

Volunteer Spirit Award

Annette Carrozzo, nominated by Deborah Reschke, for her work as a Volunteer for several years at the Williamson County Public Library in Franklin, bringing a welcoming smile and always willing to help wherever needed.

Arkendra Johnson, nominated by Rebekah Rush, for her Green Room support at the Dickens of a Christmas event with the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, staying beyond her scheduled shift to serve guests, prepare food, and ensure volunteers, police, and sanitation crews were well cared for.

Ashley Hart, nominated by Evangelina Montelongo, for her work as Community Partner Liaison with Cross Point Church supporting Waves, Inc., coordinating volunteers, building relationships with program participants, creating meaningful events, and bringing care, joy, and support to the staff and the community.

Beth Hilton, nominated by Erin Saurers, for her work as a Volunteer Cart Shopper in the Food Pantry at GraceWorks Ministries, volunteering multiple days each week helping clients choose items and delivering carts, supporting the homeless with People Loving Nashville, demonstrating extraordinary compassion by donating a kidney to someone from her church in need, and teaching herself Spanish to communicate better with the community she serves.

Brian Laster, nominated by Walter Green, for his work as Secretary of the Williamson County Historical Society and volunteer on Franklin's Historic Zoning Commission and Design Review Committee, editing the Society's journal, managing historical markers, maintaining the website, conducting living history demonstrations, and contributing hundreds of hours to preserve and share the history of Franklin with the community.

Chuck Isaacs, nominated by Leonora Green Clifford, for his work restoring historic cemeteries in Franklin, cleaning and preserving graves, working with the City of Franklin, and updating historical records for families and historians worldwide that are connected to Franklin and its cemeteries.

Chuck Smith, nominated by Rebekah Rush, for his work as a Field Trip Volunteer at the Moore Morris History and Culture Center, consistently stepping in when needed, leading activities, and helping students engage with local history.

Cindy and Allen Gentry, nominated by Evelyn Hickerson, for their volunteer work with Gentry's Educational Foundation, providing hands-on tutoring, mentoring, and life-skills education on their farm, offering food, shelter, and guidance to families in need, and inspiring youth and the community through their unwavering compassion and commitment.

CJ Monte, nominated by Sharon Thompson and Roger Walters, for his volunteer leadership with the Downtown Franklin Rotary Club, serving as DFRC Past President, Franklin Christmas Parade Director 2025, and Chairperson of Youth Services, leading projects with integrity and

enthusiasm, improving community events like the Christmas Parade, mentoring other leaders, and contributing to GraceWorks and Williamson Inc.

Clay Banks, nominated by Chris Cummins, for his volunteer work as a mentor, coach, and advocate with the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center (EIC) at Williamson County Schools, guiding student entrepreneurs in business development, strategy, and pitching, founding a start up that involved students in real-world business decisions, and providing mentorship that builds confidence, professionalism, and resilience among young entrepreneurs.

Corinne Moore, nominated by Jennifer Morrison, for her volunteer service as a Founding Board Member and Director of Inventory for The N.O.O.K. (Needs of Our Kids), creating and managing the inventory system that ensures students receive essential clothing and hygiene items quickly, coordinating donations and community partnerships, covering volunteer shifts, and demonstrating unwavering commitment to the Franklin Special School District and broader community.

Dac Phan, nominated by Scott Lucas, for his work with OneGen Away, is a volunteer whose dedication turns service into mission in action. When an unprecedented need struck in November 2025, Dac stepped in without hesitation, working long hours assembling food boxes, coordinating partner agencies, and filling gaps wherever needed. He approaches volunteering with gratitude and humility and contributed over 1,500 hours in 2025 alone. Calm, reliable, and always joyful in service, Dac ensures families in crisis are supported and the community is strengthened, embodying quiet leadership, work ethic, and heart.

Derby Jones, nominated by David Comer, for his work volunteering with One Generation Away, Franklin Noon Rotary, and other community organizations, consistently supporting nonprofit efforts across the county.

Donna Fisher, nominated by Rebekah Rush, for her volunteer work as a Field Trip Volunteer at the Moore-Morris History and Culture Center, faithfully supporting nearly every field trip, arriving prepared and engaged, generously giving her time to welcome students, and making a lasting impact through her dedication and thoughtfulness.

Dottie Northam, nominated by Dan Ryan, for her volunteer service with Franklin Rotary at Breakfast, fully immersing herself in every project, hosting members in her home, serving in multiple leadership roles, and demonstrating selfless commitment and leadership that strengthens the club and the community it serves.

Emily Newton, nominated by Jennifer Morrison, for her extraordinary service with The N.O.O.K. (Needs of Our Kids), where she serves as Assistant CEO, has volunteered since the organization's early days, leads innovative programs including emergency glasses and eye exams for students, steps in wherever needed, and consistently demonstrates leadership, creativity, and dedication to helping every child succeed.

Holly Walker, nominated by Sarah Critchlow, for her work as Director of Light the World Giving Machine Nashville and as co-founder of Make Our Schools Safe TN, coordinating large-scale

giving efforts and advocating for school safety. Despite being a busy mother of three, Holly dedicates countless hours to building partnerships with nonprofits, engaging the community, and inspiring generosity, demonstrating vision, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to improving lives both near and far.

Janice Hardrath, nominated by Bree DeMoss, for her work with Habitat for Humanity Williamson-Maury, where she serves as Board Secretary, volunteers on build sites, helps plan major fundraising events, leads teams to furnish move-in-ready homes, and consistently goes above and beyond with dedication, energy, and a heart for serving families in need.

Jay Sheridan, nominated by Torrey Barnhill, for his dedicated service to Franklin and Williamson County, including recently completing a term as president of Friends of Franklin Parks, serving on the board of the Battle of Franklin Trust, being appointed to the Historic Zoning Commission and the Battlefield Preservation Commission, which he chaired for two years, co-chairing Franklin's Sesquicentennial Committee, authoring *Along the Harpeth: Historic Franklin*, and consistently giving his time, talent, and strategic expertise to preserve and celebrate the community's heritage.

John Fortune, nominated by Dan Ryan, for his devoted service to Franklin Rotary at Breakfast, where he has embraced every role from making and transporting weekly coffee to serving as the main conduit of club communications, recently completed the Rotary Leadership Academy, hosted club events at his home, and is on track to serve as club president in 2026-2027, consistently demonstrating servant leadership, dedication, and a commitment to advancing the mission of Rotary.

Kerry Mattox Jr., nominated by Sonya Johnson, for his dedicated service as a volunteer tutor with United Way's Raise Your Hand Tutoring Program, where since fall 2022 he has worked with 1st to 5th-grade students below grade level, helping them improve reading skills, build confidence, and develop a love for learning, consistently demonstrating patience, compassion, and commitment to the academic success of every child he serves.

Kim Cannon, nominated by Ondrea Johnson, for her tireless volunteer work with Sister Cities International of Franklin and Williamson County, Page High PTO, Franklin Tomorrow, and many other organizations, where she coordinates visits, supports events from planning to hands-on work, and quietly ensures every project succeeds while lifting others and staying out of the spotlight.

Lyndsey Willhelm, nominated by Kimberly Kindle, for her tireless volunteer work with YANA and Find Hope Franklin, where she dedicates her time, energy, and expertise to support the mental health community, orchestrates impactful events, and serves as a bright, caring presence, making a real difference in people's lives.

Lawrence "Sully" Sullivan, nominated by Brandy Blanton and Janvi Shivdasani, for his extraordinary volunteer service with The Circle of Giving, Inc. (dba The Carousel of Dreams), where he leads volunteer efforts, creates magical experiences for every guest, mentors staff

and volunteers, and infuses compassion, joy, and dedication into every aspect of the organization.

Lee Anne Williams, nominated by Chris Barnhill, for her extraordinary volunteer service with FrankTown Open Hearts, where she has served for nearly 20 years, leads tutoring and mentoring programs, invests deeply in students through consistent, relational presence, and demonstrates unwavering commitment, faithfulness, and servant-hearted leadership that strengthens the community.

Matt and Julie Brown, nominated by Ondrea Johnson and Kim Cannon, for their commitment to community through the revival of the Five Points Post Office, now a thriving and welcoming gathering place. More than business owners, the Browns recognized the value of a true neighborhood post office that feels reminiscent of by-gone days, where everyone is known and genuinely cared for. Their generosity has been especially evident through their support of Sister Cities of Franklin and Williamson County by offering the Five Points Post Office as the anchor location for Franklin's German-style Christmas Market honoring Bad Soden am Taunus, now entering its third year. Despite the demands of hosting, late nights, and full days of set-up and tear-down, Matt and Julie give their time, leadership, and resources wholeheartedly.

Michael Rositano, nominated by Michelle Caldwell, for his work with Recovery Unplugged Behavioral Health and local prevention coalitions, has transformed his personal journey of recovery into a mission of service, supporting individuals and families struggling with addiction and mental health challenges, volunteering countless hours, speaking at events, leading recovery groups, and going above and beyond as a Clinical Navigator to provide guidance, care, and hope for the community.

Mickey Trent, nominated by Danielle McMorran, for her extraordinary service with Williamson County CASA, has volunteered for sixteen years as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, providing a consistent, compassionate voice for abused and neglected children, serving 27 cases involving 29 children, logging over 1,100 hours and 7,200 miles, mentoring new advocates, supporting community events and fundraising, and demonstrating unwavering dedication, positivity, and leadership while balancing her career and family, making a profound and lasting impact on the children and community of Williamson County.

Natalie Bingham, nominated by the United4Hope initiative of Operation Andrew Group, the Franklin Special School District (FSD), and Franklin First United Methodist Church (FFUMC), for her extraordinary service with Franklin First United Methodist Church, has served as Church Coordinator for the partnership with Freedom Middle School since 2024, recruiting volunteers who contributed hundreds of hours and thousands in in-kind donations, responding directly to student and staff needs, advocating for equitable access to resources, and consistently demonstrating care, organization, and dedication that has strengthened both the school and the community.

Peggy Blake, nominated by Heather Hill, for her work with United Way of Greater Nashville, has dedicated more than 20 years to volunteering and leadership, inspiring workplace giving,

organizing major community events, and serving wherever the need is greatest, consistently demonstrating passion, reliability, and a commitment to strengthening both programs and the culture of giving across the community.

Penny Kemle, nominated by Mary Ellen Sloane, for her work with Williamson County Equestrians for Shared Greenways, has dedicated herself to preserving safe equestrian access and promoting inclusive, multimodal greenways throughout the county, uniting diverse stakeholders, empowering the community to engage with local planning, and turning her visionary advocacy into a lasting, positive impact on both residents and the environment.

Rhiannon Guppy, nominated by Mike Ingram, for her work as Vice President of Arts Council Williamson County, coordinating artists for Art Crawl and other events each month, consistently showing up and doing an outstanding job.

Tony McAlister, nominated by Mary Beth Richards, for his exemplary leadership as Board Chair and Interim Executive Director of Studio Tenn, where he has helped elevate professional theater in Franklin, including recruiting Artistic Director Patrick Cassidy and leading efforts to establish a first-class venue at the Turner Theater, while also contributing to historic preservation and civic life through service with Franklin's Charge, Franklin Preservation Partners, Nashville Shakespeare Company, Williamson, Inc., and Leadership Franklin, demonstrating enduring commitment to Franklin's arts, culture, and community.

Topper and Carole Long, nominated by Jean Thornton, for their work with Studio Tenn Theatre Company, are two of the theater's longest-standing volunteers, bringing joy, reliability, and contagious enthusiasm every time they serve. Always ready to step in at a moment's notice, they support not only Studio Tenn but the broader Franklin community through their volunteerism.