.

They hunt no more for the 'possum and the coon,
On meadow, the hill and the shore,
They sing no more by the glimmer of the moon,
On the bench by that old cabin door;
The day goes by like a shadow o'er the heart,
With sorrow where all was delight;
The time has come when the people have to part,
Then my old Kentucky home, good night!

Chorus

The head must bow and the back will have to bend,
Wherever the people may go;
A few more days and the trouble all will end
In the field where sugar-canes may grow;
A few more days for to tote the weary load,
No matter, 'twill never be light,
A few more days till we totter on the road,
Then my old Kentucky home, good night!

Chorus



Robley H. Rex

Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominated by Marian Gosling,
Community Action Partnership of
Metro Louisville volunteer coordinator

Robley Rex of Louisville is a 25-year member of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and considered a champion among volunteers for his many years of service to the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Louisville.

A United States Army veteran, Robley began his volunteer service to his fellow service members at the national landmark Nichols General Army Hospital in southern Jefferson County. In more than 70 years of volunteer service, he has given more than 13,000

hours of his time and helped an estimated 60,000 patients at the Louisville VA hospital.

For decades, Rex was often the only advocate for veterans and their families in southwest Jefferson County.

With his talent for details, Rex managed to cut through red tape to help veterans and their widows or children access medical services or survivor benefits.

A team of drivers helps him get to the homes of veterans and their families when crisis situations arise and the drivers help him get to the VA Medical Center for his scheduled duties in the Escort Office.

Rex also has served with food commodities disbursement at the Newburg Community Center. He is the founder of the VFW Okolona Post where he has served as chaplain and commander and was honored by having a building addition at the post named after him. His service and volunteer leadership have inspired other veterans to find ways they can help their communities.

Rex continues to visit and encourage fellow vets at the VA hospital while receiving his own medical care. He serves on the VA Volunteer Services Committee and attends meetings regularly. A multiple award winner for service on and off the battlefield, Robley is beloved for his quick wit, magical smile and unflinching kindness.

Robley Rex is Kentucky's only surviving WWI-era veteran, a sergeant first-class who served his country in active duty from 1919 to 1922. He celebrated his 107th birthday May 2.



Robert H. Merriam

Kentucky Ambassador Award

Nominated by H. Andrew Ward, OD, Advantage Vision Care

Inspired by the work of a group that traveled the world providing eyeglasses to people with vision problems, Bob Merriam of Owensboro organized his own vision mission beginning in 1979. Bob's work and compassion have touched and improved the lives of thousands of people in Central and South America and Mexico.

Since 1983, Bob has made 69 mission visits to 11 different countries. He has personally organized and led 25 missions to remote locations in Honduras, Ecuador, Peru, Jamaica and Mexico. He has collected, cleaned and distributed more than 60,000 pairs of eyeglasses, giving the gift of better vision to people who otherwise would go without.

Each year, KCCVS sponsors two competitive Make A Difference Day food drives to fight hunger and supply area food banks. One food drive is a competition among Kentucky AmeriCorps programs and the other pits Cabinet for Health and Family Services Department for Community Based Services regional offices against one another in a contest to collect the most food. The Traveling Awards are presented to and remain with the winning program and regional office for one year, then, they travel to the next year's winning program and region. If a program or regional office sweeps the competition three years in a row, the award becomes its to keep permanently and a new award is presented to the winner the following year.



Two Rivers Service Region

Make A Difference Day Traveling Award: DCBS Service Region

For the second consecutive year, the Two Rivers DCBS Service Region has earned the Traveling Award, this year for collecting nearly 22,000 ounces of canned food. That total represents almost half the total ounces collected by all other participating regional offices combined and almost double the total ounces collected by the regional runner-up. Thanks to the efforts of the Two Rivers regional staff, area food banks were able to feed more than 2,700 Kentuckians.



The Learning Corps

Make A Difference Day Traveling Award: AmeriCorps Program

The Learning Corps AmeriCorps program based in Owensboro collected almost 300,000 ounces of canned food - more than nine tons. The total ounces of food collected by The Learning Corps is more than half the total collected by all other participating AmeriCorps programs combined and is almost triple the total ounces collected by the runner-up program. Thanks to the efforts of only 16 TLC members, area food banks were able to feed more than 37,000 Kentuckians. Their efforts also earned them a Daily Point of Light Award from the Points of Light Foundation. This also is The Learning Corps' second consecutive Make A Difference Day food drive competition title.

2007 Award Recipients



Alexandra Jenkins

Impact Youth Award

Nominated by Brenda Southwick, Trigg County Public Schools community education director

Alex Jenkins of Cadiz in Trigg County serves her community and its residents through leadership and participation in programs and organizations dedicated to meeting vital human needs. Her community service includes: president of the Service Learning Youth after-school tutoring and mentoring program; volunteer primary school tutor; co-chair of Red Ribbon Week anti-drug campaign and participant in youth anti-smoking campaigns; big sister with Big Brothers/Big Sisters; lead planner, organizer and host of the first Trigg County Day of Service in April 2007; and member of the Kentucky Child Now Youth Advisory Council. In addition to these service activities, Jenkins' peers have elected her to represent the entire school district student body on the Cadiz City Council.



Marilyn McLendon

Impact Adult Award

Nominated by Jennifer Clark, Kentucky Humane Society volunteer manager

Marilyn McLendon of Louisville is a foster parent with the Kentucky Humane Society who has volunteered nearly 7,000 hours of her time caring for furry creatures in need since February 2004. As a foster parent, Marilyn opens her home and heart to special needs animals awaiting adoption. During the nomination period, Marilyn volunteered more than 5,000 hours and helped save the lives of hundreds of animals. Marilyn also gives back by serving as an adoption matchmaker, special events worker, fundraiser, clerical assistant and foster volunteer leader.



Kentucky Changers

Faith-Based Group Award

Nominated by Penny Thompson, Monticello-Wayne County Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky Changers, based in Wayne County, is a hands-on, youth-oriented mission organization

sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The group helps make exterior home repairs for those in need. Kentucky Changers volunteers help with roofing and gutters, scraping and painting, door, window and porch repairs and other general carpentry jobs. In 2007, more than 850 volunteers made repairs to 65 homes in Russellville, Lawrenceburg and Louisville. In June, 325 participants from 20 churches completed repairs at 31 sites in Maysville. The following month, another 275 participants from another 20 churches completed 20 home repair jobs in Monticello.



Garnett Fairchild

Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominated by Melissa Vance, Highlands Regional Medical Center director of community development

Garnett Fairchild of Floyd County has devoted more than 36 years of her life to helping and serving others as a volunteer. She was the first official volunteer with the Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg in January 1973.

Since then and through 2006, she gave more than 13,000 hours of time to the medical center. She helped establish an auxiliary group, currently with more than 45 active members, who raise money and donations of goods and services including medical

equipment, wheelchairs and video equipment for the pediatric unit.

Garnett also works in the gift shop, decorates for the holidays, helps out with guest services and founded the Reach for Recovery program which offers extra comfort to patients.

Garnett is a former president of the Floyd County Homemakers Council and has served as president of the Northeast Area Homemakers Council.

She has served on the board of directors for Hospice of Big Sandy, participates in the annual Relay for Life and has been recognized by the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center for her dedication to the fight against cancer.

Garnett is an active member and current treasurer of her local AARP chapter, has served on the board of directors for the Jenny Wiley Theatre and was instrumental in the UK Cooperative Extension's production of a DVD of first-person cancer survivor stories that has been broadcast locally and screened at a number of area churches and civic group meetings.

Garnett currently is vice president of the board of directors for the Samuel May House Living History Museum and she is a 45-year member of the Prestonsburg Woman's Club, where she has held every elected office.



Sister Kathleen Weigand, OSB

Director of Volunteers Award

Nominated by Joyce Mitchell, St. Vincent Mission, Inc.

Sister Kathleen Weigand is the executive director of St. Vincent Mission, Inc., of David in Floyd County. Among the mission's important work is a program that welcomes people from all over the world to Appalachian Kentucky to help make repairs to homes for low-income individuals and families. Under Sister Kathleen's

leadership, the mission's home repair program has grown significantly – from two groups visiting each year to 26 groups scheduled this year. Last year, 401 volunteers served more than 14,500 hours at 51 home sites and made repairs valued at more than \$218,000. Sister Kathleen also oversees an emergency assistance program that helps people with their utility and medical bills; scholarship programs; an annual Christmas program for low-income families; the David Appalachian Crafts program; and a second-hand store.



Chuck Thompson

Challenge Adult Award

Nominated by State Representative Fred Nesler

In 1998, diabetes-related complications left 45-year old Chuck Thompson of Paducah with a disability and unable to continue his career in quality control. Facing financial challenges paying for his medications, Chuck searched for sources of free and low-cost prescription drugs. After much research, he discovered 1,200

programs offered by more than 300 pharmaceutical companies – but there was no centralized list of all these plans in one place. Chuck developed a database of medications and drug assistance programs and, with the help of a friend, Chuck established HEART USA, a non-profit organization that provides information about free and low-cost prescription programs. Since August 2003, HEART USA has helped nearly 1,500 people obtain more than \$6 million in free prescription medicine.



Rebecca Croucher

Challenge Youth Award

Nominated by Paula Long Strunk, The Terrace Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility administrator

Thirteen-year-old Rebecca Croucher of Berea suffers from anxiety that was once so severe it was difficult for her to attend school and enjoy many activities other children her age take for granted. Three years ago, shy Rebecca went to work with her mother at The

Terrace long-term care facility for the annual Family Day celebration. That singular event changed Rebecca's life and the lives of the residents at the Terrace – all for the better. Rebecca began coming to the care facility more and, before long, she was a regular fixture there, planning and conducting special events and spending one-on-one time with the residents who have come to love her. From July 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2007, Rebecca volunteered more than 800 hours at the facility. She has blossomed into a vibrant, accomplished and caring young lady who remains a valuable volunteer at The Terrace.



Deborah Luedke

Faith-Based Individual Award

Nominated by April Dickens, Sts. Joseph and Paul Catholic Church

Debbie Luedke of Owensboro began volunteering three hours a week as an office assistant at Sts. Joseph and Paul Catholic Church. Her service has increased to more than 20 hours a week and expanded from office work to helping needy families, managing some of the church's finances and tracking sacramental records. Debbie coordinates a program that helps ensure the safety of children in the parish by making sure all parish volunteers who work with children have background checks and safe environment training. She helps with the refugee ministry and other outreach efforts such as the annual block party for neighbors of the church. Debbie also serves on the parish Pastoral Council and Education and Spiritual Life Committee.



Marian Duville

National Service Individual Award

Nominated by Cathy Campbell, Audubon Area Senior Companion program manager

Marian Dunville of Owensboro has been a senior companion volunteer with the Audubon Area Senior Service Corps for four years. In 2007 alone, she gave 1,100 hours of her time to serve area seniors in need. She forms meaningful bonds with seniors she cares for and their families, many of whom come to regard her as a member of the family. Marian also is a valuable volunteer recruiter who has ignited a powerful word-of-mouth campaign on behalf of the Senior Service Corps. With loyalty, integrity and a sense of purpose, Marian has overcome personal challenges to continue serving seniors in her community.



Audubon Area Senior Companion Program

National Service Group Award

Nominated by Robyn Mattingly, Senior Service Corps Director, Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.

The Audubon Area Senior Companion program provides volunteer opportunities for people 60 and older in Daviess, Hancock, McLean, Ohio, Henderson, Union and Webster counties. Volunteers offer one-on-one support to other seniors with physical and other health challenges. Senior companions help clients maintain the highest possible level of quality independent living. The vital service they offer helps seniors avoid premature placement in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. During the 2007 program year, 110 senior companions served more than 91,000 hours helping seniors with activities of daily life so they could remain in their homes safely and comfortably. Several senior companions trained in disaster relief also provided disaster recovery and victim assistance after the Owensboro tornado in October 2007.



Borders and Borders, PLLC

Business Group Award

Nominated by Rob Locke, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville executive director

Borders and Borders law firm of Louisville works with Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville helping to make home ownership an affordable possibility for more

people and families. The firm was a key player in creating Louisville's chapter of the self-sustaining home ownership program in 1985 and provides free legal services for every Habitat home sale in Louisville. From July 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2007, Borders and Borders donated almost 300 hours of legal service valued at \$15,000. Staff at the firm also donated their time and skills to help acquire a land donation valued at \$417,000. Members of the firm also provide important training to new homeowners after closing through their participating in Habitat's homeowner education program.



Volunteers in Action

Volunteer Support Award

Nominated by Anne Grubbs, Bowling Green-Warren County Community Education

Volunteers in Action of Bowling Green and Warren County is a group of diverse agencies and organizations that rely on the

dedication and commitment of community volunteers to provide needed services in the community. Because volunteers make such a difference in communities where they serve, for 20 years, Volunteers in Action has devoted time and resources to increase community awareness of volunteerism and helped provide education and support to volunteer managers and workshops for non-profit organizations. VIA inaugurated a formal volunteer recognition program in 1990 that continues today, with the support of the community, to honor area volunteers for their service. VIA also promotes activities in the community including Make A Difference Day, Family Volunteer Day and National Volunteer Week.



Amy Garon Benovitz

Innovation Adult Award

Nominated by Farrah Ferriell, Volunteers of America of Kentucky

Amy Garon Benovitz of Louisville serves with the state Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing program. From July 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2007, Amy volunteered 160

hours providing everyday necessities like clothing and infant care supplies to help 108 families. Amy coordinated Family Night at the Ballgame for families served by Volunteers of America of Kentucky to enjoy Louisville River Bats baseball games. Amy collaborated with Rabbi David Ariel of The Temple to organize the Merry Mitzvah project, giving Jewish volunteers the opportunity to help a variety of organizations make the holidays brighter, warmer, happier and more peaceful and safe for area families.



Glenn L. Means III

Innovation Youth Award

Nominated by Donna Wilson, Montgomery County High School guidance counselor

Glenn Means III of Mt. Sterling is the founder of HOPS (Helping Older People Smile), a program that pairs high school students and nursing home residents with similar interests and backgrounds.

Students regularly visit their HOPS partners and the pairs share meals and activities. Close bonds form between students and nursing home residents that benefit everyone involved and bridge multiple generation gaps. Glenn also is the president of a youth volunteer recruiting and training organization and has clocked thousands of hours of service to others while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.



Lewisburg North Logan Historical Commission

Non-Profit Group Award

Nominated by Lewisburg Mayor Kenneth Whitson

When the Logan County Public Library closed its doors in August 2006, the Lewisburg North Logan Historical Commission seized the opportunity to fill the need caused by the loss of its library. The

historical commission teamed up with other community members to make sure there was a library in Lewisburg, coordinating donations and volunteers to refurbish the original library building and stock it with books. The new library is called Lewisburg's Books to Go and is open three days a week, staffed entirely by volunteers. Not only has the library re-opened, but it also now offers free high-speed Internet access, a service upgrade made possible by the efforts of the historical commission.



St. Anthony's Hospice Volunteers

Non-Profit Group Award

Nominated by Darrell Monroe, St. Anthony's Hospice volunteer coordinator

Established in 1982, St. Anthony's Hospice provides emotional, spiritual and physical support to people with terminal health conditions in Henderson, Union and Webster counties. Volunteers are the heart of hospice, providing help in diverse and vital ways. Some of St. Anthony's Hospice volunteers have been with the organization since the early 1980s. Volunteers help with office work, clean medical equipment, organize supplies, create patient files, and perform a host of other tasks. They also provide caring, compassionate direct patient care and offer emotional and grief support to families and loved ones of their patients. The St. Anthony's Hospice volunteers gave more than 2,400 hours of service in the year 2007.