

# WELCOME TO

# The Outstanding Volunteer Awards CELEBRATION

***May 16, 2021***

LOUDOUN CARES

*Outstanding  
Volunteer Awards*





*Connecting Those who Serve  
with Those in Need*

[www.loudouncares.org](http://www.loudouncares.org)  
[www.volunteer.loudouncares.org](http://www.volunteer.loudouncares.org)

[info@loudouncares.org](mailto:info@loudouncares.org) ♦ (703) 669-2351 ♦ P.O. Box 83 ♦ Leesburg, VA 20178

# Welcome

On behalf of Loudoun Cares and our Board of Directors, welcome to our 2021 Outstanding Volunteer Awards. What a year! Hard to believe we have lived under the challenges of COVID19 for over a year now. During this time we have seen amazing acts of kindness and caring coming from our volunteers here in Loudoun County. We are honored and humbled to recognize the amazing and selfless work of these volunteers. This year we received nearly 60 nominations and we cannot thank all of them enough for their tireless service to our community. We will be honoring really thousands of volunteers across 15 categories including our new Nonprofit Volunteer Board award. This year we wanted to create a special award to highlight the work of our volunteer(s) during this global crisis. Therefore, this year we have also added the RiseUp award to celebrate the work being done during this time. One of my personal favorites is our Judy Hines Service of a Lifetime award. Our recipient, Dennis Godfrey has served his community for over 20 years and is always there when he is called to service. We want to thank everyone that made this event possible. Those who nominated, judged, recognized, sponsored, and worked long hours behind the scenes. We could not do this without your support. It is our hope that you will be inspired by these stories of service and find even more ways to give back to Loudoun County. Congratulations again to all our honorees!

*Be Kind . . . it is free and universal"*

Valerie Pisierra  
Executive Director



# LC Board of Directors

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Monti Mercer

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|                  |                    |
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| Josh Swirchak    | KC Tregoning       |
| Glenn Wooten     |                    |

## Associate Members

Susan Snyder, Emeritus Chairman & Co-Founder  
Robert Woodruff, Building Chair, Emeritus Chair

# Event Program

## - OPENING REMARKS -

Tony Howard

Master of Ceremonies

## - WELCOME -

Valerie Pisierra

Executive Director, Loudoun Cares

## - DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER -

Phyllis J. Randall

Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

## - PRESENTATION OF AWARDS -

Gabriella Miller Youth Volunteer

Carol Barbe

Volunteer Loudoun, Past Chair

Ellyn Miller

Smashing Walnuts

Service of a Lifetime Awards

Monti Mercer

Loudoun Cares, Chair

## - CLOSING REMARKS -

# Distinguished Speaker

## CHAIR PHYLLIS J. RANDALL

Phyllis J. Randall was elected Chair At-Large of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in November 2015 and reelected in November 2019. Her election was historic as she became the first person of color in Virginia's history to be an elected chair of a county Board.

As Loudoun's Chair At-Large, she represents Loudoun on various regional, state and national bodies including, serving as Chair of the Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Resources sub-committee, Chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, President of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) and member of the COG Board of Directors as well as a member of the COG Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee and the COG Regional Forward Coalition, and member of the National Association of Counties Health and Human Resources Committee

Chair Randall also serves on the Board of Supervisors' Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee and the Transportation and Land Use Committee.

In June of 2018, Chair Randall was selected as one of only twenty-five women in the country to be included in the 2019 class of Governing Magazine's Women in Government Leadership Program. In addition, in 2018, 2019 and 2020, the citizens of Loudoun County voted Chair Randall Favorite Public Official, an honor which she is most humbled by and proud of.

From 2009-2011, Chair Randall served as Chair of Virginia's Fair Housing Board under Governors Tim Kaine and Bob McDonnell. From 2014 to June of 2018, she served as Chair of Virginia's State Board of Corrections under Governor Terry McAuliffe.

By profession, Chair Randall is a mental health therapist, working with substance abusing offenders in an incarcerated setting, a position she enjoyed for over fifteen years.

She and her husband Thaddeus (T.W.) have lived in Loudoun since 2003, and are the proud parents of two sons, Ashon and Aaron.

# Master of Ceremonies

## ANTHONY J. "TONY" HOWARD

We are honored to have Tony Howard, Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, join us as our Master of Ceremonies for the 2021 Outstanding Volunteer Awards.

Tony began his tenure as the Chief Executive of Loudoun's premier business networking and advocacy organization in 2006, following seven years at the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, where he last served as Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Membership and Communications.

Before joining the Fairfax County Chamber, Tony served as the chief spokesman for Congressman Michael P. Forbes of New York, where he handled media relations with major news outlets in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Long Island.

A graduate of the State University of New York, Howard is also an award-winning journalist, having worked as a reporter and editor for newspapers in New York's Hudson Valley and Long Island.

Tony Howard currently serves on a number of nonprofit and professional boards, including the Loudoun County Economic Development Authority, Visit Loudoun, the Loudoun Small Business Development Center, the Loudoun First Responders Foundation and is the immediate past president of the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

# Special Thanks

**A Very Large THANK YOU to...**

**Our nominators who took the time to recognize the outstanding work of our community volunteers.**

.....

**Our judges who donated their time and energy to review nearly 60 nominations.**

.....

**Our amazing Special Events Committee and Makpar Corp for donating their space for the live streamed event**

.....

**Haley Alcock (Intern), Remi Bernard (Intern), Anna Dendrinou (Social Media Volunteer); Becca Rozmajzl (singer National Anthem)**

.....

**Our sponsors who support this event and believe in the power of volunteering.**

.....

**Our guests for supporting this year's event.**

**Without all of your time and efforts this event would not be possible.**

# Chairperson Recognition

## LHFH Homeowner Services Committee



The Loudoun Habitat for Humanity Homeowner Services Committee has been selected for the Chairperson's Recognition for their commitment to affordable, permanent housing for Loudoun County residents.

This team provides homeowner education and one-on-one financial mentoring to Loudoun Habitat for Humanity's partner families to support low-income, hard-working people improve their financial situations. The Homeowner Services Committee, Jennifer Mahoney, Julie Short, Mary Krueger, Michael Butterfield, and Mike Pontikis, share their professional knowledge of managing personal finances and mortgage lending beyond the transaction of applications and homebuying. During the challenges of 2020, these committed volunteers extended their services by reaching out to check on the wellbeing and provide added support to Loudoun Habitat homeowners impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. This dedication, to not only attain but retain, affordable permanent housing is the reason this team has been selected for the Chairperson's Recognition award.



# District Recognition

## Ismar Ortega | Algonkian



Isamar Ortega is a Community Organizer with New Virginia Majority. Outside of her job she spends many hours volunteering with St. Gabriel's Church and other informal community networks. Ismar has been coordinating food deliveries for members in need since the beginning of the pandemic, and has made countless deliveries of cleaning supplies for individuals in quarantine due to COVID-19.

## Joe Mydlinski | Leesburg



Joe Mydlinski has dedicated his life to service. For many years, he has been one of the most reliable volunteers at Loudoun Hunger Relief, helping to provide food for thousands of families who would otherwise go hungry. A man of deep faith, he has always been bold and unrelenting in practicing his faith in action and inspiring the rest of us to a higher standard.

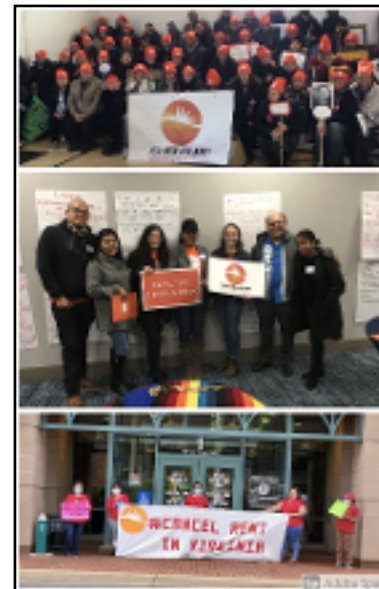
# District Recognition

## Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue | Broad Run



Members of the Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department are the embodiment of outstanding volunteers. Over the past year, the members have stepped up in awe-inspiring ways. When most of us were working from home and trying to social distance, that was not an option for the firefighters and EMS personnel. They continued daily to respond to emergencies and put themselves into close contact with others. They put themselves in harms way, even more than in years without the pandemic. We are so fortunate to have such hard-working and outstanding volunteers right here in the Broad Run District. They are an inspiration and a blessing to us all.

## Rosa Cousins of New Virginia Majority | Sterling



Ovidia Castillo Rosa and Luz Rosa are both Sterling volunteers with New Virginia Majority in Loudoun. They are cousins, originally from El Salvador, and have volunteered with New Virginia Majority since 2018. New Virginia Majority is a civic engagement group comprised of community organizers throughout the state who engage with marginalized populations to increase political awareness, community mobilization, and issue advocacy. Ovidia and Luz were important volunteers in New Virginia Majority-Loudoun's efforts to pass driver privilege card legislation at the Virginia General Assembly and have remained (virtually) active with New Virginia Majority throughout the pandemic, even in the midst of economic and health challenges due to COVID-19.

# Award Recipients

## ADULT

**Wendy Oakford**

## ADULT TEAM

**Loudoun's Young  
Entrepreneurs  
Academy Instructors**

## ADULT PUBLIC SAFETY

**Kathleen Leary**

## SENIOR

**Dennis Godfrey**

## SENIOR TEAM

**Food Donations Team -  
Senior Center of  
Leesburg**

## VOLUNTEER TEAM

**Loudoun County  
Medical Reserve Corps**

## CORPORATE TEAM

**Northwest Federal  
Credit Union  
Foundation**

## COMMUNITY/CIVIC

**St. Theresa Catholic  
Church of Ashburn &  
Knights of Columbus**

## VOLUNTEER PROJECT

**BENEFIT Loudoun**

## YOUTH TEAM

**Young Men's Service  
League**

## VETERAN

**Bernard Mustafa**

## NONPROFIT BOARD

**Loudoun Career  
Firefighters  
Foundation**

# Award Recipients

## GABRIELLA MILLER YOUTH AWARD

**Christian Yohannes**

## LIFETIME OF SERVICE

**Dennis Godfrey**

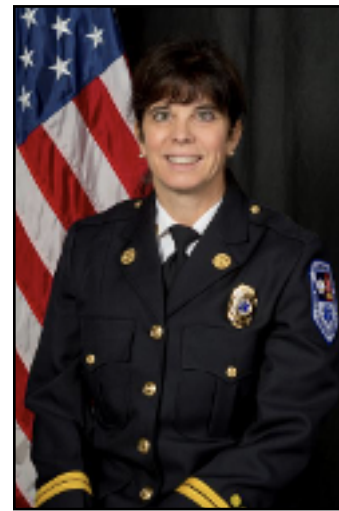
## RISEUP

**Dr. John Farrell**



Outstanding  
**Adult**  
Volunteer  
**Wendy Oakford**

Wendy Oakford volunteers at the Dulles South Food Pantry, where she helps process thousands of pounds of food each week, and is known for being thorough, efficient, reliable and always willing to show up when needed. In 2020 Wendy volunteered 541 hours, more than any other volunteer at DSFP. Wendy's out-of-the-box approaches and team attitude have made her an indispensable part of helping DSFP grow into the streamlined, efficient organization it is today. Wendy serves with her hands and her heart. She shows others, especially students, the impact of serving.



Outstanding  
**Adult Public**  
**Safety**  
Volunteer  
**Kathleen Leary**

Kathleen Leary volunteers at the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad, where she serves as the Deputy Chief of Operations. Kathleen leads by example and skillfully mentors junior paramedics, motivating others to new levels of professionalism as EMS providers. During 2020, under her leadership, Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad's Crew 4 (Tuesday night duty crew) voluntarily provided 911 emergency medical care to Eastern Loudoun County in excess of 7,000 hours. By her constant presence and direction Kathleen empowered her duty crew to demonstrate the confidence in their ability.





Outstanding  
**Adult Team**  
Volunteers  
**Loudoun's Young  
Entrepreneurs  
Academy Instructors**

Kristine Jacobson, Eric Byrd, Chris Ricci and Kinda Harvey volunteer at Loudoun's Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA) serving as instructors. The YEA Instructors spend countless hours working with aspiring young entrepreneurs through the Loudoun Chambers Young Entrepreneurs Academy. The program helps students hone presentation skills, work on networking skills, problem solving, and so much more. This program gives hope to students who may not see their lives after high school going in the traditional route such as college.



Outstanding  
**Senior**  
Volunteer  
**Dennis Godfrey**

Dennis Godfrey volunteers at the Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington. Dennis handles the administrative side, checking and double checking to make sure payments to the landlords and utilities are completed. Thanks to Dennis and his administrative support for the COVID-19 emergency rent and utility relief program, a total of \$1,167,719 was distributed between 4/1/20 and 2/23/21. This assistance enabled 595 Loudoun families to stay in their homes and keep their utilities connected. When the COVID-19 relief program was launched in April 2020, the incoming call load quickly reached 200+ calls and continued to rise before staff was completely trained. Dennis volunteered a total of 108 hours on the phones and a total of 576 hours on the COVID relief program.



## Outstanding **Senior Team** Volunteers **Food Donations Team - Senior Center Leesburg**

Katherine Andrefsky, Eli Florence, Jim and Joanne Suit, Carolyn Snyder, Pat Schneider, Kathy Silberberg, and Joyce Fields are part of the Food Donation Teams at the Senior Center of Leesburg. Every week the Food Donation Team goes to various merchants in Loudoun County to pick-up food donations and deliver them to Tree of Life. They also delivered food to Loudoun Hunger Relief. The donations are distributed to people experiencing food insecurity throughout the community in Loudoun County. These eight volunteers have continued this effort throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, because of their kindness, thoughtfulness, and deep sense of caring for others.



## Outstanding **Team** Volunteers **Loudoun County Medical Reserve Corps**

Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers have provided the primary staffing for the County COVID-19 response. They have been critical in helping mediate the factors of this pandemic in the County. MRC volunteers have provided the primary staffing for a number of County activities including providing flu vaccinations. With regards to the County's response to Covid-19 they have been the primary staffing for the current vaccination efforts, mobile Covid testing, the County hotline/call center as well as infection control at the elections and primaries. Doing so has helped mitigate the spread of COVID in Loudoun. Currently there are over 2,000 active volunteers.



## Outstanding Corporate Team Volunteers Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation

Northwest Federal Credit Union (NWFCU) participated in various community outreach efforts. The NWFCU Foundation provided children and young people throughout Loudoun a hand up and security in the face of the pandemic. In 2020 The NWFCU Foundation held the following drives: Backpack Meal Drive, Food for Kids Drive, Diaper Drive, Coat Drive and Kids in Crisis Drive supporting Loudoun and Fairfax communities. Their amazing membership and employee volunteers collected and distributed over 38,000 food items through the Backpack Meal and Food for Kids Drives. The Foundation provided \$20,000 in scholarship money to the NVCC Lifeline and Helping Hands programs and \$110,000 in individual scholarship money to leaders and role models in the community needing financial assistance for college.



## Outstanding Community/Civic Organization Volunteers St. Theresa Catholic Church of Ashburn & Knights of Columbus

St. Theresa Catholic Church of Ashburn and Knights of Columbus volunteer construction crew responded to Loudoun Habitat's urgent need for volunteers to complete a critical safety repair for an elderly homeowner before the winter months that bring ice and snow. They also completed several exterior home repairs for an elderly woman in Bluemont and reconstructed a new front and back porch to provide safe entrances into her home. With such a large congregation not being able to regularly meet in person, coordinating a group of volunteers was challenging, however, St. Theresa found a system to communicate with and recruit volunteers.



## Outstanding **Volunteer Project** Volunteers **BENEFIT Loudoun**

BENEFIT Loudoun raised \$20,000 for local nonprofits during the Hope for the Holidays Virtual Concert. The BENEFIT team, all volunteers, organized and executed the entire event from start to finish. This project raised money for deserving nonprofits who tirelessly address the needs of people in our community. The money raised was distributed to recipient nonprofits within 30 days of the event, enabling these organizations to use the resources immediately. The diversity of experience and thought enabled creative solutions to challenges faced in 2020. With safety first in mind, BENEFIT Loudoun pivoted and delivered a virtual event to a live audience that was its most successful event ever.



## Outstanding **Veteran** Volunteer **Bernard Mustafa**

Bernard Mustafa volunteers at Count the Region, an Initiative of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. As Regional Count Committee Co-Chair, Bernard successfully led a regional communication and mobilization effort around the 2020 Census that placed Northern Virginia at the top of response rates in the country. Bernard's efforts were a notable increase in response rate in spite of the disruption of COVID-19. Under his leadership, The Community Foundation successfully planned, created and launched the Northern Virginia Regional Complete Count Committee (NVCCC), leveraging the Community Foundation's local connections, relationships and influence. The NVCCC is the first of its kind.





## Outstanding **Nonprofit Board** Volunteer **Loudoun Career Firefighters Foundation**

The Loudoun Career Fire Fighters Foundation (LCFFF) Board worked tirelessly to provide for its members in times of need during countless situations. Their work continued despite the numerous hurdles associated with COVID 19. The volunteer board's mission of the LCFFF is to support the career first responders, as well as the volunteer organizations within Loudoun County. Throughout 2020, the LCFFF's board worked to find "workarounds" through the murky circumstances that we've all come to know as COVID19. While the money raised in 2020 was less than previous years, the dedication of the board utilized the funds to bring about positive outcomes. The LCFFF's board maintained their strong commitment to serving the Loudoun community despite the COVID 19 obstacles.



## Outstanding **Youth Team** Volunteers **Young Men's Service League**

The Young Men's Service Team Oakton Chapter (YMSL) went above and beyond in 2020, serving countless hours in the warehouse, at home, and for Women Giving Back. This special group of young men has been a wonderful partner to Women Giving Back since 2015, serving over 200 hours in 2020, numbering in the thousands throughout the partnership. Scheduling was a challenge with YMSL balancing school hours and volunteer hours during weekdays. But because of the young men's dedication and strong desire to to help, the Oakton Chapter of YMSL found a way to serve their community.





# Gabriella Miller

Gabriella Miller was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor at 9 years old. Gabriella was named the 2012 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for her efforts in raising more than \$275,000 for the Make a Wish Foundation.

Realizing how little awareness and funding there was for childhood cancer and particularly childhood brain cancer, Gabriella quickly became a global advocate for children with cancer and started the Smashing Walnuts Foundation.

Gabriella was only 10 years old when she passed away in 2013. Her family now continues her mission of awareness. Smashing Walnuts is Gabriella's legacy, founded to give kids like her a fighting chance.



*"You may have a bad day today, but there's always a bright shining star to look forward to tomorrow."*

*~ Gabriella*



## GABRIELLA MILLER YOUTH AWARD

### Christian Yohannes

Christian's year of volunteer work for 2020 started as an Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC) Student Delegate. Christian gave his insight as to how LCPS can build an equitable and socially responsible environment for students.

However, days after Christian was recognized with the 2020 MSAAC Student Award, his world, and his ways of advocacy, were changed forever. Christian faced the devastating news that his best friend, Fitz Campbell Thomas, passed away. Days after his passing, Christian and Fitz's mother teamed up to co-found Justice 4 Fitz. With Justice 4 Fitz, they changed public safety laws in Loudoun and Montgomery County to enhance 9-1-1 responses. Since then, Christian was appointed to a Public Safety Reform Workgroup with PSAP (public safety answering points) and 9-1-1 Representatives throughout Virginia. Eventually, the workgroup will report to Governor Ralph Northam. Christian made sure to honor Fitz as well. In October of 2020, the initiative he led to rename Riverside High School's Stadium after Fitz came to reality.

**RiseUp AWARD**  
**Dr. John Farrell**



As Chairman of the Loudoun County Health Commission, Dr. John Farrell advises the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors regarding health issues and policy in Loudoun. Early in the pandemic, local healthcare providers were struggling to obtain enough personal protective equipment to treat all the patients coming through their doors. Dr. Farrell worked with the Board of Supervisors, County administration, and Health Director Dr. David Goodfriend to ensure that medical practices throughout Loudoun had sufficient PPE. When lack of readily available testing, and confusion about the accuracy of tests, became an issue, Dr. Farrell started Loudoun's COVID-19 Testing Task Force. The Task Force is a group of healthcare professionals and government officials whose mission is to expand testing capabilities in the County. With the help of Supervisor Matt LeTourneau and the Loudoun County Government, Dr. Farrell launched the Loudoun County PPE website to address the severe shortage of PPE. This made a huge difference in keeping practices open and able to serve the community. Supervisor Matt LeTourneau: "This year, Dr. Farrell has been indispensable in assisting the County with our COVID-19 response."

## SERVICE OF A LIFETIME AWARD

### Dennis Godfrey



Dennis Godfrey has been volunteering in our community for over 20 years. He has served at Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington, Knights of Columbus, KOVAR and Odyssey of the Mind. Dennis's involvement with the Knights of Columbus began with his fellow Knights in the creation of a new Chapter at his parish. He served as President of the St. Francis Chapter and District Warden with many years on the KOVAR Board, the Knights' state level nonprofit. Christina Harrington, the Catholic Charities Loudoun Food Pantry Manager, exclaims "the pantry would not be what it is today without Dennis's valuable contributions over the past 10 years and what strikes me the most about working with Dennis is his ingenuity and generosity, especially when there is a need to help others." For over 20+ years Dennis volunteered at the local, state, and National/International level of Odyssey of the Mind (OM), a youth creative thinking competition. The Spirit Award, a World Award, is given to one individual every year and Dennis received it at the 2019 World OM Competition. This was in recognition for his volunteer service in many positions at the local, state, and national levels: Assistant Coach, Judge for Virginia Regionals and World Finals, Regional and Virginia State Spontaneous Captains and Virginia Association Director. Dennis currently serves as Treasurer for the World Board.

# 2021 Nominations

|  |   |
|--|---|
| #Read Across America - Loudoun Literacy Council**    | Diane Rice  |
| Allison Metzger                                      | Donna Drake   |
| Amy Richards   | Dr. Frank Zala (Dr. Z)                              |
| Angie Wantz  | Dr. John Farrell**                                  |
| Anne Senft   | Food Donations Team - The Senior Center Of Leesburg |
| BENEFIT Loudoun                                      | Hugh Forsythe**                                     |
| Bernard Mustafa                                      | Israfeel Martínez-Jaka                              |
| Bob Rudnick  | Jessica Monte                                       |
| Bonnie Garbus  | Jill McNabb*  |
| Chris Dematatis*                                     | Juanita Easton*                                     |
| Christian Yohannes                                   | Juli Bowman   |
| Cindy Dwyer  | Kashvi Ramani                                       |
| Collen Lovelace**                                    | Kathleen Leary*                                     |
| COVID Crisis Volunteer Team at Loudoun Hunger Relief | Kathryn Ciliberti **                                |
| Darrel Hill**  | Kevin Kelly   |
| David Dillon   | Kushal Dondeti**                                    |
| Deb Yoon   | Laurie Broglio                                      |
| Dennis Godfrey*                                      | LAWS Holiday Program**                              |

# 2021 Nominations

|   |  |
|---|--|
| LHFH Homeowner Services Committee                 | Sam Holtom   |
| Lisa McGrail **                                   | Sharon Cotton  |
| Loudoun Career Firefighters Foundation            | St. Theresa Catholic Church of Ashburn and Knights of Columbus |
| Loudoun County Medical Reserve Corps**            | Steven Bates**   |
| Loudoun County Senior Center COVID Volunteers     | Susan Mullen   |
| Loudoun VICAP Medicare Team                       | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Missionaries   |
| Loudoun's Young Entrepreneurs Academy Instructors | Thomas Mackowiak**   |
| Makpar Corporation Volunteers                     | Wendy Oakford  |
| Maria Gonzalez-Vigilar                            | YES Team - Mobile Hope   |
| Marian Sweeney                                    | Young Men's Service League                                     |
| Mobile Hope Volunteers **                         |  |
| Northwest Federal Credit Foundation               |  |
| Pam Harvey  |  |
| Rebecca Hutchings                                 |  |

**\*Service of a Lifetime Candidates**

**\*\* RiseUp Award Candidates**



# Panel of Judges

## CAROL A. BARBE

Carol Barbe is President & CEO of Backflow Technology, LLC, a family owned and operated company, and the premier leader in backflow prevention and cross connection control. Carol serves in a leadership role on the Board of Directors for Loudoun Hunger Relief and the Tigerlily Foundation. She also serves on the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and as an (former Vice Chair of Loudoun Cares) and Council Member for the American Red Cross-Loudoun. Carol has over thirty years experience in the private sector specializing in business management, corporate and criminal law, human resources and commercial property management. Carol is committed to serving those in the communities in which she lives. She is passionate about giving back, volunteering countless hours and making a positive difference. Carol has lived in Loudoun since 1984 and resides in Ashburn with her husband Phil and son Philip. We thank Carol for her company's generous sponsorship of tonight's event.

## JOYCE A. L. WARD

Joyce Ward was born and raised in the small town of Freeman, Virginia. She received her B. S. in Business Administration from Morgan State University and married her husband, William "Kip" Ward who was commissioned into the United States Army on their graduation day. Joyce is an accomplished professional and a distinguished and highly respected volunteer in her own right. She has served on over 30 boards/organizations including a wide variety of military organizations, LINKS Incorporated, Girl Scouts of America-North Atlantic Region, Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), MLK Scholarship Foundation, and many more. Joyce has a strong affinity for the needs of women and children working all over the world assisting with programs in orphanages, women's clinics, HIV/AIDS clinics, and schools. She has realized that the challenges are many but the opportunities can be greater. Joyce has received numerous awards in recognition of her volunteer services from local communities, local and national organizations, the Department of Defense, Presidents of the United States and Leaders of foreign countries. However, she says that the most heartwarming award is the reward of seeing our children happy, healthy and succeeding in life – all because they were given an opportunity.

# Panel of Judges

## LEIGH SHIELDS

Leigh Shields has a rich background in assisting individual leaders and leadership teams in developing and using their full potential as organizational leaders. Through his own practice, he has worked with leaders in organizations like General Electric, BAE Systems, Northern Virginia Family Service, My Sister's Place and American Chemistry Association, among others, to build leadership capacity for performance results. Leigh holds an MA in Theology from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and a BA in English Literature from Bucknell University. He also attended executive development programs at Harvard Business School (Managing and Leading Change) and Wharton Business School (Implementing Strategy). Since leaving Healthy Companies International, Leigh has collaborated with ACT for Alexandria to establish a leadership development initiative as part of their capabilities-building strategy for nonprofits, designing and delivering a year long leadership development program for executive directors. In addition to coaching individual non-profit leaders, Leigh facilitated strategic planning with boards and initiated a leadership development program sponsored by The Community Foundation of Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties.

## DEBBIE FOSTER

Debbie is a retired administrative professional who concentrated her career in the non-profit foundation field. Most recently, she worked as executive assistant and fiscal manager for Family Centered Treatment Foundation in Great Falls, Virginia. Prior to that she held the position of executive assistant in the Teammates for Kids Foundation, a Garth Brooks organization in Littleton, CO. A mother of 3, she resides with her husband in Ashburn, where they have lived since 2006.



# Panel of Judges

## NICOLE ACOSTA

As the Director of Grants and Nonprofit Programs of the Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties, Nicole Acosta manages the Community Foundation's grant making processes, implements and facilitates nonprofit programs and capacity-building trainings, and oversees the organization's communications strategies. Nicole has extensive experience in the local nonprofit and human services sector, from providing therapy to child victims of domestic and sexual violence, to serving as executive director of Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter for five years. She served on the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance's Public Policy Committee, chaired the Northern Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Task Force for three years, and chaired the Loudoun Human Services Network's Advocacy Committee for two years. She currently serves on the Loudoun County Family Services Advisory Board and the Loudoun County Census 2020 Complete Count Committee. Nicole is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

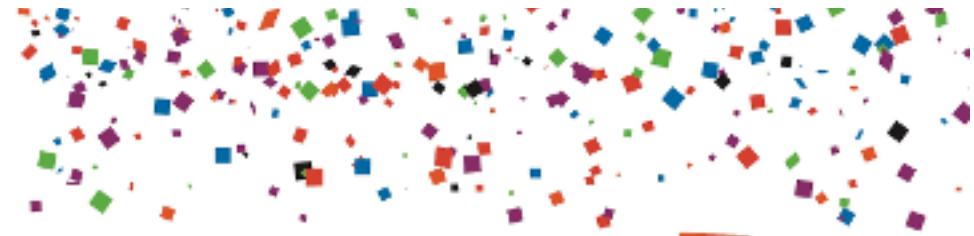
## WENDY WALTERS-DEAN

Wendy Walters-Dean has been an active community volunteer for more than 20 years. She was awarded an MPA from Troy State University and a Bachelor's in Marketing from Florida State University. Wendy has held positions as President- European PTA, President - The Air Force Officers' Spouses' Club of Washington DC, Convention Election Chair - National PTA, Publicity Chair - Ramstein Officers' Spouses Club Bazaar, Parliamentarian - Americans Working Around the Globe (AWAG), and has also served on the Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe Area Advisory Council. Currently Wendy is an executive board member on the National Geospatial Agency Family Access Board (NGA FAB). She has received numerous awards and certificates, including: National PTA President's Exceptional Leadership Award, National PTA President Distinguished Service Award, European PTA Distinguished Service Award and The United States President's Call to Service Award. She is married to Lt. Col. (R) Dwight Dean, they have three children: Dwight Jr., Danielle and Douglas.

# Panel of Judges

## RONNI ALLEN WARD

Ronni Allen Ward is a member of Loudoun Cares Board of Directors and chair of our Fund Development Committee. Professionally, she is President of Forward Incorporated, a strategic marketing and business development firm. As a frequent writer of large proposals and grant applications, she is well acquainted with the evaluation processes associated with awards programs.



## AlphaGraphics Loudoun joins Loudoun Cares in celebrating this year's award winners

AlphaGraphics is a proud sponsor of this year's awards

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CATEGORY SPONSORS



Adult Category



Youth Category

AWARD SPONSORS

- Blair’s Towing & Recovery - (Adult Public Safety**
- Vino Bistro in Village at Leesburg - (Senior)**
- Momentum Realty - (Youth Team)**
- KBF by Audi Contractors - (Veteran Volunteer)**

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