

The
Maryland Senior Citizens
Hall of Fame



2025

In Appreciation

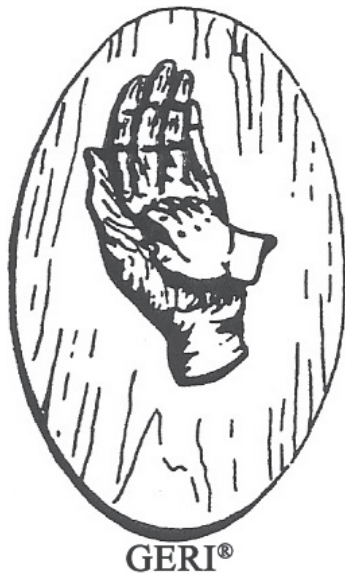


This Blue Book recognizes outstanding volunteers in Maryland. These honorees, representing 9 of the 24 Maryland jurisdictions, have been inducted into The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame and this book will be preserved in their honor.

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 Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc.



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.

2025
GERI® AWARD RECIPIENTS



Larry A. Bohn



Dr. Debra S. Munk



Kenneth D. & Judith L. Phebus



Larry A. Bohn

Carroll County

Larry A. Bohn is a consummate volunteer. He spends his time serving his church, feeding the needy, caring for hospice patients and their families, supporting the preservation of history in his community and visiting senior citizen widows.

After retiring from the Frederick County Health Department and turning 65, Larry began his volunteer career. Loaves and Fishes, a soup kitchen at Westminster United Methodist Church, has been very fortunate to have Larry as a team leader since 2009. He helps plan the menu, supervises the work in the kitchen, oversees the food service and manages the kitchen clean-up.

Larry has also worked for many years at the Carroll County Community Food Pantry distributing food every Wednesday morning. As the leader, he is responsible for making sure the distribution goes smoothly and that clients always get the items they need.

Serving on the Board of Directors for The Shepherd's Staff, a non-denominational Christian outreach and support center, Larry serves those in crisis in Carroll County. Being also a history buff, Larry is a member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Carroll County. He serves on numerous committees and supports their many events.

Larry is a life-long member of Westminster Methodist Church. He sings in the choir, serves on the Membership Committee, and works with the Garden Club raising produce for the food pantry and for the Christmas food collection for needy families.

In his spare time (does he really have any with all of the above?!), Larry became a hospice volunteer with Bridging Life. He offers caring compassionate support to patients and their family members. In addition, he has been a long-time blood donor for the Red Cross. He recently received his 8-gallon donation pin.

Larry A. Bohn is a quintessential volunteer and humanitarian. His mission in retirement is to make all people feel valued and to improve his community.

Dr. Debra S. Munk

Montgomery County



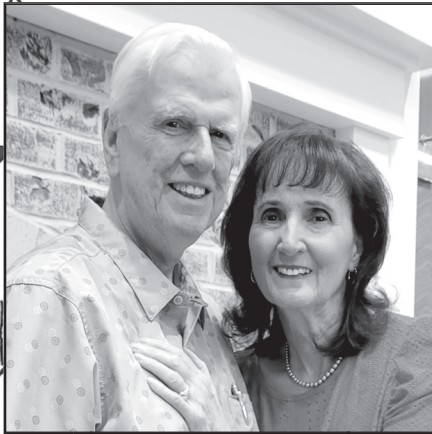
Dr. Debra S. Munk has demonstrated exceptional volunteerism and leadership. She is a committed member of her church and the Montgomery County Public School Retirees Association.

Debra provides outstanding assistance to Montgomery's public school retirees. She initiated programs of volunteer service and a matching donations program that has helped area charities.

As a long time member of her church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Debra has served as the leader of the area women's organization. The organization covers ten congregations that includes two Spanish-speaking congregations and a deaf and hard of hearing congregation. Debra worked with local leaders to address the humanitarian and spiritual needs of these various congregations.

Interfaith Works, a non-governmental organization in Montgomery County that assists with poverty and homelessness, is another of Debra's areas of service. She helps raise funds to improve homeless shelters and to support vocational programs for low income individuals. Her strategic vision and hands-on approach have strengthened the organization's ability to serve an increasing number of community members, including senior citizens who face unique challenges in maintaining their independence and dignity.

Dr. Debra S. Munk is a tireless volunteer. Her leadership and genuine commitment to improving the lives of others exemplify the very best of community service.



Kenneth D. and Judith L. Phebus

Baltimore County

Kenneth D. and Judith L. Phebus have consistently and without hesitation cared for and supported their community. They volunteer when help is needed, giving generously of their time and financial resources.

Judy and Ken joined the Mt. Airy Senior Center in 2001 after moving to the area. They worked to raise funds to help modernize the center. As a result, the center was able to purchase new exercise equipment, a new video and sound system, a stove and much more. Ken also served on the Board of Elections and the Streets and Roads Commission, helping to refurbish the caboose acquired by the town and to construct the Rails to Trails walking path.

Together, Ken and Judy are long-time members of the Mt. Airy Historical Society. They worked to acquire a new location for the organization. Even though they no longer live in the Mt. Airy area, the couple return every month to the museum to greet visitors, answer questions and share the town's history.

In 2017, Ken and Judy moved to Oak Crest Retirement Community. There they serve as volunteer ambassadors, striving to attract potential new residents. Judy is a valued member of the Welcome Committee, escorting new residents around the community. She also hosts the Getting to Know You show, having residents share information about their daily activities and their families.

Ken delivers food to the needy from Our Daily Bread. He also serves on the Resident Advisory Board at Oak Crest. He acts as a liaison between residents and management, helping elderly residents solve quality of life issues.

As a young adult, Judy was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. But that didn't stop her. She and Ken have worked to raise funds for the MS Society, raising over \$50,000. They also raised funds to aid the victims of the Ellicott City flood and of Hurricane Helene by planning trips. Judy coordinated the details and Ken drove the bus. What a dynamic team!

The Phebuses have worked to help people with disabilities. They have lobbied for automated door openers at restaurants and businesses and even at Oak Crest. In addition, Ken delivers casseroles made by Oak Crest residents to Our Daily Bread. Ken is a pen pal to an 8-year-old boy named Charlie. He enjoys sharing stories about their families and their common interest, cars.

Kenneth D. and Judith L. Phebus volunteer as regular part of their everyday life. They have done so much for their community over the years. They have inspired others to get involved and to help make a difference.

2025

Hall of Fame Honorees



Arlene Blanche
Larry A. Bohn *
Modesto M. Carbon, Jr.
George D. Carroll
Hyun O. Choi
Louise DeJesu
Keith W. Derrickson
Kenneth Dornbush
Connie Hawk
Kaye Isanogle
Dr. Anwar Khokhar
Alice P. Lee
Farooq A. Marfani
Mary McCleary
Dr. Debra S.Munk. *
Kathryn Murdock
Kenneth D. & Judith L. Phebus *
Eric Pierce
Anita Rozenel
Eugene Ruhl
Donna A. Ryan
Alonia C. Sharps
Katrinka L. Westendorf
Joann S. Woodson
Bernard Norman Young

* *GERI® Award Recipients*



Arlene Blanche

Baltimore City

Arlene Blanche is a competent, energetic, enthusiastic, optimistic and dedicated volunteer. All her volunteer work is done from the goodness of her heart.

Arlene joined BYKOTA Senior Center in 2017 and hit the ground running. Her multitude of volunteer experiences include helping to plan the Mother's Day Luncheon, working the 5K walk/run event, assisting with the annual plant sale, and participating in the center's pen-pal program with 3rd graders from a local school. She also regularly works at the registration desk, registering 10-12 new members weekly. In 2024, Arlene accumulated 226 hours of volunteer service with BYKOTA.

In addition to her time spent at BYKOTA, Arlene helped paint a local playground and volunteered at Friends of Mercy and the Baltimore Opera. She is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Loch Raven where she has served as President and worked on numerous fund raisers.

Ms. Blanche helps prepare breakfast for families staying at Johns Hopkins Hospital Children's Home. She volunteers at the Sons of Italy booth at the Towsontown Festival and has been an avid volunteer at the Cylburn Nature Center.

Arlene Blanche fills her days with various projects for several worthy organizations. She is indeed an exceptional volunteer and we are happy to honor her efforts.

Modesto M. Carbon, Jr.

Baltimore County



Modesto M. Carbon, Jr. is a dedicated community leader. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, he volunteers many hours for worthy causes supported by this organization.

As a valued leader in the Knights of Columbus for numerous years, Modesto has served in many ways. From 2023 to 2025 he has served as the chairperson for the Bull and Oyster Roast, the organization's largest fundraiser. The revenue generated from this event helps to fund many charitable causes.

Mr. Carbon leads the "Marygold Program." Marigolds are distributed to mothers after each mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Mother's Day. He is also on the committee for the Coats for Kids project, distributing over 150 coats to children in need at St. Bernardine's Church in Baltimore City.

In addition, Modesto chairs the Annual Filipino Pilgrimage of Healing held at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg. He also organizes the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship, an annual basketball event for 9-14 year olds.

Modesto M. Carbon, Jr. has spent his retirement years providing volunteer services. Both young and old are touched by his selfless service. His leadership and creativity are greatly valued by his community.



George D. Carroll

Frederick County

George D. Carroll is a retired Civil Engineer who volunteers through the Frederick County Department of Aging to offer his skilled handyman services. Should that activity need a theme song, it would most surely be “Whistle While You Work.” Through Partners in Care, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, George improves many seniors’ homes by repairing storm doors, reinstalling kitchen cupboards, installing grab bars, fixing leaking faucets, drywall repairs and more. He won’t quit until the job is done, singing or whistling happy tunes all the while.

A musician at heart, George loves to share his talent through voice and guitar, leading sing-a-longs at daycare centers, dementia care facilities or emceeing at local churches at Open Mike programs. He can be heard entertaining residents of Blossom Place and Garden House at Edenton. We suspect that George may sing solo in his car.

George’s dedicated volunteer spirit extends to driving for Meals-on-Wheels. With a caseload of 12 clients, on many occasions he also agrees to step-in for absentee drivers, delivering over 600 meals per year to every corner of the County. He is quick to report changes in clients’ conditions or requests and also to provide help when appropriate: George listens! It is important to note that in December 2024, George personally donated gifts for the Department of Aging’s Gift Bag Program, insuring that all clients benefited from some holiday joy. George’s true gift year-round to these clients is the friendship he brings with the meals.

George D. Carroll’s volunteer heart has warmed the lives of many residents of Frederick County. Serving others with his skills and talent is already a gift, but packaged with smile and a song, they are a blessing.

Hyun O. Choi

Howard County



Hyun O. Choi is a natural leader and teacher who strives for excellence. She devotes much of her retirement free time to serving the ever-growing Korean seniors population. Hyun volunteers with the Howard County State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). She assists the Korean senior citizens as they work through the complexities of Medicare. As a native speaker, she helps clarify by first eliminating the language barrier and secondly by educating and counseling as these seniors apply for or follow up on benefits.

During open enrollment, Mrs. Choi contacts previous at-risk clients to coordinate their appointments. She counsels approximately 25% of the appointment volume at her center. Astoundingly, Hyun finds time to offer her expertise to the Korean speaking population affiliated with SHIP in both Anne Arundel and Baltimore County.

In spite of a daunting workload, Hyun also attends Medicare Update meetings and SHIP Certified Counselor sessions. Her knowledge is extensive and she assists by teaching local staff.

Hyun O. Choi is a fast learner and quick to spot what needs to be corrected. She excels at suggesting solutions and following-up. Her native language has helped, and continues to help, with the nuances, variables, rules and regulations found in the Medicare application. All of these skills wrapped up in a willing volunteer who gives so freely of both time and knowledge is what we honor today.



Louise DeJesu

Anne Arundel County

Through her volunteerism, Louise DeJesu is a “guardian angel to many families. She has become a role model that I strive to become,” stated an Anne Arundel County Councilman in his support for her. Louise is a retired Anne Arundel County Public Schools educator, an active community citizen, and an active member of the Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association.

In her retired life, Louise follows the inspiration of compassion, serving those in need. While working as principal of an elementary school with 75% of the student population living in poverty, Louise saw the need for Community/School Joint Involvement, a project that she continues to support. Local churches supply food, clothing, school supplies and more. Parents and others organize this distribution during the busy Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. From Louise’s initiative efforts to the present day community work force, she is still available to assist the school in maintaining this program.

When she left her job, Louise became the Coordinator of The Marine Corp Toys for Tots in her district. Kids not only received gifts at the holiday, but she extended the program to include a summer distribution of food and clothing at a pizza and sock party.

At St. John Newman Roman Catholic Church in Annapolis. Louise saw the ever increasing numbers of Latino families. Her association and work through the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission provides needy families, at no cost, with clothes, shoes, baby supplies and more. She is on the BKind board, another compassionate organization providing staples to the needy in Glen Burnie.

Louise DeJesu is a giver of her time and also a financial contributor, supporting student scholarships, food kitchen distribution centers, children’s groups and her church. Certainly, the world is a better place because of the love and energy Louise has placed in serving others.

Keith W. Derrickson

Baltimore County



“Leave things better than you found them.” This mantra was taught to Keith W. Derrickson by his parents, and this has been his life’s motto.

During his career as a K-12 music educator in Baltimore County Public Schools, Keith’s skills extended beyond the classroom. He wrote scores, he directed, he stage managed, he sang, he played and he performed. Despite leaving the career behind for retirement, Keith still manages to do things beyond the norm.

Retirement has allowed him the time and willingness to strike out by volunteering in new directions. At Oak Crest Village, the retirement community he now calls home, Keith has spearheaded the Technology Committee. He also instituted the Residential University Program, as well as joining several committees. Of course he shares his many and varied musical talents, like dressing up and playing Bach, Beethoven and Gershwin.

Music has allowed Keith to express his faith through his talent. He has been a church organist, an organ fundraiser and a World Relief Program fundraiser. He has helped with relief for Ukraine and Israel, and supports Our Daily Bread. When tragedy left three teenagers orphaned, Keith became a surrogate single father. He is their ‘Dad,’ and today their kids call him “Grandpop!”

Keith W. Derrickson is a warm-hearted man whose spirit expresses itself through volunteering. Happily the parental mantra stuck and his hallmark is that of leaving things better than he found them.



Kenneth Dornbush

Baltimore County

Kenneth Dornbush's recipe for volunteerism is to use his native talents, learned skills and career expertise to the benefit of others. He serves at the Seven Oaks Senior Center. He takes on tasks both large and small and thrives in this service.

At Seven Oaks, Ken manages the Pickleball registration process with over 150 sign-ups. He teaches tax classes for the members and provides tax counseling for individuals. Ken spearheads the purchasing of operational supplies, anything from computers to pinochle cards. He serves as Member-at-Large on the Seven Oaks Executive Board where his business acumen helps the Board make decisions regarding tax laws, incorporation or finances.

As the reigning 'IT' guy, Ken's computer technical expertise is used by the Seven Oaks' staff to help make sure systems at all levels function smoothly and efficiently. They can even call him at home to solve any issues. Of course, the center's members individually also benefit from his computer help.

Ken also jumps in wherever a need is found. He will substitute at the front desk or monitor the fitness center. His is truly a spirit of serving others.

Kenneth Dornbush is spending his senior years in active service to his neighbors. His spirit of volunteerism, leadership and community service are enjoyed and respected by everyone he encounters.

Connie Hawk

Carroll County



Connie Hawk, a career nurse, continues in retirement to serve others. She is an extraordinary volunteer at Carroll Lutheran Village and in the community of Westminster.

At Carroll Lutheran Village, Connie's focus is on wellness initiatives. She is on the Resident Association Council, Carroll Lutheran Health Care Committee and the Spiritual Life Committee. Currently she is chairperson of the Wellness Committee. She designs and implements programs to promote health and wellbeing. Connie organizes many large-scale activities for the residents such as the Annual Bob Hope Croquet Tournament, Sing-Alongs and the Special Olympics.

Connie serves as usher, acolyte and worship assistant at the chapel on campus. Additionally, she is an active member of her church, Grace United Church of Christ, where she is a member of the Consistory Council and Pastoral Search Committee, child care program and blood drives.

Devoting herself to the care of others, Connie is involved with Maryland Nurse Honor Guard and Bridging Life Hospice. Her hospice work brings comfort and support to grieving families.

Connie Hawk brings people together with meaningful programs and a sense of community. Her tireless involvement and dedication to the lives of others makes her a true inspiration to all.



Kaye Isanogle

Frederick County

Kaye Isanogle is a dedicated volunteer blessed with a warm and caring nature. She is known for her willing service at the Thurmont Senior Center, Woodsboro American Legion, and the Thurmont Food Bank.

At the Thurmont Senior Center, Kaye helps with serving lunches, bake sales, pot lucks, both food preparation and kitchen cleaning as well as leading Bingo. She serves on its Board of Directors. Having abundant energy, she is welcoming to all and has a smile for everyone. Kaye always says, "Happy to do it" when asked to help with anything.

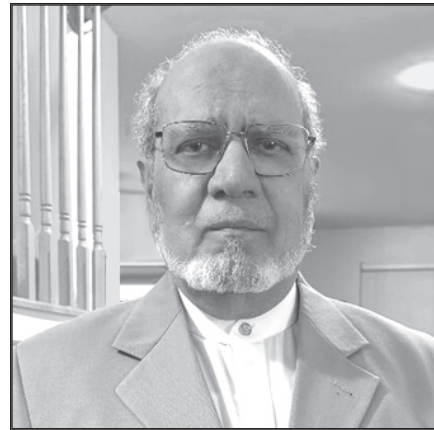
Kaye is also very active at the Woodsboro American Legion. She has been a member of the Ladies Auxiliary for 15 years and treasurer for the last four. She helps to prepare meals for funerals and for any get-togethers at the post.

The Thurmont Food Bank is very active and served approximately 12,700 individuals last year. Kaye helps four or five afternoons and evenings each month and makes sure that the shelves are stocked, bags are packed and carts are full and ready for the recipients.

Kaye Isanogle is a valuable asset to all in her community. Food is such a basic need and she is intent on providing it in all of her volunteer activities. Kaye is always willing to help others with her generous gifts of time, energy and skills.

Dr. Anwar Khokhar

Howard County



Dr. Anwar Khokhar is a practicing physician at the University of Maryland. He is the reason Golden Age Village exists. He makes sure Golden Age Village is a place where seniors can age in place.

He developed the “Visiting the Sick Seniors” program. This program advocates for families and the medical needs of seniors. The program also secures grants to benefit the participants. One example is a grant which he secured that allows the center to offer free meals to participants which not only give them nourishment but an opportunity for social interaction so important to the health of a senior. Dr. Khokhar is always available to ensure that patients are receiving the best care possible and helping families make the best decisions for their family members.

Because of Dr. Khokhar’s vision for a future where seniors can receive the care and attention they deserve, he established a free clinic for seniors and uninsured community members. He goes above and beyond by visiting seniors and offering professional advice and support. He dreams of establishing a comprehensive senior care facility including senior housing, assisted living and nursing home.

Dr. Khokhar’s many contributions have made a lasting and meaningful impact on the lives of many seniors. His vision and generous giving of time, talent and support has changed their lives and give them hope for the future.



Alice P. Lee

Prince George's County

Alice P. Lee is a retired public school math teacher. Besides being a teacher, Alice was a natural athlete during her youth and adulthood.

After retiring Alice found ways to stay active. Alice was introduced to tennis at age 65. She enjoyed it and excelled at it. She and some other seniors established the Active Aces Super Senior Tennis Club, a non-profit organization which has grown from 25 to over 200 members. Alice was its first president and under her leadership a "Granny Clinic" was created to expose children to tennis and to teach sportsmanship and life skills to disadvantaged youth. Several of the youth involved in the clinic have competed in local and national tournaments or went on to play college level tennis.

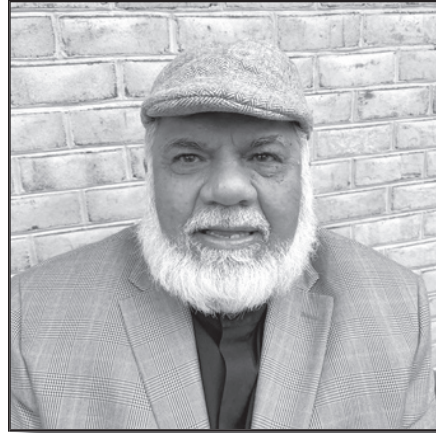
The Active Aces Super Senior Tennis Club encourages senior players to have fun playing tennis as well as to make new friends while staying healthy and active. It even has an annual gala where seniors can demonstrate new footwork on the dance floor.

Recognized by the American Tennis Association, Mid-Atlantic Tennis Association, and the United States Tennis Association for her contributions to advancing senior tennis, Alice continues to encourage both young and old to enjoy the game all year round, even arranging indoor play during the winter months.

Alice P. Lee's exemplary leadership and advocacy have benefited seniors in her community. She has also impacted the lives of children, hoping to set them on a path that will eventually bring them to their senior years in good health.

Farooq A. Marfani

Baltimore County



Farooq A. Marfani has contributed his time, energy and heart to making his community a better place. He always shows selflessness and compassion in all his volunteer work.

At Gilchrist Hospice and other nursing homes, Farooq serves as one of the volunteer clergy. He visits several hospitals in the area in that capacity as well.

Farooq is a member of the county's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Advisory Council. He most especially helps families in need at the time of a funeral, ensuring that they not worry about the financial burden during this time of grief. He especially supports those who have no family in this country. His hard work at RSVP is greatly appreciated. As a career accountant, Farooq even volunteered to assist in the Finance Department at Glenn L. Martin Aviator Museum, a RSVP Agency Partner, when their Director of Finance fell ill.

In 2020 Farooq received the William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award and also received the Governor's Volunteer Service Award. We add to this list today by his induction into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Farooq A. Marfani is described as selfless, compassionate and dedicated to service. This is certainly to the benefit of the residents of Maryland. All of this is summed up in his own remark about volunteerism.

“Take the word **Me** and turn the M upside down to spell **We**.”



Mary McCleary

Cecil County

Mary McCleary has been a supporter of the Cecil County community for many years and uses her talents in multiple ways to enhance the welfare and education of adults and children. She is a care-giver to family and friends and has been an active member at Rock Presbyterian Church where she has been instrumental in planning and organizing their annual Christmas Bazaar.

The Cecil County Farm Museum has been the recipient of Mary's time and efforts. Her professional career as an elementary teacher enables her to use her skills in her role as docent at the Museum where she gives tours for home-schooled students, high school groups and visitors. The Farm Museum is actively engaged in community events throughout the year. Mary is an important and active volunteer helping to make all of the events successful and fun. At their annual summer show, Mary assists with the raffle and is responsible for registering antique tractors and cars, then explaining their use to visitors. The Old Time Farm Days at the Cecil County Fair finds Mary guiding visitors, assisting with parades and tractor drives and organizing sales and raffles. Heritage Day is the flagship event of the year for the Farm Museum. This day is well known for making and selling open kettle apple butter. Mary is an integral part of the multi-day apple butter making process. She pares apples, labels jars and helps stir, jar and sell the hot product. On Heritage Day, Mary can be found wherever help is needed from early morning until the end of day. Her cheerful smile and willing spirit help make for enjoyable and informative Heritage Day celebrations.

Mary McCleary continues as a multi-talented volunteer who is committed to rural life in Cecil County. She donates her time to improving the impact of the Cecil County Farm Museum and enhancing its service to its agricultural community.

Kathryn Murdock

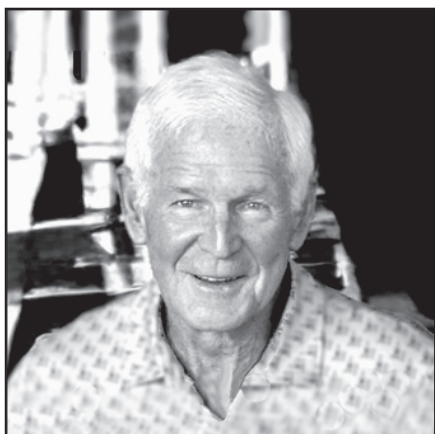
Montgomery County



Kathryn Murdock has long been a true asset to the welfare of Montgomery County residents through her volunteer work with two distinct organizations, Olney Help and Bedford Court Independent Living. Olney Help is a non-profit organization that provides emergency food and financial assistance to individuals and families in the Olney, Sandy Spring, Ashton, Brinklow and Brookview communities. For over twenty years, Kathryn managed requests for emergency food assistance, delivered three to five-day supplies of non-perishable food and provided access to fresh food sources to residents in need. For the past ten years, she has served as the pantry manager assistant, guiding the packaging of food for the delivery to clients. Kathryn has also helped process applications from residents seeking financial assistance.

Approximately seven years ago, Kathryn moved to the Bedford Court Independent Living Community in Silver Spring and her volunteer activities have continued. She has served as president of the Independent Living Residents' Council, acting as the liaison between residents and management to ensure community concerns are addressed. She contributes news articles to the Bedford Court weekly bulletin. Kathryn initiates and leads a variety of charitable projects and encourages residents to participate. Her knitting group has donated blankets, hats and other items to local schools that are then distributed to students in need. She is currently working to support Comfort Cases, a non-profit organization that provides care packages for children living in foster homes.

Kathryn Murdock pursues filling a need wherever she finds one. She continues to dedicate her time and talents to helping others improve and enhance their quality of life. Her community is lucky to have her on their side.



Eric Pierce

Baltimore County

Eric “Rick” Pierce has a long history of dedicated volunteer service. Beginning volunteering as a college student and continuing during his working years only guaranteed that his retirement years would be used to help others.

Rick volunteers at St. Joseph’s Parish in Cockeysville as Eucharistic Minister. He has assisted the parish by facilitating and leading small faith groups. He currently leads a weekly small faith group of retired men who desire to grow in their faith and serve their families and community. Being involved with people in their homes as he brings them Eucharist, Rick expanded his ministry to include services to the homebound and residents at Timonium’s Lorien Nursing Home and Brightview Senior Living Center. He continues to be active at St. Joseph’s where has served on the Executive Committee of the Parish Council and member of the Welcoming Committee.

Volunteering at Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) for 17 years, Rick has given over 2,225 hours of service. His primary role has been as a weekly Eucharistic Minister in Spiritual Support Services. He provides spiritual and emotional comfort and sacramental support to them. He expanded his visitations to include patients approaching end of life at the Towson Gilchrist Hospice inpatient unit. Rick is also a worship leader for the Catholic community at GBMC. As an ambassador for GBMC, Rick encourages others to get involved with various volunteer activities such as the “Nearly New Sale,” activities which provide funding for patient care. He has served on the GBMC Volunteer Auxiliary Board since 2019, leading as its president from 2021-2023. In this capacity, Rick lent his support to GBMC’s commitment to quality patient care through service hour contributions, fund raising and fund allocation.

In his retirement, Eric Pierce has chosen to dedicate his time to serving others, fulfilling his commitment to giving back and improving society. As a man of faith, he recognizes his responsibility to contribute to the well-being of others and finds fulfillment in the process.

Anita Rozenel

Baltimore County



Anita Rozenel's journey of service began 37 years ago with the question, "Who sings with the children?" Upon learning that Johns Hopkins Children's Center had no one providing music to its young patients, she immediately volunteered and has affectionately become known as the "Music Lady." Anita has been a constant presence to those who need it most, bringing joy, comfort and healing through song to the young patients, their families and the staff of the center. Whether at a child's bedside, in the playroom or in the hallways, her warm voice and engaging presence have helped to transform the hospital environment, bringing a sense of normalcy and peace to children facing illness. This passion started before her senior years but retirement only provides more time to dedicate to this goal.

Her commitment extends far beyond music. After one of her kindergarten students passed away from cancer, Anita and her husband, Sam, founded Kids Helping Hopkins, an organization that educates children about the importance of giving back. Through this program, Anita has inspired countless students and families to donate toys, raise funds and provide other support to patients at the Children's Center. To date, Kids Helping Hopkins has raised nearly \$2 million that directly benefit hospitalized children and their families.

With over 22,500 hours of volunteer service, Anita Rozenel continues to bring joy and healing through her music and through the support received from her Kids Helping Hopkins initiative. Her dedication, generosity and inspiring spirit demonstrate a life-long commitment of service to young patients and their families at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center.



Eugene Ruhl

Baltimore County

Eugene Ruhl is recognized for his exceptional service, leadership and commitment to youth and their families in Northern Baltimore County. As a teacher, mentor and scout leader, Gene has dedicated his adult life to working with, mentoring and helping young people. His efforts have continued into his retirement years.

Gene led the scouts of Troop 485, teaching the young men of the Sparks, Hereford and Glencoe communities the skills and ideals of scouting. He has mentored 105 young men to the rank of Eagle Scout. He is a demanding leader, challenging the boys to do more than they typically think is possible, thereby helping them to grow and mature in skills and self-confidence. While as their Scoutmaster, Troop 485 has become widely known for its exceptional leadership program and Gene is the driving force behind that reputation. Gene stepped down as Scoutmaster at age 74 but has remained active in Scouting. He continues to serve on the Troop Committee, participate in certain Scout events and ensure that the new scoutmasters are prepared for their responsibilities of troop leadership.

Gene's lifetime of community service extends beyond the scouts. As chorale director, Jaycee and church volunteer, Gene's impact on the community has been far-reaching. He has shared his love of diving with others by being a founding member, trip guide and facilitator for the Reef Rovers Dive Club. Retirement has given Gene the opportunity to pursue his interests in rock hunting and jewelry-making and he is currently teaching classes to interested members of the community.

MSCHF's goal is to honor volunteer activities after age 65. One of the nominators said that Gene's life before and after age 65 is volunteerism. "The good news for me is that Gene has done more, in the last ten years, with his life than I could ever hope to dream." Eugene Ruhl continues to volunteer, improving the lives of young people and adults in Northern Baltimore County.

Donna A. Ryan

Baltimore County



Donna A. Ryan has been an outstanding volunteer for the Senior Box Office (SBO) for the past ten years. With the assistance of over 100 volunteers, the SBO provides information regarding free and discounted entertainment and cultural opportunities to seniors residing in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. As a new volunteer in 2015, Donna assisted with many of the organization's administrative tasks including handling telephone communications and processing membership applications and voucher requests. She was instrumental in gathering event data to be shared with SBO members through quarterly bulletin publications. This task required many hours researching the internet and websites for information about free or nominal charge activities, verifying information from sponsors, then sharing this information with SBO members through periodic updates to the quarterly bulletins. Donna also served as an usher with theater and concert events and became an usher volunteer leader.

After COVID entered our lives, SBO volunteers were hesitant, venues were challenged to exist, membership declined and the SBO part-time paid coordinator resigned. Funds were no longer available to support a coordinator and the position was eliminated from the budget. Donna and another longtime volunteer stepped up and assumed the coordinator's responsibilities and kept the organization afloat. As the pandemic cooled, the two volunteers agreed to continue to co-chair the duties of the coordinator and have remained in their positions. Among other administrative duties, Donna is responsible for researching, assembling and publishing SBO's quarterly bulletin and managing the distribution of the brochure to SBO members.

Donna A. Ryan has dedicated over 8,000 hours volunteering with Senior Box Office. Her persistence in gathering and disseminating information to members and her leadership skills with the many volunteers have resulted in the continuation of a vibrant and valuable resource for seniors in the surrounding communities.



Alonia C. Sharps

Prince George's County

Alonia C. Sharps is a retired educator in Prince George's County. She began her volunteerism well before retirement serving on the Board of Directors for the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Foundation, the Prince George's County Family Crisis Center, and the Prince George's County Heart Association. This just wet her whistle.

Following retirement, Alonia serves as chair of the Board of Directors of the Educational System Federal Credit Union. She is also a member of the Prince George's County Public School Retirees Association, serving currently as recording secretary, and as secretary for the National Council for Black American Affairs. All of her work through associations has one goal - helping people improve their lives.

Besides all the associations in which Alonia is involved, she is most to be admired for volunteering to be the caregiver for three seniors who have no one close to help. Aged 97, 94 and 89, these ladies each have different needs; from chemotherapy, emergency room trips, rehab to dementia care. Alonia coordinates all, providing tax preparation service, banking and mail help, medical appointment assists, transportation and even cooking advice! She gives priority to the care of these seniors and is very active in all aspects of their lives, helping them in countless ways.

Alonia C. Sharps states that volunteering is a great way to stay connected, to be fit and active and to have purpose after retirement. But most of all, she is glad it lends a hand to the seniors in her community. So are we!

Katrinka L. Westendorf

Frederick County



Katrinka L. Westendorf retired from a desk job indoors and decided to spend the rest of her active life outdoors! Living in Frederick County, she found her niche at the Catoctin National Park. Her dedicated volunteerism there has accumulated over 3,000 hours of work in park operations, trail maintenance, and visitor activities or education. The Park calculates that her work has saved them approximately \$170,000 over the years.

Working with the Chief of Resources, Katrinka helps maintain the Park's 28 miles of trails. She coordinates the removal of dead and fallen trees, especially reacting quickly in SWAT-team style to trees downed in visitor use areas. She created the 'Tree Amigos' team which rapidly clears these trees. Each year, Katrinka and the sawyers remove over 250 trees. When not cutting up all this lumber, she serves as Park ambassador or can be found talking plants and insects to any interested visitor.

At the Lake Lingamore Community where she lives, Katrinka maintains the walking trails, spearheads committees, writes articles for the community newsletter and runs errands for neighbors. At St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Katrinka takes 'parishioner' to a new level. She is active in serving as part of the landscaping committee, doing everything and anything needed to beautify and maintain the campus.

She also works with the Scouts' honor society, Order of the Arrow. Katrinka is a work leader and oversees the scouts' maintenance of their campground, picnic areas and trails. This blends with her work for Catoctin's Every Kid Outdoor program. There she volunteers as leader, trainer or presenter, working with programs that touch 4,000 children. Katrinka also works with a group of less-able students who gain confidence as they work in the pollinator garden.

Just reading all that she does as a volunteer can make you exhausted! However, Katrinka L. Westendorf accomplishes it all with passion as her gift to humanity! She may love the outdoors, but the love she shares through it to people is greater.



Joann S. Woodson

Montgomery County

Joann S. Woodson exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism. Her journey started as a commitment to help seniors with daily tasks but quickly evolved into a lifelong mission to advocate for their well-being and to enhance their quality of life.

For more than 20 years, Joann has volunteered her time with the Clarksburg Super Seniors, a group associated with the Montgomery County Recreation Department. She organizes programs, social gatherings and educational workshops, helping to reduce isolation among Clarksburg seniors. Joann has made a profound impact on their lives.

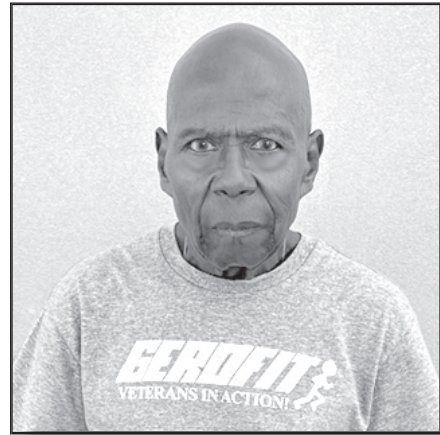
Besides attending weekly meetings, Joann has worked on several projects such as knitting and crocheting blankets for the needy, making dolls for children in Head Start and making quilted bibs for adults living in group homes.

Mrs. Woodson has been recognized for her many hours of volunteer service by Montgomery County. In 2023 she was honored with the Roscoe R. Nix Distinguished Community Service Award, the County's highest recognition.

Joann S. Woodson possesses a unique passion for making a difference in the lives of others. She is truly an extraordinary volunteer and a stalwart of the community.

Bernard Norman Young

Baltimore City



Bernard Norman Young has shown dedication and leadership as well as enthusiasm and passion as a volunteer with the Veteran's Administration. He has accumulated over 4,000 hours of volunteerism.

Mr. Young has been an integral part of the Baltimore Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center program known as Gerofit. It is an outpatient exercise and health promotion program for veterans over the age of 65. Bernard is always quick to assist with anything needed to run the program, including setting up and breaking down equipment, keeping the gym clean and engaging with the other veterans. He is a peer mentor for those who join, making sure they are aware of all the services offered, orienting and advocating for them. In addition, Bernard volunteers for the Farmer's Market, providing feedback on the market structure and nutrition.

Bernard has volunteered at the Loch Raven Veteran Affairs Community Living Center where veterans receive rehabilitation and hospice care. There he assists with recreational activities for residents and serves as an extension of the staff in non-clinical responsibilities.

Bernard Norman Young is an exceptional volunteer, treating his community with empathy and dedication. Veterans programs have benefited tremendously from his selfless service over the years.