

The
Maryland Senior Citizens
Hall of Fame



2024

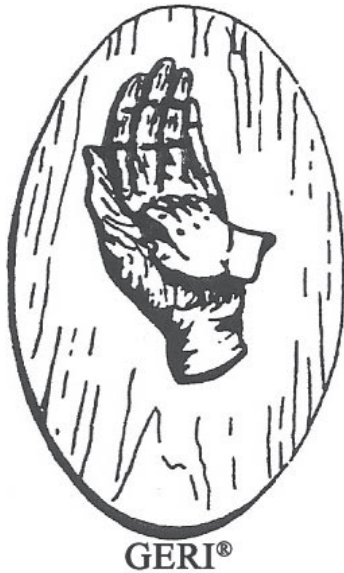
In Appreciation



This Blue Book recognizes outstanding volunteers in Maryland. These honorees, representing 10 of the 24 Maryland jurisdictions, have been inducted into The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame and this book will be preserved in their honor.

The archives of The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (MSCHF) are maintained at the University of Baltimore Langsdale Library, Special Collections.

Special acknowledgment is given to the Oak Crest Senior Living Community whose support has been tremendous. The Oak Crest management has contributed to the GERI awards and has provided a meeting place for the MSCHF Board of Directors.



The Story of GERI®

A group of distinguished citizens of varying ages, including senior activists, gathered on September 18, 1987 to promote the founding of a Hall of Fame dedicated to honoring senior citizens of the State of Maryland who have made exemplary contributions to society. Those selected by a special panel of judges would be inducted into The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame and have their names inscribed in the Archives of the Hall of Fame.

As the arts and sciences have their Grammy, Emmy, Tony and Oscar, so do the senior citizens of Maryland have their GERI, the geriatric "Nobel Prize" for extraordinary community service.

The GERI sculpture, a baby's hand in the palm of an adult hand, was specially designed to represent the admired philosophy of our maturing population, namely to give meaning and worth to the later years. Thus, the hand of the older person holding the hand of the child signifies understanding and love between generations. The GERI symbol depicts the intrinsic value of service to others, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, or handicapping condition.

GERI is a tangible expression of the leaving of a memory, a legacy, indeed a shining symbol of the fundamental value of giving and serving. The tenderness of the child is entwined with the strength and wisdom of the older person.

The Hall of Fame Corporation seeks to immortalize men and women and to record their names in the Archives of the Hall of Fame for all time because of their caring and volunteer efforts in improving the lives of others.

The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame is a corporation under the laws of the State of Maryland. It is a not-for-profit organization whose Board of Directors is all volunteers.

2024
GERI® AWARD RECIPIENTS



Barbara Barzyk



Philip F. Cicconi



Thomas M. Ford, Jr.



Frank B. Thomas



Barbara Barzyk

Baltimore County

Barbara Barzyk, like many women, is a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She also had a career as a Baltimore County educator until retirement. But unlike just any woman, she is also an avid volunteer.

Barbara has long been a faithful member of the St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church in Parkville. Since her retirement, Barb has regularly devoted many hours volunteering at her church in a variety of capacities. She has served on the Liturgy Committee for 25 years. This responsibility includes planning Masses, decorating for the holidays and supporting the parish ministries. As a member of the Altar Care Committee, Barb meets weekly with others to organize the hymnals, clean the pews and to take care of the necessities of the altar, including laundering the linens used for Mass. She also volunteers to work at various events in the parish, such as the fall festival, the parish picnic and special Masses held for recently deceased parish members.

Barbara is quite the seamstress. The church was fortunate to have her make multiple pairs of long drapes to hang behind the altar for different liturgical seasons. She also made all the curtains for the confessional rooms in the back of the church. Whenever repairs are needed, Barb puts her sewing skills to use once again.

Besides her dedication to her church, Barbara has served as the Recording Secretary for two special organizations since 2017. She takes copious minutes of the Executive Board meetings for the Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association and our own Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. She documents everything that is discussed and decided at each organization's regular meeting. Her minutes provide a detailed history of the working of each organization.

Barbara Barzyk is a very special person who sees a need and willingly tries to find how she can help. As an extraordinary volunteer, her time and expertise benefit a huge number of folks in these communities.

Philip F. Cicconi

Kent County



Philip F. Cicconi has been a dedicated volunteer in Kent County since 1998. His commitment to community service is evident through his many impactful contributions.

Friends of Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge is an organization near to his heart. For many years, Phil served this organization in a variety of capacities. Under his leadership, the group led a successful campaign in 2018 to prevent closure of the refuge. His efforts helped preserve a vital habitat for migratory birds and continue the upkeep of healthy waterways.

Phil played a pivotal role in establishing the Kent County Learning Center. He used his business acumen to assist Rock Hall watermen obtain their GED to enable them to qualify for other types of employment when the water no longer afforded them a livable wage. The center has also worked to enhance student achievement in mathematics, which in turn has helped increase county high school graduation rates.

Phil is currently building a coalition to support his proposal to include financial literacy education as a graduation requirement in Kent County Public Schools. He has done extensive research for this and has even prepared a model curriculum.

Mr. Cicconi uses his volunteerism to help with senior citizen issues. Working with the Kent County Health Department and Commission on Aging, he facilitated the vaccination of 1,200 seniors during COVID. In addition, he has engaged in initiatives aimed at preventing elder financial exploitation.

Philip F. Cicconi is compassionate, resourceful and tenacious. His life-changing contributions and dedication to community service make him an example of the importance of volunteerism. His has benefited both wildlife and people, both young and old!



Thomas M. Ford, Jr.

Harford County

Thomas M. Ford, Jr. has been an extraordinary volunteer for many years at the McFaul Senior Activity Center. In fact, his volunteerism was first honored by the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame when he was inducted in 2015. Since that time, Tom has continued his unprecedented service to the center.

Tom has been the McFaul Activity Center's photographer for more than 20 years, recording the many and varied events and preserving the center's history. He has also assisted with musical activities such as Christmas sing-alongs and the choir.

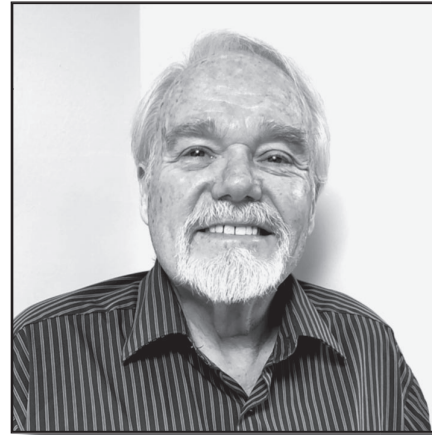
Since the opening of the center in 2002, Tom has been a volunteer at the front desk. In this position, he has performed multiple housekeeping tasks, such as answering phones, data collection for required record keeping for grant compliance, filing records and assisting the coordinator with any special requests.

In addition, Tom greets people as they enter the facility and directs them to their classes or activities. He also enrolls new center members and escorts them on a tour of the building, offering pertinent information and answering questions.

Thomas M. Ford, Jr. is enthusiastic and kind. He exudes a positive influence on the entire community. His dedication and leadership are unparalleled. Few things are guaranteed in this world, but Tom Ford showing up to volunteer at the McFaul Senior Activity Center is certainly one!

Frank B. Thomas

Baltimore County



Frank B. Thomas has a passion for volunteering. He is a frontlines kind of guy who doesn't volunteer for the accolades.

Since 2002, Frank has been a major participant with the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp (BCCW). He has served as the chairperson of this volunteer-led non-profit that provides free home repair services to low-income adults in Baltimore County. Frank orchestrates all the activities of the annual workcamp as well as smaller projects throughout the year. As an ambassador of the program's mission, he processes client referrals, conducts home assessments, leads the planning board, connects with organizations to recruit volunteers and assigns participants to projects based on their skills. In 2023, BCCW completed 35 projects.

Besides the substantial hours that he devotes to BCCW, Frank also serves as a Medicare Part D counselor with the Baltimore County Department of Aging's State Health Insurance Assistance Program. As such, he works with seniors to find the most cost-effective plans for their needs.

Frank has traveled across the state transporting lifesaving blood and blood products for the American Red Cross since 2021. He has served 353 hours to date, making 114 deliveries to area hospitals.

In addition, Frank has been a volunteer serving at the information desk at the National Aquarium for 20 years. He also teaches as many as 12 AARP Driver Safety Courses per year at various senior centers and senior living facilities.

Frank B. Thomas is the quintessential volunteer. His desire to help others is limitless. He uses his experiences and skills to positively impact the community.

2024 Hall of Fame Honorees



Johnetta Joy Alford
Barbara Barzyk*
Gregory J. Bauer
Penny Brown
Barbara Buck
Philip F. Cicconi*
Dennis Theodore Clark
Susan S. Clark
Joseph V. Collins
Robert Ermer
Josephine Eyler
Thomas M. Ford, Jr.*
Wanda Barnes Hall
James B. Hayes
Nancy Lew
Lawrence G. Martin
William K. Meyer
Rosmarie Mills
Earl Paul Mink
Janice Moten
Marc William Salganik
Frank B. Thomas*
Martha Thorn
Yvonne Vojik
Melanie Rose White

* *GERI*[®] Award Recipients



Johnetta Joy Alford

Prince George's County

Johnetta Joy Alford excels in writing, reciting, and the cultural arts. Her volunteer services benefit from these skills, most especially through the art of poetry.

Sistah Joy, as she is known, was appointed the inaugural Poet Laureate of Prince George's County, serving at that post for four and a half years. She continues to serve as a volunteer leader and mentor in various literary circles. Since 2006, Sistah Joy has been the producer and host of the award-winning poetry-based cable television program, *Sojourn with Words*, providing a platform for poets to showcase their work. Joy has also served as president of the Ebenezer AME Church Poetry Ministry for 21 years and has been their Poet Laureate since 2006.

Besides her work focusing on poetry, Sistah Joy is a charter board member of the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts. She is also a board member of *The Ink Well*, a non-profit that provides therapeutic writing programs for people impacted by grief or trauma.

Johnetta Joy Alford has impacted her community through her passions and through her altruism. She has been an inspiration to all through her volunteer work.

Gregory J. Bauer

Baltimore County



Gregory J. Bauer is an avid pickleball player. He can be seen on the court almost every day at the Bykota Senior Center. Greg loves the sport so much that he now serves as a volunteer instructor for the program, leading monthly clinics.

In addition to pickleball, Greg is an officer of the Burleigh Square Community Association. As such, he works closely with the Baltimore County Police Department and the Baltimore County Government to improve the neighborhood. Greg also represents his community association by serving as a delegate to the Towson Communities Alliance.

Mr. Bauer is the co-chair of the University Relations Community of Towson University. He is an active member of Towson Post 22 of the American Legion, where he helps to provide services and assistance to veterans and their families who are in need.

Since 1974 Greg has donated 198 units of platelets to the Red Cross. He hopes to start "Platelets from Picklers" to help increase donations of not only platelets, but plasma, and blood as well.

Gregory J. Bauer approaches his volunteerism with a positive, encouraging demeanor. He has a strong desire to help others and serves as a true inspiration to all who know him.



Penny Brown

Baltimore County

Penny Brown is the Assistant Center Director at Seven Oaks Senior Center where she demonstrates exceptional leadership skills and a deep commitment to volunteerism. She possesses a rare combination of vision, dedication and empathy, which makes her an invaluable asset to any team or organization.

As the current President of the Seven Oaks Senior Center Council, Penny collaborates with other members of the Executive Board. Their mission is to provide senior members ways to maintain health and active living in a progressive and safe environment.

Penny initiated and chairs the Caring Across Our Community Committee at Seven Oaks. Its purpose is to ensure that homebound members are not forgotten. Each quarter, Penny and this committee assemble packages and deliver them to the homebound. She has enlisted volunteers to participate in making items for the packages, including lap robes, stained glass ornaments and other special items.

Seven Oaks sees Penny in other lead positions. She is the center's librarian, keeping the library inventory up-to-date and using excess books as donations to veterans, cancer patients and others. Penny chairs the Special Events Committee. Members get to socialize, enjoy a meal together and be entertained, while participating in a giving back project.

Penny also volunteers twice a week at Tabitha's House, a thrift store which sells gently used items. The purpose of the thrift store is to empower people, strengthen families and build communities. A portion of all profits from Tabitha's House benefit the community by providing resources, food and case management to those in need.

Penny Brown's dedication to serving seems evident. She is an outstanding volunteer appreciated by those at the Seven Oaks and Tabitha's House.

Barbara Buck

Cecil County



Barbara Buck uses many of her valuable skills when volunteering. Her humbleness, care and compassion in putting the needs of others before herself exemplify her giving spirit. Barbara's volunteer efforts are extensive including Cecil Cares, the Paris Foundation and Deep Roots.

A few of Barbara's volunteer activities for the Wesley Church of Elkton include conducting monthly devotional readings and discussion at the Women's Association meeting, teaching at the church's Vacation Bible School for a week each summer and assisting the pastor with Confirmation classes. She enjoys purchasing and sending cards to parishioners who have been absent from church or are celebrating a birthday or other life accomplishments.

As part of her volunteer efforts, Barbara helps the Mission Team secure collections of food, personal care items and Christmas gifts for needy children and families at two local elementary schools. Each quarter, the church serves 150 bagged meals to people who frequent the Paris Foundation. She not only contributes items for those meals but also works to prepare, deliver and serve the meals.

Barbara is active in the Cecil County Retired School Personnel Association. She has volunteered to work with the nominating committee to secure leaders for vacant positions. During the current year, she has helped the Community Outreach Committee deliver bags of snacks, cases of water, personal care products and clothing to some of the county schools.

Barbara Buck, without reservation, has answered the call to serve the Wesley Church, the community and neighborhood. Her selfless volunteering touches the lives of retirees, women, children, the homeless, the hungry and also addresses the environment.



Dennis Theodore Clark

Kent County

Dennis Theodore Clark has lived at Heron Point, an Acts Retirement Community in Chestertown, for several years. When he moved into the community, he quickly became friends with members of the retirement community and began to volunteer to improve the lives of the residents.

Ted volunteers to help residents learn new games and hobbies. Twice a week he holds a clinic for Bocce Ball, where he teaches the game and participates in the competition. He is incredibly patient and takes pride in watching the residents develop their skills.

He has never missed the annual OlympiActs games. In addition to participating in the games, he dons a crab mascot costume to entertain the crowds. He is the biggest cheerleader, waving his pom-poms for the enjoyment of the crowd.

Ted runs the Investment Group, doing considerable research and preparation for their meetings. He participates in countless volunteer committees, lending a hand whenever and wherever needed. He is the first to ask, "How can I help?"

Dennis Theodore Clark is incredibly positive, always displaying a broad smile and quick to give compliments every day to residents and team members. The Heron Point Community is lucky to have Ted on board.

Susan S. Clark

Kent County



After a forty-year teaching career, Susan S. Clark seemed to have developed a habit of impacting the lives of others. So she naturally found an outlet for her compassion and empathy for others by volunteering.

Widow of a Marine veteran and living in Texas, Susan spent many hours volunteering at a veterans' hospital, helping patients by providing equine therapy. When she returned to Maryland, she began volunteering at the Chester River Hospital. She took positions as desk greeter, Auxiliary Board secretary and community Advisory Council member.

Susan faithfully serves Emmanuel Church in Chestertown as a Vestry member, parish office receptionist and a Diocesan delegate. Her love of singing is evidenced in her dedication as a choir member.

She also joined the Kent County Retired School Personnel Association and was elected Vice-President. She will automatically step into the office of President next year.

Susan's leadership qualities led her to become a Master Naturalist. She shares her expertise as a naturalist at Washington College. She volunteers in the Archaeology Program lab, assisting and mentoring students.

Susan S. Clark uses her many skills to benefit the folks she serves. She has managed to find volunteer opportunities that put to use her varied and unique skills.



Joseph V. Collins

Frederick County

Joseph V. Collins moved to Frederick in 2005 after his wife passed away. It did not take him long to jump into volunteering. Joe utilizes his professional and management skills in his volunteer work with Frederick Health Auxiliary Hospital, the Frederick Historical Society and his church, Good News Presbyterian, along with several other organizations.

Joe has volunteered with Frederick Health Auxiliary Hospital since 2006 and has accumulated more than 7,500 volunteer hours. One of his duties at the hospital is to staff the hospital's main information desk. He is also a member of the Hospital Development Council Special Gifts Committee. Joe coordinates an annual golf tournament to raise money for Frederick Health. The money raised goes to the Billy Miller Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Cancer Patient Assistance Fund at Frederick Health and Frederick Hospice. In addition to the cash donations, Joe worked with local companies to acquire rocking chairs for the neonatal unit and for the waiting rooms in the cancer facility.

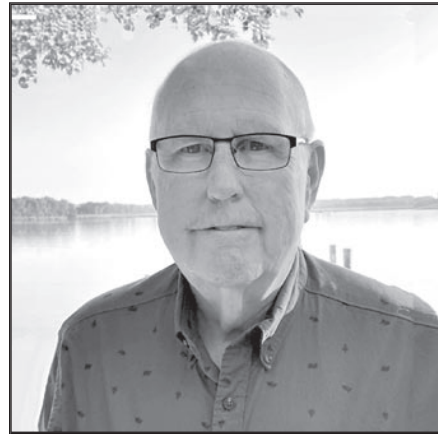
With a love for history, Joe uses his knowledge of Frederick by leading walking tours in the historic downtown area. Many people participating in the tours are impressed with the attention to detail that Joe provides. He can tailor his tours to different audiences. He also hosts events at a local winery where he shares the history of the area. The winery has seen the largest attendance of the season thanks to Joe's interesting commentary.

Joe also volunteers with the Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation, a non-profit organization benefiting the battlefield. He has recently been elected to its Board of Directors.

Joseph V. Collins' energy and dedication to volunteerism have been an inspiration to many. He is regarded as a true gem of the Frederick community.

Robert Ermer

Baltimore County



Robert Ermer is a dedicated and admirable volunteer within the many communities he serves. His financial business acumen is only one of the skills which he brings to these organizations.

Rob understands the financial workings of non-profit organizations. He utilizes his skills as the treasurer for Seven Oaks Senior Center, Harewood Park Community League and the Pleasure Bowling Club. Rob helps to create and maintain the organizations' annual budgets and ensures that all required tax forms and financial reviews are completed precisely and on time. He serves as an active trustee for his church, Salem United Methodist Church. As such, he supervises and maintains the resources so that the church's ministries can be effectively delivered to the congregation.

In addition to being the treasurer of Seven Oaks Senior Center, Rob can be found preparing meals for Father's Day lunches and for members' breakfast. He is a member of the Discovery Group that plans outings and drives interested members to educational destinations around the Baltimore metropolitan area. He participates in the center's annual Wreaths Across America event at Parkwood Cemetery, decorating military graves.

Rob volunteers as a Red Cross driver. He gives his time and uses his vehicle to deliver blood from the Red Cross Blood Bank to hospitals within Maryland and Virginia. He often drives six or more hours in a day to and from the hospitals waiting for this critical delivery.

Caring about the well being of people is top priority, but Rob also volunteers to help animals. He serves Animal Allies Rescue Foundation by fostering dogs, short and long-term, and volunteering at fundraisers and adoption events for the organization.

Robert Ermer is an exceptional individual whose commitment has significantly impacted the organizations he serves. His selflessness has improved the lives of many people as well as animals.



Josephine Eyler

Frederick County

When Josephine Eyler enters the Thurmont Senior Center, Inc. with her brilliant smile and her energetic attitude, the members know it will be a good day. Jody's first words are: "Where do you need me?" or "How can I help?"

On any given day Jody can be found in the lunch room preparing or serving lunch. She also makes herself available to drive members to doctors or for shopping tours. Many times during these trips, the person wants someone to talk with and Jody enjoys the conversations.

Her volunteer activities aren't limited to the senior center. She is well known for her work with the Thurmont Grange. She has helped plan Veterans Appreciation Night, the Antique's Road Show and the Annual Community Citizen Dinner.

In her spare time, Jody volunteers with the Thurmont-Emmitsburg Community Show. She greets attendees with a smile or assists in the Fine Arts Department helping both exhibitors and judges.

Josephine "Jody" Eyler's presence in the Thurmont community has made an impression on others. Her planning and leadership skills are freely shared in her community volunteering.

Wanda Barnes Hall

Carroll County



Wanda Barnes Hall and her husband moved to Carroll Lutheran Village, also known as the Village, in 2013. Since day one, she has been an advocate for the residents and the Village.

Not a day goes by that Wanda isn't promoting the Village in some way. She established a welcome committee so new residents feel at home right away. To ensure the residents have a monthly social event to attend, she launched a women's luncheon group. It is easy to spot Wanda around the Village, she's the lady with a notebook in hand, ready to recruit volunteers for events she is planning.

Wanda started the Village Treasure Sale. Residents can donate no longer needed usable items that others can purchase for a reasonable price. Recently, the sale proceeds exceeded \$8,000. These monies benefit the Resident's Benevolent Fund which goes to help residents remain in their homes if they outlive their resources.

In addition to her extensive contributions to the Village, Wanda is a member of the Historical Societies of Carroll County, Baltimore County, and the State of Maryland. She volunteers as a genealogical research assistant. Currently, she serves on a committee that is writing an update to the book "The Shipleys of Maryland."

Wanda Barnes Hall is known for her dedication and service. She adds so many smiles both to the faces of those who help her and to those who benefit from her efforts.



James B. Hayes

Baltimore County

James B. Hayes is an important volunteer at the Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum. He is also a valuable volunteer at his church, Church of the Nativity, and his Glen Arm community.

At the Glenn L. Martin Aviation Museum, Jim is the Operations and Facilities manager. He is a 12-year U. S. Veteran with eight years in air traffic control. With 48 years in retail management, he is able to use these skills at the museum. He organizes the Holiday Plane and Train Garden display as well.

Jim is quite an inspiration at his church where he is a Stephen Minister working with the bereaved. As a member of the host team, Pastoral Ministry and the counting team, he brings other skills to serving others. His cheerfulness and humility inspire others to help as well. He is always the first to volunteer for special events. In his community of Glen Arm, Jim is always available to help residents whenever and however he can.

James B. Hayes is truly an excellent example of humanitarian service to others. This is what volunteering is all about and why we honor him today.

Nancy Lew

Montgomery County

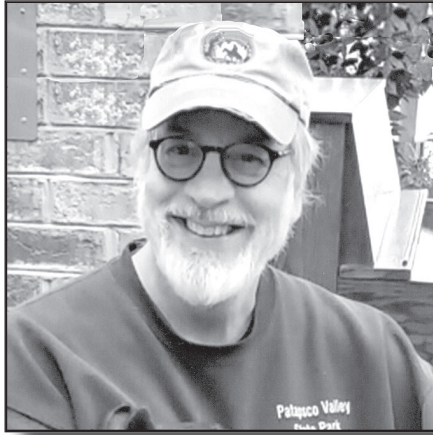


Nancy Lew is an invaluable volunteer in Montgomery County. She is very involved at the North Potomac Senior Center. The center benefits from her help in many areas.

Nancy started an arts and crafts program at the center for the benefit of all its members. This wide-ranging project includes acrylic painting classes, corsage making and creating floral and herb kits. She plans, sets up, cleans up and photographs events at the senior center. She even arranges her schedule to help a cognitively challenged member. She makes sure that members get their favorite color of flower when they create their own “work of art.”

Besides helping at the center, Nancy also led a design and build team for the Montgomery County’s Department of Recreation 55+ Cardboard Boat Regatta. Their creation won Most Creative Boat. Nancy was asked to be the lead volunteer at the Asian American Pacific Islanders Martial Arts Exhibition. She will lead a group of six who will greet guests, take attendance and host the performer lounge area.

Nancy Lew brings creativity, sensitivity and empathy to her volunteer efforts. She works hard to improve the lives of older adults in Montgomery County and does so by addressing areas that are uplifting to the spirit.



Lawrence G. Martin

Baltimore County

Lawrence G. Martin has focused his volunteerism on several local sites. He is very involved at the Maryland Zoo, at the Ft. McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and at the Catonsville Senior Center.

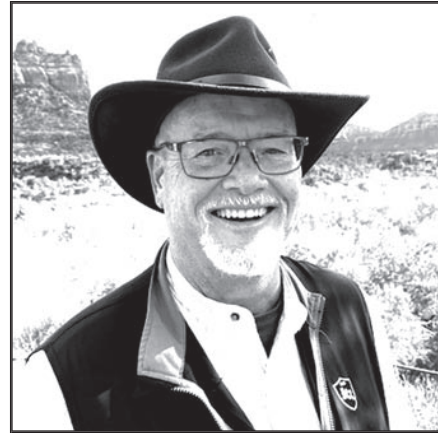
At the zoo, Larry acts as an interpreter and guest facilitator. He also collects electronic devices that are turned in for recycling. Larry has traveled to Alaska as a volunteer naturalist. He has led campfire programs for the Patapsco Valley State Park "Scales and Tales" Program. This year Larry traveled to Panama for three weeks and volunteered at El Valle Amphibian Conservation Center, helping to educate visitors about environmental issues.

All these experiences are shared with the members of the Catonsville Senior Center. Larry works in that office where he uses his financial "good sense" to help in many ways. He has also been volunteering at Fort McHenry for over a year. His activities there include helping with special events like reenactments and festivals.

Lawrence G. Martin is an outstanding example of commitment and dedication. He uses his talents and time for the betterment of everything and everyone.

William K. Meyer

Baltimore County



William K. Meyer, a retired attorney, is an outstanding volunteer serving the Pro Bono Resource Center (PBRC) and Maryland's Immigration Legal Assistance Project (MILAP). MILAP is a program that provides brief legal consultations to individuals (adults and children) who have come to the Federal Immigration Court for a hearing, usually because they were previously detained by immigration officials and are now in danger of being deported. Many of these individuals qualify for a program that provides for some sort of legal status in the United States.

He meets with the immigrants, offering them respect, dignity and clarity as they face a scary and confusing situation. Bill listens to their stories about escaping gang and domestic violence. His goal is to provide them with guidance on how to apply for asylum.

Bill has also drafted seven motions to terminate the cases of individuals where legal actions were improperly initiated against them in immigration court. Three of these motions have succeeded and the other individuals no longer have to appear in immigration court.

William K. Meyer is an outstanding volunteer using very specific skills for the benefit of others. His availability has allowed PBRC to expand its services. Our immigrant community is lucky to have Bill on their side.



Rosmarie Mills

Baltimore County

Rosmarie Mills is a very active member of the Arbutus Senior Center. Because of her dedication, many others have become involved at the center.

Rosie can be found at the center several days every week. She is ready to help wherever she is needed. An example of her help involves her love of shopping! She uses that love to shop for and make 20-40 salads which will be served with the pizza lunch at the center. Rosie also gets donations of cupcakes for their quarterly birthday celebrations.

Some center members who have particular difficulties are given a boost by Rosie's attention, involving them in painting or creating pottery. Working with ceramics is another of her ways to help. Rosie creates pieces, sells them and donates the money back to the center.

Another area that reaps the benefits of Rosie's dedication is the Eating Together Lunch. She serves with a smile and makes sure the emotional and physical needs of each member are met.

Rosmarie Mills is an amazing part of Arbutus Senior Center. Her willing volunteerism makes all participants at the center feel safe, welcomed and valued.

Earl Paul Mink

Montgomery County



Earl Paul Mink is a very involved volunteer at the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center where he helps in many areas. Paul photographs or videotapes cultural and ethnic events as well as provides senior portraits. He videotapes senior fit and exercise programs, which enables the center's members to exercise at home using his tapes.

As a member of the center's Advisory Board, Paul has helped raise funds to support projects. As head of the Schweinhaut grounds keeping group, Paul helps to keep the center looking beautiful. He also gets others to volunteer in that area, and even teaches classes at the center on gardening and photography. Paul designs and creates a boat for the annual boat regatta as well. He is chairman of Chapter 1887 of the National Archive and Retired Federal Employees Association and runs meetings at Schweinhaut Senior Center. Not only has Paul volunteered at the center, but he also volunteers at the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Study and NIH Ideal Longevity Study.

Earl Paul Mink's volunteerism has touched many people. He never hesitates to say yes whenever he knows he can help. Paul is a kind and selfless person.



Janice Moten

Baltimore County

Janice Moten is an exceptional volunteer at Franklin Square Hospital in the Pastoral Care Department. She is a member of the Patient and Family Advisory Committee for Quality Risk and Safety.

In the Pastoral Care Department, Janice serves as a volunteer chaplain. In that capacity she visits patients, explores their faith with them and always provides the patient with a prayer shawl. She phones patients, listens to them and provides invaluable support with whatever they need.

Janice also volunteers as a member of the research team, Hearing Health Equity through Accessible Research and Solutions. She went through a rigorous training program where she learned how hearing works, how to work with older adults suffering hearing loss and behavioral strategies for communicating more effectively.

Janice Moten's many areas of work at Franklin Square Hospital have made her a top-notch volunteer. She is most certainly an asset to the hospital and of course to those she serves there. Her volunteer motto could be to work hard for the benefit of others.

Marc William Salganik

Howard County



Marc William Salganik is a compassionate and patient volunteer for the Howard County State Health Insurance Assistance Program. He is its ambassador in the community. He mentors new counselors and works extra hours during the open enrollment period.

Known to all as Bill, he willingly helps at risk and special needs populations navigate the complex material of the Medicare health system. He has proven that no case or client is too daunting. Bill is always up to the challenge. He willingly meets people at any location to eliminate any obstacles to resolve beneficiary issues.

Nothing deters or intimidates Bill when it comes to helping his clients. He is the type of counselor that the staff knows can be scheduled to meet and resolve any situation.

Marc William Salganik's patience, generosity and dedication make a difference in people's lives. His giving spirit is an inspiration to the staff and other volunteers.



Martha Thorn

Anne Arundel County

Martha Thorn's working career was with both the Army and 30 years at the U.S. Naval Academy. This experience prepared her for her present volunteer service to the Annapolis community.

Martha's leadership and organizational skills were soon needed when she became a member of the Annapolis Senior Activity Center. She graciously greets members at the information desk, answering questions or directing them to the center's daily events. Her knowledge and use of written and social media have helped promote the center's events throughout the city.

She also continued to use her talents when she became the volunteer receptionist and member of St. Anne's Episcopal Church. Her media skills helped the church expand the marketing for the Adult Forum program.

Martha Thorn's volunteer service displays a devotion to her fellow seniors. Her set of skills is always needed to bring attention and solutions to the needs of people, organizations and communities.

Yvonne Vojik

Baltimore County



Yvonne Vojik is an outstanding example of what a volunteer could and should do. Her volunteer work is as a member of the Latin Racial Justice Circle (LRJC). LRJC is a faith-based all volunteer group that provides support to the local Latin immigrant community in Baltimore and the surrounding areas.

The Latin immigrant community has been positively impacted by Yvonne's dedication to improving the lives of those around her. She has also encouraged others to help raise money to assist families with immigrant legal representation. She and others work to create a fund to provide educational scholarships for immigrant youth who do not qualify for other financial aid.

Yvonne Vojik's exceptional leadership skills serve as an inspiration to others. Her enthusiasm rallies them to join in her efforts to enhance community well-being. Her passion, conviction and commitment have made her an integral member of the local Latin community. They are grateful for the positive impact she brings to their lives.



Melanie Rose White

Montgomery County

Melanie Rose White is a dedicated public servant who works tirelessly for the betterment of her community. She has been the volunteer Mayor of the Village of Friendship Heights in Chevy Chase since 2001. She also serves on the Village's all-volunteer Council.

She is charged with the maintenance of parks, community security and other business impacting residents. Melanie provides a monthly program of activities for them. She also chairs the Village Citizens Coordinating Committee, a coalition of 22 community organizations.

As Mayor, Melanie Rose White has demonstrated effective leadership on many local issues including development and public safety. She is instrumental in providing a broad range of services to the residents at the local community center. She is proud of and partially responsible for the Village's well-earned reputation as a senior-friendly community.