



United Way of Chatham County
PO Box 1066, Pittsboro, NC 27312
(919) 542-1110
www.unitedwayofchathamcounty.org

2016 Chatham County Outstanding Volunteers

Mindy Brown

Mindy Brown has volunteered with the Chatham County Council on Aging for the past two years as a Home Delivered Meals volunteer. While most volunteers serve one route per week, Mindy serves up to three routes, delivering a nutritious, hot lunch to homebound seniors in need. In the past year, Mindy has volunteered 102 days, driven almost 1,350 miles and delivered 689 meals.

During the holiday season, Mindy prepares special meals and takes them to the seniors on her route who don't have company during the holidays. She often delivers homemade soup, takes out the trash, picks up the mail and performs other small chores for the clients on her route.

Mindy shows great love and dedication to her community through her many acts of kindness that go above and beyond the call of duty for the typical home delivered meals volunteer. The magnitude of Mindy's weekly giving can only be seen as a true, extraordinary example of volunteering for her community and as a blessing to the homebound seniors on her route.

Nominator: Dennis Streets

Rusty Davis

For the last ten years, Rusty Davis has volunteered at Chatham Central High School as the President of the Booster Club. Rusty oversees all of the Booster Club activities including coordinating monthly meetings, scheduling concession stand workers, supervising all concession stand activities, ordering sports-fan apparel, purchasing field equipment and maintaining the sports complex.

Rusty volunteers an average of fifteen to twenty hours a week to accommodate the two to four home events every week at Chatham Central. He uses his vacation time from his fulltime job to work on special projects at the school including installing a new batting cage, painting bear claws on the driveway of the sports complex and coordinating the Booster Club fundraiser. He takes extreme pride in the appearance of the campus and works tirelessly to ensure that it represents the school well. His selfless attitude, attention to detail and commitment to excellence is contagious and makes him the perfect role model for our rural community.

Nominator: Bob Pegram

James Farrington

James Farrington has volunteered three days a week for six years at CORA Food Pantry. In the past year, Jim contributed 600 hours, which was 10% of all volunteer hours logged. Within the last year, he helped to distribute approximately 220 tons of food to Chatham County families in need.

Jim is not only a pantry volunteer and a Board member, but he is also very involved in every aspect of CORA's activities from serving as a "handy man" to working as a community outreach representative. Jim is a fearless fundraiser. Last year, he went door to door to Siler City businesses in an effort to develop new relationships with potential supporters because more than 50% of CORA's clients come from Siler City. He also secured four new sponsors for the Hunger Walk, which is one of CORA's biggest fundraisers. In addition, Jim singlehandedly began the process of cultivating the County Commissioners in order to locate and acquire a new building that better meets the needs of CORA.

Everyone at CORA relies on Jim for his wisdom, reliability, forthrightness, humor, constant positive attitude and his ability to make everyone's job at the pantry enjoyable.

Nominator: Beth Budd

Bob and Sandy Holton

Bob and Sandy Holton arrived at Galloway Ridge in 2012 and quickly volunteered to start an internal fundraiser to help build the Galloway Resident Reserve Fund for Benevolent Care. The reserve fund was established to assist residents whose savings had been depleted near the end of their lives, often attributed to unexpected medical expenses. Bob and Sandy have volunteered almost 600 hours a year co-chairing the committee that organizes the "Galloway Ridge Gala," which raises money for the fund. The Gala is a ticketed dinner that is preceded by a silent auction and followed by entertainment. It has raised \$45,000 each of the two years it's been in existence. In addition, the efforts of the Holton's, and the resulting publicity, led to a one million dollar bequest to the fund.

As Chair and member of the Employee Scholarship Fund, the Holton's have also helped meet a staff development goal of the Galloway Ridge Board of Directors. In 2015, ten employees were awarded a share of \$34,000 to further their education.

In the larger community, the Holton's have given their time and expertise to many area nonprofit agencies including the Salvation Army, United Way and UNC Hospital. It is difficult to imagine two individuals more aware of the needs of their community that also have the unique abilities to alleviate those needs. Bob and Sandy embody both of these characteristics.

Nominator: Edith Hammond

Gillian Rogers

Gillian Rogers is a literacy mentor at Virginia Cross Elementary School. She works one-on-one with kindergarten through second grade students in need of support with literacy skills on a weekly basis. With her help, students learn the letters of the alphabet, first sounds and advanced reading skills.

Ninety-five percent of the students at Virginia Cross Elementary School receive free and reduced lunch and greatly need positive role models. Forty-five percent of students are learning English as a second language. There is low parent involvement and community support is limited.

Gillian's efforts in mentoring and recruitment of other volunteers have helped reduce reading deficits in participating kindergarten students. Literacy is the foundation for all learning and Gillian's volunteer work helps to ensure that the students have the best start possible.

Nominator: Allison Buckner

Joan Zollinger

In 2013, Joan Zollinger presented an idea to the Executive Director of Galloway Ridge to start a resale store. After approval, she spent 15 hours per week setting up the store, cleaning and pricing items. At the end of the first year of operation, the Galloway Ridge "Turnaround Shop" had netted \$12,000. By the end of the second year, net sales had amounted to \$25,000. This resulted in \$18,000 being donated to the Galloway Ridge Resident Reserve Fund for Benevolent Care and \$7,000 being donated to the Employee Emergency Relief Fund.

The Galloway Ridge Resident Reserve Fund for Benevolent Care was established to assist residents who are unable to pay their monthly fee to Galloway Ridge through no fault of their own. The Employee Emergency Relief Fund was set up to assist an employee having a personal financial crisis.

If donations from the shop don't sell, they are donated to Habitat for Humanity, thus giving back to Chatham County in another form of social accountability. This project is an example of Joan's organizational ability and vision to help others and benefit the Galloway Ridge residents and employees, as well as the entire Chatham County community.

Nominator: Bob Holton