



Governor Evers and Lt. Governor Barnes recognize outstanding individuals and organizations for their service at the 2021 Governor's Service Awards

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Reflecting upon the significant difference that engaged Wisconsin citizens have made within the state, Governor Tony Evers stated that the 2021 Governor's Service Awards would be "honoring nine Wisconsinites and five organizations in our state that are spearheading positive, impactful change through their service to the people of Wisconsin." He continued, telling the honorees that they "have made a real difference thanks to your tireless efforts to support and help your fellow Wisconsinites. But your service is not only outstanding because of the impressive, quantifiable impact you have had in the number of students served, masks made, meals delivered, and many other important measures. It's also outstanding because of the compelling stories of the impact you have had on folks and entire communities across the state."

The Governor's Service Awards honors outstanding volunteers, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors participants and programs, and AmeriCorps alumni that address serious social needs across Wisconsin, including specific recognitions this year for those responding to COVID-19. The 2021 awards were presented on August 4th and were sponsored by Serve Wisconsin, the state commission for national and community service.

"We're excited to start a new tradition this year by recognizing Wisconsin AmeriCorps Seniors who have served for 20 years or longer," stated Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director of Serve Wisconsin. "It is with great pleasure that we recognize the hard work and dedication these 221 outstanding individuals have shown for their communities throughout the decades."

Addressing this group of long-term volunteers that have served their communities for at least two decades since turning 55, Governor Evers said "to the 221 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who have reached that impressive milestone in volunteer service, on behalf of our entire state, thank you for your hard work and dedication. Your service is an inspiration to all of us."



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Describing the impact of the service by the honorees during the COVID-19 pandemic, Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes said, “there have been so many significant challenges and setbacks for individuals for families and communities all across Wisconsin and this country. But your selfless and tireless work, did something to help improve the lives of many. And for that, I want to say thank you, because for a lot of folks, there were no other options and there was no one else to turn to. Without you, without your work, who knows what life would have been like for the individuals who have been on the receiving end of your service.”

Lt. Governor Barnes continued his closing remarks at the ceremony by connecting their efforts with the service of countless others during the pandemic as a path forward, stating that their “service providing resources to fellow Wisconsinites is deeply appreciated not just by myself, but by all of us...Throughout these tough times, it has been the volunteers, just like honorees today, that have inspired us all to believe that an end to the pandemic is possible, and that everyone doing their part is the exact way that we achieve that goal.”

A recording of the ceremony is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpGPVqXPkJO>

Service descriptions for each honoree available at <https://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov/s/GSA-2021-Honoree-Service-Descriptions.pdf>

Additional information about the Governor's Service Awards, including past winners, can be found at <https://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov/governors-service-awards>

2021 HONOREES

AmeriCorps Member of the Year Honoree:

Tre' Wafford – College Possible Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)

AmeriCorps Program of the Year Honoree:

Department of Public Instruction AmeriCorps Farm to School Program (statewide)

AmeriCorps VISTA Member of the Year Honoree:

Colin Mackey – Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin (Baraboo, WI)

AmeriCorps VISTA Program of the Year Honoree:

Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (statewide)

AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year Honoree:

Katherine Matisse – originally served with Teach For America Milwaukee and currently the Executive Director of TwoBirds Tutoring Co. (Milwaukee, WI)

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year Honoree:

Mildred "Dolly" McGeshick - Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Senior Companions Program (Crandon, WI)

AmeriCorps Seniors Program of the Year Honoree:

Copper Lake / Lincoln Hills Foster Grandparent Program (Irma, WI)

AmeriCorps Seniors Lifetime Impact Volunteer Honorees:

Betty Elsner – RSVP of Dane County, Inc. (Stoughton, WI)

Sally Vyvyan – Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program – Foster Grandparent Program (Westby, WI)

Volunteer Coordinator of the Year:

Maryssa Paulsen – MCHS Volunteer Wisconsin at New Leaf Foods, Inc. (Green Bay, WI)

COVID-19 Response Service Awards:

Lisa Penterman – Be Well Fox Valley AmeriCorps Program (Appleton, WI)

Don Strube – RSVP Program of Portage County (Stevens Point, WI)

Marshfield Clinic Health System AmeriCorps Volunteer Wisconsin (statewide)

Silver Threads – RSVP Program of Portage County (Stevens Point, WI)

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers with 20+ Years of Service

ADVOCAP RSVP

Paul Reiden
Janet VanLankVelt

CESA 10 Foster Grandparents Program

Kathleen Margraf
Barbara Robinson
Mildred Schweinler
Lorraine Schluter

Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency RSVP

Virgina Benninghoff
Reino Hill
Mary D Hudson
Jeanne Hultman
Rita Kovach
Sharon Manthei
Doris Morello
Donna Roguski
Ruth Smith
June Steel
Patricia Summerfield
Mary A. Sveda
Shirely Thoen
Jean Vandevoorde

RSVP of Brown County

Barbara Beaver
Dorothy Perpich
Yvonne Ward

RSVP of Coulee Region

Betty Baier
Pat Blanchard
Sister Fran Browning
Patricia Forer
Betty Fukuda
Gerrie Gerke
Evelyn Hammes
Mary Hanson
Velma Lutz
Carol Parker
Dorothy Paulikas
Marilyn Pertzsch
Charlotte Phelps
George Renner
Dorothy Ricke
Winnie Solberg

RSVP of Dane County

Barbara Arntz
Bill J. Arthur
Melvern L. Bankes
James W. Benes
Joanne Berschet
Valerie Birrenkott
Dorothy Blotz
Walter Brinkmann
Barbara L. Bristol
Paul L. Brown
Marge Bucholz
Ruth Conrad
Lynne S. Diebel
Kathryn Disch
Marian Drake
Irene Draper
Mary Lee Eaton
Mary Eichelkraut
Betty Elsner
Jeannette M. Erickson
Karen J. Foy
George E. Fuller
Grant Gelhar
Marlene Gerner
Dorothy I. Handrick
Caroll Heiderman
Robert W. Hoffman
Marcia C. Holman
Lee Ihlenfeldt
Berneice Jelle
Margaret Jensen
Everett E. Johnson
Phyllis J. Johnson
Gary W. Karl
Dorothy Karls
Janet J. Knutson
Doris Koster
Terry L. Kringle
Frederick Kruger
Ethel Lamboley
Adolph E. Leueberger
Saul Levin
Francis C. Long
Virginia A. Lunde
Julie Madden
Louise Maier
Charlotte Marshall
Jim D. Meyer
Margaret E. Meyer

Wayne G. Meyer
Robert Moe
Sharon M. Mogensen
Nancy Nesheim
Marie Oakeson
Peter Orlik
Pat Osborn
Shirley Outerbridge
Sharon A. Owen
Barbara Palmer
Suzanne Penfield
Helen Pertzborn
Kenneth J. Pippert
Georgia Post
Elizabeth Rewey
David Rice
Rob Rodini
Charles Rose
Dick Royston
Roberta L. Ruder
Harold Sabot
Joan Schneeberger
Kay L. Schoonmaker
Florence Smith
Susan Sorrentino
Mary Stamstad
Henrietta Statz
Dawn E. Stucki
Robert F. Syvrud
Judy Tegtman
Bill Thiede
Jeanne Topel
Robert Topel
Lois B. Tyler
Roger D. Utermark
Charlotte Viney
Delories Vosen
Evelyn Wagner
Bruce Whiting
Colleen Winckensten
Doris Zweifel

RSVP of Kenosha County

Jerry Anderson
Jerome Clements
William Colombe
Minnie Cox-Laudonio
Eleanor Gapko
Catherine Higgins
John Hoffman
Dorothy Jansen
Carol Knight
Betty Schlater
Maxine Silvius
Marilyn Strangberg

RSVP Outagamie County

Gail Gertsch
Cathy Glasheen
Anne Kidd
Mary McClure
Mary Ann Van Leur
Norma Will

RSVP of Portage County

Holly Ballenger
Ed Bancker
Pat Bohanski
Mari Buzza
Janice Catlin
Angie Derezenski
Bernie Domaszek
Ruth Duda
Claire Feigelson
Julie Firkus
Joyce Gilligan
Carol Grasamkee
Helen Hetchler
Pat Hilpert
Jean Iverson
Liz Kammer
Ramona Kizewski
Marge Krogwold
Jeanette Osowski
Marilyn Pederson
Carolyn Potocki
Ray Potocki
Sally Rice
Mary Ann Sankey
Judy Smith
Julitta Szczepanski
Marcy Trzinski
Marilyn Worth
Marge Zaske

RSVP of Racine County

Shirley Chmielewski
Evelyn Lajiness
Ellen Martino
Barbara Rigden
Jackie Romeril
Lawrence Terry

RSVP of Rock County

Betty Ainger
Jane Clift
Larry Clift
Lois Ferrera
Delores Folyer
Yoshiko Glos
Joyce Gray
Carol Hurley
Naomi Hackbarth
Shirley Jeffers
Judith Lechelt
Dolores Leonard
Virginia Nitz
Norma Olin
Joann Petersons
Eva Pickett
Phil Pickett
Alfred Pinnow
Beth Schmuck
Fung Scholz
Karen Starling
Marcia Stenberg
Marge Terneus
Dorothy Warriner
Gene Wenham
Laurena Wise

RSVP of Waukesha County

Margaret Brandenburg
Ted Dahl
Bill Gay
Cecelia Gump
Roy Gump
Janice Hector
Dick Klingbeil
Patricia Knuth
Rosemary Loesche
Yvonne McCormick
Nancy Schmidt
Kathleen Urban
Dolores Wuttke

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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.