

**Phil Brown - Posthumously**  
**Randolph Senior Adults Association**  
**192 hours volunteer time annually**

It is a distinct pleasure to nominate Phil Brown posthumously for the 2022 Governor's Volunteer Service Award.

Brown, who passed away on December 6, 2021, at the age of 81, made a measurable impact on thousands of Randolph County residents as a dedicated, passionate, and proud volunteer for Randolph Senior Adults Association (RSAA) and the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide. The depth and breadth of Brown's service over the last decade is extraordinary. His outstanding leadership qualities, demonstrated through his contributions to the AARP Tax-Aide Program, as well as several other volunteer roles, distinguished him among his volunteer peers. Mr. Brown began volunteering with the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide after retiring from Eveready Battery Company as an Electrical Engineer. For more than 15 years, he led a group of volunteers in helping thousands file their taxes every year—for free. On average, he and his team met with 1,500 clients and filed more than 1,200 tax returns each year, saving Randolph County residents on average more than \$250,000.

When COVID-19 came to Randolph County in March 2020, Phil was able to pivot and change the method of the tax prep service to a drop-off model. The team had always provided in-person appointments, but with concerns over the virus, Brown seamlessly led the volunteers to a new model of screening each individual; scanning their tax documents; interviewing the Client; and then sending the Client home with a card on when to return for their completed tax returns.

"Phil was so incredibly passionate about the Tax-Aide program," said fellow volunteer Karen Brookshire. "He was so thankful for any amount of time volunteers could give to the program."

Mr. Brown also served in various leadership roles at First Presbyterian Church since 1972 with his most current role being a Sunday School teacher and Elder.

Tireless, thoughtful, and wise, Phil was a gifted and dedicated volunteer with a record of achievement that makes him an exceptional candidate for the 2022 Governor's Award for Volunteer Service

**Annika Bestmann**  
**Spirit Horse Ranch Rescue and Education Inc**  
**600 volunteer hours annually**

Annika first started helping when she was 16. She loves horses and children and had some horse knowledge. She wanted to learn all she could. As soon as she got her license, she started coming in the afternoon when she could to learn. We have afterschool programs for grade school children in spring and fall. The children get to spend time outside, learn about horses, and interact with each other. Some kids are so shy when they first start coming and Annika is soft spoken and easy going, she helps the children feel at ease. This past year, when I lost my barn helper, Annika stepped up and did all the barn work daily then came back in the afternoon to help with the children. She did that for 5 months until her classes started back in person but continued to come in the afternoon to help with the kids. During the month of July we have a summer reading program for grade school children, many of them struggle to read. We sit in the barn as the kids read to their favorite horse with the help of a volunteer. Some of these kids are embarrassed that they cannot read well but Annika is patient and kind with them as she helps them learn and we see kids blossom. We see many children and pre-teens that are troubled. Annika has a way of helping them feel comfortable and opening up. Some develop a bond with her and stay in touch even after our program ends. The horses are a great partner in helping these children in many ways, but we cannot do it without strong volunteers. We also do therapeutic riding for children with special needs, Annika has also been filled in for me there when I needed an extra helper. As a young adult she has a giving heart and compassion for the children, she realizes some may not have the best home life and their time with us is so important to them. I feel that Annika did exceptional work this year and has touched the heart of many children that is why I wanted to nominate her for this award.

**Deborah Knapp**  
**Randolph Health Volunteers Services**  
**250 volunteer hours annually**

Deborah Knapp is a proficient volunteer and valuable to our department. During the two years of COVID, in addition to a leadership change in our department, Debbie continued to be proficient in her volunteer role. Prior to the arrival of our new Director, Debbie worked closely with the Interim Director in documenting operational procedures for the Gift Shop. During 2021 Debbie had over 500 volunteer hours. Due to new hospital management and change of department leadership, Debbie went over and beyond to keep the Gift Shop open. She has excellent communication skills and is customer focused. She maintains inventory and pricing of merchandise and is constantly thinking of various ways to attract customers to the shop. Debbie is a team player and available for extra shifts, as needed. She is clever with window and shop merchandise displays. She handles cash and charge transactions with accuracy, and telephone orders with direct delivery to a patient's room. During the absence of the Department Director, she was exceptional in doing more than normally required. She is a volunteer who is always on time, task oriented, helpful to everyone, and happy in her service as a Randolph Health Volunteer. Deborah has 821 lifetime volunteer hours at Randolph Health.

Deborah Knapp is a tremendous lady who has a heart for people. She has served as a teacher's Assistant in Randolph County, and later taught full-time with Randolph County Schools. Her specialty was the 1st through 3rd grades. In gaining information for this recommendation, several current teachers said they were honored to have Debbie teach their children and grandchildren. She was highly respected by the Randolph County School System and was chosen to lead a teacher's workshop on "Effective Teaching Techniques" for children. She currently substitutes at Coleridge Elementary School, as needed. Debbie takes daily care of her mother to ensure everything is okay. She does all errands, prepares her meals, does housework and laundry, and takes time just to sit and talk with her mom. She loves nanny sitting for her grandson and being a strong educational encourager for him. Debbie has strong compassion in helping others. She excels in volunteering in the hospital Gift Shop, assisting with her mother's well-being, and being a grateful grandmother to her grandson and granddaughter. Home and family are her warm fuzzies close to her heart

**Kyle Martin**  
**Disabled American Veterans**  
**200 volunteer hours annually**

Kyle Martin volunteers for the disabled American veterans in Asheboro on a monthly basis. He is the adjutant for the chapter he volunteers with, so he works right under the commander and keeps up with all the paperwork, any emails, and the volunteer hours for the chapter. He volunteers his time with the chapter, and volunteers to help other veterans. Other than the DAV he donates blood to the American red cross about every 2 months, which goes to people all around North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina. He also volunteers with hospice so he can either go see patient, call them, or write them letters or send cards out to families that lost a loved one. The pandemic has slowed down the volunteering he has been able to do the last year or two, but he is always willing to help and always looks forward to volunteering

Mr. Martin is a great volunteer and fully embodies volunteerism. He started volunteering when he was in the military at a car museum and a food bank getting over 700 hours. Got out the military and came back home and started volunteering with the disabled American veterans getting close to 200 hours in this year, bringing him over 750 hours with the disabled American veterans, and donating blood to the red cross at almost 3 gallons now. Not to mention he works a full-time job, and still finds time to volunteer, even with this covid pandemic going on. He is a great volunteer, and I believe would be a good candidate for the award

**Kenita Matthews & Joanne Bostic**  
**Our Daily Bread Kitchen, Inc**  
**50 Hours per week**

These two ladies are the 1st ones in and the last ones to leave, on the days they volunteer. Kenita is my cook and Joanne is my cleaner, but truthfully, they both are my everything. From cooking and cleaning, to stocking shelves, passing out clothes, shopping (when I can't) and so much more. What people don't know is that they go out and serve the homeless population around the city, 3 to 4 times a month. I may go once in a awhile, but they will pack the bags in toiletry items, pop top can foods, other foods and snacks, blankets, gloves, hats, socks, and a bible. These ladies are awesome and that's part of the reason why they should be considered as governor's award recipients. They'll lead bible studies on the days they volunteer before we start to prepare food. They pray for all of the individuals that comes and it and who asks prayer. They pray and ministered to volunteers who ask for prayer. All of the other volunteers say they are a joy to work with. They both have a great word and has really change a lot lives, just by their kindness and compassion. They treat everyone equally and as they want to be treated. Joanne (My left and right hand) also does my financials and will not take a dime for putting in long hours making sure our books are straight. She logs so many hours outside of ODB, that wasn't included in those combined 50 hours a week. By the time she's been here for 8 plus hours, she'll say, well, I hit my steps. I guess so, because she is nonstop from the time, she steps front into the building.

Kenita is the same way. We appreciate her long hours a day, when she is not working at Seagrove Elementary even on workdays, she comes to ODB first for to get the meals started and pretty much everything done until she has to go to work. For the past two years, she's been opening up on Thanksgiving and preparing a large meal, along with her family, for an average of 215 people. She buys and takes gifts to so many kids around Christmas and their birthdays.

These ladies do everything will a smile and cheerfully. I couldn't be affective doing my job, if I didn't have these ladies doing what they do, for me, ODB, and the kingdom.

## **Drew Maerz**

**Boy Scouts of America , Old North State Council**

**200 volunteer hours annually**

Drew Maerz serves two crucial roles in delivering a key element of the Boy Scouts of America program. He is the head advisor to a select camping and service fraternity known as the Order of the Arrow which currently comprises 600 youth and 380 adults in this chapter. He is responsible for guiding the elected youth leaders of this group (often college-age) to plan and execute approximately eight major weekend events per year. Many of these events involve complex service projects that require meticulous planning and attention to detail which is led by the youth. This experience gives them a tremendous amount of project management and communication skills. In the years he has served in various capacities with this fraternity, he has contributed to the leadership development of hundreds of young people and emphasized a commitment to life-long service. This consistent message has resulted in their becoming caring, participating citizens which is the ultimate aim and purpose of the Boy Scouts of America. Recently the Old North State Chapter of the BSA recognized Drew's leadership with this fraternity by presenting the highest recognition that can be bestowed upon a Scout volunteer – the Silver Beaver award. Drew is also a member of a small committee of adults that provides business leadership to the registered Scout groups in Randolph, Davidson, and Davie Counties. In this capacity, Drew has spent hundreds of hours coordinating youth recruitments efforts, being a part of a finance team that has planned and executed fundraising events which have raised thousands of dollars and planning and organizing special weekend activities designed to test outdoor skills knowledge.

Drew has maintained a positive outlook despite difficult circumstances this year. His efforts and accomplishments this year have been an example for other adult leaders to emulate. Drew has inspired youth to be the best the best versions of themselves and seek new challenges. The Boy Scouts of America is very fortunate to have a volunteer like Drew Maerz.

**Sandra Lail**  
**Randolph-Asheboro YMCA**  
**300 volunteer hours annually**

Sandra Lail was the first person I met in 1995 when I began my career as the Director of the Randolph-Asheboro YMCA. Sandra was a member of the Randolph-Asheboro YMCA's International Management Program (IMC) which brought businesses and companies together once a month for seminars, training sessions etc. I asked her to take the president position of an IMC program that was not fulfilling requirements from the National IMC Organization and was on probation. Within a year she increased membership by 25% and increased female participants to 50%. At the National Convention in 1999 the Randolph-Asheboro YMCA IMC was the number one program in the Southeast. This would not have happened without Sandra's competent and enthusiastic leadership.

Since 1995, Sandra has been actively involved in a variety of activities including, Senior Bingo games, Membership Appreciation Days and fundraisers the YMCA sponsors. She has been a speaker at the Y's after school/summer day camp program for children K-8 grade, a member of our Dinner/Dance Committee and Membership/Marketing Committee and has helped raise money for the YMCA's

Scholarship program. In 2015 Sandra was asked to be on the Board of Directors of the Y and soon became a member of the Executive Committee in 2016.

In 2019 she became President of the Board of Directors, a position she still holds today. She has developed new policies and programs that have enhanced the operation of our YMCA. The past two years of the pandemic have been challenging for all of us, including the YMCA. Sandra's leadership has been exemplary. Her management style is always thoughtful and caring as she interacts with both members and staff of the YMCA. Sandra also brings a professional level of skill to managing and guiding our YMCA, especially during these challenging times. Sandra is one of the reasons the Randolph-Asheboro YMCA is one of the leading YMCA's in the Southeast and is essential to the health and wellness of the citizens of the City of Asheboro and Randolph County.