



# 2024 Governor's Volunteer Service Award

*Presented by*

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# Summary

- Volunteers are an integral part of our community.
- The Governor's Volunteer Service Award honors the true spirit of volunteerism by recognizing individuals, groups, and businesses that make significant contributions to their community.
- The awards program, created by the Office of the Governor in 1979, recognizes North Carolina's most dedicated volunteers.
- Today we want to acknowledge Buncombe County's 2024 winners.



# **This Years Buncombe County Volunteer Services Award goes to:**



# FY24 Governor's Volunteer Winner

- **Volunteers:** John and Patsy Morrison
- **Organization:** Western Carolina Rescue Ministries
- **Why:** Every week without fail, this dedicated couple selflessly dedicates their time to managing the Western Carolina Rescue Ministries clothing closet, providing essential items to the residents of the Rescue Mission and the homeless population. Their tireless efforts ensure that those in need have access to clean, warm clothing, shoes and basic necessities, offering comfort and support to the most vulnerable members of our community.



# FY24 Governor's Volunteer Winner

➤ **Volunteer:** Pamela Harris

➤ **Organization:** Warrior Canine Connection

➤ **Why:** Is an amazing volunteer to the Warrior Canine Connection she has been raising puppies for the past 5 years, to become service dogs for our veterans. In addition to that, she brings her dogs to Mission Based Trauma Recovery sessions weekly, allowing veterans to help in the training process. This allows our “Warrior Trainers” to have a role in the dog’s training and to benefit from that animal-human connection. Because of her efforts, our recovering Veterans can reconnect with life, their families, their communities, and each other.



# FY24 Governor's Volunteer Winner

- **Volunteer:** Sarah Moffit
- **Organization:** Warrior Canine Connection
- **Why:** Has been a dedicated volunteer since 2019 to the Warrior Canine Connection, the service dogs in training, and the veterans we serve. Sarah will support the more challenging dogs without a second thought and has had up to 4 dogs at her house at a time. A therapist by trade, Sarah donates 2 to 3 hours to teach veterans how to train dogs. This process is called Mission Based Trauma Recovery, a method in which our “Warrior Trainers” take an active role in preparing the service dogs while benefiting from the therapeutic animal-human connection. She always willing to help in any way possible if it will lighten the load of someone else. She is flexible and dependable. I know that WCC Asheville is better serving veterans because Sarah is a part of the organization.



# FY24 Governor's Volunteer Winner

- **Volunteer:** Raymond Davis Sr.
- **Organization:** Civil Air Patrol (CAP)
- **Why:** Lt Col Raymond Davis, has dedicated decades after his retirement from NASA to his community, state, and nation through exhaustive volunteer service with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). He has been a pillar of support for youth interested in aviation, mentored and trained countless pilots, and supported Search & Rescue and Disaster Relief training and responses both within North Carolina and across the United States.



# FY24 Governor's Volunteer Winner

➤ **Volunteers:** Michael Mulry

➤ **Organization:** MANNA Food Bank

➤ **Why:** Mike has volunteered over 3,800 hours at MANNA Food Bank in Asheville, NC helping Since 2015, to feed the community of Western North Carolina. The support for MANNA and our community that Mike has provided over the past 9 years truly stands out amongst the nearly 3,000 volunteers who help us in our efforts each year. This is the reason why Mike embodies an “outstanding” volunteer in every sense of the word, because it seems that no matter what, when we open our doors for the day Mike is always there.





# FY24 Governor's Volunteer Winner

- **Volunteers:** Light a Path WCC Volunteer Team
- **Organization:** The YWCA's Light a Path (LAP)
- **Why:** The YWCA's Light a Path (LAP) program places volunteers in settings like jails, prisons and recovery centers in Buncombe County, bringing healing and resilience to those who would not otherwise have access. LAP has offered embodied mindfulness classes at Western Correctional Center for Women in Swannanoa for 9 years. The classes are trauma-informed and rooted in empowering women and the advancement of racial justice. Unlike typical gym or studio settings, the prison has its own set of unique challenges. Finding quiet space in a noisy, invasive facility and bringing in focus in the midst of sometimes chaotic settings can be difficult, but this team of volunteers meet these challenges with competence and compassion.



# FY24 Governor's Volunteer Winner

- **Volunteers:** Judith Biery
- **Organization:** Bounty & Soul
- **Why:** Judith has been an exceptional volunteer and Bounty & Soul, since day one stating she was "up for anything, even the dirty jobs!". In addition to front lines roles like prepping and cooking healthy recipes and sharing samples within the market atmosphere at our free, healthy food markets, you're also bound to find Judith deep in projects behind-the-scenes, she actively looks for ways to support us and seeks to fill any voids. When she learned about our need for more volunteers at a local garden partner's site, she recruited her husband and neighbors and initiated a weekly shift where they could help with harvesting and maintenance. She looks for things that could be improved and actively brings them to our attention and gets them done. Beyond all of this she is simply a wonderful human, bringing light and grace to our world week in and week out and are grateful for Judith's incredible contributions and the ripple effect they have in our community.



# FY24 Governor's Volunteer Winner

- **Volunteer:** Dr. William Campbell
- **Organization:** ABCCM Free Clinic
- **Why:** Dr. Campbell has been a volunteer primary care physician with the ABCCM free clinic for the uninsured for over 30 years. He provides his time and clinical expertise at least two mornings per week as well as serving as our board chair for the past 2 years. He has been a tireless advocate for the clinic's provision of quality and comprehensive care, not only on provision of medical care, but also focusing his time creating awareness of prevention services; Dr. Campbell has been one of the clinic's longest and most dedicated volunteer physicians, caring for thousands of our neighbors most in need.

