

FRANKLIN TOMORROW'S 14TH ANNUAL
EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS

November 17, 2020



EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Lathram Berry

Nominated by The Hard Bargain Association



Lathram Berry has been a volunteer to Hard Bargain Association for a number of years now. She has worked several volunteer projects in the recent years as well for the Hard Bargain Association. She is currently in Nashville getting an M.Ed at Vanderbilt and working at the Nashville Food Project and is a graduate from the University of Alabama. Even with a pandemic in the way, she never let anything

get in her way from help serving her community.

Lathram came to the Hard Bargain Association in March with a grand idea; she was the brain child of their food drive program. Lathram's father was looking for an opportunity for the Berry Farms' residents to purchase meals from their local neighborhood restaurants to help feed low income families. Although, Hard Bargain didn't get to partner with Berry Farms directly, Lathram did place a partnership with A. Marshall Hospitality Company and Cathi Aycock from Franklin United Methodist Church Sunday School class.

They all got together virtually in the midst of the pandemic and placed a beautiful plan together. They had roughly fifty families that had food insecurities due to loss of jobs and wages. Andy Marshall and his manager Tom Zazzettii had taken many losses as well due to the same pandemic. All restaurants were not allowed for indoor dining. At this time the Stay-At-Home Executive Order was in place by the Mayor and the Governor and residents could only receive curbside service. Due to limited resources, this group would find a sponsor each week to donate the funds

to the major cause. The first sponsor was Cathi Aycok and her Sunday School class. The business would prosper from the funds and the family's needs would be met. It was a brilliant plan.

Lathram flew all the way from Arizona just to come help and volunteer in the middle of a pandemic. Hard Bargain was so glad to see her in person for the first time since we had all been isolated. Lathram is a gem to the organization. Lathram loves everyone whole heartily with all her heart, and really is the true meaning of love your neighbor as thyself.

Howard Garrett

Nominated by: Courtenay Rogers with CDR Consulting



Howard Garrett has a servant's heart. On top of his full time job as a community apartment manager, he volunteers 72 hours a month for multiple non-profits and his church. Howard is a self-driven team player who is the first to offer help to those who need it most. He holds a Master's in Biblical and Theological Studies and truly has a passion for serving others. Howard has already devoted over 700 hours so far this year to serving others.

Dr. Yog Nepal

Nominated by: Dr. Yog Nepal



Dr. Yog Nepal is good and hardworking in the Bhutanes Community. He does an imperative and excellent job helping different kinds of people.

Elizabeth Pistole

Nominated by: Caroline Pistole, Eva Mae Spielman, and Hands On Nashville



Elizabeth Pistole is a 20-year-old from Franklin, TN, currently a junior at the University of Alabama. She has demonstrated outstanding leadership potential by creating and directing a special needs dance team, the Dancing Divas and Dudes, a first of its kind in this area. She created the team when she was 15 years old to help her sister

Natalie, who has Down Syndrome, and others to have opportunities to perform and develop socially and physically.

The dance team has grown to 20 members in Franklin, and Elizabeth was able to start a chapter of the Dancing Divas and Dudes in Tuscaloosa, AL as an official University of Alabama organization. That chapter currently has 7 dancers. Elizabeth Graham has put in 800 hours of service in this year and she continues to recruit volunteers and coaches to work with her dancers, fund raise, and search for performance opportunities.

Each team member has the opportunity to grow physically, mentally, and emotionally while learning a variety of dance styles and working together as a team. The team's performances serve as a platform for proving the value and abilities of individuals with special needs. The team has performed at the Dickens of a Christmas festival in Franklin, the Miss Amazing pageant, and the International Children's Festival in Pinkerton Park as well as gone to competition in Gatlinburg, TN. From her personal funds, she bought dresses for the dancers, recruited professional photographers and makeup artists to do photo shoots, and has led the dancers in various fund raising activities, including their first fund raising Gala last year at the Governor's Club.

Elizabeth Graham has also created a Board of Directors and is recognized by the state of Tennessee as a nonprofit 501 (c)3 organization.

This fine young woman is very driven, hard-working, and has a great vision for helping those with special needs. She is a straight A student, and is one of the most compassionate people I know. Most of all, she is an amazing inspiration and role model to young women and girls. She provides time and attention to their lives and goals, and she gives them opportunities to problem solve and increase social skills by involving them in the decisions of costumes, performance venues, and dance genres and songs.

Elizabeth Graham has proven to be a leader beyond her years. As her motto says, "Dancers Disproving Disabilities" says, the Dancing Divas and Dudes team is helping to remove the stigma of special needs individuals, and they are showing the world these dancers are ABLE, not disabled.

Beau Rowley

Nominated by: Habitat for Humanity Williamson-Maury



Beau Rowley first began working with Habitat in college in Cincinnati, OH. Later, while working for Mapco here in Brentwood, Beau reengaged with Habitat for Humanity Williamson-Maury, bringing out volunteer teams and directing more than \$120,000 in funding. In 2019 Beau joined the HFHWM Board and can be counted on to show up for our staff and families we serve - from wall-raising to virtual trivia nights during COVID-19 times. Today Beau helps HFHWM secure support through Delek US and the Community

Foundation of Middle Tennessee. Beau is someone HFHWM can count on to help out in anyway at any time and we couldn't be more grateful.

Brooke Wanser

Nominated by: Carmen Stanek



Brooke Wanser is the type of person you meet and immediately want to know. She's curious, she's intentional, and she's truly wise beyond her years. While Brooke has put down solid roots in our community, it's important to note where she's from and how she came to join us here in Franklin. (As her Facebook Profile reads: "I wasn't born in Tennessee, but I got here as fast as I could!")

In 2017 Brooke left the West after a 9-month internship at the Las Vegas Review-Journal to move to Franklin. It was a move precipitated by a call from the Lord and contemplated through lots of prayer, since she knew absolutely no one in Franklin!

A week after beginning her job as a journalist at the Franklin Home Page, she knew she'd landed somewhere special. What stood out most to her was the genuine friendliness of the people she encountered. Everyone she met wanted to know how she got to Franklin and wanted to connect her to the community in a bigger way.

Through working as a journalist first for the Franklin Home Page, and now for the Williamson Herald, she has met people from all corners and centers of the community. She's been inspired most by the people who take a silent role in volunteering- those who work behind the scenes to ensure everything goes smoothly.

When the world turned upside down in 2020, Brooke was not dealt an easy hand. She could have easily chosen to respond with bitterness or resentment. Instead she managed her frustration and sorrow by seeking out opportunities to help others, even though she too was navigating a difficult season of her own.

Brooke has spent a few hours each weekend serving meals to the homeless out of a big Salvation Army canteen truck, before finding peace weeding, pruning, digging potatoes, or whatever may be needed in her church's (FUMC) Giving Garden. Brooke didn't stop there. This fall, she has been serving on weekends with one of the mobile food pantries, through GraceWorks or OneGen Away.

When asked what service means to her, Brooke replied that she sees service not as something that assures her of her own goodness, but as a response to comprehending the gravity of God's goodness and grace.

Rebekah Zeitlin

Nominated by: Waves, Inc.



Rebekah Zeitlin was first introduced to Waves through the Young Leaders Council. After serving a year on the board of directors as an intern, Rebekah was welcomed with excitement as a full board member. Rebekah's involvement on the board is full of contagious energy and drive. In addition to serving as a board member, she is also a member of the development and marketing team. In these roles, Rebekah has shown that she is dedicated to the success of Waves and has a heart for those with disabilities. A thoughtful planner, Rebekah is always ready with questions for what she can do to better the organization. She does not shy away from uncomfortable tasks and pushes her boundaries to better herself and Waves. For staff members, Rebekah has become an incredible source of encouragement and stability. Rebekah even took it upon herself to recruit another Young Leaders Council Intern for this year, further showing her commitment to the organization. She is without a doubt, a rising star in the leadership world.