The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame



2026

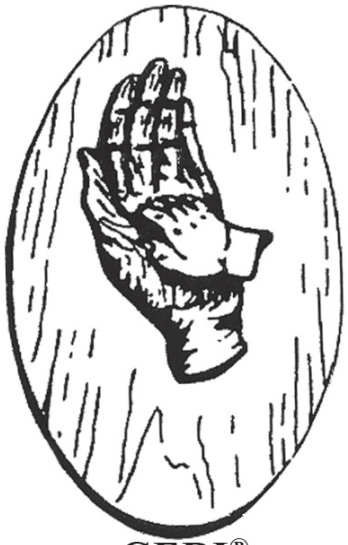
In Appreciation



This Blue Book recognizes outstanding volunteers in Maryland.
These honorees, representing 8 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 organization 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. 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 honor these 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 to improve 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 nonprofit organization whose Board of Directors is all volunteer.

2026 GERI® AWARD RECIPIENTS

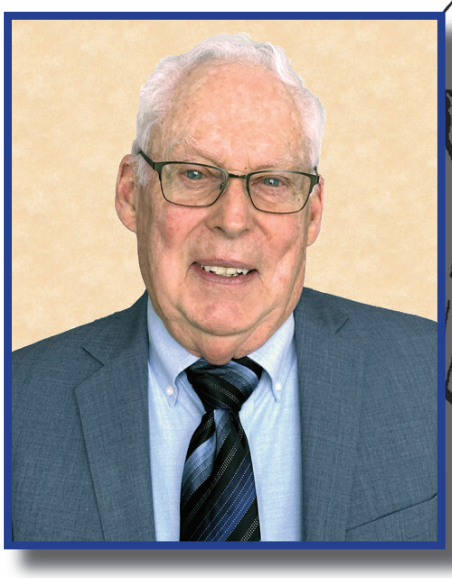
George R. Drake

Brian Korzec

Dwight M. and Marilyn M. Phillips

George R. Drake

Carroll County



GERI®

George R. Drake honors the dignity and integrity of others, both on a personal level as well as on an institutional level. He becomes involved in creating new activities and programs that benefit others. When he sees a need, he jumps right in and gets to work.

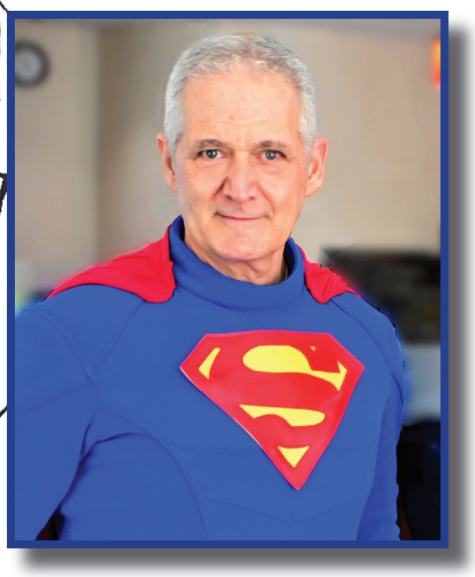
In 2022, George and his wife Mary moved to Fairhaven in Sykesville. Since then, George has immersed himself in activities at the retirement community. He has served as Chair of the Entertainment Committee, volunteered on the Audio Visual Team and spearheaded the development of the outdoor pickleball program. George also assisted with sales and marketing, was appointed Chair of the Treasure Sale Committee, started square dancing and served on the Resident Association Investment Committee. He is a very busy volunteer.

Prior to moving to Fairhaven, George was volunteering and raising funds for multiple organizations. For over 17 years, he has raised funds for charities such as Multiple Sclerosis, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association and AIDS Vaccine Research. He also raised $85,000 for the Queen Anne's County YMCA Family and Active Aging Center. George has served on the American Red Cross Disaster Action Team, helping to provide temporary housing, food and clothing allowances for families impacted by a disaster. In addition, he founded the first Community Emergency Response Team, providing training to residents of Symphony Village in CPR and use of an AED defibrillator as well as minor injury care.

At Kent Island Methodist Church, George and his wife have served on the volunteer leadership team. George has led significant mission trips with the High School Youth Ministry. One such trip was to Mississippi in 2006 to help clean up after Hurricane Katrina.

George R. Drake is an exceptional humanitarian. His volunteering spirit seems endless. He knows what it takes to make things happen and how to raise the necessary funds. George exemplifies the spirit of lifelong volunteerism.

GERI®



Brian Korzec

Baltimore County

Brian Korzec exemplifies the ideals of volunteer service. He does not volunteer to garner recognition. He does so because he believes every person deserves to feel like a hero in their own story.

Brian has dedicated many years to a powerful humanitarian mission. His desire is to bring hope, comfort and joy to children, families and communities facing extraordinary hardships. As a result, Brian founded Superhero Support, Inc. In 2021, the organization became an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Pikesville.

While volunteering as a costumed causeplayer in Arizona, Brian witnessed how children and adults became hopeful and empowered when interacting with superhero characters. This inspired him to launch Superhero Support by appearing as the Green Arrow and Captain America at local parades. That success led Brian to other appearances as a Superhero and then eventually to the nonprofit as it is today.

Currently, Superhero Support's volunteer causeplayers visit children at the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, The Children's Home in Catonsville, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maryland and many other charitable institutions. The organization also supports veteran and military family events. In the last five years, Superhero Support, Inc. has generated 240,000 smiles, each one representing a moment when a child's fear was replaced with wonder. His organization has raised more than $4.5 million for the benefit of other nonprofits as well.

Superhero Support has over 30 active volunteer players. Brian recruits, trains and coordinates the volunteers, manages logistics and maintains institutional partnerships. He also oversees the finances and scheduling, as well as continuing to dress in costume for many shows.

Brian Korzec's impact is defined not by a single act of generosity, but by the sustained, expansive and deeply intentional nature of his service. He has done so much for his community and has inspired others to get involved to help make a difference. Brian has given volunteerism a new dimension.

Dwight M. and Marilyn M. Phillips

Carroll County



GERI®

Dwight M. and Marilyn M. Phillips have made a profound and lasting impact through their dedication to service. They serve both individually and as a team. The Phillips are actively involved residents of Carroll Lutheran Village.

Dwight serves as the Exterior Care and Grounds Committee Chair, providing leadership to ensure the campus remains welcoming and well maintained. He repairs rollators for residents and at community events such as Aging Your Way in Carroll County. He provides audio-visual support for Village performances and chapel services. Dwight also plays a key role in the Village Treasures Sale, supporting the Benevolent Fund, which ensures that residents with financial resource issues can continue receiving quality care.

Marilyn is dedicated to her volunteer work at Carroll Lutheran Village as well. She serves on both the Social and Travel Committees, helping to plan events and excursions that foster engagement and connection among the residents. Marilyn's community work also includes delivering books to nursing home residents through the Westminster Public Library's *Library Link* program.

Dwight and Marilyn are both actively involved with the Union Mills Homestead and the Carroll County Farm Museum. Marilyn serves as docent at the Museum. She has also served as Chair and Board Member of the Historical Society of Carroll County. They both share a lifelong commitment to the Historical Society where they help preserve and share the region's history.

Having worked as television directors at Maryland Public Television, Dwight and Marilyn drew on their experience and produced a documentary chronicling the 45-year history of Carroll Lutheran Village. As Resident Media Production Team members, they continue to create documentaries highlighting the people and the stories of the Village.

Dwight M. and Marilyn M. Phillips bring commitment to everything they undertake. People around them attest to this spirit of volunteerism. Their generosity, talents and tireless dedication have touched countless lives, not only in their local community but in their county, leaving a legacy for others to follow.

2026
Hall of Fame Honorees



Gloria Forstner Byrd
Muhammad Tufail Chaudhry
Barbara J. Dixon
George R. Drake *
Jeanne Dussault, Ph.D.
Nancy S. Elson
Joseph and Margaret Fessler
Josephine Frazier
Stacey Guthrie
Richard T. Jones
Elizabeth O. Knupp
Brian Korzec*
Stephen G. Lippy
John R. Lorenz
Lorita Martin
Dr. Judith Mazza
Margaret Myers
Dwight M. and Marilyn M. Phillips *
Harry Quinn
Barbara J. Ratliffe
Patricia Richardson
Walter Seymour
Vinod Kumar Verma
Jacqueline Brown Woody

* *GERI® Award Recipients*



Gloria Forstner Byrd

Baltimore County

Gloria Forstner Byrd has been a resident of the Oak Crest Retirement Community for ten years. She is constantly volunteering to help others in this community. Her organizational skills are exceptional and she is able to coordinate events with efficiency and ease.

No one likes the word ***taxes***, but with Gloria's help they are less burdensome. She is the head of the Income Tax Preparation Program, a free service for residents. She coordinates the workers and tax preparers, handles the phones and sets up appointments. This program consumes her time from January through April each year.

Gloria also serves on the Board of Directors of Oak Crest Resident University. This nonprofit organization has the goal of fostering lifelong learning for seniors. She serves as registrar of the University and Chair of the Graduation Committee. She also presents workshops for resident participants.

Oak Crest's *Showtime* strives to bring entertainment into the community. Gloria serves on its committee. Her organizational skills are evident as she coordinates the database for entertainment and ticket sales. She has also worked as stage manager for the productions. The revenues from both *Showtime* and Resident University contribute generously to the Oak Crest Resident Care Fund.

Gloria Forstner Byrd is a dedicated volunteer who is always willing to go beyond to help those who need assistance. These little unadvertised things complete her volunteer photo. She regularly helps other residents who need assistance preparing for bed or getting up in the morning and here we find her generous heart that is mindful of others.

Muhammad Tufail Chaudhry

Howard County



Muhammad Tufail Chaudhry has decided to make a difference in the lives of others. Becoming a volunteer is the conduit to helping others. He identified needs and has tried to find answers for them.

As President of the Islamic Society of Baltimore, a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic community, Tufail sought to respond to the needs of seniors in that culture. After completing his term as President, he organized the Golden Age Committee to further serve the community's seniors. Its purpose is to develop programs to keep seniors active after retirement.

Seeking to increase options for seniors, Tufail added programs such as a memory café and a Tai-Chi program which includes weekly exercise and yoga classes. He established eating together programs, games, a dementia class, meal deliveries and a variety of bus trips. These programs are now well known throughout the state at other centers such as Noor Mosque, Dar Al-Tagga, Laurel Mosque, Al-Timonium Center and others.

Muhammad Tufail Chaudhry continues to demonstrate perseverance and constant support to other members of the community. He has proven time and time again that he is a dedicated volunteer. He is known to be a crucial part of every program through which he has served.



Barbara J. Dixon

Carroll County

Barbara J. Dixon, who likes to be known as BJ, is involved with many groups. She has chosen to enthusiastically give of her time and talent. It seems that organization and leadership are her particular specialties and the citizens of Carroll County are benefiting from them.

BJ has been secretary of the Mt. Airy Historical Society for twenty years. This not only means taking minutes at meetings, but overall being responsible for all communications with members. She is Chair of Museum Collections, organizing work schedules and insuring that the process to manage the collections is followed. Interestingly, in 2000, the Historical Society created a Hall of Fame to honor Mt. Airy volunteers! BJ was installed in 2006 and is now its Chair. She is responsible for the nominations process, honorees selection and organizing the awards event.

As a member of the Howard Chapel-Ridgeville United Methodist Church, BJ has served the congregation in many ways. At the present time, she is serving as Secretary of the Administrative Council and the Women of Faith group. BJ has been involved with organizing fundraisers, teaching Sunday school and singing in the church choir. Her nominator stated, “BJ never needs to be asked -- she just steps up and does whatever is necessary to fill that need.”

Barbara J. Dixon has the volunteer spirit that doesn’t need to be asked! Her contributions have made her a valuable member of her community. BJ devotes countless hours for the benefit of others.

Jeanne Dussault, Ph.D.

Carroll County



Jeanne Dussault, Ph.D. is a resident of Carroll Lutheran Village. Her life reflects an extraordinary commitment to service, leadership and advocacy. Especially in retirement, she seeks to dedicate her time and energy to addressing issues in her community and beyond.

Within the Village, Jeanne manages the community garden, creating a shared space that promotes connection and wellness among residents. Even now, she is acquiring new skills to benefit the residents' gardens. She recently learned how to use a mobile watering cart to get the plants through a dry spell. Beyond the Village, she is a longtime member of Westminster Church of the Brethren where she has served as both Leadership Chair and Deacon, providing spiritual guidance and organizational leadership. Other committees she has served on include Finance, Calling, Deacon Committees, Senior Choir and Bell Choir.

In Carroll County, Jeanne is an active participant in the Peace and Justice Forum and serves as a representative for Carroll County Interfaith Alliance for Racial Justice. She has also served two terms as President of the League of Women Voters and works with the planning team for the local food pantry. Jeanne is very active with several other social justice and peace groups in Carroll County.

Jeanne Dussault, Ph.D. exemplifies what it means to live a life of service and purpose. When asked about her volunteerism, she replied, "They tell you that you're supposed to relax after you retire, but I don't feel comfortable relaxing yet with the state of the world today." That pretty much sums up her focus, commitment and care for her community.



Nancy S. Elson

Baltimore County

Nancy S. Elson has a diverse portfolio of volunteer service. She focuses on humanitarian aid, financial leadership and organizational advocacy. She has given thousands of hours of service dedicated to improving the lives of others.

She is a longtime member of Towson Presbyterian Church and an invaluable member of its Finance Committee. Nancy helps the committee develop and recommend the church's annual budget. They monitor the church's income and expenses, review financial reports and ensure that financial decisions support the church's priorities. She is also an active member of the Worship, Music & Arts Committee which helps provide a rich program of church music for all occasions.

Since 2021, Nancy has served as the Assistant Treasurer for the Bykota Senior Center. She is an important part of the financial team, working on weekly receipt reconciliations and executing bank deposits. She gives attention to detail and is committed to fiscal accuracy. She attends monthly Board of Directors meetings to provide the continuity and oversight necessary for Bykota to thrive.

Additionally, Nancy has served as the Financial Advisor for a sorority at Towson University since 1986. She oversees their annual budget, dues collection and accounts payable. Her guidance teaches young Maryland women the necessary skills of fiscal responsibility and organizational management.

Nancy S. Elson continues to faithfully offer her talents to her church and to her surrounding community. Her service is marked by a rare combination of technical skill and quiet humility. Her leadership has improved the lives of college students, church congregants and fellow senior citizens.

Joseph and Margaret Fessler

Frederick County



Joseph and Margaret Fessler both exhibit leadership and willingness to serve in Frederick County. They began their volunteer efforts in 2017 through the Department of Aging. Since then, Joe and Peggy have expanded their repertoire, but always serving the needy, the ill or the homebound.

Their first efforts were the delivery of Meals on Wheels to homebound older adults. They still continue these deliveries that also allow for a wellness check or delivery of special holiday bags. Branching out to serve more residents through the Maryland Food Bank, Joe's skills and strategies for efficiency are put to use as he coordinates the Groceries for Seniors program. Following his direction, Peggy, Joe and the team then set up stations for distribution and delivery of shelf stable products and produce.

Peggy and Joe are faithful volunteers at the Lunch Bunch and the Congregate Dining programs at the Frederick Senior Center. For this on-site dining, they are there assisting with the meal itself and making sure that all are warmly greeted, included in conversation and engaged since these events are dedicated to more than just feeding the body. Peggy's genuine love and care for others is evident as she donates monthly birthday cupcakes to each of the participants in the Congregate Dining Program!

Joseph and Margaret Fessler both exhibit qualities of care, concern and a determination to make a difference. Their volunteerism enhances the lives of seniors in their county. They especially impact the fragile population of the homebound, the lonely and the hungry!



Josephine Frazier

Baltimore County

Josephine Frazier has been volunteering at the Arbutus Senior Center in Baltimore County since 2019. She has served in many capacities: front desk volunteer, Class Registration Coordinator, volunteer trainer, decorator, Fundraising Coordinator as well as Board and Special Events Committee member.

Jody has spent countless hours organizing events, supporting fellow members, training new volunteers and decorating the center for each holiday. Her work to put up seasonal decorations creates a cheerful environment that the members appreciate. She embodies the true spirit of community and service, ensuring that everyone feels welcome and included.

Always ready to lend a helping hand, Jody was right there to help when one of the senior center members had surgery, . She transported this friend to the hospital and stayed overnight with her. She went to the friend's home every day to care for her, help her bathe, do household chores and even grocery shop. Jody drove her to physical therapy and later helped her friend with seat arrangements and cushions in the car allowing her to begin to drive herself. Seeing the need to declutter the basement, Jody took torn furniture to the recycling center and brought in some new furniture. While she continued this personal assistance, Jody still kept up her work at the center. She is also actively involved with outside organizations notably HopeWorks of Howard County, Grassroots Crisis Center, the recently closed Night of Peace Family Shelter and other charities. She generously donates money and gift cards to needy families for food and clothing and to local schools for supplies.

Josephine Frazier's selflessness and dedication have touched the lives of many. She has become an invaluable asset to her community. She serves the needs of many, bringing joy and connecting them to vital services and programs.

Stacey Guthrie

Kent County

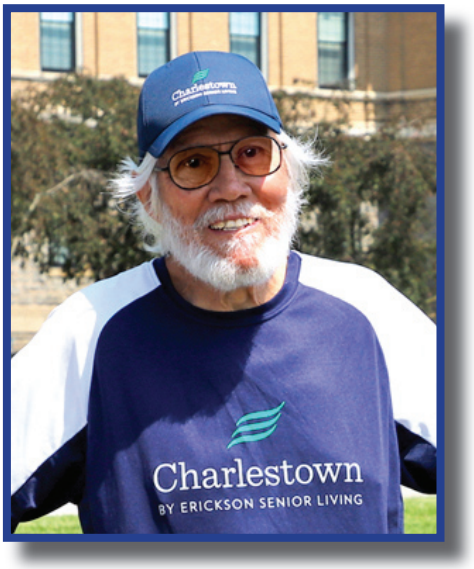


Stacey Guthrie is an exceptional volunteer at Heron Point in Chestertown. With her health care background, she developed a Caring Friend program to reach out to residents through cards or phone calls during the difficult COVID period. Thankfully when that period ended, the flow of Stacey's ideas did not!

She expanded her original program to increase the number of volunteers and to teach them necessary skills. Stacey created a training program for these new volunteers. The goal is to serve and enhance the lives of those in assisted living or skilled nursing environments. Today she is the Resident Volunteer Coordinator and equips the new workers with the understanding, sensitivity and practical tools needed to support folks receiving higher levels of care.

This training program is so successful that word of it reached the corporate level of her retirement community. Stacey was asked to assist the Acts corporate team in establishing the position of Resident Volunteer Coordinator across the Acts Retirement-Life communities. Her impact is now serving 11,000 residents in 28 communities in nine states!

Stacey Guthrie has created a legacy of service by utilizing her professional expertise and personal compassion to inspire others. She continues to provide leadership and active service to her neighbors. The umbrella of her volunteerism has created a sheltered and caring environment for so many seniors in need of compassion and attention.



Richard T. Jones

Baltimore County

Richard T. Jones moved to the Charlestown Senior Living Community in 2016. Since then he has volunteered in numerous organizations, activities and events. He is deeply committed to nature and the outdoors.

Every Saturday Rick works with the Invasive Plant Crew removing invasive and destructive plants from the trees and grounds of Charlestown. At the community monthly meetings, he informs other residents about the state of the Nature Trail which weaves through 104 acres of the campus. He started a new club called *The Bird Brains* and invites residents to join him to bird watch throughout the three bird habitats on campus. He organizes two off-site birding trips each year. Rick also assists with the setup of the tables, chairs and exhibitions for the Charlestown Nature Festival. Additionally he is involved with special tree plantings. He will help plant more than 50 trees this year around Charlestown.

Rick has been a supporter of the Charlestown Little Theater Company, working at rehearsals and play presentations as stage manager and as sound and lighting booth attendant. He has also been engaged by the Charlestown television studio to film the community news once a week. He reads the news and adds bits of humor to it. He plays on the Sluggers softball team, helps to send out emails and to organize their practices when necessary. He enjoys photographing nature and wildlife and sharing his photos with the Charlestown community.

Richard T. Jones has devoted his senior years to helping his fellow residents at the Charlestown Senior Living Community in many different ways. His own personal efforts have greatly improved the residential living environment. His deep interest in nature and wildlife, along with his other activities, have certainly inspired and benefited his neighbors at Charlestown.

Elizabeth O. Knupp

Anne Arundel County

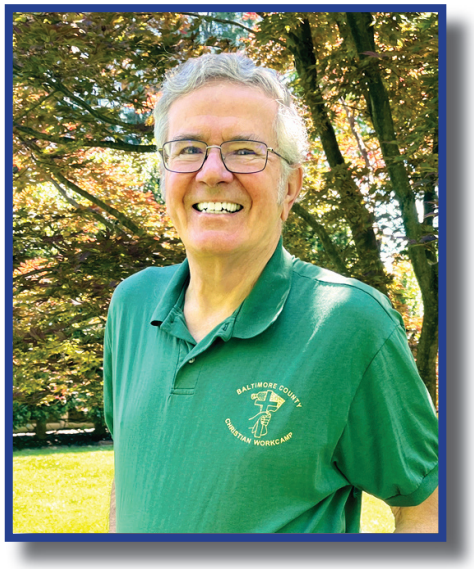


Elizabeth O. Knupp has been volunteering since her children were in elementary school. She exhibits a passion for spreading joy for the arts to people of all ages. This encompasses many venues including museums, gardens, theatre, Anne Arundel Community College and St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Annapolis.

Betty is very involved at St. Martin's Church in Annapolis. She has served as Chair of the Fine Arts Council for 16 years, organizing art work to beautify church hallways, narthex and meeting rooms. With her husband John as Co-Chair, she guides Garden Club volunteers to beautify and maintain three-plus acres of grounds surrounding the church and school. Betty led the 16-Rain Garden Project and 2020 Pollinator Project. She was on the Columbarium Committee which established the Peace Garden. Workdays are planned from March through November and she works in the gardens other days as needed. In addition to her gardens work, she regularly ushers at worship services and is an active member of the Joyful Hearts Committee. To further encourage appreciation of the arts, Betty plans trips to D.C. museums and to the Sight and Sound theatre productions in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

An active alumna of Goucher College, Betty was recognized in 2017 for her public service. The Alumni Association presented her with the Excellence in Public Service Award in recognition of her commitment and leadership. She also co-founded and serves as Vice President and Membership Chair of the nonprofit South County Concert Association which brings a variety of musical performers to the southern Anne Arundel County stage.

Elizabeth O. Knupp has an eye and ear for beauty and uses these talents for the benefit of others. Her service touches both young and old. Her enthusiasm and commitment to this community exemplifies the meaning of doing for others.



Stephen G. Lippy

Baltimore County

Stephen G. Lippy takes volunteering as a serious commitment. He has devoted his time, energy and leadership to addressing the needs of others. His desire to serve others started when he was still young and employed fulltime, but apparently it is his life's trajectory to continue as long as possible to provide for the needy.

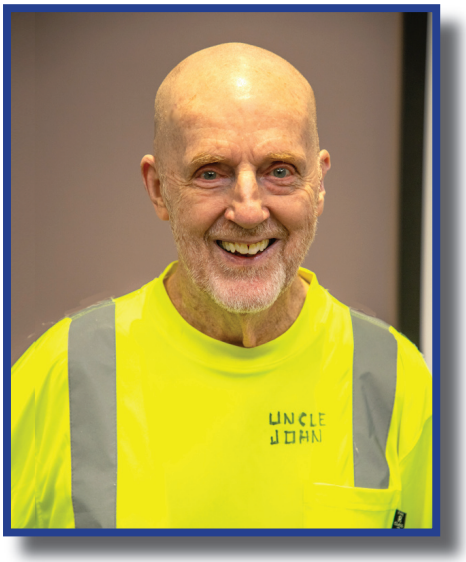
Steve's long-term relationship with the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp (BCCW) has grown from simple volunteer to leader. BCCW is a volunteer-led nonprofit that provides free home repairs to low-income residents in Baltimore County. These services include plumbing, carpentry, general clean-up, interior and exterior painting, building ramps and more. Most repairs are accomplished in a 1-week workcamp in the summer. Steve has worked 42 workcamps and is preparing for #43. He often visits many of the sites offering his expertise, experience, knowledge and thoughtfulness. He is one of the most valued members of the team and for many years served as the secretary for BCCW, taking notes and keeping records for the organization.

Future City competitions have benefited from Steve's volunteerism. These competitions are an extracurricular STEM program for middle and high school students. Steve serves as a judge, reviewing students' essays, models and presentations.

Stephen G. Lippy is a registered volunteer with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Baltimore County. RSVP is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation, connecting seniors over age 55 with volunteer networks. Since 2016, he has recorded more than 3,000 hours with RSVP. The number of hours is large but doesn't tell the whole story of the quality of Steve's service to others.

John R. Lorenz

Baltimore County



John R. Lorenz is a familiar sight to residents of the Kensington and Charlestown neighborhoods. John has been a member of the Charlestown Retirement Community since 2015. Uncle John, as he is known, is a dedicated volunteer who contributes in many capacities for the beautification and well being of the community.

Uncle John first joined the Charlestown Invasive Plants Crew, helping to weed out unwanted plant growth. This was the beginning of his dedication to a healthy and clean environment. He can be seen every morning conducting a 7:00 a.m. litter patrol along the local streets and parking lots. A nearby shopping center and surrounding public areas maintain a clean look due to his volunteer work. He has planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs whose flowering is enjoyed each spring by Charlestown residents. Uncle John has worked tirelessly to clear litter and trash from surrounding woodlands as well. He even provides bottles of water on two particularly sunny park bridges so that residents do not have to carry water to the bridge flower displays.

The Assisted Living and Nursing Care residents of Charlestown are visited almost daily by Uncle John as he leads them in impromptu singalongs. On weekends, he can be found leading Saturday and Sunday night bingo games. He supports many local initiatives to help the needy including Treasure Sales, fund raisers and the Our Daily Bread food kitchen.

John R. Lorenz is a compassionate individual, generous with his time and friendly to all. He is committed to his community. Whether it is clearing litter, planting flowers, toting water bottles, warbling tunes or bringing smiles to seniors, Uncle John makes life better for all.



Lorita Martin

Baltimore County

Lorita Martin has been a valuable volunteer at the Bykota Senior Center since 2019. Volunteering in the gift shop, she creates a welcoming space for members who come to shop. Lorita listens deeply, allowing her presence to combat isolation, fostering belonging and strengthening the community by building connections. As her involvement at the center grew, she volunteered as a group leader in the Travel Office. She became a member of the Bykota Executive Board and Special Events Committee. She helped with decorating as well as serving meals for events such as Veterans Day and *No Senior Eats Alone* Day. During Black History Month, she helped coordinate special activities such as a dance and luncheon. Lorita is registered with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Baltimore County and has more than 900 lifetime volunteer hours. She is also a member of Baltimore County Association of Senior Center Organizations, serving as an advocate for the senior population.

Fortunately, Lorita's volunteer work is not limited to the Bykota Senior Center. She has volunteered with the Maryland Food Bank, the Community Assistance Network, the Get Ready! Get Fit! 5K Run/Walk and the Power of Aging Expo. She supported the Alzheimer's Association as a Champion Captain by leading a team of 40 walkers. Lorita volunteers with her faith community by coordinating a food pantry for those in need.

Lorita's volunteer commitment includes sharing her gift of music through singing. She has performed for special events at the senior center. She has also performed for senior living communities. Her gift of familiar music for those living with dementia has awakened memories and brought joy to those residents.

Lorita Martin's many attributes include attention to detail. She meticulously plans and executes activities, anticipating the needs of others. She ensures that others feel welcomed and comfortable, creating a positive impact on those around her. Her efforts to just help people are tireless! Her extraordinary volunteerism and her unwavering commitment to community help to make the world a better place.

Dr. Judith Mazza

Montgomery County



Dr. Judith Mazza is devoted to building relationships, fostering human connection and providing meaningful service to her community. She chooses very special organizations for her volunteer activities. They have a common theme of social interaction, enlightenment and improvement.

In 2014, Judy was elected Chapter President of Bailliage of Greater Washington. Her vision for this chapter has been that the table is one of the last great equalizers, a place where all people can find common ground through the shared pleasure of exceptional food and fellowship. Members of the La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs chapter (a food and wine society) represent a spectrum of ages, professions and life experiences. Under Judy's leadership, the chapter has grown in size and reputation. In recognition of her accomplishments, she has been awarded the Bronze, Silver and Gold Stars of Excellence and received the International Silver Award celebrating her outstanding contributions to La Chaîne.

For the past ten years, Judy has served as Vice President of Culinary Historians of Washington (CHoW). In this role, she has been responsible for identifying, recruiting and managing the organization's speaker programs. The Maryland residents and culinary enthusiasts who comprise CHoW's membership benefit directly from the high-caliber speakers Judy recruits: scholars, chefs, historians and food professionals. She has also been a consistent and generous volunteer with NARFE Chapter 258, a national organization whose chapters serve the state's community of active and retired federal employees. She served as the Chapter 258's informal photographer and delivered meaningful presentations to meet the needs and interests of chapter members.

Dr. Judith Mazza has served across many domains, all expressing the same conviction. She believes Maryland is a better place when its citizens show up for one another. She continues to step up and use her many talents to help others.



Margaret Myers

Baltimore County

Margaret Myers has been an outstanding volunteer at Seven Oaks Senior Center since 2017 and before that was a member of the Parkville Senior Center. She volunteers as greeter at the front desk, often taking new members on a tour of the facility. Peg serves as monitor in the fitness center, is a member of many committees and uses her crafting talents to create centerpieces and take-home gifts for attendees. This has amounted to more than 200 gifts each year! She also helps with ticket sales for special events.

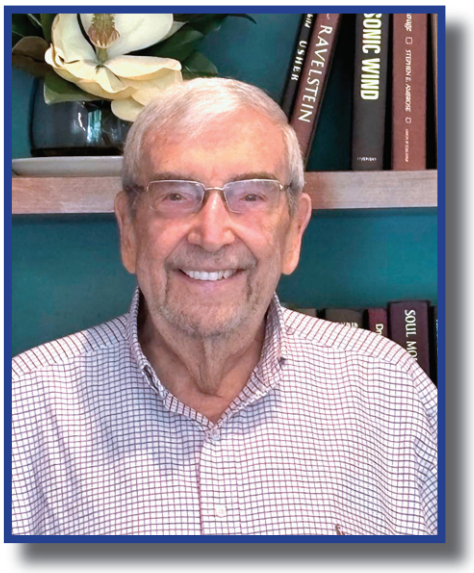
Peg has served as Corresponding Secretary of the Seven Oaks Executive Board for the last three years. She freely and generously shares her ideas and comments in discussions of issues that are subject to vote. Peg has sent more than 500 birthday cards to members celebrating milestone birthdays. She also sends correspondence from the Board: thank you notes, sympathy, get well and thinking of you cards to the center's members.

In serving as a fitness center monitor, Peg makes sure all who enter the fitness center have up-to-date membership to the center, are wearing proper attire and know how to use the equipment safely. Using another of her talents, Peg sings with the Seven Oaks Choir, the Oakettes. The Oakettes perform at local nursing homes and assisted living centers.

Margaret Myers is a shining example of volunteerism. Because of her many hours of service and her selflessness, Peg is honored today. Seven Oaks Senior Center and its community have been blessed by her commitment.

Harry Quinn

Baltimore County



Harry Quinn has the spirit of volunteerism. He has contributed various types of exemplary volunteer efforts to several organizations. In total, he has accumulated over 3,063 service hours!

For the past 25 years, Harry has volunteered with Senior Box Office (SBO). In this role, he assisted with communication to the membership. During COVID, Harry helped spearhead a virtual speaker series to educate and provide entertainment to the members. Afterward, his outstanding leadership helped SBO resume normal operations. He makes sure to acknowledge its volunteers, nominating them for awards for their worthwhile service.

Additionally, Harry volunteers with the Friends of Perry Hall Library, part of Baltimore County Public Libraries. He serves as a Board member. He helped draft the articles of incorporation for their successful 501(c)(3) application.

He has volunteered at St. Matthews Church, serving on the Finance Committee for 15 years. After moving to the Oak Crest Senior Living Community, Harry organized a men's fellowship group called *ROMEOS* (Retired Old Men Eating Out). He serves also as a Eucharistic Minister to Oak Crest residents in the rehab and hospice facility.

Harry Quinn has been highly involved in his community over the last 20 years. The community has benefited, sometimes unaware that Harry's efforts have provided for their needs. This is truly the spirit of volunteerism.



Barbara J. Ratliffe

Baltimore County

Barbara J. Ratliffe is a woman who just can't say no to any volunteer opportunity! She serves as well as delivers leadership at the same time. She is being honored for her outstanding services to Woodlawn Senior Center and New Shiloh Baptist Church.

As a member of the Executive Board at the Woodlawn Senior Center, Barbara willingly shares new ideas and makes suggestions that will benefit the center's members. She is the coordinator of the center's travel services. In this capacity, Barbara manages travel finances, organizes group participation and serves as leader for both local and out-of-state trips. She also volunteers to coordinate and helps to serve the *Eating Together* meals for the center's members. She provides hands-on support in the kitchen. Additionally, she has a leadership role in the preparation and implementation of special events.

Barbara is a long-term member of New Shiloh Baptist Church. There she has served as Treasurer for the past 15 years. As a member of the church's Greeters Ministry, Barbara welcomes members and visitors as they enter the church for worship, always with a smile and handshake. She also volunteers at any event held by the church.

Barbara J. Ratliffe brings a tireless dedication, cooperative spirit and unending passion to her volunteer services. The members of both her senior center and her church are recipients of her volunteerism. She is truly focused on supporting her community.

Patricia Richardson

Baltimore County



Patricia Richardson volunteers in many different capacities at the Bykota Senior Center. She is known to make an impact in all that she does. She demonstrates confidence in her abilities to finish whatever she starts.

As the Assistant Center Director at Bykota Senior Center, Patti makes it her business to bring in new members and keeps all members aware of activities offered at the center. She works with the staff to plan events which entails getting volunteers as well as coordinating food and entertainment vendors. Patti is also the facilitator for the Senior Rhythms Class at the center.

As the longest serving member of her church, Central Presbyterian Church, Patti has participated in a variety of positions such as Circle Leader, Mission Coordinator and Treasurer for the Senior Luncheon Program. She has served as organizer for the Prayer Shawl Ministry and as Chair of *Counted Cross*, a Christmas ornament program. These acts of kindness have been shared with newborns, children, teenagers and adults.

Patricia Richardson has made a strong impact on her community and is considered to be a lifelong dedicated volunteer. With her feisty personality, there's no task too large or too small. Patti's goal is to ensure that the members of the Bykota Senior Center are participating in classes, programs and special events.



Walter Seymour

Howard County

Walter Seymour has been a dedicated volunteer for over a decade. He has been working with Howard County's Office on Aging and Independence. His contributions have been exceptional! He has a particular focus on promoting digital literacy for seniors.

For seven years, Walt has been providing monthly one-on-one technology assistance to the Elkridge 50+ Center members. These members receive his individual attention to help them build digital skills and better understand how to use their technology. Walt has also been a trainer for the Older Adult Technology Services program, *Senior Planet,* for the past year. In his brief time as a volunteer with this initiative, Walt has taught over 50 digital skill classes for learners. He has instructed more than 200 individuals in *Senior Planet* classes.

Walt takes his commitment even one step further. He provides technology assistance to older adults by going to their senior living facilities. There he sets up new devices for them and, of course, gives them the instruction and confidence to use these laptops effectively. The people Walt helps all report the same things about him: enthusiasm, patience, kindness, positivity, support and dedication.

Walter Seymour leads by example, showing us that there is always an opportunity to give back. It is his mission to make meaningful differences for others at any stage of life even while navigating his own personal challenges. This is exemplary volunteerism.

Vinod Kumar Verma

Baltimore County



Vinod Kumar Verma is an extremely caring gentleman. His volunteer focus is helping seniors in Baltimore County's Indian-American community. He works to meet these seniors' needs for assistance and socialization.

To provide this assistance, Vinod volunteers to take seniors to their medical appointments, shopping and other errands. He was appointed to be a Board member of the India Forum, a nonprofit social, cultural and welfare organization. He is responsible for all the cultural and social activities, making special efforts to engage seniors in these activities. He also does volunteer work for the Indo-American Friendship Dinner and the annual Indian Fair Gala, both of which benefit this community.

During the COVID pandemic years, Vinod visited seniors in their homes and delivered groceries, medicines or other necessities to them. He provided spiritual and cultural prayers, transported seniors to doctor or hospital visits and kept them engaged with entertainment online. Even now, he continues to offer bimonthly spiritual and social entertainment online for Indo-American seniors' benefit.

Vinod Kumar Verma has been a great contributor to the India Forum organization which benefits his community. He seeks to serve all in the Indo-American community, most especially the seniors. They are graced by his efforts!



Jacqueline Brown Woody

Prince George's County

Jacqueline Brown Woody has been an outstanding and well-known volunteer for many years. She has been a constant support to her many friends and colleagues who are cancer survivors by giving them advice, encouragement and transporting them to doctor appointments. She also participates in raising money for various cancer foundations and charities. Jacqueline has been recognized by TV News at WUSA9 for her work increasing breast cancer awareness.

She has served with *Food & Friends* for 30 years, delivering medically tailored prepared meals every month to improve the lives of those who are elderly and dealing with serious illnesses. In the past ten years, she has delivered over 500 meals, making her one of the longest-serving volunteers for this organization.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Jacqueline also assisted with rebuilding and restoring homes in New Orleans. She initiated this project, recruited volunteers and donated money to make it happen. She also serves the elderly, low-income and disabled residents of Prince George's County by repairing their homes through the *Christmas in April* program, volunteering on the fourth Saturday in April each year.

Jacqueline Brown Woody has long been dedicated to serving others. She is a consistent community volunteer, driven by her spirit of compassion and generosity. Feeding the hungry, helping the sick and aiding the needy are the special goals of her volunteerism.