



The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service is a statewide, bipartisan 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.

The KCCVS supports volunteerism and national service through grants, awards and special initiatives. The KCCVS administers the state AmeriCorps program, Volunteer Insurance program, Volunteer Recognition program, Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service and other initiatives.

Please visit the KCCVS website at www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.

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2009 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service



Reception and Awards Ceremony

Governor's Mansion
 Frankfort, Kentucky

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Awards Ceremony 2 p.m. EDT
 Reception immediately following

Your host

Kentucky Commission on Community
 Volunteerism and Service



Welcome

Welcome to the 2009 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service presentation and celebration.

Now in its 15th year under the direction of the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS), 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:

- Aaron Anderkin, Chair, Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service

Opening Remarks:

- Janie Miller, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Award Presentations:

- Jane Beshear, Kentucky's First Lady
- Amber Philpott, WKYT-TV News Anchor

Event Photographer: Boden Photography

Program and Event Coordinator: Shannon Ramsey

Cover photo courtesy of J. Stephen Conn

2009 Make A Difference Day Award Recipients



**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE DAY**
NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD



Kentucky's 2009 community service project, a statewide food drive coordinated by KCCVS was named as one of the top 10 Make A Difference Day projects in the country by USA WEEKEND Magazine. The project was featured in the April 18 edition of the publication and was awarded a check for \$10,000 that was shared among several nonprofit organizations such as food banks.

Kentuckians came together as a team during the 2009 Make A Difference Day to gather and donate over 123 tons of food to emergency feeding centers in the communities where it was collected.

While KCCVS, along with Kentucky's AmeriCorps programs, has participated in Make A Difference Day

for several years, 2009 marks the first time a sitting Kentucky Governor and First Lady have endorsed the food drive as a statewide event. The food drive was expanded from two competitions between the AmeriCorps programs and the

Presenter Biographies

First Lady Jane Beshear has dedicated her life to the service of others throughout the Commonwealth. Mrs. Beshear is a longtime volunteer board member of many local and state civic organizations, including the Kentucky Commission on Women, the Frontier Nursing Service and Generations United Seniors4Kids program.

She recently was awarded with a Friend of Literacy Award from the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development for her work in adult literacy initiatives. She serves as co-chair for the Recovery Kentucky Task Force, an initiative to help Kentuckians recover from substance abuse that often leads to chronic homelessness.

Mrs. Beshear has focused her work on removing barriers to school success through all levels of education. She is also an advocate for women's health issues.

Amber Philpott is a television journalist and news anchor for WKYT-TV in Lexington. She anchors WKYT News at 5, 5:30, 6, and 11 p.m. Philpott is a native of Cynthiana. She attended Morehead State University, graduating in 2003. After graduation, she was hired as morning anchor for WKYT's sister station, WYMT-TV in Hazard. After working a year and a half at WYMT, Philpott was promoted to her current position at WKYT.

In 2009, Philpott was awarded the Kentucky Associated Press Broadcasters award for Best TV News Anchor and placed second in this category in 2010.

Janie Miller was appointed secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services by Gov. Steve Beshear in January 2008. Miller brings more than 30 years of experience to the position, including 21 years developing and administering health care programs. Her career also includes more than 15 years of service in the former state Cabinet for Human Resources. Miller holds an undergraduate degree in social work from Eastern Kentucky University.

Build-A-Bed Special Award Recipients



With the sawdust settled and beds distributed across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 545 children –many for the first time—can snuggle down in new beds with handmade quilts, books and cuddly toys thanks to the Build-A-Bed project and its participants. The Build-A-Bed project, a 24-hour, bed-building blitz for children in need, held at the Boone Center National Guard Armory on Mother's Day weekend, was the national kickoff event for AmeriCorps Week 2010. More than 700

volunteers and some 200 businesses and organizations participated in this historic project, but special recognition must be given to two entities without whose support the inspirational vision could not have become reality—the City of Frankfort and the Kentucky National Guard.

The City of Frankfort, Kentucky provided transportation for the volunteers to and from the build site, kept the volunteer parking lots lit during the overnight shifts and provided standby emergency response services throughout the build blitz.

The Kentucky National Guard arranged for more than 700 civilians to come to the Boone Center for the Build-A-Bed project. Security procedures were developed and on-site support was available before, during and after the memorable 24-hour build.

Lifetime Achievement Award



Charles Stiles, or “Cap’n Charlie” as he is known by emergency responders, has served the citizens of Madison County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky for more than 40 years. In 1969, he began as a volunteer firefighter with the Madison Fire Department. After five years, he left to help found an emergency response squad.

He also served four years as an active member of the Civil Air Patrol, the volunteer auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force which performs search and rescue, provides disaster and other support services for both military and civilian agencies.

During his Civil Air Patrol service, he flew the mission that delivered the first doses of polio vaccine ever administered in Madison County.

In 1974, after working frantically for several days as part of an ad hoc effort to rescue victims of a series of tornadoes that struck Madison County and other parts of Kentucky, he joined with 11 other individuals to create an organization to specifically respond to such emergencies--the Madison County Rescue Squad. He has served as the chief officer of the squad since 1991. Under his leadership, the squad has more than doubled - from about 30 members to more than 70 members.

During his career, Capt. Stiles helped develop procedures for rescue that are now commonplace. Furthermore, he is an expert in the recovery of drowning victims. Capt. Stiles has assisted with water rescue and recovery operations throughout Kentucky. For more than 20 years, he has taught water rescue and trained more than 500 emergency responders in water recovery techniques. Capt. Stiles has served as a mentor, example and instructor for young volunteers for four decades.

Individuals that Capt. Stiles trained have gone on to volunteer with or work for several fire departments and rescue squads, city and university police departments, Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Division of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Department of Parks, Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training and numerous other local, state and federal agencies.

Capt. Stiles has received awards and recognition from civic groups, public agencies and government officials ranging from the Richmond Chamber of Commerce to the Kentucky State Police. In May 2008, on his 80th birthday, he was recognized by the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management and the Kentucky Association of Independent Rescue Squads as the oldest actively serving rescue officer in Kentucky. In December 2009, Capt. Stiles was recognized by Brig. General John W. Heltzel, director of KYEM, for his lifetime achievement and he is only the second person in Kentucky to receive this distinction.

Capt. Stiles has personally responded to more than 5,600 calls during his rescue career. There is no official record of the lives that he has saved, but there is little doubt that dozens of people owe their lives to his knowledge, skill and dedication.

Also a mechanic who operates his own auto repair business, he has provided discounts and free service on many occasions to people in need. In addition, he provides food, shelter and veterinary care to stray cats - another type of rescue mission that he supports out of his own pocket.

Capt. Stiles was nominated by Robert McCool, Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center program manager.

Department for Community Based Services regional offices to include all state government employees with a new competition among state government agencies.

As a result of the support from Governor Steven Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear, there was a 74 percent increase in the collection of nonperishable food items, from 71 tons in 2008 to over 123 tons for 2009. This is enough food to feed nearly 500,000 Kentuckians an eight-ounce serving. If all of the Kentuckians receiving their portion of food stood in line it would stretch 186 miles, nearly the length of Interstate-75 as it passes through the heart of Kentucky from Cincinnati, Ohio to Jellico, Tenn.

The Make A Difference Day Awards are traveling awards. The award is presented to and remains with the winning program, regional office or state agency for one year, then travels to the next year’s winning program, region or state agency. If a program or regional office sweeps the competition three years in a row, the award remains permanently with the three-time winner and a new award is presented the following year.

Due to the varying sizes of the programs, regions and cabinets, the winners are determined by the highest number of ounces of food collected per employee or member.

The AmeriCorps programs also participated in various service projects in their areas.

Make A Difference Day: AmeriCorps Program



SERV Corps collected 42.28 tons of food – almost 40 percent of the total collected by all participating AmeriCorps programs combined. This equates to more than 45,000 ounces per member and allows area food banks to feed almost 170,000 Kentuckians!

Nancy Thames is the program director for Eastern Kentucky University’s SERV Corps.

Make A Difference Day: Service Region



The Lakes Service Region collected almost 69,000 ounces of food – almost half the total collected by all participating regional offices. This equates to more than 2 tons and 181.64 ounces per employee, enabling area food banks to feed almost 8,500 Kentuckians!

Renee Buckingham is the Service Region Administrator.

Make A Difference Day: State Agency



The Cabinet for Economic Development, the smallest participating state government agency with 96 employees, collected a total of 806 pounds of food. This equates to 13,000 ounces per employee, nearly three times the amount of the closest competitor and provides local food banks with enough food to feed more than 1,600 Kentuckians!

Larry Hayes is the Secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development.

2009 Governor's Volunteer Award Recipients

Corporate Award



Community Trust Bank, Inc. -

Ashland Market has branches in Boyd and Greenup Counties in northeastern Kentucky. However, its community involvement reaches beyond those counties to people and organizations that serve the

FIVCO area which consists of Boyd, Greenup, Carter, Lawrence and Elliot counties.

With 40 employees, the Community Trust Bank - Ashland Market volunteered more than 3,000 hours in 2009 in various service areas, from civic and nonprofit organizations to schools and churches. Larry Jones, Community Trust Bank northeast region president, set a shining example by volunteering 245 hours.

Ashland Market employees also support various fundraisers and other projects throughout the year. For instance, they raised nearly \$5,000 for the United Way of Northeastern Kentucky campaign, about \$2,790 for March of Dimes, \$400 for Cystic Fibrosis and about \$2,066 for American Relay for Life. They also contributed more than \$38,856 to other community organizations.

Each year, Ashland Market employees volunteer for the City of Ashland Repair Affair that helps homeowners with little or no financial means to maintain their homes. In 2009, nine Ashland Market employees helped to repair four homes.

Community Trust Bank - Ashland Market was nominated by Kristy Gross, Commercial Lending assistant vice president.

Faith-Based Group Award



First Baptist Church in Bowling Green partnered with the Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center (WRJDC) to help with rehabilitation of the youth residents. The church also helps motivate the residents to become productive citizens in the community.

One program the church helps support is the Accelerated Reading (AR) program, in which participants read and earn points based on reading test scores. AR points are used to "purchase" goodies such as candy, stationary and cards. In an effort to foster community involvement, First Baptist Church donated \$300 worth of disaster supplies and \$200 worth of food items that AR program participants were able to "purchase" with their AR points. This allowed for the participants to contribute to two community programs: Supply Our Seniors, which collects disaster supplies for senior citizens in a 10-county area, and HOTEL INC, a faith-based community support organization. The church also donates \$60 a month so that WRJDC can provide a pizza party to reward AR program participants.

First Baptist Church also worked with WRJDC to coordinate an annual holiday outreach program, enabling WRJDC to show appreciation to its volunteers and other community partners.

First Baptist Church was nominated by Dr. Rebecca Painter, Ph.D., Bowling Green Independent Schools educator at WRJDC.

Volunteer Coordinator Award



Joan Morris of Lexington began volunteering at a playroom in Cardinal Hill Hospital when she was only 12 years old. She remained committed to the mission of the hospital, and, over the past 48 years, she has served in numerous areas and seen the hospital grow and change. She has volunteered as the gift shop manager for 18 years. As manager, she is responsible for scheduling volunteers to staff the gift shop, training volunteers and ordering all the merchandise. Joan also works two shifts in the gift shop each week, averaging more than 500 hours of volunteer service each year.

Joan, a lawyer by profession, has superb volunteer management skills that are visible in the volunteer retention rate of gift shop volunteers - the average volunteer's commitment is 14 years. She aims to provide services that are not available through paid staff and to encourage the patients' rehabilitation both physically and mentally.

Joan's life has always been dedicated to the hospital in various ways. She taught grades 1-12, served as principal of the Cardinal Hill Hospital School and has also served as the Cardinal Hill Auxiliary president.

Joan was nominated by JoAnne Burch Burris, Cardinal Hill Hospital volunteer coordinator.

Kentucky Ambassador Award



Travis Housley, the Barker Avenue Primitive Baptist Church pastor and a retired Big Rivers Electric Corporation vice president, is the unofficial "Kentucky Ambassador to the Philippines." He averages two trips each year and has used his faith, knowledge of electrical engineering and endless hours of legwork to make a huge difference to the Filipino people.

It began in 1998, when Travis helped make connections between Henderson-based Big Rivers Electric Corporation in western Kentucky and power companies in the Philippines to extend power lines to the village of Matanao. Since that time, 45 Filipino villages have received electrical power and, through these cooperative efforts, thousands of people's lives have been improved.

In addition to electricity, Travis also helped Filipino people find means to support their families through establishing 50 "Livelihood Projects." These projects, such as opening factories for furniture-manufacturing, sewing and rewinding used electric transformers as well as introducing an ice plant in a remote fishing village, enable the people to support themselves.

Travis also helped bring electricity and electric pumps to draw fresh water to a town of intense political and religious unrest. A new water distribution system extends this fresh water supply to other villages in the surrounding area.

Travis was nominated by Jeff Winfrey, DMD, Dawson Springs Primitive Baptist Church pastor.

Volunteer Service Award



Peter C. Newberry volunteers 15-20 hours per week in his community of Berry in Harrison County. He also provides financial support to numerous individuals, organizations, civic groups and charities in his own community as well as in neighboring communities and across Kentucky.

An avid bicyclist, Peter has purchased and donated more than 650 bikes over the past 20 years.

As an attorney, he provided 250 hours of free legal services in 2009 to local nonprofit organizations and a variety of individuals and families in need of legal services.

Peter started a program in Harrison, Pendleton and Nicholas counties to provide estate planning and will creation services at no cost to active military personnel, veterans and first responders such as police, fire, sheriff, and EMS personnel. He also founded the Christmas Bikes Program for disadvantaged children, purchasing, building and donating bikes, helmets and toys to 15 Harrison County children in need.

Peter is actively involved in numerous community, civic and charitable organizations, such as the Harrison and Pendleton Counties Champions Youth Cycling Clubs, Berry Lions Club, American Cancer Society Relay for Life and Champions for a Drug Free Kentucky. In these various organizations he serves in a wide variety of roles such as volunteer, founder, sponsor, fundraiser, chairman and pro-bono attorney.

Peter was nominated by Kimberly S. Rorick, self-employed office manager.

Senior Volunteer Service Award



Elmer Simurdak has volunteered as site supervisor with St. Vincent Mission's Home Repair Program of David in Floyd County since 2001. His capable leadership has enabled the program to grow from having one or two volunteer groups a year to 29 groups scheduled in 2010. Elmer dedicates about six months a year to St. Vincent's each spring and summer and goes on mission trips to Honduras during the winter.

Elmer assesses each applicant's home, makes a work plan, orders materials and matches the job requirements to a volunteer group's skills and talents. Streamlining of this process eliminates wasted time and makes it possible for volunteer groups to get

straight to the repairs.

In 2009, Elmer and the Home Repair Program volunteers repaired or made upgrades to 39 homes. A total of 490 volunteers gave 15,600 hours of service, of which Elmer volunteered more than 1,400 hours. Since Elmer has supervised the Home Repair Program, 318 homes have undergone repairs, upgrades and additions.

The relationships that he fosters with the volunteers have helped to increase donations and continue services provided by St. Vincent Mission and the Home Repair Program.

Elmer was nominated by Joyce Mitchell, St. Vincent Mission, Inc. social services coordinator.

Nonprofit Organization Award



The Lexington Fair Housing Council (LFHC), based in Lexington, but operating throughout Kentucky, is

a nonprofit advocacy organization with a mission to ensure equal housing opportunity for all Kentuckians. The council has a roster of 20 volunteers who commit an average of five hours each month to uncovering discriminatory practices in housing. The council uses approximately 1,200 volunteer hours per year to eradicate discrimination in housing practices throughout the Commonwealth.

Through grants and donations, the LFHC investigates housing discrimination complaints in all types of housing related transactions, including rentals, sales, homeowners' insurance, mortgages and construction. To conduct these investigations, the council sends specifically trained volunteers, often undercover, to audit the practices of rental managers, real estate agents, insurance agents, loan officers and builders.

Examples of the need for LFHC services include a landlord refusing to let a tenant with a disability have an emotional support animal, eventually evicting the tenant; and a client with a mobility disability, living in an apartment complex that was not in compliance with Code Enforcement requirements, was asked to vacate during the extensive renovations. Due to LFHC involvement as part of the settlement in the first instance, the landlord agreed to develop a non-discrimination policy and to pay the tenant \$15,500. In the second situation, the landlord agreed to provide the client with an accessible ground floor unit and to assist him with moving his belongings to the new unit.

Lexington Fair Housing Council was nominated by Tony Baize, Cabinet for Health and Family Services Office of Inspector General investigator.

Challenge Award



Jimmy Tincher of Carlisle in Nicholas County has volunteered for different programs and activities in his community for more than 25 years. He provides more than 35 hours of volunteer service per week at the schools, his church and the courthouse in addition to working 10 hours per week at the local newspaper, *The Carlisle Mercury*.

Examples of his volunteer activities include taking tickets and running the scoreboard at high school sporting events and Little League games, helping at Sunday services and various events at Carlisle Christian Church such as filling communion cups and handling Sunday school attendance, and running errands for all

offices at the courthouse.

Jimmy doesn't drive or ride with anyone as he goes about helping others. He walks from one volunteer site to the next without complaint. Jimmy has been deaf since birth but he communicates by sign language, reading lips and writing notes, and of course, with his beaming smile. He has been recognized in an article in *The Carlisle Mercury* for the many volunteer services he provides to his community.

Jimmy was nominated by Paula Hunter, Nicholas County Family Resource and Youth Service Center coordinator.

Group Volunteer Service Award



The Amigos Volunteer Group consists of 11 highly committed volunteers who serve two days a week, every week throughout the year, building and repairing affordable homes for Lexington Habitat for Humanity's (LHFH) partner families.

The "Amigos" name was first coined when Joe Peters, Lyle Back and Bill DeVore started

volunteering together in 2000. Since then, they have been joined by Lee Pflieger, Ken Baxter, Frank Brangers, Debbie Green, Kevin Bazner, Nancy Robertson and George Robertson. For more than 10 years, they have given over 25,000 hours of volunteer service and contributed to more than 150 families becoming first-time homeowners.

Three characteristics of the Amigos service that makes them stand out is their consistency and deep level of commitment, the quantity and quality of their work, and their willingness to do whatever is needed. Several times in the past year alone, the Amigos have completed a home when LHFH faced a tight deadline, thus preventing a family from having their move-in date postponed. In late 2009, when progress on a home had been delayed due to inclement weather, they worked from 7:30-11:30 a.m. to turn a job site from a work-in-progress into a home ready for a dedication ceremony by noon that day.

The Amigos Volunteer Group was nominated by Rob Turner, LHFH volunteer coordinator.

National Service Group Award

RSVP

Lead With Experience

The Audubon Area Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has been the

source for qualified and dedicated senior volunteers committed to addressing community needs in the seven-

county Green River region, consisting of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster counties since 1973. RSVP volunteers enhance the capacity of local nonprofit organizations, read to children, shelter disaster victims and educate the community.

A federal program supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the Audubon Area RSVP strives to meet the strategic initiatives set by CNCS such as mobilizing more volunteers. Audubon Area RSVP registered 62 new volunteers in 2009, a 10 percent increase in enrollment from 2008.

In 2009, Audubon Area RSVP had 642 active volunteers serving at 70 nonprofit volunteer sites. Volunteers served a total of 109,076 hours. Some of the services included 45 America Reads volunteers tutoring 175 children in 16 elementary schools; 76 volunteers serving nearly 5,400 hours at nine food pantries, assisting with stocking and distributing food to 7,750 households; 18 RSVP volunteers and other community volunteers providing assistance through the Green River Area Asset Building Coalition generating a low-income tax credit of \$1,137,540 in Daviess, McLean and Ohio counties. In total, the Audubon Area RSVP impacted their region with volunteer hours valued at over \$2.2 million dollars.

Audubon Area RSVP was nominated by Robyn Mattingly, Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. RSVP manager.

National Service Individual Award



Ashley Gutshall's primary role as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) member is to build capacity. She does this by recruiting volunteers for various local events, programs and nonprofit organizations. Since this is done on the Transylvania University campus in Lexington, she is fostering long-term connections to the community.

As an AmeriCorps VISTA member, Ashley has certain requirements she must meet in her volunteer assignment description. However, Ashley went well beyond them in many of her activities. For an alternative spring break activity, Ashley took on the primary responsibilities to fundraise, identify service

locations, obtain speakers and arrange housing for the service trip. Ashley assisted with the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service project in Lexington and assumed leadership for the 2010 project.

Transylvania's First Year Urban Program, a program that engages students in community service during the week before new student orientation, grew and expanded tremendously under Ashley's careful nurturing. In the summer of 2009, Ashley created a fourth program to handle the overflow of volunteers. She collaborated with two student leaders to create the Rising Through Education (RiTE) program which focuses on fighting poverty through education and community service. Fourteen students participated in the RiTE program, volunteering 280 hours.

Ashley was nominated by Karen Anderson, Transylvania University community service and civic engagement coordinator.

Youth Volunteer Service Award



Rebecca Wente, a senior at East Carter High School in Grayson, contributed more than 300 hours of volunteer service to her school and community in 2009, earning a gold pin from the President's Volunteer Service Award program.

Rebecca developed and implemented a board for the First Book-Carter County program which provides new books for children in low-income families through local schools and existing literacy programs by fundraising and awarding book grants. This project was especially important because in 2008 Carter County was one of two counties in Kentucky that did not have a public library system. In 2009, more than 2,850 K-12 students received one to three books through the program.

She also promotes community education by serving as the only student member of the Courageous Leadership Advances School Success (CLASS) Advisory Council and served as vice president and past treasurer of the local youth volunteer council in neighboring Boyd County. Rebecca represented her region for two years as a selected member of the Kentucky Child Now! Youth Advisory Council and was the first president of her high school's student council. She was named a Distinguished Scholar by her school and was a Kentucky Governor's Scholar.

Rebecca was nominated by Bill Burch, Boyd County Public Schools community education director.