

Governor's Service Awards



AmeriCorps
Wisconsin



AmeriCorps
Seniors

Olbrich Botanical Gardens ~ Madison, WI
May 26, 2022

2022 Governor's Service Awards

Welcome - Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director - Serve Wisconsin

Remarks - First Lady Kathy Evers

Awards Presentation

AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Angel Brown - Marshfield Clinic Health Systems AmeriCorps
Recovery Corps

David Lee Schneider - Department of Public Instruction AmeriCorps
Farm to School Program

AmeriCorps VISTA Member of the Year

Neel Karody - Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year

Ben Rangel - College Possible Milwaukee

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year

Sharon Ludlum - Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program
Foster Grandparent Program

AmeriCorps Seniors Program of the Year

RSVP of Dane County

AmeriCorps Seniors Lifetime Impact Volunteer

Ed Hansen - RSVP of Rock County

Lorraine Schluter - CESA 10 Foster Grandparent Program

Volunteer of the Year (regional honorees)

Bill Jartz - Volunteer Center of Brown County

Carol Schumacher - Women's Empowerment Series

Debra Moore-Gruenloh - Special Olympics Wisconsin

Nannette Hendry - Spooner Memorial Library

Marisol Perez - Journey Disaster Response Team

Joe Byrnes - Goodwill South Central Wisconsin
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

Marti Clark - Coulee Region RSVP

Recognition of AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers with 20 years of service

Closing Remarks - Christine Beatty, WNCSB Chair

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 is impacting the lives of countless Wisconsinites.

AmeriCorps Member of the Year Angel Brown

Angel Brown is serving her fourth term as an AmeriCorps member and is currently serving with Marshfield Clinic Health Systems AmeriCorps Recovery Corps. Through her service as a recovery coach, Angel provides support to individuals with substance abuse disorders and in recovery. Walking side by side with clients as they navigate their own recovery, Angel provides clients with resources, guidance, and her own lived experience in recovery. She is available for her clients whenever they need her. Additionally, Angel has been a powerful advocate and presenter, sharing her own experience finding sobriety and working on her recovery journey.



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AmeriCorps Member of the Year David Lee Schneider

David Lee Schneider is serving his second term as an AmeriCorps member with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction AmeriCorps Farm to School Program. While serving the students of the Howard Suamico School District, David provides nutrition education to hundreds of students and redesigned their summer school curriculum to make it sustainable and increase the number of children served. David also led 150 hours of school garden activities with students and harvested over 2,700



pounds of produce for use by the school nutrition program. David drew upon his own experience as a farmer to play a huge role in promoting the Wisconsin Local Foods Database to connect schools and farmers.

AmeriCorps VISTA Member of the Year Neel Karody

Through his AmeriCorps VISTA service with the Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, Neel Karody expanded the capacity of the Community Outreach Health Clinic in Menomonee Falls to serve its patients. Neel's grant writing and analysis helped secure over \$80,000 in grants to support several initiatives to assist patients and identify high-risk populations for uncontrolled hypertension, diabetes, and cholesterol. Neel supported the development of multiple programs to help manage and track the blood pressure, blood sugar, and other levels of these patients. Additionally, Neel obtained software and developed procedures to screen patients, refer them to available community resources, and track them to help prevent referrals and patient needs from being forgotten.



AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year

Ben Rangel

Inspired by his two years of AmeriCorps service with College Possible Milwaukee, Ben Rangel has continued serving his community and supporting others following his service. Discovering a love for working with students as an AmeriCorps member, Ben teaches government and world history at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and supports numerous student and community efforts. Ben also serves on the AmeriCorps Alumni Council at College Possible, providing mentorship and support to its members. Wanting to help Milwaukee residents become more active in their community, Ben created and hosts the Bridge the City podcast with AmeriCorps alumni. Additionally, he serves as a camp counselor at Camp Kindred in the summers and assists with voter registration drives and other community activities.



AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year

Sharon Ludlum

Sharon Ludlum combines her knowledge, kindness, and creative nature to make a difference for students in the Belmont School District. Sharon serves as an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer with the Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program's Foster Grandparents Program. Since starting in October 2009, Sharon has volunteered at least 15 hours per week, serving thousands of hours and impacting the lives of numerous students. When helping her students, Sharon determines their range of abilities and fits her volunteer assistance to support their skills and needs. Over the last decade, the students she served have over a 90% success rate in achieving their student goals.



AmeriCorps Seniors Program of the Year

RSVP of Dane County

Founded in 1972, RSVP of Dane County has grown into one of the largest RSVP programs in the nation. RSVP of Dane County AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have contributed over 8 million service hours to Dane County over the last 50 years. Despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 alone, 1,021 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers served 121,777 hours helping Dane County residents in need. Through service at numerous programs and over 90 sites, AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers serve people of all ages, help nonprofit and public agencies maintain and extend their services, and help older adults remain independent and in their own homes.



AmeriCorps Seniors Lifetime Impact Volunteer

Ed Hansen

Ed Hansen has served numerous roles and assisted multiple programs with RSVP of Rock County. Ed has served on the RSVP board since 2006 and is currently serving as the board president. He has served on many committees and assisted with countless fundraising and recognition events over the years. Ed also serves as a Seniors Volunteering for Seniors Driver, taking clients to doctor appointments and other necessary appointments and assisting people by picking up and delivering medical equipment or groceries for sick clients. Additionally, he actively volunteers for other organizations, including delivering Meals on Wheels every week with his wife.



AmeriCorps Seniors Lifetime Impact Volunteer

Lorraine Schluter

For 27 years, Lorraine Schluter has been a constant presence in the classroom, enriching the lives of students through her AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer service with the CESA 10 Foster Grandparent Program. At 88 years old, she travels 22 miles each day to guide students in the Osseo-Fairchild School District to higher academic achievement and provide them with extra care and comfort. As a result, 94% of her students have assessed gains in reading and/or math. Not only does Lorraine readily teach and review whatever skills each of her students need to practice, but she also creates bonds and friendships with her students that have impacts beyond their year together in the classroom.



Volunteer of the Year - East Central Wisconsin

Bill Jartz

Every week, people throughout the Green Bay community see Bill Jartz not only on their televisions as a local nighttime anchor for WBAY, but also volunteering at different events to support local nonprofit organizations. He consistently brings his passion, energy, and humor to serving as an emcee, presenter, or auctioneer to support local charitable causes, providing a highly engaging and memorable experience for all in attendance. Bill was nominated by the Volunteer Center of Brown County for the impact he has had volunteering in these capacities, helping to raise tens of millions of dollars for Green Bay area organizations and volunteering more than 5,000 hours over the years.



Volunteer of the Year - East Central Wisconsin

Carol Schumacher

Carol Schumacher serves as the Volunteer Director and volunteers full time in the Women's Empowerment Series office in Fond du Lac, supporting numerous efforts to assist women and children. Carol leads their Volunteer Work Program, connecting participants to volunteer opportunities at WES and the community. She interviews women interested in participating in their programming and connects them to different options that best fit their interests. Carol single-handedly created and now leads a puppeteer troupe called Positive Puppetry that addresses feelings, communication, and other topics, helping children and others learn about these areas and address difficulties that they have faced.



Volunteer of the Year - Northeast Wisconsin

Debra Moore-Gruenloh

Debra Moore-Gruenloh has been a key volunteer in multiple roles for Special Olympics Wisconsin since 1987, volunteering over 1,000 hours annually. In this past year alone, Deb has served in numerous volunteer roles, including the Volunteer Athlete Leadership Coordinator, Unified Leadership Task Force member, Global Messenger Trainer, Athlete-As-Coach Trainer, a local volunteer coach in multiple sports, a volunteer for regional and state competition, a volunteer for both summer and winter games, and is the Bocce coach for those attending the USA Games in Florida in June 2022. Additionally, she helped lead efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide services and training in a virtual format when in-person events could not be held.



Volunteer of the Year - Northwest Wisconsin

Nannette Hendry

With a passion for teaching and sharing music, Spooner Memorial Library volunteer Nannette Hendry, has provided a creative and safe outlet for the community members to come together through her love of the ukulele and music. Nan teaches free multi-week ukulele classes at the library for all generations and skill levels. She provides ukuleles for anyone who needs one to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn. When the COVID-19 pandemic prevented lessons from continuing at the library, Nan sought out a way to provide the community with a safe and free opportunity to come together by creating the First Annual Northwoods Ukulele Festival at Spooner Railroad Park.



Volunteer of the Year - Southeast Wisconsin

Marisol Perez

Marisol Perez has transformed the ability of the Journey Disaster Response Team to assist people in southeastern Wisconsin and across the state over the last year. When their recently acquired warehouse lacked an inventory system, Marisol set to work creating procedures for proper shelving and labeling. Through this system, Marisol now orders food and leads the creation of food boxes for five monthly drive-thru events that distribute 18,000 pounds of food to roughly 1,700 individuals each month. Using these organizational skills, Marisol also helped lead their efforts to collect, sort, and send large quantities of needed items for the Afghan refugees at Fort McCoy in 2021.



Volunteer of the Year - Southwest Wisconsin

Joe Byrnes

Joe Byrnes serves as the Program Coordinator for Goodwill of South Central Wisconsin's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, which assists low- to moderate-income individuals and families through no-cost tax preparation services. Since he started volunteering with the program in 2018, he has increased volunteer participation and expanded community partnerships, resulting in a 125% increase in individuals served by the program. Additionally, through his planning and passion, Joe developed a tracking system to allow for ongoing service during the pandemic by quickly pivoting their services to drop-off and virtual tax preparation.



Volunteer of the Year - West Central Wisconsin

Marti Clark

Marti Clark has volunteered over 7,500 hours since 2012 as an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer with Coulee Region RSVP. While she has volunteered at 27 different sites, her largest impact is with their Handicraft Program. Marti inspects, tags, logs, and stores all of the items made by their volunteers for future distribution. Marti organizes their annual Handicraft Open House for nonprofits and health centers to obtain handicraft items to give to those in need, including transforming it in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Marti also leads their efforts to make "tiddlemuffs," which are created to provide a sensory experience for individuals with dementia.



AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers who have given 20 years of volunteer service

In recognition of AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers that have made an impact for the people of Wisconsin through their two decades of dedicated service, we are honoring all of the AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers throughout the state that have reached the milestone of 20 years of volunteer service with their programs over the last year.

ADVOCAP Foster Grandparents Program

Mary Fleischman

SWCAP Foster Grandparent Program

Sally Vyvyan

Coulee Region RSVP

Cynthia Ann Gluch

Laura Hubert

Carol Lee

Phyllis Miletto

Judy Ostreng

Dolores Roach

Gordon Stewart

RSVP of Portage County

Nona Higgins

Kathy Negaard

Ron Odejewski

John Picconatto

Sue Stenstrom

RSVP of Rock County

John Kalkirtz

Darlene Nelson

Dave Peltier

Jane Sholes

Roger Stenberg

Volunteer Fox Cities RSVP

Germaine Ambrosius

Berdella Bogard

Virginia Pflanzner

RSVP of Dane County

Nancy J. Allen

Margaret Bambrough

Frank M. Borucki

Charles Bunge

Joanne Bunge

Shirley Coulter

Gloria R. Davies

Alexandra Degrandis

Therese Duranso

Sharon Englerth

Peggy C. Hallmark

Katherine Herrin

Isabel Hubbard

Donna Lindauer

Mary Ann Lynch

Irene Morschauser

Larry R. Noyce

Jerald C. Remy

Margie Rohlfing

Susan Sorrentino

Joyce Trolinger

Margaret Van Weelden

Marie Vent

Carol Waelti

Jill D. Wheeler

Barbara Williams

NWCSA RSVP

Lorraine Young

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.