

19th Annual Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service Ceremony

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Governor's Mansion, Frankfort



Schedule of Events

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 2-2:45 p.m. | Networking Reception |
| 2:45-3:30 p.m. | Awards Ceremony |
| 3:30-4 p.m. | Post-Event Celebration |



Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service

Welcome and Ceremony Schedule



Welcome to the 19th annual Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service celebration. 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 Awards recipients.

In addition to presenting the annual awards program, the bipartisan KCCVS manages Kentucky's AmeriCorps national service programs. Since AmeriCorps began in 1994, more than 9,100 Kentucky residents have served more than 14 million hours. This year marks the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps; therefore, service and volunteerism is being highlighted across the country.

Welcome

- Joe Bringardner, Executive Director, Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service
- Deputy Secretary Eric Friedlander, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Opening Remarks

- Governor Steven L. Beshear, Commonwealth of Kentucky

Make A Difference Day Award Presentations

- Joe Bringardner

Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service Presentations

- Colmon Elridge, Executive Assistant to Governor Beshear
- Governor Beshear

Closing

- Deputy Secretary Eric Friedlander

Governor Steve Beshear



Steven L. Beshear was elected governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in November 2007.

An attorney by profession, Gov. Beshear has a long background in public service, having served as a state representative in the Kentucky General Assembly, attorney general and lieutenant governor prior to being elected governor.

As governor, Beshear has helped restore public trust by creating a culture of integrity in state government that has included rooting out cronyism and implementing stronger ethics standards. He has also

streamlined spending with a trimming of the state workforce, implemented a more efficient way of designing and building roads and won bipartisan support for a complex reform of the beleaguered public pension system.

Despite inheriting an austere budget and a struggling economy, he has focused on initiatives to help Kentucky families. These have included expanding efforts to bring health coverage to 35,000 uninsured children, designing a plan to bring prescription drugs to those who can't afford them, securing "bridge" funding to save Kentucky's student loan agency and calling for a new analysis on higher education affordability and access.

Beshear has a bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Kentucky, where he was president of the student body. He also served as an intelligence analyst in the U.S. Army Reserve, where he also carried out certain Judge Advocate General duties.

He and his wife, Jane, have been married since 1969. They own a small farm in Clark County. They have two sons — Jeff, a veterinarian; and Andy, an attorney — and three grandchildren.

Beshear has long been deeply involved in the community, and his various civic activities include such organizations as CommerceLexington Inc., the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation, God's Pantry Food Bank, Bluegrass Tomorrow, the Kentucky World Trade Center, and the UK College of Law Visiting Committee.

Learn more about Governor Beshear at www.governor.ky.gov.

Colmon Elridge III



Colmon Elridge is from Cynthiana and attended Transylvania University, receiving his bachelor's degree in history. He earned his master's degrees in public administration at Eastern Kentucky University and in business administration at Sullivan University.

As Executive Assistant to Governor Beshear, Elridge has worked to improve access to health insurance for children through KCHIP and the creation of the "Kid's Health Squad" and to improve the state's graduation rate and raising the dropout age from 16 to 18 through the successful Graduate Kentucky initiative. Elridge has further assisted in the oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Office of the Governor and to help build successful relationships and partnerships between the private and public sectors and the faith-based and nonprofit communities. He has been recognized for his achievements by a host of local, state, national, and even international organizations as was most recently named one of the Ten Most Outstanding Young Americans by the United States Jaycees.

Elridge and his wife Victoria and their two sons, Colmon and Carter, live in Georgetown.

Deputy Secretary Eric Friedlander



Eric Friedlander has worked for state government since 1985. He has worked in variety of program and agencies mostly in the health services area - from the Office of the Inspector General to the Office Family Resource and Youth Services Centers. He has served as the Executive Director of the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs, which oversees several programs related to children's health. Friedlander has had the responsibility of oversight at the Cabinet for Health Services for budgets, contracts, regulations and legislation as well as a variety of policy issues.

He has served in the capacity of Acting Commissioner for the Department for Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse and is currently the Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Make A Difference Day Awards

Make A Difference Day is an annual nationwide service effort. The KCCVS hosts one food drive competition involving our Kentucky AmeriCorps programs and another among CHFS' community-based service regions. The nonperishable food items are donated to food pantries in the communities where the food was collected.

Kentucky's 2013-14 Make A Difference Day Food Drive yielded 52 tons of food -- collected and distributed to local food banks!



Two Rivers Service Region's 505 employees collected 3.19 tons of nonperishable food items. This enabled food banks to feed 12,777 Kentuckians.

Two Rivers Service Region won the award in both 2006 and 2007. Joey Minor is the Service Region Administrator. The region's food drive coordinators were Kim Gumm, Linda Craig, Ashley Richey and Patti Davidson.

MSUCorps, an AmeriCorps school based program, collected almost 12 tons of nonperishable food items. Their efforts allowed area food banks to feed almost 48,000 Kentuckians.

This is the third consecutive win for the MSUCorps. Mary Claire Williams is the program director for Morehead State University's MSUCorps AmeriCorps program.

Build Corps, an AmeriCorps non-school based program, collected more than 8 tons of nonperishable food items, allowing area food banks to feed more than 32,500 Kentuckians.

Kelly Dycus is the program director for Homeless and Housing Coalition's Build Corps AmeriCorps program.



Bonnie Clark National Service Award

Owensboro/Daviess County

Nominated by Audra Stewart, Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.



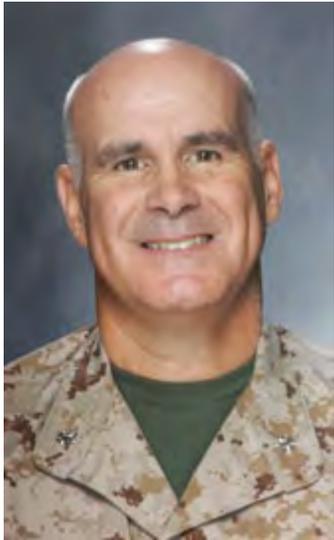
Bonnie Clark is a member of the Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program with Audubon Area Community Services. A Foster Grandparent is a valuable volunteer who impacts the lives of children who are academically, developmentally and behaviorally challenged. The program is a great opportunity for seniors to remain active while serving as mentors to children who are not meeting their goals.

Grandma Bonnie, as she is known by her students, works with first-grade students identified by the classroom teacher as "at-risk" of reaching their grade appropriate goals. In 2013, Grandma Bonnie provided 1,390 hours of volunteer service working with five students at Deer Park Elementary School. The teacher reported that the students with whom Grandma Bonnie worked achieved 100% of their identified academic and behavioral goals.

Grandma Bonnie tries to meet each student at his or her respective academic, developmental and social levels with encouragement and unconditional support. She provides her students with individualized attention assisting with reading skills, math, number recognition, academic drills and mentoring. In 2013, Grandma Bonnie focused on one particular little boy, an 8-year-old Burmese native who was sent to the United States alone to live with family friends, leaving his entire family behind. He spoke very little English, and his guardians speak none. Because of his age, he was placed in the third grade, but the school administrators quickly found out he only functioned on a first-grade level. He was reclusive, nonresponsive, frightened and alone. Grandma Bonnie said she "flooded him with love and patience." When speaking to him, she would hold his face in her hands so he could focus on the movements of her mouth, helping him to form his own words. Over the school year, he has gone from scoring 20s on his papers, to scoring 100s. He smiles and greets others, participates in class, listens to the teacher and is well behaved. He is well on his way to success, thanks to Grandma Bonnie.

Mark C. Dobbs
Volunteer Coordinator Award

Jeffersontown/Jefferson County
Nominated by Marie M. Swanson



Lt. Col. Mark C. Dobbs, Senior Marine Instructor at Jeffersontown High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is always looking for ways to serve his community. After retiring from active duty as a Marine Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Dobbs jumped at the chance to help impact the JROTC students at the high school he attended. When he noticed that the students at Jeffersontown High School were less physically fit than in years past, Lt. Col. Dobbs decided that a challenging obstacle course would be a fun way to encourage students, and others in the community, to focus on their physical fitness. Lt. Col. Dobbs also established a physical fitness team, the Raider Team, which meets three days a week for two hours each day.

Lt. Col. Dobbs approached local government offices, businesses, organizations and community leaders to obtain donations to help build the obstacle course. Jeffersontown High School found a plot of land on the school grounds where the course could be built. Lt. Col. Dobbs managed the finances, obtained all the building equipment, enrolled volunteers to assist building the course, established a physical fitness team of 60 students, supervised the team practices and took students to different physical fitness competitions. The obstacle course is available for use by any Jefferson County Public Schools group and other groups in Jeffersontown. Other groups outside of Jeffersontown have also used the obstacle course. The Jeffersontown police department, SWAT teams and other schools have plans to use the course, as well.

Because of Lt. Col. Dobbs' leadership, physical fitness has become fun and challenging for the students at Jeffersontown High School and in his community.

Jason Schubert
Kentucky Ambassador Award

Lexington/Fayette County
Nominated by Sarah Hermsmeier, University of Kentucky



Jason Schubert went on his first Alternative Spring Break service trip to Santo Domingo, Ecuador, as a freshman, joining other University of Kentucky students as volunteers through Shoulder To Shoulder Global. After that first trip, student leaders of the program were already talking about his energy, maturity, integrity and leadership potential.

In addition to serving in Kentucky, Jason has also gone on service trips to Dominican Republic, Ghana and Nicaragua. On the first day in Ghana, he taught a math class – for the first time – and did so confidently and successfully. As the week went on, he continued to demonstrate resilience as he faced new challenges unique to Ghana's education system. Beyond the content of his math lessons, Jason taught the Ghanaian students and teachers an even greater lesson – one in common humanity. Jason approaches community service in a responsible and respectful way. He takes a simple approach to meeting the needs of the community – listening. Particularly with international volunteers, failure to listen can be dangerous, as it perpetuates a culture of “saving” versus “serving.” His ability to listen, not only to community members and organizations, but also to his peers, makes him an extraordinary volunteer and leader.

Under Jason's leadership, UK has strengthened its national and international presence through the Alternative Spring Breaks program, which now offers 10 service immersions in both domestic and international locations. Despite its rapid growth, Jason has made every effort to maintain the quality of the program and to ensure the focus on addressing community-identified needs.

“Down in their hearts, wise men know its truth: the only way to help yourself is to help others.”

Elbert Hubbard

**Lynda Frazier
First Lady's Award**

Lexington/Fayette County

Nominated by Kamla Jones, UK Center for Community Outreach



Lynda Frazier dedicates her free time mentoring and tutoring at-risk students who participate in the Safehouse after-school program. The program provides a safe, supervised environment where students receive tutoring, mentoring and positive role modeling by college students and community volunteers.

Through positive mentoring and tutoring, Lynda is meeting community needs by improving the lives of the students that live in impoverished communities. She works one-on-one with students to improve their attitudes

and home life, boost their self-confidence and strengthen their hopes for the future. Lynda uses education as a motivational tool to teach students about the importance of education in their lives and the lives of others. Lynda has introduced her mentees to University of Kentucky staff, faculty and students, to show her mentees what their life could be like after high school and to show the benefits of higher education. Through tutoring, mentoring, college visits and leadership workshops, Lynda is building leaders who can lead in their communities and make the community better.

In the fall of 2013, a student told Lynda that she might have to drop out of school because she was turning 18 and had been told by her mother that she would have to pay rent or move out. The student thought she would have to drop out and work full-time to be able to afford rent. Lynda immediately came to her rescue by helping her get a part-time job and stay in school. Lynda and the student continue to meet on a daily basis, and the student is excelling academically and personally. If it were not for Lynda's mentoring and guidance, this student might not be in school today and moving toward graduation.

**Jody Keeley
Challenge Award**

Verona/Boone County

Nominated by Stephanie Sciamanna, Kenton County Schools



Jody Keeley is passionate about helping her fellow Kentuckians. Jody established Lovesome Stables, Inc., a nonprofit that serves individuals with disabilities in Northern Kentucky. Lovesome's equitherapy program allows children and adults with disabilities to learn riding and horsemanship skills. The program serves individuals with physical, mental and emotional challenges, some quite severe.

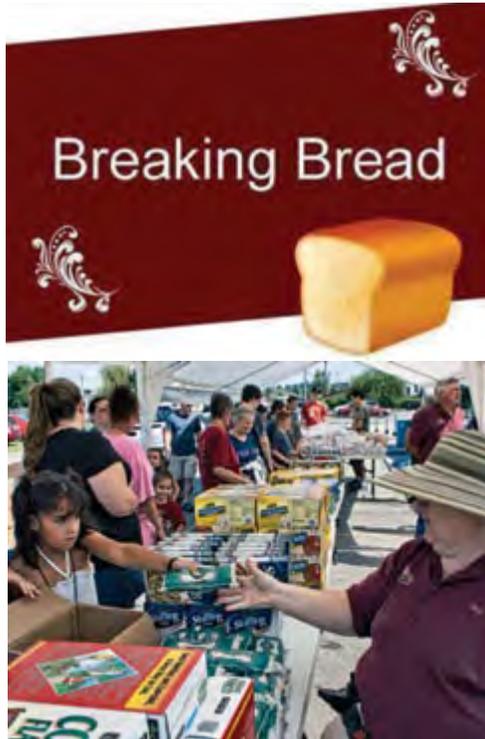
During 2013, 58 students with disabilities, ranging in age from 5 to 72, participated in the equitherapy program, aided by more than 60 volunteers. Every lesson is filled with games and activities that focus on improving physical skills, cognitive skills and social/emotional abilities. In addition to the equitherapy program, 15 teens and adults with disabilities attended the summer farm camp with the help of 20 volunteers. Sixty adults with disabilities from North Key Community Care joined the summer camp for daily visits. Each year, Jody takes 15 students to the Kentucky State Equestrian Special Olympics Competition.

Through Jody's efforts, Lovesome Stables has become an integral part of the community. Local businesses have donated goods and services, neighbors have become volunteers, and local official horse judges volunteer their time to judge in-house horse shows. Jody is a preschool teacher in Kenton County, a wife and mother of four, and her youngest daughter has a severe disability. She ensures that Lovesome is a place where parents can form friendships, share experiences and relax while their children are actively engaged.

In order to keep Lovesome Stables running smoothly, Jody organizes fundraisers, writes grants, recruits and trains volunteers, develops lessons plans, and manages equipment needs. As the executive director, she works with her board of directors to ensure success. As the nonprofit has grown, Jody established committees to assist with all aspects of Lovesome's programs.

Breaking Bread Faith-Based Group Award

*Madisonville/Hopkins County
Nominated by Rick Welch, The Messenger*



Breaking Bread is a faith-based nonprofit in Madisonville which provides food to hundreds of people in need. Each third Saturday of the month – rain or shine – Breaking Bread serves a hot lunch to individuals in need and also provides a week’s worth of groceries to ensure families can make it through the remainder of the month.

John McCurry, a minister and founder of the organization, started the program two years ago. Each month, Breaking Bread relies on its more than 100 volunteers to help serve almost 300 people hot lunch and to distribute groceries to nearly 500 people. From the program’s inception, more than 5,000 meals have been served and 10,000 people have received groceries.

Breaking Bread has brought together local churches, restaurants, businesses and individuals to assist with its mission to provide food for anyone in need. While the event itself is nondenominational, a prayer is said prior to the meal being served. The event is held in the building of the local newspaper, The Messenger, whose staff also helped spread the word about the program and the need for volunteers through publishing several stories.

Humana Government Business Corporate Award

*Louisville/Jefferson County
Nominated by Chief (Retired) Mark Grant, Kentucky National Guard*



Humana Government Business offers multiple services and resources to current military members, veterans and their families. They assist Surviving Family members of our Fallen Military Heroes, nonprofit organizations and charities that support military members and their families, and hire returning service members. Humana Government Business joined forces with agencies to support the President Obama’s “VOW to Hire Heroes Act.” They hosted over 850 Surviving Family members from eight states for the nation’s largest Survivors’ event at Churchill Downs in November 2013. Dr. Jill Biden was so impressed with Humana’s efforts that she traveled to Louisville for Survivors’ Day at the Races to publicly thank Humana for supporting both her and First Lady Michelle Obama’s initiatives on behalf of military families.

Humana Government Business turned their efforts inward to provide military-friendly pay policies, benefits, supervisory training and procedures to encourage hiring of military personnel, supporting the First Lady and Dr. Biden’s Joining Forces Initiative by committing to hire 1,000 military veterans and/or their spouses by the end of 2013. It is not uncommon for someone to return from a deployment to find him or herself promoted within Humana, recognizing their employee’s professional growth while serving our nation. Since 2008 Humana provides pay differential for periods of military service greater than 12 months. All benefits continue to be offered during periods of military leave of absence greater than 12 months, as if service members were still working for Humana and not on leave.

Guardsmen, reservists and veterans love working for Humana because Humana provides more than benefits – they provide a culture. A culture that enables service members the opportunity to excel in their civilian jobs, to continue to serve their nation when called upon, and to continue to feel appreciated and valued for their service to our nation. Senior leaders in Humana listen to the veterans and work to build an even better culture within and outside of the company.

Union County Garden Coalition Group Volunteer Service Award

Morganfield/Union County

Nominated by Bradley T. Vowels, Moffit Lake Recreation Area



The Union County Garden Coalition was created to teach people how to grow, prepare and preserve their own food so they can grow local, eat healthy and save money. The coalition was formed from the interest from several local elected officials, organizations, businesses and individuals – especially those in health-related professions – to

address health issues such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Instead of simply educating others on the causes and concerns of such illnesses, the Coalition took another approach and planted several small community gardens.

Eight community gardens in three municipalities were installed and maintained by more than 160 volunteers who helped provide fresh produce to low-income families and seniors. The volunteers also helped coordinate educational workshops, distribute freshly picked produce and identify next year's garden sites. The Coalition developed partnerships with local and regional businesses and organizations to provide resources and coordinate volunteers. The needs of the community were identified by each garden's committee of volunteers, and they were able to decide how their garden would benefit the community. Four organizations already serving low-income families and senior citizens directly benefited from the Garden Coalition's project during 2013.

The gardeners also formed an advisory board to help guide the project, identify grants and promote the project. The Coalition started with a small budget, but because of their efforts, the project received a Healthy Communities grant and was able to double the number of gardens. A leadership class worked with the Coalition to develop a produce distribution network and identify next year's gardening sites. Additionally, extension agents were consulted to develop an educational curriculum.

Bardstown At Home Nonprofit Organization Award

Bardstown/Nelson County

Nominated by Vivian Fleenor, Bardstown At Home



Bardstown At Home was established to meet a multitude of needs of senior citizens in Nelson County, such as transportation to medical appointments, assisting with grocery shopping, and repairing small home safety issues. As a

rural community with no public transportation, transportation is a major focus. In 2013 Bardstown At Home volunteers drove more than 10,000 miles transporting seniors to medical and other appointments, spending a total of more than 2,100 hours in volunteer service.

Bardstown At Home volunteers also provide socialization opportunities such as group lunches and activities at both the office and the local senior center. Volunteers perform home safety inspections and make small repairs, such as installing railings, changing light bulbs, insuring homes have working smoke detectors, installing grab bars in bathrooms and building wheelchair ramps. Bardstown At Home partners with local groups and agencies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the seniors. As part of their effort to ensure the safety of seniors, they established a partnership with a local company to provide medical alert devices to those seniors who most need the service but can least afford it. Volunteers also provide respite care, conduct food drives, organize monthly learning lunches and have provided pick-up/delivery services for food distributed by Kentucky's Heartland on a monthly basis. In 2013, Bardstown At Home's 31 volunteers provided services for 63 seniors.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Sgt. Jerry Hall Jr.
Veteran Volunteer Service Award

Leburn/Knott County

Nominated by Ashley Hall, Knott Co. Health and Rehabilitation Center



Sgt. Jerry Hall Jr. felt a void when he retired from the Armed Services, and he decided to fill it with community service. Leburn, in Knott County, is in a small, rural area of Eastern Kentucky where everybody knows everybody. This is a key factor, especially when it comes to him knowing how and when his help is needed. When he realized the community did not have many options of activities for youth, Sgt. Hall formed a youth basketball team for children ranging from preschool age to third-graders. To play for him, students must show excellent sportsmanship while also performing well

in the classroom. He asks them “to try their best” – in the classroom and on the court. Parents and teachers have remarked that students who were struggling are now excelling in the classroom.

Sgt. Hall joined the local rescue squad and spends countless hours on training so when a call comes in, he’s ready. This past winter was especially harsh, and the city’s water pipes experienced a mainline break. He immediately got three large water barrels out and sanitized the well water so he could provide drinking water for his family and close friends. It turned into a community project, and residents would let him know if they needed water. He would haul the water to others in the community if they were unable to pick it up from his house. The community was without water for more than 12 days, but because of Sgt. Hall’s dedication, anyone who needed water received it. Whatever needs arise in his community, Sgt. Hall is there to help find a solution.

Sheila Carroll
Senior Volunteer Service Award

Covington/Kenton County

Nominated by Lindsay Hardebeck, Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing



Sheila Carroll founded the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing to help people in her community struggling with poverty, bad health and drug addiction by providing no-cost health care and substance abuse resources. The Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing is a health clinic that serves people with no health insurance. Staffed entirely by volunteers, the center is open every Tuesday and Thursday. The center also provides classes for the community to deal with any substance abuse issues.

On the days the clinic is open, Sheila takes care of patients. Her approach patient care to ensure each person feels that he/she is the only person that matters at the moment they are being treated. Sheila spends the other days of the week working on press releases, writing grants and reviewing the patients’ charts.

Last year a woman who had not been feeling well for a few months came into the clinic. She hadn’t seen a doctor due to losing her health insurance. After the examination, Sheila realized the woman needed major medical care. Upon receiving the news that the patient had cervical cancer, Sheila began fundraising to pay for her much-needed treatment. The woman survived and is cancer free today because of Sheila’s dedication.

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience and just plain love for another.”

Erma Bombeck

Gary W. Jones
Volunteer Service Award

Versailles/Woodford County

Nominated by Lisa C. Johnson, Mentors & Meals



Gary Jones has been a resident of Woodford County for more than 20 years, but when he saw there was a need for more food than the local pantry and commodities programs could provide, he was instrumental in creating the Ministerial Association Soup Kitchen. The soup kitchen currently provides a hot meal every Monday. For those who are homebound, meals are delivered to their doors, which helps seniors continue living in their own homes and reduce food insecurity. The soup kitchen prepares food for 118 deliveries and 30 dine-in clients each week. In 2013, the program served more than 16,700 meals, and Gary served more than 1,500 hours.

Gary also provides food and assistance to the Mentors & Meals after school tutoring program, enabling them to serve a hot meal to middle school age students Monday through Thursday during the school year and once a week in the summer. Not only does Gary help cook many of the approximately 4,560 meals each year, he also makes arrangements for food deliveries, recruits and works with volunteers, and keeps precise records. Gary also picks up dented canned goods, over-supplies of bread or baked goods to distribute to the soup kitchen, local food pantry, the Mentors & Meals program, and the local Senior Citizens Center. His passion has helped provide nutritious food to all ages of people in need in Woodford County. Next year, Gary hopes to add an additional meal night to the soup kitchen's schedule.

Nathaniel Jarboe
Youth Volunteer Service Award

Rineyville/Hardin County

Nominated by Lori Jarboe, HealthSouth Lakeview Rehabilitation Hospital



Nathaniel "Nate" Jarboe realized at a very early age that hunger was not just something that happened to "other people." When Nate was in first grade, he learned about hunger issues through documentaries on television and online. After continuing to educate himself and his family, Nate started holding food drives, raising money to purchase food by donating his birthday and holiday gifts. He also began educating his fellow Cub Scouts that hunger strikes one in five children in the United States and about the importance of good nutritional choices.

Now 10 years old, Nate started a Facebook page in 2013 – with the help of his parents – called Give A Day For Hunger to share knowledge and encourage people get involved in food insecurity issues. Nate reached more than 400 people through his Facebook page. In asking others to "give a day for hunger," he did his part by asking for nonperishable food donations in lieu of birthday presents – resulting in three large tubs filled with canned goods. Some of his friends followed his example, asking for food donations instead of gifts. His passion continued to grow, and he now asks for food donations for multiple holidays, organizes local food drives, sends food packages to troops overseas and even purchases chickens for egg production for families in foreign countries.

Nate also helps weed a community garden throughout the year. He celebrated Hunger Action Month in September with a public food drive that lasted through the end of the year and involved multiple community groups. He even used a gift card he won through Kohl's for his community service to purchase items for people in need.

***"The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size,
but by the depth of the commitment
to make a difference in the lives of others."***

DeAnn Hollis

Ginny Ramsey Lifetime Achievement Award

Lexington/Fayette County

Nominated by Kelly Dycus, Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky



Ginny Ramsey works longer and harder than most, but she collects no paycheck for the countless hours she pours into the Catholic Action Center and Community Inn, organizations she helped found. During her paid career, Ginny volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and other community organizations. When she retired, alleviating poverty and homelessness became her full-time focus. In 1995, Lexington Mayor Pam Miller asked her to spearhead a faith and community task force to address gaps in government services. A total of 238 local churches rose to the challenge, providing mentoring, childcare, transportation and food to

community members in need. That same year, Ginny started the annual Faith and Community Christmas Store, which allows low-income individuals to select free gifts for their children and grandchildren. In 1999, Ginny and her friend Judy McLaughlin founded Catholic Action Center (CAC), which provides three daily meals, shower and restroom facilities, mail receipt, telephone service and clean clothes to people experiencing homelessness. During its first decade, CAC remained open around the clock. Because it had no beds, though, overnight guests had to sleep in chairs, so in 2011, Ginny and other tireless volunteers opened a night shelter, the Community Inn. Answering the moral imperative to serve those most marginalized, the Community Inn turns no one away. Sixty-five percent of their guests have a mental illness and/or addiction, 67 percent have a disability and 87 percent have been turned away from other shelters. In addition, CAC manages multiple community-based housing units, which provide longer-term housing for formerly homeless individuals. CAC and the Community Inn are all-volunteer ministries, funded solely by community donations.

Continued on next page

Under Ginny Ramsey's energetic leadership, the Catholic Action Center and Community Inn have accomplished the following:

- More than 5 million meals served.
- More than 264,000 loads of laundry washed.
- More than 481,000 nights of shelter provided since 2000.
- 487 men and women sent to free drug/alcohol rehab since 2004.
- 210 homeless individuals placed in permanent housing since 2011.
- 211 individuals placed in permanent jobs since April 2011.
- 105 homeless veterans housed since 2011.
- 72 memorial services held for people who died alone on the streets.
- More than 12,000 volunteers from Lexington and 29 states providing service annually.

Service, empowerment and connection define Ginny's approach to tackling homelessness. As a full-time volunteer, Ginny effectively leverages the power of other volunteers to accomplish mighty things on a lean budget. More importantly, she helps empower people through service. Ginny seeks to engage people from all walks of life in volunteerism, including those who come to them seeking assistance. Often, when their guests begin serving others, their confidence blossoms. People living in CAC's longer-term community-based housing are asked to contribute \$350 per month toward rent, but if they cannot afford this, they may instead spend twenty hours a week volunteering. Ginny says they often see people make great strides in their own lives once they begin volunteering. Ginny also helps empower people by creating opportunities for them to share their stories. The play *Please Don't Call Me Homeless...I Don't Call You Homed*, a collaboration among Catholic Action, the Street Voice Council, and Actors Guild of Lexington, allowed men and women who have experienced homelessness to share their stories with the broader community, challenging negative, dehumanizing stereotypes. Ginny believes that we can and must end homelessness, but to do so, we must reconnect with our shared humanity. Thus, a central part of Ginny's work is forging connections between the community at large and those who call the streets of Lexington home.

"The people who I see in life that are the happiest, the most fulfilled, and have a sparkle in their eyes are those who have a huge component of service in their lives and in some form or fashion give to other people besides themselves."

Paul Tudor Jones

About the KCCVS



The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) manages Kentucky's AmeriCorps national service programs. The Commission is a statewide, bipartisan group comprised of 25 members, appointed by the governor, with diverse service and volunteerism backgrounds.

The KCCVS was created in 1994 to serve as a conduit for federal funds that support AmeriCorps programs in the commonwealth, encourage and recognize volunteerism and assist in service program development. The KCCVS funding is provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Kentucky General Assembly. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is the parent agency for the commission, providing administrative support and oversight.

The mission of the KCCVS is to engage Kentuckians in volunteerism and service to positively impact our communities. To learn more about national service and the KCCVS, please visit our website at www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.

KCCVS Staff



Joe Bringardner was appointed as the KCCVS Executive Director in August 2013. Prior to his appointment, Joe spent 23 years working for the YMCA, beginning as a district director with the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association. In his last position, he worked as the technical adviser for youth and teens at the YMCA of the USA in Washington, D.C.

Joe is a graduate of Midway College and lives in Louisville with his wife, Kate, and their two dogs.

Shannon Ramsey, Executive Assistant
Carrie Stith-Webster, Program Officer

Jill Lancaster, Grants Officer
Linda Harney, Policy Advisor



Photos from the event ceremony and reception will be posted on the KCCVS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kccvs.

Special thanks to...

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