

24TH
Annual

GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS



Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Governor's Mansion

Hosted by

Serve Kentucky, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family
Services, and the Office of the Governor

2019 GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS

Event Agenda

11:45 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	Registration/Check-in
12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.	Awards Reception
1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.	Awards Ceremony

Ceremony Featured Speakers

Lieutenant Governor Jenean Hampton; Commonwealth of Kentucky
Doug Hogan; Cabinet for Health and Family Services Office of Public Affairs
Secretary Adam Meier; Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of the Secretary
Kevin Mays; *Commission Chair*, Serve Kentucky
Joe Bringardner; *Executive Director*, Serve Kentucky



of Kentuckians who serve without expectation of compensation, recognition or commendation.

Welcome to the 24th annual Governor's Service Awards celebration. Under the direction of Serve Kentucky, the awards program offers a rare glimpse into the lives and achievements

It has been our distinct privilege over the years to recognize a few of the thousands whose volunteer service contributes immeasurably to a better Kentucky. We are so glad you are here to join us in honoring the 2019 Governor's Service Awards recipients.

Connect with Serve Kentucky online

@ServeKY

Press releases, photos, and other information from the ceremony and reception will be shared on the Serve Kentucky website and social media channels.



**GOVERNOR
MATTHEW BEVIN**

Matt Bevin was elected Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2015. He is a husband, a father of nine children, a veteran and a small business owner.

Gov. Bevin grew up in an old farmhouse where his family raised both crops and animals. His family of eight shared three bedrooms and one bathroom. He was raised with a strong work ethic and solid Christian values.

Gov. Bevin attended Washington and Lee University, in Virginia, on an ROTC scholarship and upon graduation served Active Duty as a U.S. Army officer. After his military service, Gov. Bevin worked for many years in the financial industry. A job opportunity brought Gov. Bevin and his wife, Glenna, a registered nurse, to Kentucky 17 years ago, when they decided to put down roots and raise their family.

In 2011, Gov. Bevin also became the sixth generation President of Bevin Bros., a small bell manufacturing company that began in 1832. He makes all the bells used by the Salvation Army volunteers each year. The company was bankrupt when Matt took over and he saved more than 25 jobs.

Gov. Bevin has served on many nonprofit boards, including Chairman of the Board for the American Red Cross, Louisville Area Chapter. He has permanently endowed several scholarship funds, grants, and centers that provide educational opportunities for young people with limited financial resources.



**LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR
JENEAN HAMPTON**

On November 8, 2015, Jenean Hampton was elected as Kentucky's 57th Lt. Governor on a ticket with now Governor Matt Bevin. Lt. Gov. Hampton became the first African-American in Kentucky history to hold statewide office and the fourth woman to serve as Lt. Gov.

Lt. Gov. Hampton holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering and an MBA with concentrations in marketing, entrepreneurship, and eCommerce. She served for 7 years in the United States Air Force and has nearly 25 years of experience in manufacturing, including the automotive and packaging industries.

In addition to assisting Governor Bevin, the Lt. Gov. is currently focusing her efforts on entrepreneurship, education, aerospace and aviation, emergency preparedness, military and veterans affairs, and serving as an example.



**CHFS SECRETARY
ADAM MEIER**

Adam Meier was appointed by Governor Bevin as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy in December 2015. As Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Meier's focus is oversight of policy advising, formation, coordination and implementation to move Governor Bevin's agenda forward.

Meier is an attorney and previously served as a policy and political adviser for the Bevin Gubernatorial campaign. In addition to state level experience, Meier has public service experience, working as Senior Contracting Officer for the Federal government, as well as serving as a member of the Fort Thomas City Council.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ann E. Morgan



*Lexington/
Fayette County*
**Nominated by
Patricia Beckham**

Ann Edelen Morgan has resided in and served the Lexington/Fayette County community for nearly 80 years.

Ms. Morgan is a woman of unique spirit; she inspires those around her with an ability to find joy and to serve others however she is able. She has maintained certain volunteer commitments for nearly half a century, but what sets her apart is her creativity to find both large and small ways to engage with her community.

Ms. Morgan's commitment to volunteerism is unparalleled. For forty-eight years, she has volunteered at least once a week, for at least four hours a shift, at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington. In this role, she visits approximately fifteen patients per shift, delivering mail, books, flowers, and meals while sharing words of healing and friendship.

Ms. Morgan joined the Fayette County Park's Clown School in the mid 1970's and received training in clown makeup and entertainment. As a professionally trained clown, she appeared in Fayette County holiday parades, community picnics and festivals, and she visited summer camps and nursing homes over a twenty-five-year period. She volunteered as a clown through the Fayette County Parks System at least three times per year. The number of people impacted by her volunteer time as a clown is impossible to calculate, but Ms. Morgan did it simply because it brought joy to countless others.

Ms. Morgan has also volunteered with numerous other community organizations, including Meals on Wheels. In this role, primarily during

the years of 1972 to 1984, she picked up and delivered meals with her grandmother, spending extra moments checking in on and visiting with those who were receiving the meals. This volunteer commitment is particularly special now, as Ms. Morgan has become a recipient of the same program.

Ms. Morgan has committed her life to serving others, in both conventional and not so conventional ways, for nearly half a century. She is well known throughout the Lexington community as a woman of joy and fortitude. She has served as a volunteer crossing guard for Clays Mill Elementary and Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary School for forty years, and as an usher for Rupp Arena for fifteen years.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Luther Brown



*Louisville/
Jefferson Co.*
**Nominated by
Angela
Hollingsworth**

Luther Brown is an exemplary citizen dedicated to the advancement and safety of his community and the Commonwealth at large. Decades of Mr. Brown's service have resulted in tangible changes and marked reform that have taken hold in Kentucky legislature, with profound effects on gun safety and firearm policy. Mr. Brown has aligned himself with the mission of gun safety, and the policy and practices that surround firearms; tenaciously seeking out solutions to end the harm and death that follow with negligent firearm practices.

Mr. Brown is a 2017 Trauma and Informative Care Graduate of Eastern Kentucky University's Institute of Behavior and Health, having also studied National Crime Prevention at the University of Louisville, and attended the Culinary Institute Pueblo, Colorado. Mr. Brown's vast educational studies have aided him in addressing the problems that surround the problems of negligent firearm discharge.

Founding the organization Board-4Change in 2000 and Little Hands, Little Feet Gun Safety in 2012, Mr. Brown has provided access to information about gun safety, handling and storage to both children and adults alike. Little Hands, Little Feet Gun Safety has served to promote viable answers to the problem of negligent firearm harm by identifying a need for preventative measures against accidental discharge and has addressed this need by giving access to free gunlocks. These gunlocks prevent most small arms firearms such as standard pistols from accidental discharge.

Mr. Brown's campaign for gun safety further ignited in 2016 after the accidental discharge of a firearm lead to the negligent homicide of his

grandson Dre. This tragedy, while not catalyzing Mr. Brown's call to action for gun safety reform, would serve as narrative behind legislative change at the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary Council, calling for the passing of the "Baby Dre" bill. This bill would fine negligent gun owners in the case and event of a firearm accidentally discharging and harming a person. Mr. Brown's own testimony of his grandson became the anchoring voice behind the consideration of the bill by the Judiciary Committee.

His community has lauded Mr. Brown as leading and voracious figurehead in gun safety. In 2006, he was awarded the Molly Leonard Gun Safety Award, and in 2013, Louisville's Metro Council recognized him for outstanding community service.

POSTHUMOUS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Angela McKinney



Frankfort/
Franklin County
**Nominated by
Ka'Sondra Brown**

Ms. Angela McKinney, a native of Frankfort, passed away on October 1, 2018 at the age of 35. Ms. McKinney earned her living as an event coordinator for Kroger and was always highly active in serving her community. Among other causes, she was a dedicated supporter of the Community Action Council and its Senior Corps volunteer programs. Through her affiliation with Kroger, Ms. McKinney co-sponsored and provided substantial personal assistance at a 9/11 Remembrance Event hosted by the Council's Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). During this event, Kroger and the Senior Corps programs provided free lunch for the Lexington Police Department's Central Sector. On many other occasions, Ms. McKinney enjoyed fellowship and fun with the Council's senior volunteers at senior socials, holiday events and other service activities. When Ms. McKinney was assisting Senior Corps, she could be found volunteering with the College for Technical Education (CTE).

Ms. McKinney helped to provide educational and vocational opportunities for students experiencing at-risk behaviors and barriers that impeded future opportunities. Ms. McKinney allowed CTE to set up sampling events and cooking demonstrations in different Kroger locations. The off-site curriculum she helped to develop focused on professionalism, team building, guest services, following directions, cleanliness and sanitation, and then graduated into more detailed job functions like costing recipes, presentations, ability to sell product for the recipe, making displays and marketing what they created. Students were held accountable by staff and Ms. McKinney. Her genuine involvement and ability to see the positives made this "trial" a cornerstone in the curriculum. Ms. McKinney served as a regular judge for finals in the kitchen and was able to give constructive feedback.

*"Service to others is the
rent you pay for your room
here on Earth."*

-Muhammad Ali

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Chris Crumrine



Lexington/
Fayette County
**Nominated by
Laura Bellneir**

Christopher J. Crumrine has played many roles at the Lexington Habitat for Humanity affiliate but none are more important than the transformational leadership role in which he served for two years as board president. Mr. Crumrine is a humble leader committed to making a positive impact on the organization and on the people with whom he serves. A consummate team player, Mr. Crumrine brought together constituencies with broadly different points of view to reach compromises and consensus. He mentored both staff and new board members in subtle but effective ways. As the Lexington Habitat celebrated its 30th anniversary as an affiliate this year, Mr. Crumrine recognized that the organization's approaches to accomplishing its aim of eliminating poverty housing were becoming static. He was willing to take a critical look at everything from how the CEO and her staff are supported to how to approach service delivery in order to bring new energy and efficiency. He was willing to bring in diverse opinions from many local experts and community members for the Housing Solutions Committee to analyze the current methods of delivery for affordable housing and to ask difficult questions about the future of the organization. During this time,

he has also provided strong leadership for the development of the new strategic plan, which will influence the direction of the work for many years to come.

Mr. Crumrine has demonstrated his commitment for nearly 10 years, from his involvement as an undergraduate in the Habitat for Humanity chapter at the University of Kentucky to his current role as board president. At each stage of his involvement, Mr. Crumrine has illustrated a passion for

affordable housing and a deep understanding of the importance of Habitat's work in the local community. Mr. Crumrine has proven to be a strong leader and advocate for the affiliate, as well as a caring advocate for the staff and fellow board members. Mr. Crumrine was able to bring powerful organizational changes that will serve the Lexington Habitat for Humanity into its next phase of development as an organization that is building homes, building communities and building hope.

Connie Crick



Mortons Gap/Hopkins County
Nominated by
Linda Lam

Connie Crick, pastor of Vineyard Worship Center, provides so much for Mortons Gap, a small town in Western Kentucky. She serves as a community representative on two Family Resource and Youth Services Center committees. She also organized fundraisers to help build a town park for children, with plans to expand activities available at the park.

For years, Mrs. Crick and her husband, Marshall, have taken their “church children” on annual mission trips in Eastern Kentucky in hopes of bridging barriers for families that are in need of basic supplies, spiritual guidance, and educational motivation. Under her leadership, Mrs. Crick’s church has provided food for the school “Back Pack Blessings” weekend food program and a mother and daughter Christmas dinner for the Girl Power middle school group. The church also provides a café for all students during the week as a safe place to be with friends.

Some of Mrs. Crick’s other service projects include the “Happy Go Lucky Club,” a group she created for the elderly, where she provided lunches, shopping trips and other fun activities for older women that are not able to get out much. She also single-handedly launched the Good News Kentucky Children/Teen

Leaders Network, where leaders can connect and communicate what is going on in students’ lives and

talk about the needs of families. She hopes to establish this program in every school in Hopkins County.

“The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green.”

– Thomas Carlyle

Dr. Paul Kearney



Lexington/Fayette County
Nominated by
Amanda Ferguson

Dr. Paul A. Kearney’s compassion for those suffering and unable to receive the help they need is only surpassed by his willingness and determination to provide care for them. Surgery on Sunday (SOS) was founded in 2005 by Lexington plastic surgeon Dr. Andrew Moore II. The mission is to change lives one surgery at a time, by ridding individuals of pain and disease through medically necessary surgeries. Those served by the program are either without health insurance or have very high deductible plans that make surgery unattainable. Since its inception, nearly 5,000 individuals have received essential outpatient procedures completely free of charge. With all expenses considered, SOS provides surgeries at an average cost of \$1,500, a fraction of the \$10,000 or more average in the marketplace. The program prides itself on providing the same high standard of quality medical care as offered to an insured patient at any other medical facility. Innovative and unique from the start, Surgery on Sunday was the first program of its kind in the United States and remains one of only a handful.

From its very beginning, Dr. Kearney offered his professional services as a volunteer with Surgery on Sunday. He first operated in the summer of 2006 and continues to perform surgeries on a regular basis. Since his first case in 2006, he has performed 181 procedures free of charge through SOS. For the last twelve years, this is an average of 15 surgeries per year. To consider a dollar value of the surgeries he has provided, a conservative estimate of \$12,000 per case results in a total of more than \$2 million.

In addition to providing surgeries, Dr. Kearney serves as both SOS Board of Directors President and its Medical Director. He has been just as committed in both these roles as he is in the operating room. He rarely misses a meeting and has led the program capably during his tenure. He recruits diverse board members and extends the reach of SOS to new and varied communities. He has also recruited dozens of surgeon volunteers.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

VETERAN

Jo Ann Orr



Louisville/Jefferson County

**Nominated by
Grady Carol Smith**

Jo Ann Orr's son, a Retired Army Master Sergeant and wounded veteran, passed away in 1989 from sickle cell disease. Unfortunately, in 1989, the Louisville area had very limited treatment opportunities for sickle cell disease. Many victims, especially adult victims, had to travel to Nashville or Cincinnati for treatment. Upon retiring from military service as Master Sergeant in 1999, and returning to the Louisville area, Ms. Orr realized that something had to be done to make treatment options available. Ms. Orr signed on as the Marketing and Fundraising Director of the Sickle Cell Association of Kentuckiana. She helped organize many events to brought attention sickle cell disease, such as health fairs, Unity Walks, golf tournaments, and appearing before the Kentucky legislature and the national Congress.

Due to Ms. Orr's efforts, locally, the Norton Cancer Institute opened its door to the adult sickle cell community and now provides medical, mental health and social treatment to all sickle cell adults in Kentuckiana. In addition, she was instrumental in the passage of the National Sickle Cell Disease Bill that was passed in the Kentucky legislature in 2018.

Ms. Orr also volunteered to deliver meals for Metro Senior Nutrition Program, assisted in a facility in the Lexington Lady Veterans Connect that provides resources for veteran women battling PTSD, homelessness, and depression. She also serves with the Louisville Metro Community Action Partnership and the Louisville Mayor's Healthy Hometown Movement for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management. Ms. Orr mentors a youth group of 6- to 16-year-olds with the Youth in Action Network, and has been appointed to the Legal Aid Soci-

ety Board of Directors as a representative for the senior community.

Ms. Orr has received several awards including the Sickle Cell Association's "Pioneer Award" for her success in educating the public about the disease, 28th Annual African American Catholic Leadership Award given by the Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville Office of Multicultural Ministry, WLKY Bell Award for Volunteerism, and the Service to the Community award from the Louisville Urban League Guild.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

VETERAN

Michael Cory Felts



*Bowling Green/
Warren County*
**Nominated by
Angela Felts**

SMSgt Felts is serving as the first Kentucky Wing Command Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO). He has distinguished himself as the outstanding Kentucky Wing Senior Member of the Year for 2017. He was recognized as the Col. Jack Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year for the Great Lakes Region in 2016 and again in 2017.

Throughout his career, SMSgt Felts has developed a highly effective leadership style that has paid great dividends to the Kentucky Wing, as well as other cadets around the nation. His achievements include organizing the Cadet Character Development Weekend Program, and partnering with the Drug Demand Reduction Director and Kentucky Wing Chaplain Corps to provide services for the cadets of the Kentucky Wing. SMSgt Felts is also directly responsible for the planning and training of more than 175 members in the areas of Ground Team Member 1-3, Union Defense Force, and Ground Team Leader. He has also been very instrumental in the training of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Mission Radio Operators. SMSgt Felts was an integral part of

the National Cadet Special Activity at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania Wing. He also implemented the Joint Training Assembly for the group echelon in the Kentucky Wing.

Among his other responsibilities, SMSgt Felts is responsible for the recruitment and training of Kentucky Wing's twelve members of the NCO Corps. SMSgt Felts serves on a national level committee of CAP NCO's His vision for the Kentucky Wing is to establish a solid foundation of NCO's to advise each unit in training, and to give a needed perspective to unit commanders.

SMSgt Felts has recently embraced CAP's STEM Kit Program and taken a

personal interest in teaching several of these kits to not only local units, but also to Kentucky Wing Encampments. His integrations of the STEM kits into the encampment program has allowed the Kentucky Wing to reassess its focus from Orientation Rides for internal aerospace education.

SMSgt Felts has exhibited tremendous ability across mission sets and in unique situations that are unequaled of persons of like rank and responsibility. His embodiment of CAP's core values and the application of them to Kentucky Wing's airmen is a brilliant example of what we hope all of the members can strive to emulate.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

YOUTH

Boyd Co. Branch of the Kentucky Youth Council for Volunteer Service

Ashland/Boyd County

Nominated by Bill Burch



The purpose of the Council is to facilitate community service activities for Boyd County youth and to develop leadership and cooperation skills. The Council also makes presentations on the benefits of service and civic responsibility at schools and community organizations.

In the last 20 years, the Council has developed and implemented skits for a program called "Branch- Out-Be-A-Volunteer," which promotes volunteerism in pre-K and grade schools. To date, 8,000 students, parents, teachers and principals have participated in the program. Last year, the Council members

The Boyd County Branch of the Kentucky Youth Council for Volunteer Service (BCBKVCVS) is a group of high school students from four school districts located in Boyd County. This Council has been active for 20 years. Members of the Youth Council advocate for youth in Boyd County and make a difference in the lives of others.

logged more than 4,500 volunteer hours. The Council has encouraged youth volunteerism across Boyd County and has been a resource to many residents in the community.

Not only are each of the members of this group known for their individual volunteer activities, but they also come together to promote youth volunteerism within the community. Their vision is to promote and support youth activities throughout the community that will benefit a strong foundation for the future. Each student undergoes a rigorous combination of volunteering, service and other assignments.

BUSINESS SERVICE AWARD

Paducah Bank

Paducah, McCracken County

**Nominated by
Darlene Mazzone**



More than 750,000 Kentuckians, or 17% of the state's population, do not always know where their next meal will come from. Close to one in four of Kentucky's children lack consistent access to enough food for a healthy, active lifestyle. Paducah Bank set out to change that statistic starting in their hometown. In January 2014, Paducah Bank initiated the SWIPE & SERVE program designed to provide funds for local charities that served the hunger needs of the community. For every 100 signature-based transactions, Paducah Bank contributes \$1 to a selected project every quarter. The goal is to provide \$7,500 per quarter to each chosen charity. To date,

Paducah Bank has supported the following organizations in the community, all of which provide food services in some way to local families: River City Mission, Community Kitchen, 4-H Backpack Program, Paducah Co-operative Ministry, Meals on Wheels, and Pathways for Children.

The project has been enormously successful. To date, the bank, with the support of its customers, has contributed nearly \$200,000 to these charitable organizations in the community. The impact has been notable and has been acknowledged with much gratitude by the recipient projects.

"For many of our patrons, the meals served at the Community Kitchen are

the only nutritious meals they receive all week," said Sally Michelson, Director of Paducah's Community Kitchen. "Without the support of community volunteers and the generosity of local businesses like Paducah Bank, we would not be able to fulfill the mission we have set out to accomplish."



After a school shooting in an adjacent county, Paducah Bank also used proceeds from SWIPE & SERVE project to create scholarships in memory of the two students who were killed on the school campus. Paducah Bank's mission as a financial institution is to recognize the needs that exist in the community and to try to use staff and resources to address quality-of-life concerns with programs designed to mitigate these shortcomings.

NONPROFIT SERVICE AWARD

Alpha Phi Omega: AZ Chapter - University of Kentucky



Lexington/Fayette County

**Nominated by
Jeremiah Wayne
& Grace Anderson**

AZ provides community service opportunities and encourages involvement in a manner unlike any other student organization. Many describe the fraternity as one of the most inclusive and welcoming environments on campus. This leads to active participation, and an event calendar that provides diverse set of opportunities to serve. One example of AZ's brothers fulfilling a community need is their weekly service at Sweet Blessings, where they help bake and decorate cakes for children who otherwise could not afford birthday cakes.

Every year, AZ organizes and conducts a Merit Badge University that enables 70-90 Boy Scouts to earn merit

Alpha Phi Omega is the largest co-ed service fraternity in the world. Its mission is to prepare campus and community leaders through service. The Alpha Zeta (AZ) chapter, founded in 1933 at the University of Kentucky, diligently strives to positively impact the lives of others by creating service opportunities in four primary regards: service to the nation, community, campus, and fraternity.

AZ participates in a wide variety of social projects, including those that deal with education and empowerment; environmentalism; hunger and food-insecurity; health and wellbeing; homelessness and populations in need; Lexington-focused; and women and families. AZ has longstanding active partnerships with more than 40 local nonprofits and community-oriented programs.

badges in 6-8 specific fields of study. AZ also raises funds to donate at least \$500 dollars annually to a community partner. Last year, AZ hosted its inaugural annual walk-a-thon that raised \$950 for the Hope Center, a local homeless shelter. AZ was deemed a 2018 Chapter of Excellence and 2018 Pledge Program of Excellence.

AZ has had immeasurable impacts on its members' college careers, growing their abilities to empathize, broadening their perspective of social issues, and fostering the growth of their leadership skills through service-based learning. The Alpha Phi Omega - Alpha Zeta chapter has made a significant impact on both the Lexington community and its community of brothers.

GROUP SERVICE AWARD

Southern Kentucky Cadet Squadron



*Bowling Green/
Warren County*
**Nominated by
Maj. Angela Felts**

The Southern Kentucky Cadet Squadron was chartered on July 18, 2013 and has prospered since its creation. This unit embraces the balance between the three primary missions of the Civil Air Patrol: Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs and Emergency Services. Throughout the squadron's brief existence as a unit, its members have achieved the Quality Cadet Unit Award for six consecutive years. Additionally, many cadets from the Southern Kentucky Cadet Squadron have went on to graduate from the Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, and Western Kentucky University's Reserve Officer Training Corps.

This unit has an active Aerospace Education Program, has completed six STEM kits, and has completed the Aerospace Education Excellence program every year since the 2013-14 program year. Additionally, the unit fielded two CyberPatriot teams with the middle school

team, helping them place second in their division in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Senior Members of this unit are actively engaged within all aspects of the cadet program, and they are dedicated to providing safe and robust activities as mentors and guides.

The unit's Color Guard team performed at 27 community events in 2017. Cadets from this unit have directly supported and led seven different Red Ribbon Leadership Academies, with 92 percent of cadet members completing the Drug Demand Reduction Program.

The most profound impact this unit possesses is its support of the Kentucky Wings Emergency Services. This unit has participated in 100 percent of the Joint Training Assemblies within Kentucky Group II and supported activities across the wing. The unit's STEM programs have become the premiere cadet-led activity with members leading the Weather Station Kit and its practical application in supporting the Emergency Services Missions of the Civil Air Patrol with real-time data to support Mission Base, Air Operations, Ground Operations, and Mission Support Element.

GROUP SERVICE AWARD

FAITH-BASED

Community Mission Team



Brodhead/Rockcastle County
Nominated by Tamara Cox

mission team of 15 people from Baptist churches in Rockcastle County to Romania. When their team returned from that trip in 2011, they unanimously agreed that the outreach ministries that were done in Romania could also be done locally. Thus, the Community Mission Team was born.

The Community Mission Team's first outreach ministry was called "Love in a Box." They filled shoe boxes with small gifts for children and distributed them at the Rockcastle Association building, along with free food and Christmas stories for the children. They also gave away backpacks filled with school supplies, clothing, coats, shoes, blankets and food. The team expanded the Christmas program in 2014, naming it "Operation Give Hope." At the local middle school on December 19, 2015, the team gave out approximately 450 stuffed backpacks for children. More than 600 people attended the event

Community Mission Team Director, Katheryn Pope, recalls feeling led by God to take a leadership role. At the time, she had been taking "working vacations," where she spent time building houses in

Kentucky, Georgia, Texas, Alaska, and Mexico. Ms. Pope says she was initially reluctant; feeling thoroughly convinced that she could not take on a leadership role because she was very quiet and reserved. Then, she stepped out in faith, overcame her fears, and agreed to go to Sao Paulo, Brazil for a Kentucky Baptist Convention mission team leadership training. That trip led her to her committing to lead an international

and everyone was given the opportunity to hear a hope-filled message. The team recruited more than 125 volunteers to make the event a success.

Last year, the Community Mission Team also started a Celebrate Recovery program, which is held every Monday night at the Community Outreach Center. They have seen many people encouraged and transformed through the faith-based recovery program for people who have hurts, hang-ups and habits.

They have support from the local churches who help provide a meal for this program every week. The team's most recent activities include Backyard Vacation Bible School, Back-2-School Bash, Women's Bible Studies, and a Summer Feeding Program for Children in partnership with God's Pantry. They have also opened a weekly emergency food pantry in Brodhead.

REACH Corps



Louisville/Jefferson County
Nominated by Jon Auslander-Price

Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) REACH Corps AmeriCorps members serve in 24 priority elementary and middle schools in Jefferson County. Each member mentors 30 students who have shown early patterns of truancy with the objective correcting this behavior. REACH members have a great presence in the community they serve, but there is also an untold story that needs to be shared.

On a regular basis, members use their own resources to provide treats and small gifts to celebrate their students' achievements. To most, this may not sound like a big deal, but when a member who earns a small living allowance of \$12,600 annually choose to spend some of it on those they serve, it speaks to their character. REACH Corps have members who regularly attend sporting events, neighborhood celebrations, parent teacher conferences, and other activities outside of their AmeriCorps requirements to support their students, families and the community. Sometimes the member is

the only one able to attend these type of events for students. Without REACH Corps members, many students would never have someone in the stands to see and celebrate the touchdown or have someone to advocate for them with a teacher.

Additionally, and unfortunately, many REACH Corps members find themselves supporting families through very difficult times as well. They attend funerals of students' loved ones, make trips to the hospital for support when needed, deliver handmade beds and food, and reach

out in the summer or during breaks, in case the students or families have a need while schools are closed.

REACH Corps members truly embody the spirit of National Service, not because of their service commitment, but also because it is the type of person they are. The needs of students and families go far beyond the school day and without these AmeriCorps members, many of these needs would go unmet. REACH Corps members are a great example to all of what service to others really means.

NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

AMERICORPS MEMBER

Emily Bowman



Corbin/Knox County
Nominated by
Keith Ritchie

Emily Bowman serves as the AmeriCorps Kentucky College Coach at Lynn Camp High School. This marks her third school year serving in this role. AmeriCorps Kentucky College Coaches focus on mentoring high school students who might not envision themselves going to college, first generation college students, and/or populations with low rates of college enrollment. Coaches are placed in high schools around Kentucky that have been identified as needing assistance based on their low college-going rate, high poverty rate and for being underserved by other community-based services. Coaches mentor students through difficult situations, encouraging the pursuit of post-secondary education opportunities. In fulfilling this mission, coaches help with career exploration, college essays, admission applications, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops, campus tours, and even financial literacy activities.

One of Ms. Bowman's proudest accomplishments is that she knows the name of every senior at Lynn Camp High School, his or her career interest and college options. This commitment has certainly paid off throughout her time as a Kentucky College Coach. As a direct result of her efforts, Ms. Bowman's core students have amassed well over \$200,000 in merit-based aid. This amount is not counting the need-based aid she has helped her students obtain through the FAFSA.

Each year, the FAFSA application period opens on October 1. By the end of October, all of Ms. Bowman's core seniors had completed both a college admissions application and the FAFSA. When acknowledging her success with core students, she simply said that

she will not rest until every senior at Lynn Camp High School has completed these goals. Lynn Camp High School's administration is so confident in Ms. Bowman's abilities with students, that she independently takes the lead with all scholarship-related questions. In addition to partnering with outside education to provide classroom workshops, she individually meets with an average of 15-20 students per day.

Ms. Bowman has also played a pivotal role in helping students experience college campuses. Throughout her service, Ms. Bowman attended and organized trips to 21 college campus visits, three regional college fairs, and five regional career fairs for a total of 756 students.

Kody Ruark



Carlise/Nicholas County
Nominated by
Keith Ritchie

Kody Ruark serves as the AmeriCorps Kentucky College Coach at Nicholas County High School. This marks his third school year serving in this role. AmeriCorps Kentucky College Coaches focus on mentoring high school students who might not envision themselves going to college, first generation college students, and/or populations with low rates of college enrollment. Coaches are placed in high schools around Kentucky that have been identified as needing assistance based on their low college-going rate, high poverty rate and for being underserved by other community-based services. Coaches mentor students through difficult situations, encouraging the pursuit of post-secondary education opportunities. In fulfilling this mission, coaches help with career exploration, college essays, admission applications, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops, campus tours, and even financial literacy activities.

Not only has Mr. Ruark dedicated so much of his time to assisting his core students, he has been a valuable resource to the entire community. Since he began his AmeriCorps service in the spring of 2017, Mr. Ruark has implemented multiple college-access events at Nicholas County High School (NCHS). Last fall, Mr. Ruark launched the first college application campaign week at NCHS where 60 of the school's 78 seniors applied to at least one postsecondary institution. In the spring, Mr. Ruark organized NCHS's first ever Close the Deal event for juniors. Later in the spring, Mr. Ruark introduced yet another college-access event to Nicholas County, College Decision Day.

Mr. Ruark has also coordinated and helped to implement a local Lieutenant Governor's Entrepreneur Chal-

lenge Competition at NCHS, a senior registration day for students who were planning to attend Maysville Community and Technical College, and a military information week for seniors and underclassmen to educate themselves on their military options. Additionally, Mr. Ruark has organized and led programs for students that will prepare them for their next stages of education. Mr. Ruark coordinated with the Kentucky Career Center to lead a three-day career preparedness course with seniors. In addition, he teamed up with the local University of Kentucky extension office to lead a three-day course with multiple grade levels on resume basics. This fall, Mr. Ruark worked with school administrators to offer an on-going college and life-skills class to seniors.

NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

SENIOR CORPS MEMBER

Roberta Cervantes



Paducah/McCracken County
Nominated by
Christine Thompson

Roberta Cervantes is one of Paducah-McCracken County Senior Center's most dedicated Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) members. She served nearly 1,400 hours in 2017, the most out of more than 500 volunteers enrolled in the program. Originally from Louisville, Ms. Cervantes has been a member of the Paducah RSVP since 2011. Most of her hours have been spent at HEART USA, a community-based drug prescription program, and St. Vincent De Paul, a nonprofit thrift store. HEART USA is partially funded by the Kentucky Department for Public Health and private donations from individuals, and the program is free for clients needing access to medications but are unable to afford them.

St. Vincent De Paul operates a budget store, food pantry, and help-line. Donations of good quality clothing and household items are sold at reduced prices. Ms. Cervantes volunteers at St. Vincent De Paul every day that the store is open. Ms. Cervantes has provided support by recording accurate information from donors, and helping to sort through the furniture, clothing, and household items donated. She also helps the store by maintaining the

store's physical appearance by dusting, arranging, hanging, and organizing items; and she recruits other volunteers to assist.

In addition, Ms. Cervantes also finds time to serve as an active member of her church and spend time with her large family. Because of these efforts, Ms. Cervantes has earned the official gold pin for the

President's Volunteer Service Award at the RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Dinner last year. She has also earned the respect and gratitude of those for whom and with whom she serves. Ms. Cervantes is one of those people whose dedication and hard work inspire and motivate those around her.

NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

NATIONAL SERVICE ALUMNI

Warren "Rod" Bocard



Ashland/Boyd County
Nominated by
Mary Claire Williams and
Rosita Napoleoni-Milan

Warren "Rod" Bocard served with the AmeriCorps MSU Corps program from 2012 to 2016. During his time with MSU Corps, he served as a tutor for at-risk elementary school students who needed extra assistance in reading and mathematics. Mr. Bocard, an individual with a disability, loved to quite literally "take his leg off" and get down on the floor with the children. They affectionately called him "Mr. Bobo" and their love for him was evident when you witnessed their interactions.

While serving as an AmeriCorps member, Rod also supported the Catlettsburg 21st Century After School Program where he assisted with homework help, enrichment activities, and coached a Lego Robotics team that competed at the state competition. He loves to be silly with the kids, but he also demands respect. He is an outstanding role model for children who often do not have a strong role model in their own homes.

While serving with AmeriCorps, Rod suffered from a heart attack and later a stroke. However, his determination to get back to school kept him motivated in his rehabilitation. Even though his service with AmeriCorps MSU Corps is complete, he still volunteers at the school as an aide in the Kindergarten classrooms.

"You may not have saved a lot of money in your life, but if you have saved a lot of heartaches for other folks, you are a pretty rich man."

- Seth Parker

About Serve Kentucky



Serve Kentucky manages Kentucky's AmeriCorps national service programs. Serve Kentucky, formerly known as the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service, 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. Serve Kentucky's 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 Serve Kentucky is to engage Kentuckians in volunteerism and service to positively impact our communities. To learn more about national service and Serve Kentucky, please visit www.serve.ky.gov.



**Joe
Bringardner**

Joe Bringardner is the Executive Director for Serve Kentucky, where he proudly oversees 20 AmeriCorps programs with more than 900 members serving in more than 100 counties in the Commonwealth. Growing up in the YMCA, he has a long and dedicated history with National Service and Leadership programs. He served as the Associate Executive Director and State Director of the Kentucky YMCA for 20 years, where he led all statewide civic engagement, leadership, and service-learning programs which served more than 7,000 teens, educators and volunteers annually. Joe has extensive experience in public policy and government relations, working with AmeriCorps Commissioners and elected officials in 25 states. He lives in Louisville with his wife, Kate, and their two dogs.

Serve Kentucky Commissioners

DeAnna Brangers	Peter Hayes	Kevin Russell
Andrew Cole	Kevin Mays	Madison Silvert
Elizabeth Combs	Gary McCollum	Mary R. Steely
Tamara Cox	Kevin Middleton	Brent Sweger
Bill Farmer Jr.	Megan Mortis	Sarah Gossett
Jim Garrett	Lauren Palmer	

Award Reviewers

Malia Harris	Denaijah Curry	Havyn Johnson
Iris Sistrunk	Alona Sistrunk	Harold Sistrunk
	Eleanor Zachery	

Serve Kentucky Staff

Joe Bringardner Executive Director	Jill Lancaster Fiscal Grants Officer	Ted Kizziar Service Fellow
Shannon Ramsey Operations Officer	Linda Harney Executive Advisor	Ricky Woodson Service Fellow
Carie Kizziar Program Officer	John Gillig Volunteer Generation Fund Manager	Nichol Sistrunk Service Fellow
Joseph Clark Disaster Services Program Coordinator	Amy Potts Volunteer Development Coordinator	Kaylen Robinson Service Fellow
Andy Stith Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator		