

Governor's Service Awards



AmeriCorps
Wisconsin



AmeriCorps
Seniors

*Olbrich Botanical Gardens ~ Madison, WI
June 7, 2023*

2023 Governor's Service Awards

Welcome - Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director - Serve Wisconsin

Remarks - Lieutenant Governor Sara Rodriguez

Awards Presentation

AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Lyndsey Johnson — College Possible Milwaukee

Malysha MacFarland — College Possible Milwaukee

AmeriCorps VISTA Member of the Year

Allison Hrovat — Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year

Tianna R. Evans — Teach For America Milwaukee

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year

Linda Longmore — Western Dairyland RSVP

Corrine Rolli — Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program
Foster Grandparent Program

AmeriCorps Seniors Program of the Year

Coulee Region RSVP

Volunteer of the Year (regional honorees)

Sally Ann Brickner, O.S.F. — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay

Joe and Audrey Leisgang — Bellin Health and American Red Cross
Northeast Wisconsin Chapter

Iris Firgens — Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
Senior Companion Program

Debra Newago Proulx — Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
Senior Companion Program

Maddie Frohmeier — Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County

Jake Martin — United Way of Jefferson & North Walworth Counties

Cathy Schmale — United Way of Dane County - 211

Valjean J Adams — African American Mutual Assistance Network, Inc.

Recognition of AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers with 20 years of service

Special Recognition of Margie Zutter from RSVP of Dane County

Closing Remarks - Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director - Serve Wisconsin

The Governor's Service Awards honors outstanding volunteers, national service participants, and programs that address serious social needs in their communities. The honorees have made significant contributions to Wisconsin and their generous service has impacted the lives of countless Wisconsinites.

AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Lyndsey Johnson

Lyndsey Johnson is serving her third term as an AmeriCorps member with College Possible Milwaukee. She has served as a college coach for the last two school years, supporting a cohort of 140 college students across the country. She also served as a transition coach last summer to help over 200 students navigate the multitude of tasks that needed to be completed before starting their freshman year of college. Seeing a critical need from her students, Lyndsey initiated and maintained a donation-based hygiene pantry to provide toiletries and other essential items. Lyndsey has also taken it upon herself to create walkthrough videos, flyers, and other resources to assist her fellow AmeriCorps members.



AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Malysha MacFarland

Malysha MacFarland is serving her second term as an AmeriCorps member with College Possible Milwaukee as a college coach. As a first-generation college student herself, she has striven to provide her students with the support she wishes she had by helping them obtain financial aid and locate critical resources. Malysha created a scholarship repository that could be accessed by all of College Possible Milwaukee's high school and college students and their coaches. Additionally, Malysha is serving as a mentor to two new college coaches, started filming videos on college topics for their scholar website, and helped create virtual community-building events and in-person study sessions for students.



AmeriCorps VISTA Member of the Year

Allison Hrovat

During her AmeriCorps VISTA service with the Wisconsin Association of Free & Charitable Clinics, Allison Hrovat has expanded the capacity of Vida Medical Clinic in Appleton to better serve its patients. Allison has improved clinic efficiency and workflow for over 640 patient visits and 975 services. Allison has had a significant impact on Vida Medical Clinic by partnering with the Wisconsin's Well Woman program to provide cancer screenings, outreach events, and patient education. Allison also implemented an automated online scheduling system for all outreach initiatives, developed and created educational resources and outreach plans, and completely restructured the clinic's youth outreach program to help reach 1,800 students.



AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year

Tianna R. Evans

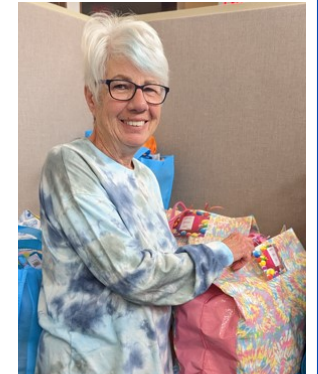
Over the last fourteen years, Tianna Evans has worked to increase and deepen her impact across the Milwaukee community by supporting students, parents, and educational staff. Her two years of AmeriCorps service with Teach For America Milwaukee at Riley Dual Language Montessori and Forest Home Avenue School helped act as a springboard for future educational leadership roles. She continued teaching for a few years at Forest Home Avenue School before transitioning to Carver Academy as the Instructional Coach of Culture / Dean of Students and later their assistant principal. Currently, Tianna is serving as the principal at Marvin E. Pratt Elementary and is assisting current and future teachers with the Center for Urban Teaching.



AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year

Linda Longmore

Linda Longmore has demonstrated a passion for volunteerism through her AmeriCorps Seniors service with the Western Dairyland RSVP program. Since joining the RSVP program in May 2012, Linda has undertaken a variety of volunteer roles to address food insecurity, provide medical transportation, support her local library, keep the community clean, and promote events that bring the community together. As a former 4K teacher, volunteer work supporting students is near and dear to her heart. She actively volunteers in the classroom and on the playground and helps conduct free vision screenings for students. Additionally, Linda has volunteered with the RSVP Birthday Bag Project since 2012, helping pack bags for approximately 40 children a month and regularly donating items for the bags.



AmeriCorps Seniors Program of the Year

Corrine Rolli

Corrine Rolli brings kindness, patience, and a dedication to helping students to her AmeriCorps Seniors service with Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program. She has volunteered over 8,000 hours in two rural school districts since starting with their Foster Grandparents Program in Fall 2013. Corrine has been an invaluable resource, providing an additional presence in the classroom and impacting the lives of numerous students. Corrine works tirelessly to help each student she mentors do their best work and make progress toward their goals. Beyond working with students on reading, writing, math, and other projects, Corrine gets to know the students and invests in their lives, giving them another person who encourages and believes in them.



Volunteer of the Year - Northeast Wisconsin Iris Firgens

Striving to remain close to her community and embracing tribal values, Iris Firgens makes it a priority to care for elders in the community who need assistance. Iris serves multiple elders on or near the Menominee reservation by volunteering with the Senior Companion Program through the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. She is a willing volunteer who goes above and beyond for people, providing those she serves with companionship, rides to medical appointments, help in their homes, and provides assistance with whatever else they need. Iris does not let obstacles get in the way of helping others, always finding ways to maintain connections with those she serves.



Volunteer of the Year - Northwest Wisconsin Debra Newago Proulx

Deb Newago Proulx is a long-time volunteer with the Senior Companion Program through the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, making a difference in her Red Cliff community. Deb has been helping one of the local elders for many years, providing companionship, transportation, and general assistance in their home. This elder describes her as "tireless" and "true-blue Red Cliff" for her willingness to help him and other community elders when needed. Deb also provides assistance and companionship to an individual with dementia, having stepped up in numerous ways to ensure they could receive medical services, get groceries, pay bills, and participate in gatherings in the community.



Volunteer of the Year - Southeast Wisconsin Maddie Frohmeier

As a volunteer driver for Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County for over four years, Maddie Frohmeier transports seniors to their medical appointments and to local grocery stores, helping them maintain their health and independence. Maddie routinely gets up in the very early hours on Saturday morning to help one of her clients be at their dialysis treatment by 5:30 a.m., doing this on 46 Saturdays in 2022!



After helping her initial passenger return home following their appointment, Maddie typically continues her day assisting another client with grocery shopping. Beyond giving rides, she also provided her clients with a sense of companionship and forged connections with them that helped reduce their feelings of isolation.

AmeriCorps Seniors Program of the Year Coulee Region RSVP

Founded in 1973, Coulee Region RSVP has made a lasting impact over the past 50 years. Over 3,000 AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers have provided service at more than 350 locations throughout La Crosse and Monroe counties. Their RSVP Transportation program has provided thousands



of rides to clients to get them to medical appointments, food sites, and grocery stores. The Coulee Region RSVP Handyman Program answers multiple calls each week to assist with various "minor fix it" repairs that help seniors live safely and independently in their homes. During the past year alone, their RSVP Handcraft volunteers have made over 5,000 items for over 25 local organizations.

Volunteer of the Year - East Central Wisconsin Sally Ann Brickner, O.S.F.

Sister Sally Ann Brickner has actively supported numerous volunteer efforts with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay since 2020. Recently, her focus has been on supporting refugee families. She has given her time to ensure refugee clients are welcomed in their new community. She has helped them move and settle into their new homes and clean their vacated apartments. She provided them with needed transportation to doctor appointments, grocery shopping, and English classes. Sister Sally Ann is the face of Catholic Charities when their staff is unable to be in two places at one time, helping them expand their ability to better meet the needs of the community.



Volunteer of the Year - East Central Wisconsin Joe and Audrey Leisgang

Joe and Audrey Leisgang have dedicated thousands of hours over multiple decades to promote the health of individuals across the greater Green Bay area. Over the past 18 years, Joe and Audrey have volunteered over 12,000 hours combined to provide critical assistance at the Advance Care Desk in the ICU department of Bellin Health. Additionally, they have devoted time volunteering and holding leadership roles with the Concerned Hearts Club, an organization that supports patients and families who had invasive heart surgeries in Northeastern Wisconsin. Joe and Audrey have volunteered for 25 years to support the Northeast Chapter of the American Red Cross, answering phones at the front desk and assisting at numerous blood drives each year.



Volunteer of the Year - Southeast Wisconsin

Jake Martin

When the organizations that previously led holiday toy drives notified the United Way of Jefferson and North Walworth Counties that they could no longer continue, Jake Martin was instrumental in saving Christmas for many Whitewater area residents. With many of the toy recipients being English language learners, Jake began learning Spanish to register families and translate "letters to/from Santa" for each child. He spent hours scouring the internet for unique items to fulfill children's wish lists. When the lead coordinator developed Covid-19 the week of the event, Jake stepped up and worked around the clock, picking up hundreds of toys from community partners, sorting and bagging items, and setting up thousands of toys for pickup.



Volunteer of the Year - Southwest Wisconsin

Cathy Schmale

When the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically increased the number of people looking for information and assistance, Cathy Schmale stepped up and began volunteering with United Way of Dane County's 211 program. Cathy quickly underwent training as an Information and Referral Specialist shortly after the pandemic started and has continued volunteering several hours a week since then. In 2022, she handled over 800 incoming calls, connecting callers with community resources such as food, housing, utilities, healthcare, legal assistance, transportation, and other services. In 2023, she continued her training to prepare for staffing 211's Addiction Recovery Helpline. Cathy also volunteers with Meals on Wheels and provides mental health services as a Red Cross volunteer for people affected by disasters.



Volunteer of the Year - West Central Wisconsin

Valjean J Adams

Valjean Adams was one of the initial founders of the African American Mutual Assistance Network, Inc. and has served in many leadership roles in the organization over the last two decades. Valjean created the Clara Fields Multicultural Literacy Program to serve children in the La Crosse and Onalaska area to provide educational opportunities for low-income families while inspiring children to learn. For over a decade, she undertook numerous roles, including leading, managing, and implementing the Pre-K Reading Program, training volunteers and staff, collaborating with volunteers and staff to plan instructional activities and lessons, completing grants, and collaborating with local schools and nonprofits.



AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers who have given 20 years of volunteer service

We are honoring all AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers throughout the state who have reached the milestone of 20 years of volunteer service. We thank you for your generous service and the help and support you have provided to the people of Wisconsin.

Coulee Region RSVP

Beth Curtis
Jean Gabrielson
John Hamilton
Evelyn Miller

Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency RSVP

Jan Carlson
Merry Nuutinen

RSVP of Dane County

Debra Baker
Myrna D. Heiser
Mary Ihlenfeldt
Betty Ingwell
Lynn Klink
Alison Koelsch
Mary Odell
Joan Paar
Jean B. Ruhde
Marsha Schaeffer
Gregg Williard
Ann Wolfe

RSVP of Portage County

Bob Brush
Janice Doxtator
Karen Fadner
Darlene Schroda
Edward Severson

RSVP of Racine County

Nat Cyncenas
Barbara Hanke

RSVP of Rock County

Darlene Breden

Volunteer Fox Cities RSVP

Jim Glasheen
Lorna Hamilton
Betty Lange
Jim Mauthe
Millie Mauthe

Western Dairyland RSVP

June Bartilson
Gena Coach
Joyce Cooper
Jacquelyn Erwin
Doris Estenson
Lavonne Ganz
Christine Giese
Verna Gunderson
Earl Hetrick
Rita Hetrick
Sonya Iberg
Dorothy Kruschke
Janet Michaels
Joanne Miles,
LaMay Nelson
Ruth Schaffner

Event Sponsors

Serve Wisconsin is Wisconsin's National and Community Service Board. Our mission is to promote service, provide training, and allocate resources to programs that enrich lives and communities through service and volunteerism. We achieve this mission primarily through our work with AmeriCorps programs and AmeriCorps members throughout the state of Wisconsin. We are governed by a 21-member citizen board appointed by Governor Evers. For more information about Serve Wisconsin or funded AmeriCorps programs, visit www.servewisconsin.wi.gov.

AmeriCorps, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture. Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov.